It’s not long until Pastoral Refreshment 2017 with its opportunity to enjoy God and receive from his grace in a lovely, refreshing environment.

Whether you are a regular or this is your first time at the conference we hope this brief guide will whet your appetite.
What is Pastoral Refreshment?

Enjoying God

There is an unbreakable link between flourishing in ministry and receiving encouragement, from the Lord and from other people. This simple fact is the reason for the Pastoral Refreshment Conference. We want to be disciples who are encouraged in Jesus, who know the joy of the Lord in our hearts and whose worship lives are vibrant.

Receiving Refreshment

We lead churches and ministries out of that centre. How important it is, therefore, that those who pour out their hearts to nourish others are well-nourished ourselves. We minister out of the overflow of our heart and walk with the Lord. It is vital to give attention to our souls. At PRC we believe that care for our souls and growing in godly character come from delighting in who we are in Jesus Christ - forgiven, accepted, adopted children of God’s grace.

Being Encouraged

The aim of the conference is refreshment of heart, mind and body away from the busyness of leadership. Our prayer is that it will increase your love for God and knowledge of his love poured into your heart. We invite you to pray with us ahead of the conference that as we worship, receive from God’s word, pray and enjoy good company and good food that we will truly appreciate the beauty and wonder of Jesus and his good news.

How can I make the most of it?

We encourage you to use the time away however will be most helpful for your walk with God. If you can possibly combine it with a whole week or more away from leadership tasks, even better.

There is no three line whip for any of the sessions. We think you will enjoy the programme but if your refreshment would better be served by walking, praying, sleeping, enjoying the scenery or chatting with others about your spiritual life or ministry that’s fine too. The one thing we encourage you not to miss is the opportunity to pray and be prayed for.

You might like to pray before you arrive for the Lord to meet you in a special way. If appropriate why not ask your church to pray this for you as well. We have included a church prayer information sheet for you to pass on.
It’s my first time here

Well in that case it’s great you could finally come! We hope you will find the conference a very friendly place. We know it can be hard coming to an unfamiliar group, especially if you are on your own, so here are a few pointers to help.

- The hosting team are all conference delegates ourselves. We come because we love it. But we also love serving you. We have different coloured badges so if you are looking for someone to talk to, make a beeline for one of us

- That’s especially the case at the first meal time. Some of the team will hang back at the dining room door and we will have a couple of reserved tables if you are on your own or would like to make some new friends straight away

- Those of us who are regular at PRC love to pray for others and get prayed for. There is time set aside for this on the first evening. If you are worried this might be a bit too intense for you on a first visit feel free to either stay in the session but with no compulsion to share or spend some time relaxing in the lounge, having a drink at the bar or getting an early night. Nobody will mind

- If you have a specific pastoral need you would like to spend a little more time over with a member of the pastoral team, please let the conference administrator know and they will book you a time

- You might be looking at the programme thinking “that’s a lot of free time on the middle afternoon when I don’t know anyone or have anything to do”. Don’t worry, there will be activities, a walk and who knows, maybe even a boat trip down the lake if the weather is right

- You will hear it said that there is no three line whip to attend anything. There really isn’t. All we ask is that you use the time, the programme and the centre to energise your walk with God in whatever ways will best help you

- If you have questions or need help on practical matters to do with the conference find our administrator. Anything to do with your room ask the hotel reception
What are some of the highlights?

We love passionate, biblical preaching that is specifically applied to the needs of leaders and partners. And, just as much, we love vibrant God-centred worship. It’s so easy when we are leading others to not concentrate on God just for ourselves. We hope you will find yourself able to enjoy God at PRC with no distractions.

In three biblical messages Paul Mallard will help us explore the theme of Keeping in Step with the Spirit:

- Keeping in step with the Spirit’s power to fight sin
- Keeping in step with the Spirit’s presence to persevere as a Christian
- Keeping in step with the Spirit’s process for fruitful discipleship

The first evening is given over to a testimony about how the theme of the conference really affects our lives, with a more extended opportunity to pray.

The style of worship is contemporary, heart-warming and filled with scripture. If you play a portable instrument to a reasonable standard and would like to join the music team, please bring it along.

The conference pastoral team

We have pastoral team members available to chat and pray with anyone who would like some personal reflection time. The pastoral team are all volunteers and their contribution is on an informal basis.

Pastoral team members will be available at the end of sessions but you can also ask the conference administrator, to fix up a time for you. Alternatively drop us an email before the conference to: info@livingleadership.org

The venue

The beautiful Newby Bridge Hotel overlooks the southern tip of Lake Windermere. Expect roaring log fires, great food and superb views. The hotel has free WiFi, a pool, steam room and a small gym all free for conference guests so bring a swimming costume (we won’t all get in the pool at once!)

There is lovely walking nearby and (weather-permitting) a walk or boat trip will be organised on the middle afternoon of the conference for anyone who would like to see some countryside. You will need to bring outdoor shoes.
Pastoral Refreshment Conference discussion groups are unlike those at a lot of conferences. Rather than being another opportunity to hear upfront speaking, the emphasis in our seminars is having a community of grace in which we can learn from and encourage one another. They are times to listen and share wisdom with other delegates rather than taught workshops and concentrate more on living as Christians who happen to be involved in leadership than on skills learning.

The discussion groups are very interactive - though of course if you would rather just listen, that’s fine.

We have chosen four of our most regularly asked for topics for discussion at the inaugural Lake District Conference:

- **Grace, Marriage & Ministry**
  We’re in this together. The stresses and opportunities of being partners in ministry

- **Leadership & Forgiveness**
  All who ever lead will hurt! Dealing with the hurts and pains of relational challenges

- **What is really driving me?**
  Why do we do what we do? To what extent is our ministry our identity?

- **The Discussion with No Title!**
  Come and raise any topic for discussion
Tuesday
From 3.00  Registration & Refreshments
4.00-5.30  Main session 1: Keeping in Step with the Spirit
6.00-7.00  Dinner
7.30-9.00  Pastored by Jesus - worship, prayer and interview
9.15    Refreshments and fellowship

Wednesday
8.00    Breakfast
9.30-11.00  Main session 2: Keeping in Step with the Spirit
11.15    Refreshments
12.00    Discussion groups
1.15    Lunch
2.30-6.00  Space for conversations and personal time
           Refreshments served at 4.00pm
6.00-7.00  Dinner
7.30-9.00  The Spirit of Sonship
9.15    Refreshments and fellowship

Thursday
8.00    Breakfast
9.15    Discussion groups
10.45    Refreshments
11.15    Main session 3: Keeping in Step with the Spirit
1.00    Lunch and Depart
Church Prayer Information

An Invitation to Pray

This prayer information sheet has been passed to you by leaders in your church or ministry who will be coming to the Living Leadership Pastoral Refreshment Conference in February. The aim of the conference is to provide rich encouragement and sustenance for leaders’ hearts, families and relationships with the Lord. All with an emphasis on care, prayer and developing intimacy with God.

As part of the overall encouragement provided by the conference we would like to invite you and your church to pray for your delegates before the conference and while they are away.

What Will Your Leaders Receive at the Conference?

The Pastoral Refreshment Conference has a strong ethos of experiencing the grace of God together. We believe that this is foundational to loving the Lord, loving the Church and continuing to love leading over the long haul.

At this year’s conference there will be inspiring preaching from Paul Mallard. Optional seminars, round table discussion and upfront testimony will cover a variety of personal and pastoral issues. There will be lots of prayer, worship and opportunity to share experience and ideas with other leaders. Experienced pastoral leaders are also available at the conference.

Previous attendees have valued the combination of honesty, realism and space with the Lord:

* The seminar on forgiveness was amazingly helpful and important. The constant reminder of grace has been a real blessing
* The place I have felt most valued as the spouse of a church minister
* Pastoral encouragement, spiritual sustenance and sustaining grace are often neglected priorities for Christian leaders. I am delighted to support this conference wholeheartedly

How Can You Pray?

We ask, where appropriate, that you might encourage your church to pray individually, in services and in prayer meetings:

**For Leaders Attending the Conference:**
- That they will receive richly from God’s grace, for their encouragement and help
- That they will find the mixture of teaching, prayer and interaction on pastoral themes uplifting
- That, following the busy Christmas period, they will enjoy rest and an opportunity to feed on God
- That they will love the Lord, the Church and leading more over the coming year as a result of coming

**For Your Church:**
- That the spiritual benefit of the conference will be felt among you in the year ahead
- That you will love and serve God together more effectively as a result of leaders having had this opportunity
Directions to The Newby Bridge Hotel

The Newby Bridge Hotel is situated approximately 15 minutes drive from junction 36 of the M6 motorway. Just follow the A590 signposted to Barrow and as you enter Newby Bridge you will find the Hotel on your left hand side.

For Sat Nav use LA12 8NA.

There is plenty of free parking on site.

For more information see www.newbybridgehotel.co.uk or ring the hotel on 01539 531222.