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## **The Briefing – Number 67**

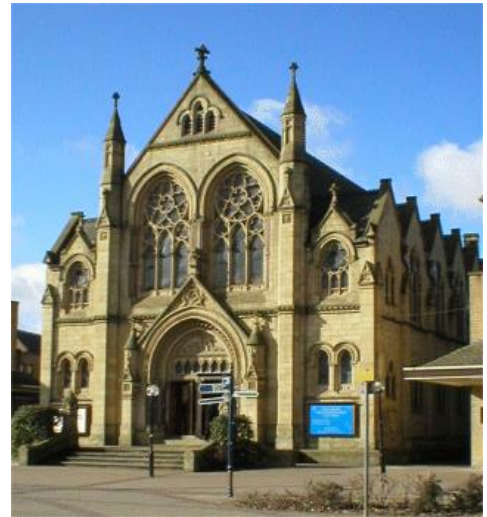
### **16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Dear Friends,

Well here we have it, the first of the fortnightly Briefings. It was rather odd not to have done a Briefing last week, but having said that, the last two weeks have flown by so quickly that it feels like it was only a week ago since I was sitting down to write the introduction to Issue 66. The new season has started off with a flurry of activities as the number of events highlighted here shows. Not only that we had another Prime Ministerial press conference on Tuesday, which could have changed the environment in which we work again. However, on that score there is no change, although I will be repeating the consistent advice we are offering below.

Autumn always comes at us with a flurry of new beginnings, marked by the constant filling up of our diaries and with it the constant checking of them to see whether we can meet the next event. This year is no different apart from the fact that many of our meetings are now taking place face-to-face.

It is a joy to be able to do this, to be able to rebuild relationships that have been maintained digitally, and I hope it will prove the opportunity to make new friendships with those who we have only met previously across the digital spectrum. In this light, next month's Yorkshire Synod meeting will be an opportunity to meet in body for the first time since October 2019. The Synod meeting will comprise two parts, the first on the "Zoom" digital platform will be held on the evening of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, the second part on the morning of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October Synod will convene at Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury. After last time's split meeting it was felt that to split this meeting meant that it opened it up to a greater number of people and we aim to live stream the proceedings from Dewsbury as well for those unable to attend in person. Keep an eye on next time's Briefing. As with all things new, we would like to hear your feedback as that will be taken into account when we begin planning the Spring 2022 meeting.

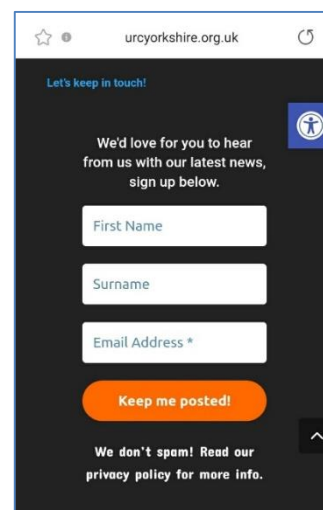


So returning to the advice we are continuing to offer, even after the government's press conference last Tuesday evening, there is no change. We still need to be acutely aware of the Covid-19 situation and be careful in the way we continue to open up our church buildings to both regular attendees and to new friends. Let's not forget or forego the good work we have done since March last year. So I make no apology again for highlighting the advice from the denomination as well as from the government so please do take note of the advice that is contained in these links:

**The URC Synod Moderators' [New Freedoms, Same Responsibilities: Synod Moderators' advice to congregations \(urc.org.uk\)](#)**

**The URC's main [Advice to churches about coronavirus from the United Reformed Church Government sites](#) at [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [guidance on what you can and cannot do](#) and [Find out what the rules are](#).**

As I mentioned last week I hope to be able to bring the Briefing twice a month – probably on the first Thursday and the third Thursday. I still would like to hear from you so that I can get your news out to a wide audience. Not only does it end up in the Briefing, but also we can put it on the website in the News section [Latest News | URC Yorkshire Synod](#). It doesn't matter if it is a small event or an earth shattering announcement, send it in and then sign up to the weekly news update which is sent out automatically each Friday. It is really easy to sign up; look at the foot of the [Yorkshire Synod \(urcyorkshire.org.uk\)](#) page, find the bit that looks like this image, fill it in and make yourself a well-deserved cuppa. Don't keep this little snippet of information to yourself – tell your friends, your church members and your congregations as a whole. There is a whole array of things to help, guide and inform you, not only about the URC but also about how we can become a Jesus centred people

A screenshot of a web browser showing the sign-up form for the URC Yorkshire Synod newsletter. The browser address bar shows 'urcyorkshire.org.uk'. The form has a dark background with white text. It says 'Let's keep in touch!' at the top. Below that, it says 'We'd love for you to hear from us with our latest news, sign up below.' There are three input fields: 'First Name', 'Surname', and 'Email Address \*'. Below these is an orange button that says 'Keep me posted!'. At the bottom, it says 'We don't spam! Read our privacy policy for more info.'

## Church Links, Mission Activities and Synod Events

### Lay Preachers Planning Group news

Coming soon is Lawrence Moore's series on **Luke's Gospel** for worship leaders. The provisional dates are **2nd, 4th, 9th and 11th November 2021** between 10.00am and 11.30am, with a repeat at 7.30pm on the dates mentioned. More details as we get closer here on the Briefing, on the website and on the Weekly Mailing (please sign up at [Yorkshire Synod \(urcyorkshire.org.uk\)](#)).

I know there are more things in the pipeline and news of these will be distributed in the usual ways. 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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## Property News

### Faith New Deal Pilot Fund: new grant opportunity

This little snippet has come from the URC's General Secretary, Rev John Bradbury. *"I've just received notice of this new pilot fund from the Government, as part of the Governments 'levelling-up' agenda. I'm not sure whether this fund might be helpful to any of our more entrepreneurial churches, but it seems sensible to disseminate the information in case it is."*

According to the website (see below) the **Faith New Deal Pilot Fund** is a new, competitive grant programme to help support faith-based organisations use their resources effectively within their community and to build trust between national & local government and faith groups. They want to recognise the role faith-based organisations play in the resilience of our communities and the importance of local faith groups working collaboratively with other community organisations.

To find out more the details are on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/faith-new-deal-pilot-fund/faith-new-deal-pilot-fund-prospectus#how-to-apply--the-application-and-assessment-process>

and the application form can be downloaded here

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1015500/Faith\\_New\\_Deal\\_Pilot\\_Fund\\_application\\_form.odt](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1015500/Faith_New_Deal_Pilot_Fund_application_form.odt)

The **bids close the 7<sup>th</sup> October**, so I do advise you, to paraphrase the General Secretary, to get your skates on.

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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> and more recently on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The third and final conference for 2021 is on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 7.00pm to 8.30pm and will focus on environmental issues for church buildings, including Eco-Church and Eco-Congregation. More details will be forthcoming when available via [YorksSynod.org.uk](http://YorksSynod.org.uk).

## Children and Young Peoples News

### BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN

### October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>. 'SYNOD YOUTH WEEKEND'

*This is the last call for anyone who would like to join the Synod Youth at their Weekend at Kingswood residential activity centre near Doncaster. It is open to anyone aged 11-17 connected to your church. This will be a great opportunity for young people to socialise again and do something different, with a wide range of activities available for only £25 for the weekend. Further details and booking forms are available on the synod website:*

<https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/event/yorkshire-synod-youth-weekend/>

*Please get in touch if you would like to join us and please pass on the details and look out for the booking forms on the website. You can download the full poster from the website at [Yorkshire Synod Youth Weekend | URC Yorkshire Synod](#) to distribute and contact [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk) if you have any questions.*



## Wilderness Faith Maps

This simple weekly resource is 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](#), then like the page to be alerted when each weekly post arrives.



## URC Youth Assembly 2022

It's that time of year again! Youth Assembly 2022 is just round the corner! Are you or do you know a 14-26 years old? (Yes, we have increased the age for this year!). Experience worship and participate in discussions about faith and life with people your age! Not the chatty type? A silent disco could be right up your street! For more info click here:

[www.urc.org.uk/urc-youth-urc.html](http://www.urc.org.uk/urc-youth-urc.html)

To book your place click here [www.urc.org.uk/urcya](http://www.urc.org.uk/urcya) before 1st January 2022.

# **General Information and Resource Sharing**

## **Safeguarding News**

### **Training.**

Following up from the Foundation (Basic) Safeguarding Training packages, the **Intermediate Safeguarding Training Package** is now up and running. This package covers more in depth areas of safeguarding for use within the local church. It will last about 2 ½ hours with breaks to get drinks etc. – as well as giving you time away from listening to Matt if needed!!

Initially, this training will be provided in an online format. However, as we move into 2022 it may be that it moves to a physical setting. Watch this space for updates!!

Everyone who attended basic training in the past three years invited to attend this intermediate training. For those who need the basic training more sessions are being planned.

All courses are booked via the Synod office. Please contact Sally via email to confirm your places or to get more information at [moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

The dates are as follows:

#### **Foundation (Basic) courses – 2 hours in duration**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 – 10am to 12pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 – 9.30am to 11.30am

#### **Intermediate courses – 2 ½ hours in duration**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 2pm to 4.30pm

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 10am to 12.30pm

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 10am to 12.30pm

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 – 9.30am to 12pm

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 10am to 12.30pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 9.30am to 12pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 1pm to 3.30pm

**Please be aware that these dates are filling up very quickly. Having said that I am reliably informed that more dates will be available in the New Year.**

Matt has also managed to secure some more spaces in the **Trustee Training** safeguarding sessions being run by Farrer & Co. The training is free as it is funded by a successful application to the Synod Development fund managed by the Assembly Safeguarding Advisory Group. It is the same course that was successfully run in July, but this time it is being organised by SW Synod. Matt has been able to ensure that there will be spaces available for those who are Trustees within Yorkshire Synod able to attend the training in July. The training will be via Zoom and the dates are:

17<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 p.m. -4.30 p.m, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 11 a.m. – 1 p.m, 30<sup>th</sup> November 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

If you wish to attend, or if you know of someone who needs to attend then please send details to [secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk).

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**Worshipping God Together : Apart.** Rev Janine Atkinson's regular services and reflections are still being uploaded to the website. As always a big thank you to Janine for these incredible 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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### Harvest Service on Legacies

*Commitment for Life* has created a new service in conjunction with Christian Aid on leaving a Legacy. The Harvest service including full text and a video of the service is downloadable from our website by following the link <https://urc.org.uk/commitment-for-life/worship-commitment-for-life.html>

As this Harvest Service is a pilot legacy partnership, it would really help Christian Aid and CFL if you could kindly provide us with some feedback. Please do let CLF know if your church uses these CFL Harvest resources and how well it was received by the congregation. A simple 'How to do it' style flyer should now be available at [Commitment for life \(urc.org.uk\)](https://urc.org.uk).

Finally, Christian Aid are organising training on 'talking about legacies in your church' on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Church leaders can book their place by emailing Kathy directly via this link: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/gifts-wills/remember-charity-week>.



### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm

sees the Initial gathering of neuro-diverse adults and young people associated with the URC to explore how we might celebrate neuro-



diversity. Curated by URC Children's & Youth Work team, there will be sharing of stories and experiences, hopes and dreams for how the URC might be more inclusive and support a celebration of neuro-diversity. This event will use mixed verbal, text, and image based communication. For more information, and to book a free place, please visit: [Towards Appreciating Neuro-diversity in the URC Tickets, Mon 27 Sep 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/towards-appreciating-neuro-diversity-in-the-urc-tickets-14988888888).



The regular URC podcasts can all be found at [The United Reformed Church Podcast](https://www.urc.org.uk/podcast) • [A podcast on Anchor](https://www.anchor.fm/urc).

The latest episode on Antiracism is now available as are the previous issues including podcasts on The Workplace, Money and Climate Crisis. They are all well worth a listen.



The latest issue of the [URC News Update September 2021 \(urc-news.org.uk\)](https://urc-news.org.uk) is now available. It has updates on the impending URC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans, how to get hold of resource packs, a General Assembly Round Up, how to contribute to the Haiti Emergency Appeal and the news that Shiregreen URC has become the first URC to receive the new

Youth Friendly Scheme award [First Children and Youth Friendly Church Scheme plaque presented](https://www.urc.org.uk/youth-friendly-scheme).

Ann-Marie, who edits the URC News Update (like me) is always on the hunt for stories to tell as her latest e-mail to me shows:

*Hello there! Can you believe that we're halfway through September! Where or where has the year gone? Anyhow while you're enjoying the last of the summer sun, could you please take some time to send me any news/photos/items of interest for possible inclusion in the October edition of News Update. As you know, I'm particularly interested in those things which have a significance for the denomination as a whole, across the country – and the nations.*

*All submissions by 12pm on Monday 20 September (ahem ahem day before my birthday 😊) please. Thanking you,*

A-M

[ann-marie.nye@urc.org.uk](mailto:ann-marie.nye@urc.org.uk)

The **Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations** group are taking a hand in the organisation of this conference being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September via Zoom. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89501586685>

For more details please visit [www.ilg.org.uk](http://www.ilg.org.uk)

Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain

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# Shaping our everyday prayer

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A Zoom Conference for all who pray and lead prayer in Christian Communities

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22nd September 2021  
2.30p.m.-5.30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89501586685>

Facilitated by Rev. David Birchall SJ and  
Rev. Peter Gardner  
For more info, visit [www.jlg.org.uk](http://www.jlg.org.uk)

 **The United Reformed Church**  
[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

## What is God asking of YOU?



Ministry Enquirers' Event  
to help you think about God's call to Worship Leading, Lay Preaching, Ministry with children and young people, the Ministry of Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work or Chaplaincy.

**Enquirers' Event** Saturday 2nd October 2021  
10am - 4pm on Zoom  
Contact [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)  
to register and get programme details

The next **Enquirers' Event**, being hosted by the URC's Education and Learning team is being held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October between 10am and 4pm. It is all on Zoom – so you don't need to travel too far. To register and to find out more about what is on offer please e-mail [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)

## ECO News




**THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK**   
18 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

**JOIN THE UK'S BIGGEST CALL FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Get involved locally**  
**and be the change you wish to see in the world**

**The Great Big Green Week** is about to begin – starting on 18<sup>th</sup> September. There are many events happening across the country, both with a national feel and a local feel.

Links to the websites and to all the local events can be found here [Find an event - Great Big Green Week](#), so please sign up and get your churches involved (and don't forget to tell us so that we can put it in our News section on the Yorkshire Synod Website).



TUNE IN TO CREATION  
HEAR ITS GROANING  
TAKE ACTION

# Climate Justice Matters

Join us ahead of CoP26 to reflect on  
the climate crisis and explore how to  
take action

**Mondays 7.30 - 9pm**  
**September 13**  
**October 11 & 25**  
**+ Sunday October 31**

Contact:  
[training@urceastern.org.uk](mailto:training@urceastern.org.uk)

In the run up to COP26, the Eastern Synod is running a series of sessions on climate justice to which we have been invited. For details please contact Lindsay Brown at [training@urceastern.org.uk](mailto:training@urceastern.org.uk).  
**STOP PRESS – the first session is now on Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup>, so we won't be missing anything.**

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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 the Reflection is read aloud with the words there on the screen for you 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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**Please don't hide these events in your inboxes. Please send this Briefing around your own church mailing lists as these events are for everyone, member or non-member, church-goer or non-church-goer. All these activities within and beyond Synod are designed to grow the Kingdom. Plans are always happening 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*