



Welcome to our morning Service led by David Thurston and will be laid out café style.

Theme: Journeys of Faith

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a, Matthew 14:22-33 & Matthew 15:21-28

**SAS Group** Autumn & Christmas planning meeting on **Wednesday 6th September 7.30pm - 9pm**. At Church. All welcome.

**Enthusiastic helpers needed**



**The Birchwood Churches Together** are having a stall at the **artisan market on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** at the Birchwood shopping mall.

We are going to be doing some sticking etc to make a mirror reflecting ourselves as our theme is God's Creation we are fearfully and wonderfully made. I am making up a rota of hourly time slots of volunteers from 10am to 4pm.

The Birchwood Churches Together are having its first service at Mosslands, Gorse Covert sheltered Housing on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 2-30pm for about an hour, then every month for six months. We are still looking for people to lead and help with these services.

**Please contact me if you can help. I hope that you all have had a good summer. Blessings to all. Lynne Deason**

**Bible readings for the week ending 03.09.2023**

- Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
- Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8
- Romans 12:9-21

**Duties at church Sunday 03.09.2023**

Leader:	Rev Jenny Travis
Welcome:	Kathryn & Phil Hayward
Readers:	Kathryn Hayward & David Thurston
Prayers for others:	Phil Hayward
Tea & Coffee:	Rhona & David Searle

**Mission Update: September 17<sup>th</sup> 2023..**

Thomas Risley church family is aiming to re-launch our Children and Family worker post. Some 2 years ago our vision was to support and mission to the children and families in our area. On the 17<sup>th</sup> Sept Rev Stuart Nixon will give a short talk about the importance of the post and the need for this work in our community. We have a small team who are working on this project and our next key objective is to re-establish the finances that will enable us to recruit and sustain the post for the next 5 years. URC grants have been secured, however, as a church membership we need to find the money to contribute to our share of the budget.

We need all your prayers and your financial commitment if we are to succeed in creating this important mission role in our community. (CFML Team; Stuart Nixon, Helen Bennett, Colin Burrows, David Gartside )

**Forthcoming dates**

**Church meeting** – 21.09.2023 at 7.30pm



**Birchwood Blokes Breakfast** – The next men's breakfast will be at 9:00-10.30am on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at the Encounter Centre, Benson Road. There will be the usual Full English with some hearty discussion as well. Please invite a mate.

**Please let Stuart know if you and your friends are planning to come:**  
[birchwoodminister@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:birchwoodminister@urcmerseysynod.org.uk) or text 07946 582327

## **Stepwise Taster Sessions:**

What is next for me? What impact does my faith have on my home life? My work life? My social life? How can I talk faith in my whole life? If you have pondered these questions deeply or even just want something new to try - have you thought about Stepwise? Stepwise is a whole life discipleship programme that people like you and me are doing across the URC.

We are running two taster sessions where you can find out more about Stepwise and ask any questions that you have.

- **MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 7pm**
- **MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2pm**

These will be around one hour and are online.

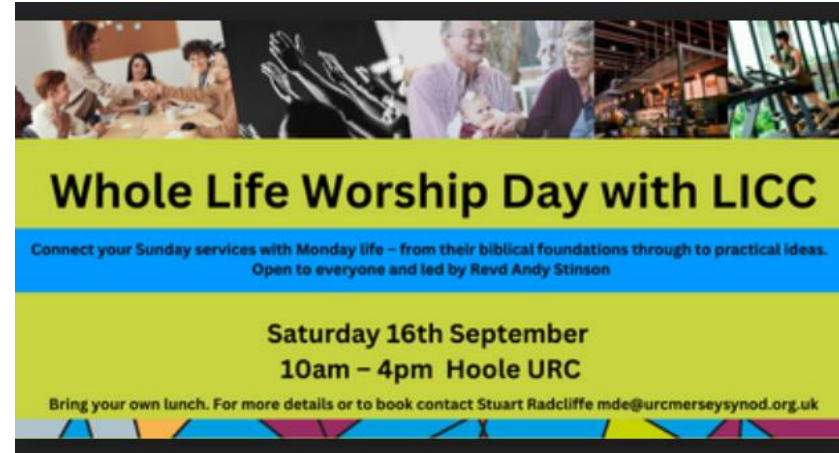
They will be the same content, so you just choose which session you want to do.

We will cover

- how the learning is structured
- URC Learning Hub
- what is expected of you
- what the time commitment is
- mentoring - how and who
- journalling - what is this and why do it
- outline of Faith Filled Life (this is the first stream that everyone does)
- anything else that you have questions about regarding Stepwise

### **PLEASE CONTACT**

Synod Office [synod.office@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:synod.office@urcmerseysynod.org.uk) 01517226590 or 0795 1067755 to book a place. You will be sent details of how to join the meeting.



If you have any news or items that you want to let people know about, just send an email to Maggie via [news@thomasrisley.org](mailto:news@thomasrisley.org) before **Thursday afternoon please**. If you would like to receive an email copy of the newsletter each week, you can request one either via our website, <http://www.thomasrisley.org> or by emailing [secretary@thomasrisley.org](mailto:secretary@thomasrisley.org). It is also published on our website

# Journeying With Jesus - Summer Challenge 2023

**Godly character.** In tough times and easy ones, with difficult people and delightful people, remember the fruit of the Spirit – **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** Pray that you grow to be more like Christ.



**Good works.** What we do and how we do it! Doing good work that serves others and helps them and creation. Trying to do your tasks consciously for the Lord, in the Spirit and to his glory. Seeking God's wisdom, his strength, and his touch. Ask for the Holy Spirits transforming help to make your best really shine.



**Grace and love.** Practical care and kindness for those who need it. The way we respond in everyday situations. Especially the difficult ones! How do we engage with each person we meet? Consider the other person's long-term interests. Not just our own.



**Spark Change.** Begin with a few people and a few small actions. What things bother you? What are the values that underpin them? What could be done differently that would make it a better place for people to flourish? Pray for Guidance to make it more like God's will, here on earth.



**Speak Out for Truth & Justice.** There are times when being a disciple means **speaking against** things that are unfair, unhealthy, or untruthful. Or maybe **speaking for** things that are true and just and good. It takes courage, wisdom & prayer.



**Share the Good News.** Be ready 'to give a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Peter 3:15). Ask for prayer and support. Rest in God, trust in his timing. Build trust and relationships, care for people, and share what Jesus has done in your life and what he offers to everyone.

