



The North West Partnership

partnering churches, nurturing growth

Newsletter November 2011



THE NORTH WEST
THEOLOGICAL TRAINING CENTRE

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Dear Partner!



As a partnership we have been working together for the gospel for over 8 years! We have grown in partner churches, as new churches have been planted and as others have joined with us. We are thrilled! As we have grown it has become clear that the structures we used to help us work together 8 years ago have needed to be looked at afresh. We are in the process of doing that!

One change has been to change some of the roles that some of us have had within the partnership. One such change will be to the composition of the trustees. The next newsletter will have more details! One change we do know of is that I have been asked to chair the trustees, taking over from David Gibb. David will remain a trustee, as he is without doubt, one of

our leading and most respected church leaders. Can I thank David for over 8 years of brilliant leadership as our chair! He has given huge amounts of time and wisdom to the work, and we are grateful to the Lord for him!

As we look back over 8 years can I encourage you with two examples of how our original vision is now starting to bear real fruit? When we started our ministry training course back in 2003 we hoped that we would see men and women raised up for gospel ministry. One of those first students was James Halstead! After 2 years on the training course, he was accepted for training in the Church of England and went to Oak Hill for four years. He came back to the north west and is just coming to the end of his curacy, and will be staying in the region as a vicar! James is lecturing the Greek modules on the new degree course being delivered at our Theological training Centre in Liverpool. From training course to theological lecturer in 8 years!

Another of those first students was Gerry Straker. He was a ministry trainee at St John's Lindow. He also then went to Oak Hill college and also came back to the region, serving as assistant pastor at Moorlands Evangelical Church in Lancaster. This last September the Church by the Bay started in Morecombe, with Gerry leading a group from Moorlands to start this new work. From ministry trainee to church planter in 8 years!

When we started 8 years ago our prayer was to see people raised up for ministry and to see churches planted in our region. I hope these two examples will encourage you to pray for the students currently on our training courses. This year we have over one hundred! Let's pray that some of those will also be raised up for ministry and plant churches!

In partnership for the gospel

Justin Mote
Chair of the NW Partnership Trust

The North West theological training centre



Through the amazing provision, from churches, trusts and individuals, we were able this year to purchase 2 Blackburne Place as the home for our new Theological Training Centre. Over £900000 was given or loaned to make this possible. The building has a great amount of space and in a great location. Christ Church Liverpool are using one of the rooms as their church office and are sharing the running costs of the building with the NWP.

Degree Course

The NWP have been working in partnership with Oak Hill College in London to work on delivering a foundation degree in Theological and Pastoral Studies in our region. Oak Hill have had a new degree, validated for part-time study through Middlesex University. This September we started, with 5 guinea pig students, a pilot first year of the course being delivered in our new Training Centre.

Some of the modules are being delivered by Oak Hill staff, either by watching videos of lectures given in London, or through Oak Hill staff visiting Liverpool. Justin Mote or Andrew Evans sit in on all the lectures to facilitate discussion material. Other modules are being delivered by ministers within our own region. One of the students, Helen Eccles from St John's Hartford said, 'this is the best thing I have ever done.'

Justin Mote commented, 'This is a very exciting venture for the NWP. This new course means that we can train men and women for full-time ministry to the same standard as elsewhere, without



people leaving our region. I am hoping that many people will be trained for gospel ministry through this course.' A new prospectus is being planned for early 2012, outlining the many options that there will be to study. 'Some people will want to take the full degree course, but other might just want to sit in on a few modules that will equip them for better service in their local church. The course will have enormous flexibility', said Justin.

Ministry Training Course

As well as starting the pilot course with Oak Hill, the Theological Centre has also become home to the regular North West Partnership training course. The daytime course that has run in Leyland for the last eight years is also, this year, being run in Liverpool too, making shorter travelling for those living in that part of the region. In total there are about 40 first year students for the training courses (as well

as a record second year of 27 studying in Leyland). Justin Mote, who oversees all the courses, is thrilled to have split the first year into two smaller groups. 'The smaller groups provides a better learning environment .

People find it easier to discuss and to ask questions. We also get to know each other more quickly, making it easier to encourage and support each other in ministry', he commented.

Building Plans

2 Blackburne Place is now being well used. However some refurbishment work is now needed to the building. There needs to be disabled access, at both



A 20 year vision realised

News from Bethel Liverpool

This year has been a momentous year as on Saturday 4th June we opened our redeveloped building which realised a long term vision. It was 20 years ago that a former pastor had the idea to extend the building to meet the needs of expanding ministries.

In the intervening time a growing congregation, developing ministry and an ageing building led the members to draw up plans to extend and refurbish the building. The building fund was launched in January 2009 with a projected 4 year saving plan. The fund grew rapidly in the following 12 months by the sacrificial giving of the congregation, then in April 2010 the church received the amazing news that an anonymous donor had given a sum that meant the building work could start that Autumn.

On the last Sunday before the work started, we were reminded from God's word that the way ahead wouldn't be easy and there'd be challenges of broken promises, building difficulties and weather interruptions. The following week the school that had promised its use were unable to keep that promise. The continuous rain of November followed by the sub zero temperatures of December delayed the building work for 2 months.

Once again it was our testimony of God's amazing provision. New venues became available as other schools welcomed us and (NWP) local churches generously loaned their premises. In May 2011 the church was able to rejoice in their return to the building. Their testimony at the reopening service was "How great is our God!"

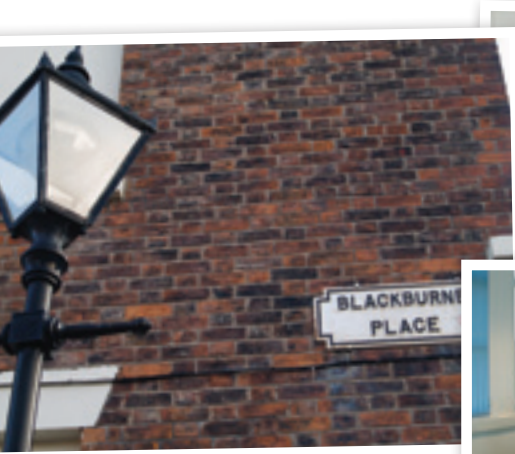
Again we were reminded from God's word that "we're not home yet", for there is still much to do in using our new building to share Jesus with our community. We want All to see how great is our God.

Since then we have seen all departments and ministries increase in numbers. We have developed a ministry of curiosity (or nosiness) as folks want to see the new building!!

We continue to have a stream of visitors each Sunday and we're praying they will become friends knowing Christ as saviour. And in mid October we began a new Christianity explored group.

Daryl Jones

Photo from left to right: Don Newnes, Daryl Jones, Sydney Elliot, Brian Williams,



entrance level and through a lift to all floors. It also needs disabled loos, some floor levelling and the creation of a library and personal study spaces.

Architects have drawn up plans and we have gone out to tender for the work. It is hoped that we can give the green light for the work to start very soon. Amazingly more money was given than we needed to purchase Blackburne Place, but it looks like we will still be about £100k short of the money we need to do all the refurbishment work.

A number of individuals and churches have promised to give towards this over the next few years. It is most likely that we will take out a loan to enable us to complete the work. However we need to be able to demonstrate that we can repay

a loan over a period of a few years. Raising £100k could be achieved by 20 partner churches or individuals giving £1,000 a year for 5 years. If you could help please contact the NWP office for more details.

Once the work is completed in early 2012 the facility will be available to be used by Partner churches and beyond. The flexibility of space will make it ideal for study days, church away days, leaders' retreats, pastor study time and many other uses. If you or your church would be interested in making use of the building, please contact Garry Wallis at the Christ Church Liverpool Office (0151 703 1870)

Justin Mote

The Lighthouse



Depending on your point of view, the Isle of Man is either a sparkling jewel in the Irish Sea or a windswept rock with 80000 people clinging to it. Certainly it is a beautiful island, with everything from bubbling brooks to rushing waterfalls to wild moorland.

Certainly Douglas, its capital and an international finance centre, can be a vibrant place and is home to a theatre, concert hall and many restaurants. And with the sea, the beaches and coves, the steam trains and horse-drawn trams and the crofters' cottages, the Isle of Man provides holiday makers with a charming step back in time. Yet if you know nothing of this, the Island may still come to mind briefly in early summer when the world famous TT races are on.

We indeed knew nothing at all when, as two forty-something ordinary Christians, we came here nearly ten years ago with a job move. We soon realised the Isle of Man is also full of churches of many denominations. Many are traditional in style and a few of these preach faithfully to those comfortable with the church's culture. Others have worked hard to embrace society and all its problems, but at best have assumed the gospel. Sadly, many merely hold to a tradition which has lost connection with the cross. There is a lot of interest in pre-Reformation spirituality and pagan customs and worship which have permeated both home and church life. Perhaps in reaction to this, militant atheism is also strong on the Island.

After several years in the Church of England, where Cedric was a lay reader, we realised there was nowhere we could safely bring our non-Christian friends. Our heart was for those who had no experience of going to church at all and who seemed willing to consider the claims of Jesus Christ. So, at the beginning of 2011, we made a complete break and started a fellowship in the south of the Island. It started in a pub by the beach in Port Erin and we were taken aback by the number turning up. We have

been running Christianity Explored there since September, with around 12 coming along. We use the darts end of the public bar, so everyone knows what is going on! We are thankful to God for the openness and friendliness of the staff in welcoming us. We hope this continues so we can have regular meetings there.

There is a home group on Thursday evenings, where we study the Bible and on Sunday we have a meal and a talk. The work has a bottom-up approach and we adapt according to who comes along. Much of our time is spent getting to know people with difficult personal circumstances, and sharing the gospel however we can. We have social evenings to invite new friends and partners of those we know for a meal and a film. This has been a good way to encourage them to consider coming to other meetings.

Not being naturally outgoing, we are amazed how easily we have got to know people from all backgrounds and we acknowledge God's gracious hand in this venture from the beginning. Almost daily we stop and ask if we are not completely misguided and deluded. We ask for you to pray for us, that God will bring to us those "divine intersections" when we go about our daily life and that he will prosper this work according to his good pleasure. We feel constantly out of our depth and isolated. Yet we are delighted with the answers to prayer we have received. Please join us in asking that



those who have professed faith may show a single-minded devotion to the Lord, understanding and embracing what he has said and so showing a changed and consistent life by his power.

Please come and see us if you would like to experience the charms of the Isle of Man first hand. You can stay with us and we will look after you. If you can do a talk while you are here we would love that too!

We have two web-sites. One is wordinmann.org and will carry our resources and useful links. The other is lighthouseinmann.org, specifically for our first fellowship group.

Cedric and Karen Owen

Teaching in Nigeria



(for my husband) have stood out to us as the most influential Bible-handling skills training we have been given. It's our hearts' desire to see such skills passed on to those engaged in word ministry in West Africa. And, with the help of Crosslinks, supporting

It was 2006 when I arrived in England (from the U.S.), started working for St. Cath's Tranmere and participated in the NWP ministry training course.

A few years on and I'm writing to you from Nigeria, while watching over my sleeping one-year-old, and hearing the murmur of my husband teaching the first intake of Abuja Bible College (A.B.C.) students in the classroom just twenty metres away. In the meantime, there was: a fantastically useful three years at Oak Hill on the Theology & World Mission course (now called Theology for Crossing Cultures); marriage (painful eye-opener to the depths of personal depravity, though thankfully in the confines of a love commitment!); as well as some varied and valuable ministry experiences.

The NWP MTC (for me) and Cornhill

churches, friends & family, God has enabled us to begin this latest initiative. In a region ravaged by corruption, war, poverty, disease, witchcraft, militant Islam and 'the prosperity gospel,' God's Spirit working through God's word to produce lasting fruit is the only true hope... as is the case anywhere!

The ABC of A.B.C. is: to focus on expository teaching; to develop students' spoken ministry skills; and, believing that "expression deepens impression", to give each student plenty of opportunities to teach from Scripture followed by constructive criticism and feedback. Please pray with us that those on the course – from all across West Africa – would learn to sow authentic gospel seed which would in turn raise up a harvest of righteousness.

Fai Furney

A new venture...



May 2011 saw the birth of a brand new venture for kids aged 8-11! To give you a bit of background, in 2006 a group of children's workers from North West Partnership Churches set up a venture for this age group at the Quinta Centre.

That had been running really successfully for five years but was always massively oversubscribed. So this year the team decided to split into two, and half of us headed further north to a little place called Knock. The idea was that we would serve more kids, more families, and more churches by running the same venture from two sites at the same time. The two teams worked in partnership planning the programme and the teaching material from Judges.

This gave us a fun 'superhero' theme which all helped in pointing to Jesus as greater than any of the 'heroes' we found in the book of Judges. We had a great team of leaders from a few different churches, all within the North West Partnership. We aim to train leaders so that they can return to their churches better equipped for the week-in-week-out ministry they do there. The kids had an excellent time doing a huge variety of things, from painting t-shirts, to being soaked in 'it's a washout', to searching for leaders dressed in silly costumes, to hearing God's word explained in a fun way. We were really encouraged and are well into planning for these two ventures taking place in June 2012.

Helen Neville

A fresh start 1st year update



We moved to Carlisle during August 2010 and commenced the work with the church here in September. Our heavenly father has been faithful and generous to us in so many ways, often working despite us and surprising us with the people he has put in our path.

He has blessed us as we've worked together to identify areas of church life that could become more welcoming to new people and especially people with little or no church background. He is answering prayer and we are thrilled that

there is now a growing mix of ages and nationalities meeting together on Sunday mornings when we have been enjoying learning together from God's word.

- » Please pray for Peter as he preaches.
- » Please pray that we as a church would be good soil.
- » Please pray that our love for each other would grow and be a great witness to outsiders.

We have had the joy of baptising 5 adults this year. Several of these folk had completed the Christianity Explored course which we ran a number of times. One friend commented that he had attended the CE course because his head was "completely empty" about these things. We are so thankful to God for gospel fruit and people coming to faith or gaining a clearer understanding of truths they already had some knowledge of.

- » Please pray that we as a church would take every opportunity to introduce Jesus, who He is and what He has done, to lost people in Carlisle. Through our lives and our words.
- » Please do continue to pray for Gospel

growth and for hearts changed by the good news about Jesus Christ.

- » Please pray for the challenges of integrating new folk into the church family and appropriate discipleship structures to be developed and that we grow Godly leaders.

As our first academic year drew to a close in July we had a "summer sizzler" guest event during our normal Sunday @10 church gathering. We had the thrill of 105 folk coming along but the challenge of only having 100 seats! There were many non-christians and 32 children in Sunday club that morning. It was a very encouraging end to a busy first year.

As I write we are in the process of buying more chairs for the church building and have been considering using another building close by for the junior age group in our growing children's work on Sunday mornings. Many of you as well as praying, have given generously towards this work and we are so thankful for and encouraged by your partnership in the gospel. Without outside support we would not have been able to have Joel Higson as our ministry trainee. He has been a really huge blessing to the church



family in the time since he commenced the role in November. Please continue to pray for our financial needs to be met and that the work will not be held back due to financial constraints.

Finally, please pray that many non-christians come to our christmas carol service and join the next Christianity Explored course in the new year. We intend to distribute 5000 fliers to local homes and invite friends and neighbours. Thank you once again for your prayers, we know they are essential to His work here in Carlisle.

Peter Walkingshaw

News from NISCU



'NISCU has been working in schools in the north of the North West for 30 years. We have 13 schools workers

and many volunteers working in primary and secondary schools across Cumbria, North Lancs and North Yorkshire.

We aim to partner with local churches in sharing the Gospel in schools, doing this by running weekly clubs, taking regular assemblies, providing lessons, running residentials, and touring a regular puppet roadshow to thousands of children every term.

Schools are becoming more and more closed to the Gospel but we thank God that we have many open doors and have been able to engage local churches into the work in schools. We are passionate that children and young people need to hear the good news, in our society they are often starved of any knowledge of God, I am reminded of Paul's words in Romans 10: 14 'How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how

can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?'

We are thankful that five of our workers have either been on or are currently on the ministry training course at Leyland. What a privilege to spend a day learning from God's word, preparing us for day to day ministry in schools.

For more info. on NISCU or if your church would like to know how to serve in your local school contact: south.lakes@niscu.org.uk

Hannah Boadle



"Seeing how big the church is!"

"Relevant and engaging"

"It's all been really good!"

"I really thought I was going to get hit in the face by a book!"

Just some of the comments made by the young people attending Sound: Jesus in HD on November 5th in Leyland. Matt Thompson of Stockton Heath Evangelical Church led us through Colossians 1:15-20 in three excellent sessions. That and some great games, singing and a couple of extra seminars on relationships and Facebook added up

to a great day for over 160 teenagers.

The young people were deeply challenged by the authority and power of Jesus over all creation as well as what that means for Jesus' plan for His church.

Many significant conversations came off the back of these main sessions and each were encouraged to live with Christ as Saviour and Lord. And with the (literal) book launch of our own Sarah Bradley's True there were many highlights to the day.

I brought 6 of our young people and I'm glad I did as they were encouraged simply by seeing lots of other young people who want to follow Jesus as they do.

St James, Burton-in-Kendall & Holy Trinity, Holme St John's, Heringham St John's Houghton with St Peter's Kingmoor Parr Street Evangelical Church St Andrew's Parish Church, Leyland Christ Church, Blackburn St John's, Leyland Moorlands Evangelical Church, Lancaster All Saints Church, Preston Bispham All Hallows Parish Church, Bispham, Blackpool St Stephens Preston St James Church, Chorley St Andrew's Livesey, Blackburn Bridge Chapel, Liverpool Christ Church, Liverpool Speke Baptist Church Liverpool West Derby Evangelical Church Grace Baptist, Southport Grace Church Halewood St Cleopas Church, Toxteth Bethel Church, Liverpool St Simon & St Jude with All Souls, Southport The Plant, Manchester Bryn Baptist Church Christ Church Chadderton Oldham Bethel Church, Waterloo Street, Oldham All Hallows & St Philip's Church, Cheadle Christ Church, Wharfedale St John's, Knutsford Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Northwich, Cheshire Wheelock Heath Baptist Church St John's Lindow St John's Hartford Fords Lane Evangelical Church, Bramhall, Cheshire Main Street Chapel Free Evangelical Church, Frodsham, Cheshire St Andrew's Church, Cheadle Hulme Cheadle Parish Church (St Mary's) Grace Fellowship Church, Warrington The River Church, Warrington St Catherine's, Tranmere St Mark's Church, New Ferry St Peter's Church, Rock Ferry Holy Trinity Poulton Lancelyn Irby Evangelical Church Grange United Reformed Church, Bebington, Wirral Hoylake Evangelical Church



Contact us

The North West Partnership is a registered charity no. 1104423.

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For a complete and up-to-date list of NWP partner churches or for details of how to sign up, please check out the website at...
www.northwestpartnership.com

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