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## **The Briefing – Number 58**

### **24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Dear Friends,

URC Yorkshire  
**COPYRIGHT CLINIC**

Come and have your questions  
answered and copyright myths busted!

**Open to all!**  
**Wednesday 30th June, 2-4pm on Zoom**  
To book  
[copyrightclinic.eventbrite.co.uk](https://copyrightclinic.eventbrite.co.uk)

Big apologies this week because I forgot to mention this event, happening on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Normally I don't put adverts on page one, but I'm reverting to the days when all good newspapers, such as the Craven Herald and Pioneer, had their classifieds on the front page. So to sign up, all you have to do is follow this link and book your free (yes FREE) tickets [Copyright Clinic Tickets, Wed 30 Jun 2021 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#). As we all begin to look at different ways of providing mission and outreach from our churches the question of copyright on hymns, songs and worship material has never been more at the forefront of many churches minds. On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> join us to have your questions answered and any myths surrounding copyright busted!!

So with that at the head of the Briefing this week, what else is there to tell you. Well, as you read down there is quite a lot going on. The summer programme carries on apace and in the background there is the resurging anticipation in the country that we all may be unlocked on July 19<sup>th</sup> (or will it be July 5<sup>th</sup>, or will it be in August or.....).

The Synod's activities are flexible enough to deal with the changes in the regulations and I hope that churches are able to fit their own resurgent activities around them as well. There has been one slight change to note in the past week, and that has been the lifting of fixed numerical restrictions to Marriage Celebrations and Life event commemorations. This link, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): How to safely plan a wedding or civil partnership, or funeral, wake or commemoration - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), updated on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, tells us that the number of attendees at these events will be determined by how many people a venue or outdoor space can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place, based on the COVID-19 risk assessment of the venue or outdoor space. However, all other restriction will remain in place and this is the [guidance on what you can and cannot do](#) with specific details here [Find out what the rules are](#). As mentioned last week the numbers allowed to attend marriage ceremonies has changed and those details can be found here [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Wedding and civil partnership ceremonies, receptions and celebrations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Remember the guidelines regarding Public Worship have not changed; the full details of which are here and last updated 24<sup>th</sup> May [COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Synod is still looking forward to a busy summer and autumn of events. The Children and Young People's group are planning for their mini Big Day Out in September whilst the Lay Leaders, Elders and LYCiG groups are equally active over the next few months. There are many things to see and plenty of resources to draw from and as usual within the Briefing I will be highlighting the new and the important as we upload them. As ever there are plenty of events, courses and resources as we move through spring into summer. If you have any events you would like to add to our list, please send them into the office and we can put them on the website as well as on Synod Calendar and here in the Briefing.

At Synod, we are looking more and more to what we can offer in the months to come. One of the key things is this:

Yorkshire Synod is delighted to launch its brand new **Weekly Mailing**! This is your one-stop-shop mailing. It's a great way of keeping informed about what's going on, in and around the synod. It contains latest news on events past, present and future, good news stories, announcements, and updates on whatever our wonderful staff, officers, ministers, elders and volunteers are up to! The good news is, anyone can sign up! It's not just for church secretaries, or ministers, anyone can receive this mailing, and opt-out at any time, too! It's very easy to do, visit the synod website [www.urcyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.urcyorkshire.org.uk) and scroll down to the bottom of ANY page. You will see the sign up form on the right-hand side, fill it in, send it off and you'll be sent a confirmation email to confirm your subscription.

**We look forward to you hearing from us!**

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## **Church Links, Mission Activities and Synod Events**

### **Lay Preachers Planning Group news**

#### **Exploring the upcoming lectionary readings together**

This month the Lay Preachers Planning Group continue in putting on sessions exploring the lectionary readings throughout the year. The details of the forthcoming ones are as follows.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June;** 10.30am to 12.00noon and repeated 7.30pm to 9.00 pm on Zoom. Facilitated by Rod Morrison, this will be a time for participants to look together at the lectionary readings for 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, July & 1<sup>st</sup> August in preparation for leading worship on those Sundays.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July;** 10.30am to 12.00noon and repeated 7.30pm to 9.00pm. This is facilitated by Jill Fletcher and will cover the lectionary readings for 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August.

The group are finding that the repeat of the morning session on an evening is working so will continue for a while. As previously these sessions will be participative rather than "expert led" by an outside speaker and the links will be sent to to all lay preachers nearer the dates.

If you need further information, please get in touch via the [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) e-mail.

Never let it be said that there is no forward planning in Synod. Not only are the Lay Preaching planning group doing some brilliant work this spring and summer, they have also got your Autumn diaries to fill as well. They have asked Lawrence Moore to leading an overview of **Luke's Gospel** for worship leaders. The provisional dates are **2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021** between 10.00am and 11.30am, with a repeat at 7.30pm on the dates mentioned. More details as we get closer.

And looking forward – into next year no less – Kath Lonsdale has asked that you keep the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 clear if you are interested in a **lay preachers weekend at Wydale conference centre**. More details and a booking form nearer the time.

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## Safeguarding News

### Trustee training.

If you are an Elder and Trustee of your local church then there is specific training being provided online by Farrar & Co, a firm of solicitors from London who provide safeguarding advice and assistance in all aspects of safeguarding matters. This training is being provided to all churches throughout the Northern, Yorkshire, North Western and Merseyside Synods via funding from the Synod Safeguarding Development Fund.

This is a 2 hour training session and the following topics will be covered

- Why safeguarding matters to the URC
- How to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place for your church
- The Elders duties as Trustees
- How to spot, deal and report with a serious incident

The training will be delivered via Zoom and the dates for the sessions are

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July – 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July – 1pm to 3pm.

To book a place please **contact Matt Knowles** at [matt.safeguarding@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:matt.safeguarding@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

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## Property News

As the final lifting on restrictions is still a moveable feast the Synod team are constantly keeping a close eye on any developments that may arise in the next few weeks. Advice is always available from the team so don't be backward at being forward in asking any questions of us. Synod is here to help, so if you have any questions drop a line to either me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or to Jane at [property@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:property@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

One thing to bear in mind though as we all come out of lockdown is to make sure that your buildings are ready to welcome folk back. Advice is available at both Synod and National levels on both the Yorkshire [COVID-19 Advice and Support | URC Yorkshire Synod](#) and Denominational [Advice to churches about coronavirus from the United Reformed Church](#) websites.

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### URC Buildings Forum Steering Group

The URC Buildings Forum Steering Group is planning some more conferences in the wake of the successful Buildings Forum held back on April 19<sup>th</sup>. They have agreed to hold future conferences around three times each year and the next one is to be held on **21<sup>st</sup> July 2021** from 11.30am to 1.00pm.

This conference will explore the **Vision and Mission Context for URC Buildings and Assets**, including whether we need a building to be 'church' in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? For this part of the conference, they are pleased to be able to welcome Martin Haywood, the convenor of the Mission Enablers Network and the Southern Synod Mission Officer. They hope also to hear from two separate places of worship about how that have creatively used their buildings. One in a rural community and the other in a multi-cultural community.

**Please email [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk) to sign up for this event.**

The third and final conference for 2021 is being planned for 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. This conference will focus on environmental issues for church buildings, including Eco-Church and Eco-Congregation. More details will be forthcoming when available via the Yorkshire Synod website.

## IT Group News

This is where, last week, there should have been the notice of the Copyright Clinic. This week it isn't here either, because it is on page one. As a reminder though, it is on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June between 2pm and 4pm and you can sign up for tickets here [Copyright Clinic Tickets, Wed 30 Jun 2021 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#).

### WRITING FOR THE WEB

a 2 hour introduction to the key skills for writing for the web  
15 July 7-9pm OR 17 July 10am-12pm

- ✓ Reading styles: web vs print
- ✓ Building your audience profile
- ✓ Fog index & readability
- ✓ "Chunking" content
- ✓ The inverted pyramid of journalism
- ✓ Bells & whistles

This short two-hour course is designed to help those among us who are contributing to church based websites. We will be holding it on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July between 7pm and 9pm and then again on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July between 10am and 12noon. Led by Lawrence Moore it will add another skill-set to enable us to be more effective in showing what we do as Christians in Yorkshire.

Also coming soon will be an exploration into how we can provide Hybrid worship – utilising the best of being in a building and the best way of getting across that experience to those who are joining a service remotely.

More details will follow so keep a close eye on future issues of The Briefing and at [Latest News | URC Yorkshire Synod](#)

## Children and Young Peoples News

# WILDERNESS

children | youth | young adults | workers & volunteers

SAT JULY 3RD  
11.30AM-7PM  
(ISH)

STARTING  
FROM, AND  
RETURNING TO,  
LEEDS (TRAIN)  
STATION

## PILGRIMAGE

Bring your own lunch and comfortable shoes (there will be walking) and we will provide prayers and a meal at the end. Please let us know by Sun 27th June if you'd like to join us: [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk)  
Anyone aged 18 and over is welcome. Bring a friend.

There is a great deal happening in the CYP part of the Synod, and I do urge you to pass news of these events on to those who are key to nurturing the younger end of your congregations.

First up is the Young Adults' Pilgrimage (18-25s) on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. It will start and finish at Leeds train station (11.30am – 7pm approx.) Bring comfortable footwear, your own packed lunch and we will provide a meal at the end of the day. This will involve walking, talking, time for reflection and people from the Bible. Please let Jon Steel know by this Sunday night (27<sup>th</sup> June) via [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk).



For those who fancy themselves as budding Sherlocks or Morses (or even Inch High Private Eyes, for those with a long memory) why not try the **'Super sleuths' URC Holiday Club materials** – a FREE resource from the Children and Youth Team, with videos, activities, songs and ideas for groups that are pre-school, primary, secondary, vintage ('older') or intergenerational. There is also up to £100 available to help you put on your activity. The resource can be used for an activity day and there are additional materials to adapt it to use with under fives, for intergenerational groups and for a Vintage Holiday Club (for people in later life or with dementia). Visit <https://urc.org.uk/holiday-club> for full details and download instructions.



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**SAVE THE DATE – Sat Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**'The LITTLE Big Day Out' – at Gulliver's Valley, Sheffield**



This is a great opportunity for a day out especially for any families you are connected with through your churches and church activities. Tickets £12 per person (over 90cm tall) by contacting [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk). For more information on the venue please visit <https://www.gulliversvalleyresort.co.uk/>. Further financial support will be available and as the plans start to come together more information on this and other aspects of the day will be sent out and uploaded to the Children and Young Peoples' section of the new look Yorkshire Synod Website [Children and Young People | URC Yorkshire Synod](#).



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October is the Wilderness Youth Weekend – a residential activity weekend at Kingswood Activity Centre, Dearne Valley. Designed for 11-17s the cost will be £25 per person. More details and booking information will be available soon on the synod website.

## Wilderness Faith Maps



Finally – This simple weekly resource provides an easy way to engage with the Bible, prayer and the world around us. Linked to a Sunday Lectionary reading, it is suitable for all ages and faith experiences, as a starting point for a discussion or for personal reflection. You can find it each week here on [Facebook](#). Watch out for the regular short daily posts, and please add 'like' the page, to be alerted when each weekly post arrives.

## General Information and Resource Sharing

### Relay to COP26 Starts Soon

This November, world leaders are meeting in Glasgow for important climate negotiations. It is a decade-defining opportunity to make a stand. The **Young Christian Climate Network** relay has begun; it started immediately after the G7 summit on 11<sup>th</sup> June and is making its way to Glasgow, passing through the full length of our Synod between 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September including a sojourn in York between the 20<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September.

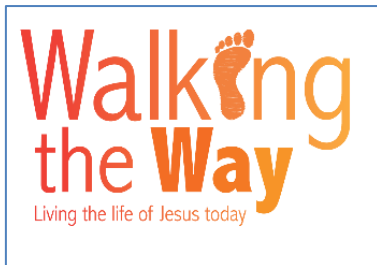
If you click on this link [RELAY | YCCN](#) not only can you volunteer to get involved, but you can see where it goes.



## Time for God Volunteers

Has your church considered hosting a Time For God volunteer? If it has then this is for you, if it hasn't then this is also for you. Rather than come through the Synod Office, all information can be gleaned from [director@timeforgod.org](mailto:director@timeforgod.org). However if you would like the full size leaflets sent across, drop me a line at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).





A message from Simon Peters, the Walking the Way project manager:  
Dear Friends,  
I hope you are all well. I am delighted to announce that the first episode of the fortnightly [United Reformed Church podcast](#) is available now. This series will look at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus across all aspects of our lives, as we respond to concerns, issues and topics we encounter.

In addition to a new episode every second Wednesday, for the next few weeks between podcast episodes being released, I will also be uploading some video conversations which I have had with various people across the URC in relation to discipleship. Please look out for these on the [URC's YouTube channel](#).

If you or someone you know might be interested in featuring in either the podcast or video conversations, please let me know. The idea is to help audiences consider what it means to be a disciple of Jesus from as many perspectives as we can highlight.

Many Thanks and Best Wishes, **Simon Peters, Walking the Way Project Manager**

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### **The Big Cliff Weekend | 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

From our friends at Cliff College in Derbyshire is notice of **The Big Cliff Weekend** which is a one-off event in July 2021 with the opportunity to gather on the Cliff College site to worship, learn, relax and celebrate together. Philippa Hanna and Tom Smith (Soul Survivor) will be leading worship and performing some of their own music, as well as Daughters of Davis, OTC from the Message Trust, comedian Tony Vino and loads more.

As well as the excellent worship and teaching you expect from Cliff College, there will be activities for all ages across the site. Come with your family and friends and spend the weekend with us praising God and enjoying the beautiful Cliff site in all its summer glory!

For more information or to book tickets visit: [The Big Cliff Weekend - 24-25 July 2021 - Cliff College](#)

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**Worshipping God Together : Apart.** The latest service from Rev Janine Atkinson has been uploaded to the website and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Janine for these resources. You can find it under the 'What we do' drop down heading if you fancy a Yorkshire Synod Website surf or more directly at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/worship/>

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The latest edition of the URC's **NewsUpdate** has just been published. A downloadable version of it, formatted for print and for churches to cut and paste into church newsletters, is available on the URC website. Download and print your copy [here](#).

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### **Photo requests**

The URC nationally are going to be producing a calendar of church buildings for 2022, linking in with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the denomination. Full details have been in previous Briefings, with the ideal formats being external shots in a landscape orientation; JPG or PNG file format, suitably labelled with name of photographer and no bigger than 3Mb. Black and white images are also welcome.

Please send them to Andy Jackson at [andy.jackson@urc.org.uk](mailto:andy.jackson@urc.org.uk) and if photos are sent, the photographer is granting the URC permission to use the photographs in print and digitally. The deadline is by mid-July, as the calendar will be going to print in August.





**POSITIVELY RURAL 5:**  
**Countryside Challenges**

Wednesday 7 July—1:00pm

Focusing on the issues facing rural communities  
and how we can respond to them

Speakers: Rachel Hallos, the West Riding NFU chair and  
Claire Maxim, CEO of Arthur Rank Centre

For booking support please contact:  
Katrin Hackett:  
admin@sheffieldmethodist.org  
Tel: 0114 270 9990

To book your place and obtain  
joining instructions, follow this link:  
<http://bit.ly/PositivelyRural5>  
Registration deadline: 5 July

This has come through our friends in the Yorkshire Plus Methodist area (which I gather covers all of Yorkshire Synod plus a little more). Revd Andrew Webb, who is also minister at St Andrew's Skipton, is on the steering group and has invited those in the Synod who are interested in rural ministry to join them on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July** at 1.00pm. For booking support please contact Katrin Hackett at [admin@sheffieldmethodist.org](mailto:admin@sheffieldmethodist.org) and to obtain joining instructions please follow this link <http://bit.ly/PositivelyRural5>.

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For those with local tastes I know that the **Sheffield team** have their services on their own website at <http://sheffieldurc.org.uk/> and on the Yorkshire site you can find help in preparing and participating in Online Worship at [COVID-19 Advice and Support | URC Yorkshire Synod](#).

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St Andrew's URC Sheffield has a very gifted and committed organist who has put worship resources on every week since the beginning of the first lockdown. The music is an eclectic, rich and classical selection and he now puts the text into a digital voice, which means the words are there to read yourself. The service from the previous week is immediately accessible below the new one, and earlier services are now archived and accessible too. [www.standrewsurcsheffield.org.uk/stop-press](http://www.standrewsurcsheffield.org.uk/stop-press)

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As I keep mentioning the Yorkshire Synod has a dedicated **YouTube channel**. On it there are the **Moderators musings** and releases from the **LYCiG team, Children's and Youth, Mission** and more! The link is here: <https://bit.ly/urcyorkshireyoutube> and have a look at what has already been uploaded. If you have a google account, you will receive emails when a new video is posted. In addition, there is a great deal of information on the LYCiG page on the Synod website. Now is as good a time to have a look at [Leading Your Church Into Growth | URC Yorkshire Synod](#)

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I have listed much of what I know is happening above, but it would be good for you to send across notification of any open events you are hosting in your churches. Please don't hide these events under a bushel, but let me know so that I can get it out to a wider audience; my usual deadline is Wednesday teatime. Similarly, please send the Briefing around your congregations so they know of those activities within and beyond Synod designed to grow the Kingdom. Plans are already afoot to bring more activities and good news stories to your attention, so keep an eye open for the next Briefing. All you need to do is get in touch with me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

If you know of anything you may find useful for our churches, please contact me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) and I'll circulate it here and on the website. Similarly if you need any further help, be it to do with IT, finance, property or the like we are here to help.

National URC site: <https://urc.org.uk/> Yorkshire Synod: <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/> Yorkshire Synod

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/urcyorkshire> Yorkshire Synod Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/urcyorkshire> Yorkshire Young People's Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/wildernessyorkshireurc/>

*Tim Crossley*  
Synod Clerk