

Winter 2025

PARTNERSHIP

« The magazine of the North West Gospel Partnership



In This Issue

Dear Gospel Partners

3

Encouragement in the darkness

Where are they now?

4

Updates from two past training course students

A new church:

5

Hope Church in Salford

SOUND

6

Our young people and their leaders love to attend!

Sound Holidays

8

Hear about another year of encouragement and growth

Annual Conference

10

Why members of our partnership choose to come year on year

Getting to know our partners

12

Hear about church life in both St Saviour's, Bamber Bridge and Bank Hall Mission, Bootle

A new church:

13

Fell Church in Shap



The Gospel Partnership works toward local churches proclaiming Christ in every community in the North West for the glory of God. We unite around our Doctrinal Basis of Faith. This is a statement of key points of the Christian faith that all Staff, Trustees and Partners sign annually.

To fulfil our purpose, we work to help each other to:

PLANT

To see many more new churches planted

REVITALISE

To see other churches renewed and revitalised by the gospel

STRENGTHEN

To encourage gospel-centred churches to maintain gospel faithfulness

MATURE

To pursue growth in Christ-likeness as Christians and local churches

TRAIN

To raise up and equip more workers in the harvest field





Dear Gospel Partners,

As we reach the end of another year – 2025 - we look back and review the year.

In terms of the world and the nation (and perhaps also our own families) it seems to have been another year of darkness. Wars continue round the globe. In many nations (including ours) there is tension, polarisation, conflict, and economic decline.

Yet the world and the nation of Israel was in darkness 2000 years. At the time of Jesus's birth, Israel, the People of God, and the known world were in the darkness of the pagan and oppressive Roman Empire. Yet into the darkness, the angel of the Lord God, brought the light of God and announced astonishing and amazing news to some poor shepherds at night in the fields of Bethlehem:

"And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." (LUKE 2:10–11)

It is this great news that is the key to Light in the world and our lives. Jesus is God's King and Saviour, so we do not fear but rejoice.

And there is a great deal in which to rejoice. We seem to be in a "quiet revival" or "slow awakening" in our nation, when young people, for the first time in 60 years, know that they are in darkness and need spiritual light. These are exciting times for the Gospel. So let us rejoice and bring the Light of Christ to the North West.

In the Light of Christ,

Ro Mody
Director

Partnering churches, nurturing growth

The North West Gospel Partnership is a registered charity no. 1190430.

Trustees: Sarah Bradley, Eddie Bridle, Hannah Fox, Andrew Raynes,
Shalom Srirangam, Phil Wells, David Whitehouse, Rosie Lyus



**Anna
Leadbetter**

I started the ministry training course 14 years ago, when I moved to the Wirral to be a ministry trainee at Holy Trinity Church, Spital.

It was a brilliant accompaniment to the task of practically learning the ropes of youth and children's ministry in church.

The course gave me skills that I could start using immediately, such as preparing Bible talks for the youth group, as well as being instrumental in growing my love for Jesus revealed in the Bible. It was really beneficial to meet together with other people training in ministry, to chat about what was going on in our churches, and to support each other too.

After the course, I moved to another church on the Wirral, to be their Families worker, and eventually I came back to Holy Trinity in 2018, as their Youth and Families worker, and I've been there, with my family, ever since!

I've also recently finished training with Crosslands Seminary and GYD Academy, which have both been brilliant for further equipping and encouraging me in ministry.



**Hannah
Hale**

I had the privilege to attend the NWGP Training Course between 2020-22.

I looked forward to meeting with other Bible believing Christians each Thursday as we looked in depth into God's word and thought practically what that meant to our lives and ministries. Due to my dyslexia I've always found studying to be a challenge, however this course was accessible due to the freedom to ask questions and discuss what we were learning with no written assessment!

During my first year on the course, I was ministry trainee at Christ Church, Blackburn. I then became the Youth and Families Minister in my second year, where I oversee the growing ministry in the church to 0-18 year olds. Even though I came from a teaching background, I found the theological teaching and support I received through the course equipped me to support the growth of our Youth and Children's work spiritually.

I continue in my role at Christ Church to strive to see young people growing up to follow and love the Lord Jesus. As I look to the future, I would love to do more studying but for now, my aim is to pass on the Good News of Jesus to both my daughters as we welcome "number two" to the family in January.



CHURCH PLANT **Will Allan**

A new church seeking to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to the heart of Salford.

We're excited to be planting a new church in Salford. It's an area that really needs more gospel-preaching, Bible-believing churches. There are only a handful of evangelical churches here seeking to reach out with the gospel (none in the NWGP) and the need is only increasing - the borough is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. We pray planting a reformed church that seeks to hold firmly to God's word will be a light in this city and a great encouragement to those already ministering here. Hope Church is being planted by the International Presbyterian Church (ipc.church) where I will be it's minister.

I've been serving up in Aberdeen for the past 6 years and for a variety of reasons Salford came onto our radar as a place needing more gospel work. The north-west is also dear to us - my wife Mary grew up on the Wirral and I did the NWGP training scheme for two years back in 2007-9 while a trainee for Glod summer camps. And so after a long planning process and trusting this was God's

leading, we moved with our five children down to Salford this past summer.

We're thankful to have a small number of people on board who have heard about us through different connections and we hope that over the coming months we can attract those new to the city and reach out into the local communities with the gospel.

Our first service was on 5th October and we've managed to get a place to meet on the University of Salford campus. This hopefully means we're accessible to people from all over Salford.

Please pray with us for Hope Church

- That the Lord would lead the right people to us in these early months to help us get established and be a beacon of light in this city.
- That in Christ we'd grow together in unity and love.
- That we'd reach out into Salford with the gospel and see people come to know him.

If you'd like more information, do get in touch. will@hopechurchsalford.org



Why I'm looking forward to SOUND

BY EMILY RUBIE (ST MARTIN'S, STOCKPORT)

I am really looking forward to Sound. I'm looking forward to seeing my friends from all over the NW. It's always lovely to meet up, especially when you haven't seen them in ages. It's such a blessing to have close Christian friends that I can properly talk to about Jesus, pray with and sing with in a world full of people who have no interest in the idea of being a christian.

I also love the singing and worship – it brings me and my friends real joy. Something about praising the Lord with so many Christian teenagers is amazing, especially since the youth group that I go to is small.

I'm looking forward to playing games and joining in with the different activities. Just having a full day chatting, playing and having fun with friends will be great. This part of the day is always a good time to get to know new people as well.

Lastly, but definitely not least important, I am looking forward to the talks. They are always brilliant, and being taught from God's word in a way that is specific to teenagers is a massive encouragement. They point us to Jesus, even when life feels tough. I can't wait!

Why SOUND is great to take youth to

BY AMY KILLINGBECK (ST MARY'S CHEADLE)



I take my young people to Sound because it's a time and space that they just love! The mix of worship, Bible talks, games, and of course plenty of snacks creates an environment where they feel welcomed, encouraged, and able to grow in their faith.

Jesus made time to share meals and fellowship with people, and I believe our young people need that same opportunity. At Sound they experience that they're not alone – there are others their age who share their questions, their struggles, and their joy in following Jesus. That sense of fellowship is powerful, and it

stays with them.

When we haven't had a Sound event for a while, we always get one of our youth group asking when the next one is! They look forward to it because it's theirs – a space for them to worship, and feel part of something bigger than themselves, their academics and their struggles.

There really is something for everyone at Sound. Some are happy to sit back, listen, and take it all in. Others are first to the front when the silly challenges begin. And the prayer is that all of them come away knowing more of The Lord Jesus.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

R O M A N S 8

SAT 8 NOV, 2025 | 10:30AM-4:15PM

HOLY TRINITY PLATT, MANCHESTER



 North West
Gospel
Partnership

*Where the
Bible is
taught,
God's voice
is heard*



We all need to read the Bible carefully to understand what it means for us today. This course will introduce some general skills which will help us to read, understand and apply God's word faithfully.



8
Wednesday
Evenings

- Starting 14th January
- 7.10 for refreshments,
- 7.30 pm - 9 p m
- £50

If your church would like to host something similar, please, get in touch

email: Helen@northwestgospelpartnership.com

THE BUZZ 26–29 MAY 2026

Ages 8–11 / School years 3–6

QUINTA END OF JULY (dates tbc)

Ages 11–14 / School years 6–9

THE VIBE END OF JULY (dates tbc)

Ages 14–18 / School years 9–13

BOOKINGS OPEN IN NOVEMBER

Info will become available on the website

admin@soundholidays.org.uk
www.soundholidays.org.uk

Partnering together to serve local churches by teaching 8–18 year olds the Bible; training children and youth leaders; and building friendships between young people around our region through fun filled residential.

How can people get involved?

- **Send members** – book on in November
- **Come to serve** as leaders; kitchen team; assistant/young leaders – get in touch for more info
- **Support the costs** by giving to the bursary fund supporting members or younger leaders who might not be able to fund themselves fully: visit the 'bursaries' tab on the website



THE VIBE

"He is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." (Daniel 6:26-27)

Gathering around 130+ young people to study an Old Testament book of prophecy is no small feat (!) but under the guidance of the living God of Daniel, it was not only manageable – but magnificent!

The Vibe is the North West Gospel Partnership's Summer Camp for 14-18's, and it was a joy this year to have over 25 Churches represented, through the members, the leaders, the cooks, and those on the Assistant Leadership (AL) program. That sort of gospel partnership is a true joy, and was again truly visible on Camp this year.

Exploring Daniel through talks and Bible Studies, accompanied by a wide range of

seminars, we came to clearly see how the Lord is all-powerful, ruling over every King, Government or authority. Looking closely at the Bible, we were able to see how God alone rules and saves, so no matter what terrible or terrifying thing may be happening in the world around us, or even in our own lives, this same God is able to help us in being faithful, and not fearful.

Oh, and we somehow also found time to go swimming, to Go Ape, to surf the plastic, to get all arts and crafty, and more than 35 other activities ranging from Wide Games to Zorb Football and so much more!

It was wonderful to be surrounded by members from previous years – some of whom have been going on NWGP camps for over a decade! – and a joy to welcome new members who we hope will return in 2026. There are many encouraging stories about how The Vibe is a blessing to Churches and Youth Groups who faithfully minister week-in-and-week-out across the region, and as Leaders of the Camp, this is what we are praying to be!

Also, please join us in praying for the work that the Lord is doing in our young people. We hear much about the decline of Christianity in the UK, but when you are stood in a field as the sun goes down with 150+ voices all spontaneously worshipping Jesus together... it is hard to think of a greater encouragement the Lord could provide.

Want to be encouraged like this in 2026? Almost all of the Leaders on The

Vibe are volunteers, taking holiday from work to come and share the gospel with teenagers. Please pray about whether you could join the team in some capacity next year, and get in touch if this a possibility.

Thanks, and God Bless,

Luke Blakeley

*A Vibe Overall Leader, and
Youth Pastor at St. Andrew's Leyland*

THE BUZZ

This year was a brave year for the Buzz. We began in 2006 as a brand new holiday for 8-11 year old's. In 2011 we divided into two so that we could take more children from across the region. Then in 2020 COVID hit, the Buzz was one of the first things to be cancelled, and after two years of no residential, we had taken a significant hit in terms of team. We rejoined to become one united team in 2022, but have quickly grown and found ourselves to be bursting at the seams.

So in 2025 we decided to trust God for the provision of leaders, cooks and a second venue and set out to put on two holidays – both happening at the same time, with the same teaching program, same theme and pretty much the same activities.

One team stayed at the Quinta Centre where we've been well looked after for several years. The other team ventured further north to Dallam school on the edge of the Lake District.

Whilst we had no doubt we would quickly fill our spaces for members, we were praying that God would bring along the team needed to fill the gaps as we expanded... we were not disappointed. The LORD provided more leaders – both those coming from churches with children,

and some coming just to support the work. We had a whole new kitchen team at Dallam who were a joy to work with.

It can be daunting to set out on a new site, but Dallam was fit for purpose and The Buzz@Dallam team enjoyed making the space their own for the week. It's also pretty daunting to lose keen and capable leaders from an established team, but The Buzz@Quinta saw leaders step up and take on new responsibilities, whilst others came to serve even though residential holidays were a totally new thing for them.

This growth has been so encouraging, yet we were full on both sites this year, and each year we have new children wanting to come, and whole new churches wanting to get involved. Perhaps down the line we might be looking at growing again and making it three Buzz holidays, just to serve children from or connected to churches in our North West Region. We can't see our way forwards into that quite yet, but we trust that God can provide again, if this is his plan.

Would you consider getting involved? We're always looking for more leaders and cooks. The Buzz takes place during the May half term Holiday: Tuesday-Friday for the children, with leaders setting up on the Bank holiday Monday.

Contact thebuzz@soundholidays.org.uk

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



BRINGING A CROWD ANDY MCSHANE

As ordinary members of our church, for us the NWGP Annual Conference has become a fixture in our family calendar – you know, the all-important one on the fridge! We’ve committed to it over the last few years, and we love to encourage others from our growth group to come too.

I know church life is already full, with notices packed with events and ministries to support - especially in the run-up to Christmas. But aside from, or in addition to, something like Keswick, the annual conference really is a unique opportunity for the ordinary church member to step outside our routines and see we’re part of something much bigger. We gather alongside believers from across the region to be encouraged by what God is doing, to face together the challenges before us, and we rejoice in the grace that unites us. Hearing news from other like-minded churches toiling away and praying for their work lifts our eyes to the wider mission across the region.

Personally, and as a family, we’ve been deeply blessed at these conferences. Again and again, we’ve been reminded of the Lord’s goodness and kindness

as we’ve listened to his Word faithfully preached and sung his praises with hundreds of brothers and sisters. This year, we’re especially looking forward to Christopher Ash opening up the Psalms - what a privilege to be nourished by God’s Word together.

The children’s and youth work up to age 14 is also outstanding. Alongside camps, it’s such a help for our kids to spend time in an environment where believing in Jesus is normal and encouraged, when most of the year, they’re a tiny minority among unbelieving classmates. We’re so thankful for the leaders who serve them so well.

The conference is also a place to build relationships - catching up with friends, making new ones, and sharing encouragements and struggles. And as we sing with hundreds of others in response to what we’ve heard from God’s word, we get a taste of the expression of gospel unity NWGP embodies - what a blessing it is!

That’s why I love to fill a carload (or 2) and come along. Why not join us this year Saturday 24 January 2026 @ 10:00 am - 3:30 pm?



FAMILIES SAM DICKENSON

We were really grateful for the annual conference last January, and are planning to go again in 2026.

Being from a small church, we were glad of the opportunity for our children to hear from God alongside loads of others their own age – a precious reminder that Jesus' kingdom is much bigger than what they experience on an ordinary Sunday. It's also exciting to be there with others from our church family, who appreciate the chance to sing, listen to God's word, and spend time with

hundreds of brothers and sisters from elsewhere – a bit like a mini Keswick Convention! Personally speaking, Emily and I valued the encouragement from the book of Ezra, and the chance to be fed away from the whirl of normal Sunday responsibilities. It's also exciting to hear a bit of news from other churches across the region, and the tweaked timings certainly worked better for us as a family – time to get home and have tea and a normal Saturday evening. If you've never been, I'd encourage you to give it a try!



SERVING JOHN GELDER

I never imagined when signing up to the Bible Handling Course in September 2024, what a blessing my new journey with the Northwest Gospel partnership would be.

Having never been to a Conference before and being asked to assist with activities in the Creche (an age group I had never worked with before) I approached the day with some trepidation.

But that's the amazing thing about God. When he leads you on new and exciting pathways, he never forsakes you. Surprises at every turn become rich blessings.

Reflecting on Psalms with the children in the Creche was a delight, as the children excitedly engaged in the teaching and worship of our Lord

Jesus Christ. And in the main session, never having heard the Book of Ezra preached provided an opportunity to understand teaching from God's word, that so often is overlooked.

To be asked to assist in some way at the Conference, is not only an opportunity to serve, but to receive God's rich blessing from the love and fellowship, that was shared as we proclaim the gospel together.

What foundations of love in Christ, among so many were, fostered on that day.

Ezra 3: 11 - 'With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord....And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.'



GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTNERS

Matt Cook

ST SAVIOURS

It's been a real joy to serve at St Saviour's for the past 4 years after being asked by Bishop Philip to come here to lead a 'church revitalisation' ministry in Bamber Bridge. We are situated on the outskirts of Preston, next to the M6 with a population of over 40,000.

We are a church family of around 70 people with a small Book of Common Prayer Service on Sundays followed by a family service with kids groups which is made up of nearly all new people since we have been here. Most people who come to us either haven't been to church before or haven't been in church for a while for various reasons. A small number have come to support the ministry here which has been a real blessing. So, we are a mixed bag but as we have established a gospel-centred, Bible-based ministry we have been encouraged to see how God has been changing lives in such a short time.

Nearly three years ago we appointed Shelley Logan who works as our Community and Family Worker and has done an amazing job building relationships in the community and in our church school. Shelley is such an encouragement to our families.



For the past two years we have run successful Invitation Weekends in September which has seen a positive response to the work we are doing. Our House Group Bible studies are well established with around 20 adults meeting each week and it has been a tremendous source of pastoral care within the church family.

With only a small number of mature Christians here ministry is often slow here with sometimes a perceived lack of fruit being borne. It's easy at times to look at the things we don't have instead of rejoicing in all that God has done so we keep reminding ourselves of his goodness to us regularly!



GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTNERS

Eddie Bridle

BANK HALL MISSION

Bankhall Mission Church has only recently joined the North West Gospel Partnership but several of our members have benefitted from the training course and conferences over the years.

I've been the pastor of Bankhall Mission Church since November 2024, after Paul Kinnaird, who pastored the church for twenty-seven years retired. I completed the ministry training course in 2014 as a ministry trainee, I've found the leader's meetings, annual conference, and family, children and youth conference helpful over the last decade, and have been a trustee of the NWGP for almost a year. Several members of our church have also done the ministry training course over the years and are now serving as elders or in other ministries.

Bankhall started meeting in 1905 on Stanley Road in Kirkdale, near Bankhall Station. It moved to a Brethren Gospel Hall on Knowsley Road in Bootle, an area of north Liverpool, in the 1970s and has met there ever since. The immediate area around our building is made up of two-up two-down housing that many of the residents have lived in all their lives. Lots of our members have lived in those houses in the past and it's our hope to see many more of those households come to faith in Jesus.



Bootle is an area of significant deprivation and the area the church meets in is one of the most deprived in the country. Traditionally the area has been predominantly white British, but the demographics appear to be slowly changing, and we are seeing an increasing immigrant population which the church is beginning to reflect.

Our vision is to be "a church family in Bootle that wants to help each other grow in Jesus Christ and reach our community with the news of the gospel."

We would value your prayers that God would accomplish this using our small efforts, as we try to start new ministries and work on relationships with others in the community.



CHURCH PLANT

Sam Hogarth

As you travel up the M6, past signs for Preston, Lancaster, and Kendal, you eventually reach the highest point of the M6 motorway.

The wind picks up, the rain starts to pour, and the temperature drops by a few degrees. There you'll see signs for Shap. Known for its cold winter temperatures, the North Westmorland area is also a spiritually cold place.

With very few faithful gospel preaching churches in this rural community, people are travelling long distances to be well fed from Gods word. This was a problem noticed 4 years ago by the elders at Parr Street Church in Kendal, and over the last 3 years they have facilitated regular Sunday evening gatherings in Shap. A united core group of around 30 adults and 10 children has been formed with a deep desire to

reach neighbours, friends and family with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The aim is to officially launch 'Fell Church', in Shap, in mid-November, with the plant being resourced and supported by Parr Street Church, Kendal. As you are reading this, Lord willing, things will have started and we would greatly appreciate your prayers. Please pray:

- Fell Church would quickly become embedded into what is a traditional rural community and be a visible beacon of hope where people living in Shap and the surrounding villages are introduced to Jesus.
- The church (the people) would be built up and equipped for acts of service through the consistent teaching of God's word.
- That we would be outward looking with a willingness to serve one another in love.
- For future provision of a permanent meeting place.
- For Parr Street Church as they generously give a group of its members to be part of the plant.
- That this would be the beginning of more churches being planted in the North Westmorland area.

If you'd like more information please contact sam@parrstchurch.org





Annual Conference

24 January 2026. The Edge, Wigan.



MISSIONARY PSALMS

Christopher Ash will be looking at the surprising, exciting, even breathtaking way in which the Psalms speak beyond their old covenant context and overflow into a gospel for the whole world.

A day for the whole church family.

BOOKINGS ARE NOW LIVE

fienta.com/annual-conference-2026



« Contact us »

WEB. www.northwestgospelpartnership.com

EMAIL. info@northwestgospelpartnership.com

TWITTER. [NWPartnership](#)

FACEBOOK. [NorthWestPartnership](#)

« Join us »

Pray and be prayed for, support gospel work across our region, share in the joy of giving to raise up the next generation of gospel workers, and make the most of our training so that Christ may be proclaimed across the North West more and more. Join our partnership. Get in touch to find out more.