



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Yorkshire Synod**  
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## The Briefing – Number 83

### 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Friends,

Well that was a quick week wasn't it? No sooner as I had put issue 82 to bed I find myself rushing to beat the deadline for issue 83. Such is life; we rush around, being busy in our own busyness and sometimes failing to see those things that really matter. We can all be consumed in the busyness of our own making; hardly able to see wood for trees; too scared to stop for fear of losing an important thread. I'm sure that you have had times like this as well, wondering when the spinning plate will crash down or the several missed jugglers' balls will bounce away down the road. What we need is time, time to draw breath, time to plan, time to listen, time to pray. I pray that this week leads you on to finding more of what God has to offer you and I invite you also to pray for the Leeds group of churches who are coming together in fellowship, marked by a service at St Andrew's Roundhay at 2pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. May this new partnership affirm our faith in God and enable us to bring more people to that Truth through Jesus Christ.



This issue is back in its regular slot, and I hope to keep on with them being published on the first and third Thursdays of each month. This means that there is a bit of duplication, but also some new stories and events to tell you about. The levels of activity is still great and again, as this is for you, please help those who are helping you to come closer to Christ. Keep letting me know your good news as it is the thing that keeps this august journal going.

The Briefing also keeps giving me the opportunity to ask questions of you. A key one is whether you are willing to sit on one of the several Synod Committees that help guide the Synod in its work for you and for the churches in Yorkshire. Currently we have vacancies on both the Property Committee and on the Financial Resources Committee. These two vital committees exist to underpin the missional work of the Synod. Without them the Synod wouldn't have any form of effective resourcing. From them comes a deep-seated desire to equip Yorkshire's churches with the tools from and through which our missional work is done. Without these resources churches would not be able to proclaim a presence in their communities or quietly serve those who are in need.

Can you offer a few hours a month, a meeting a quarter, playing a part in the mission of the URC in Yorkshire? If you feel the call to serve please drop me a line at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk). The roles I have mentioned here may appear to be restricted to those with specific skills, but as the ethos of the Synod is mission, we need folk who can help churches use their resources to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ still rings out loud and clear from our places of worship.

## Disciple Development Fund

### *Yorkshire URC Synod Discipleship Development Fund*

This fund is available to encourage and support individuals within the United Reformed Church engage with a journey of developing personal discipleship. It is available for any URC member or regular URC attender of any age who is not a Minister of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Worker. Yorkshire Synod Ministries Committee are pleased to share with you that grants of up to £200 are now available.

**Individuals** can apply for help with the cost of attending an approved discipleship course, activities or retreats offered by others.

**Congregations** can apply for help with the cost of buying in a speaker or other resources to facilitate in-house schemes.

Please contact Kath Lonsdale, Convenor of Yorkshire Ministries, [kathlonsdale@talktalk.net](mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net) or 01274 315203 to apply for this grant.

Also available is the following video, which was shown at the March Synod meeting, which gives an overview of what is on offer

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bsPMiSiEbtqiTXSXuXJKOY0DCpDPm-J>

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## Lay Preachers Planning Group news

### Lay preachers and Worship Leaders weekend

We are looking forward to the Lay preachers and Worship Leaders weekend at Wydale conference centre 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (Friday teatime to Sunday lunch) . Thankyou to all those who have already registered. We look forward to sharing this weekend together.

We need to confirm numbers with Wydale by 6<sup>th</sup> May and there is **still a place or two** left to fill of the 30 places we provisionally booked.

Have you thought about this but not registered yet ?

If you are coming is there anyone else you can encourage to come?

If you are not coming is there anyone in your church who you could share this opportunity with and encourage them to register?

The cost of this weekend will be paid for by grants successfully applied for so you or the person you encourage will only need to cover travel costs.

Please register by 1<sup>st</sup> May at [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or 0113 289 8490.

Yours in Christ's service

*Kath*

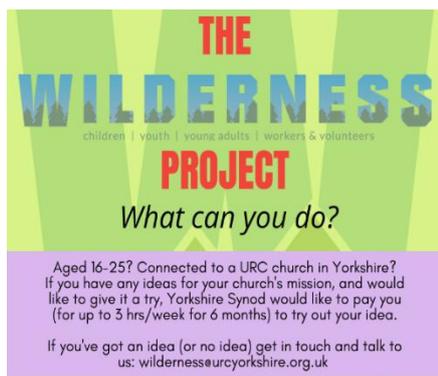
Kath Lonsdale ( on behalf of the lay preachers planning group )

[kathlonsdale@talktalk.net](mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net)

01274 315203

07759525936

## Children and Young Peoples News



**THE WILDERNESS PROJECT**  
children | youth | young adults | workers & volunteers  
*What can you do?*

Aged 16-25? Connected to a URC church in Yorkshire?  
If you have any ideas for your church's mission, and would like to give it a try, Yorkshire Synod would like to pay you (for up to 3 hrs/week for 6 months) to try out your idea.

If you've got an idea (or no idea) get in touch and talk to us: [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

**The WILDERNESS Project is back for 2022.**  
*Here at the Yorkshire Synod we want to see young people participating in the mission of God in their church. More than that, we want to PAY YOUNG PEOPLE to participate in the mission of God in their church.*

We know that it can be a struggle to keep young people engaged in church life, especially when so many other things are happening in their world. Often young people around the age of 16 take part time jobs, which means we see them less. The WILDERNESS Project hopes to

encourage, enable and equip young people with the support and the resource to turn a passion into a project to enrich the life of their church.

Please contact Megan [here](#) for more information.

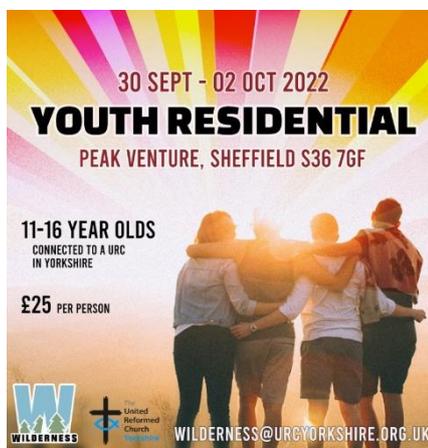
## It's back and ticket sales for **THE BIG DAY OUT**

Is open and won't close until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Please contact the synod office to book your tickets [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

**0113 289 8490**

Include your church/group, group leader (and contact email), the number of paid tickets and how many free under 3 tickets and look out for the special coach funding offer.



30 SEPT - 02 OCT 2022  
**YOUTH RESIDENTIAL**  
PEAK VENTURE, SHEFFIELD S36 7GF

11-16 YEAR OLDS  
CONNECTED TO A URC  
IN YORKSHIRE

£25 PER PERSON

WILDERNESS United Reformed Church  
[WILDERNESS@URCYORKSHIRE.ORG.UK](mailto:WILDERNESS@URCYORKSHIRE.ORG.UK)

The Wilderness team is also organising a couple of major events later on in the year. In July there is the Young Adults weekend for 17 to 25 year olds at the Peak Centre in Edale and at the end of September there is the Youth Residential at Peak Venture in Sheffield.

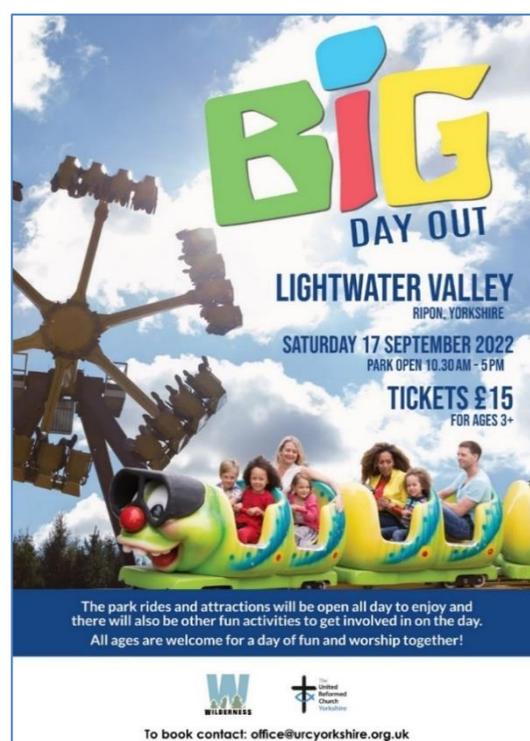
For more information on the Young Adults click here:

<https://forms.gle/MsoWGcmThbtudaE46>

For the Youth residential click here:

<https://forms.gle/xp1oYgrzG5nTHgBp9>

To subscribe to the Wilderness newsletter click here [URC Yorkshire Synod \(list-manage.com\)](https://www.urchurch.org.uk/urcyorkshire)



**BIG DAY OUT**  
LIGHTWATER VALLEY  
RIPON, YORKSHIRE  
SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2022  
PARK OPEN 10.30 AM - 5 PM  
TICKETS £15  
FOR AGES 3+

The park rides and attractions will be open all day to enjoy and there will also be other fun activities to get involved in on the day.  
All ages are welcome for a day of fun and worship together!

WILDERNESS United Reformed Church Yorkshire  
To book contact: [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk)



**Young Adults Weekend**  
1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022  
The Peak Centre  
Edale, S33 7ZA  
(venue easily accessible by train)

17-25s only  
£20 per person  
(Includes meals and linens)  
Outdoor clothes and footwear required.  
Bring slippers!  
Arrivals 6-7pm on Friday night.

WILDERNESS United Reformed Church Yorkshire  
Email [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

## GEAR



**Group for  
Evangelism  
And  
Renewal**  
*within the United  
Reformed Church*

Rev Matt Stone has asked me to draw your attention to CROSSFIRE, A Christian camp for young people ages 12+. It is organised by GEAR and is happening from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> June (Platinum Jubilee Weekend).

All details and booking information is via

[www.crossfire.org.uk](http://www.crossfire.org.uk)

**Crossfire** *A Christian camp for young people aged 12+*

**Wed 1st – Sat 4th June 2022 @ Stathern Lodge, Leicestershire**  
Crossfire Camp is an exciting event for young people aged 12+. We meet together each year to explore more about faith in Jesus Christ through teaching, small groups, worship and a whole range of fun activities. Join us in 2022 for a great time of fun, meeting new people and exploring the gospel.

Crossfire is a GEAR event brought to you in cooperation with URC Youth.

**Book Online for Only £30** (€40 after 30th March)  
Camping 🏕️ Tent hire from £5  
[www.crossfire.org.uk](http://www.crossfire.org.uk)

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## Yorkshire Reflections

Since the beginning of February we have been uploading in to the 'Worship' section of the Synod website, a weekly reflection on a Sunday. Thank you to all who have either already contributed or have offered a date – it is much appreciated. If you would like to take a look, you can find the latest reflection here: <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/worship/>

If you are willing and able to have a go, do get in touch with me and we can discuss a date. We have availability and details of what is required and how to send it can be found on the original email. I look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks and best wishes

*Sally Duxbury, PA to the Moderator - Revd Jamie Kissack*  
[office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

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## Property News

News from the Walking the Way team in that there is to be a URC Buildings Forum Online Event:

### **Living the life of Jesus through our buildings**

**Wednesday 25 May from 7:30pm to 9pm**

Join Simon Peters, project manager for Walking the Way: living the life of Jesus today, as we explore differing examples of how buildings can be used to support people in recognising God in everyday life, not just in worship on a Sunday.

To register for this event please contact [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk).

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## Joint Public Issues Team News



**Joint Public Issues Team Conference on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022** in London or online at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference)

The conference will focus on the increasing significance of the 'local' in action for change. Full details and how to book can be found at the [JPIT Conference 2022 | Joint Public Issues Team](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference) website

We'd love it if you were able to join us for this day of creative exploration, and also encourage others from your churches to attend, in particular

- Someone who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it
- Someone they have identified as a lay leader in the community
- Someone aged between 16-25
- Someone who can carry ideas back to a wider team

The conference will be an opportunity for us to come together, to be re-energised to speak, pray and act boldly as Christians committed to seeing transformation in our communities and beyond.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with

**Simeon Mitchell, Team Leader, Joint Public Issues Team**

**Secretary for Church and Society, United Reformed Church**

020 7916 8633 | 07584 053432 | [simeon.mitchell@urc.org.uk](mailto:simeon.mitchell@urc.org.uk)

## Prayers for Ukraine

As I mentioned in last time's edition, we have received some advice from our insurers regarding offering temporary accommodation to refugees:

### **Ministers taking Ukrainian refugees into their own homes**

- All refugees are in the UK legally
- This must be done as part of the Government scheme so all vetting/checks done by them
- Safeguarding measures must be in place to protect the Minister, their family and the refugees
- This is a temporary arrangement
- Premises are suitable for this arrangement
- All risk assessed and appropriate Health & Safety assessments carried out
- The Minister should advise his/her contents Insurers.

### **Use of Unoccupied manses**

- Refugees must be in the UK legally
- Again this must only be on a temporary basis
- Must be part of the Government scheme so all vetting/checks done by them
- Properties must be suitable/fit for purpose – up to date gas/electric etc.
- Appropriate risk management assessments done as per any other letting of the property

### **Other points to note**

- We must be made aware of any arrangements made
- Insurers would prefer family units rather than groups of unrelated people

To assist the situation, Insurers do not propose to charge any additional premiums/extra terms. However, we would kindly ask you to refer all arrangements to ourselves in the first instance at [trust@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:trust@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

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## Safeguarding Training

**For the attention of Church Safeguarding Co-ordinators, Serving Ministers and Church Secretaries**  
Currently the only training slots available are for the **Intermediate Safeguarding** training course (and you will need to have completed the Foundation course to be eligible for this). There are a few spaces on the following dates: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 10am to 12.30pm and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 1pm to 3.30pm. However the places for these courses are very much at a premium, so please check availability via Sally in the office at [moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

Also available centrally is some **Verifier Training**. Carrie Kaunda, the URC's Safeguarding Training and Development officer, has organised some new 1 hour training dates for verifiers for DBS checks. She will also provide a 1 hour training session after this input by DDC in relation to safer recruitment training to assist local churches in this area of safeguarding. The following dates and times are available:

16th May 10.00am

10th October 2.00pm

12th Jul 7.00pm

15th November 7.00pm

10th September 10.00am

To book, please contact Carrie direct on her email - [carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk](mailto:carrie.kaunda@urc.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 which can be found 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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## Church Events

**Bilton Grange URC** in Harrogate is delighted to announce that they are hosting a Walk Through the Bible - Old Testament. As it says here it is providing the Old Testament in a nutshell.

It is being held at the church on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> May and the morning of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. To book please contact either [www.Bible.org.uk](http://www.Bible.org.uk) or Bilton Grange's minister Rev Alan Crump at [alan.g.crump139@gmail.com](mailto:alan.g.crump139@gmail.com).

I'm told that it's a great way to hear and engage with the story of the Old Testament so please book a place as soon as you can.



**Old Testament**  
in a...

INTERACTIVE - MEMORABLE - FUN - ENGAGING

The Old Testament is massive, often hard to understand and difficult to navigate. Relax and enjoy the journey as an experienced guide encourages you to see God's Word through the 'Big Picture'. Our **FUN** and **MEMORABLE** sessions will help you learn with such **CLARITY** you'll be able to retell the whole **STORYLINE** to a friend. We will also do our best to **INSPIRE** and **EQUIP** you to keep digging deeper.

Book online today at [www.Bible.org.uk](http://www.Bible.org.uk) or contact the Event Promoter

<b>VENUE</b> Bilton Grange United Reformed Church Woodfield Road Harrogate North Yorkshire HG1 4LN	<b>Friday 6th May</b> Arrive from 6.30pm for 7pm - 9pm <b>and</b> <b>Saturday 7th May</b> Arrive from 9.00am for 9.30am - 1pm  Cost £10 <small>- FREE for children aged 11-17 if accompanied by an adult -</small>	<b>PROMOTER</b> Rev Alan Crump Bilton Grange URC 07913 107187 <a href="mailto:alan.g.crump139@gmail.com">alan.g.crump139@gmail.com</a>
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ENCOURAGING - INSPIRING - HELPFUL

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

**Portholme Selby** is still hoping that you can join them to **“Raise the Roof”** in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee (as well as their own 10<sup>th</sup> birthday) They shall be singing the “top ten” from over 50 nominations of worship hymns that have been written in the last 70 years. They have received lots of votes and wish to thank everyone who has taken part. The winners will remain a closely guarded secret until the evening itself, so make sure you come along on Saturday 7 May for a great evening of modern worship followed by light refreshments.



There are no tickets and there will be no charge on the door (but we shall ask for voluntary donations to our roof fund).

**“Raise the Roof” –  
Portholme Church,  
Selby YO8 4QH  
- 7.30pm, Saturday 7  
May**



The best place to get further information about the event as well

as the work that they have done on their roof and the repositioning of their iconic cross is on the [Portholme Church - Methodist / URC LEP](https://www.portholmechurch.org.uk) website or on their Facebook page which can be found here

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

## **NORTHOWRAM ANNUAL SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2022** Visitors flocked to Northowram

village just outside Halifax for their annual four day Scarecrow Festival which started on Saturday 30 April and concluded Monday 2 May.

Churches, businesses and local residents joined in the fun by displaying various straw filled creations throughout the village and encouraged children to complete a quiz, by finding clues near to scarecrows. This encouraged families to walk around the whole village which they did in vast numbers.

Heywood United Reformed Church contributed by having a scarecrow of Rev Oliver Heywood, the founder of the church fellowship 350 years ago, placed on the entrance gate to the Chapel. Their community hall was also open to visitors with refreshments provided, as well as stalls ranging from resources for

children; home-made produce; ice cream and cakes. The small church fellowship were supported by volunteers from the village.



Marilyn Burton, their Church Secretary said after the event: ‘We’re all shattered and will take a few days to recover, but it has been worthwhile as the hall was packed with visitors throughout the weekend. The Chapel is slightly tucked away down a side street, and so it has proved beneficial to both villagers and visitors to demonstrate just where we are located. The event has encouraged us in our preparations to celebrate our 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June when the Chapel and hall will host various events including the sale of a newly produced book on the life of Oliver Heywood written especially for this Anniversary.



*(photos taken by Rev Chris Wood their recently appointed Synod Companion)*

## Situations Vacant

We've received news of a couple of vacancies nationally. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please forward the details on.



### URC Youth Intern - Communications

**Home based**  
**12 month fixed-term contract, 8-30 hours per month**  
**Living Wage Rate**

#### **Are you passionate about communicating with young people and young adults?**

URC Youth is an organisation for all young people aged 11-25 with a connection to the United Reformed Church. URC Youth elect a Youth Executive each year to run an annual Youth Assembly, to be the voice of young people, enact resolutions, and promote young people's engagement in the life of the church. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion, diversity, mental health, social justice, and environmental issues.

During this Internship you will support the work of URC Youth to increase connection and engagement with young people across England, Scotland and Wales in conjunction with the URC Children's and Youth Work team.

You will work as part of a team; to create and post promotional material, manage a schedule for communication and assist in production of press releases, written resources, and web content.

You will be aged 17-25, educated to at least National Fives & Highers / GCSE level standard, with experience in communication through social media and wider channels. You will have good design and communication skills. You will be able to manage a fluctuating workload and attend meetings online and in person, as required.

We will offer appropriate training and development opportunities to increase your skills and knowledge in communication.

**If you are interested in this new opportunity and can meet the above requirements, please provide a CV and covering letter to:**  
**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT**  
**020 7691 9874 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/jobs**

**Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 23 May 2022 Interview date: Thursday 9 June 2022**

*This post requires an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.*

You can find the job details here: <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/urc-youth-intern-communications/>



### Administrative Assistant

**Permanent contract**  
**21 hours per week**  
**Salary: £16,334**

#### **Are you interested in being part of a team to help the Church keep people safe?**

As part of the Safeguarding and Discipleship teams, in this role you will provide vital administrative support to the Safeguarding Office, responding to initial enquiries from local churches and synods.

Educated to A level or equivalent, with GCSE passes (grades A-C) in English and Maths, you already have experience in general office procedures and administration. You will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to handle information with discretion in a sensitive and confidential manner. You will be organised and thorough with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.

The ability to take accurate and timely minutes would be a distinct advantage.

We can offer you a friendly work environment with the flexibility for hybrid working from United Reformed Church House in London and from home a possibility.

**If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):**  
**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT**  
**020 7691 9871 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/vacancies**

**Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 23 May 2022 Interview date: Wednesday 1 June 2022**

Administrative Assistant (Safeguarding). <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/administrative-assistant/>



Northerly  
Synods



## parenting for faith®

**A course for anyone who longs for  
children and young people to know  
God for themselves.**

**A free 6 week zoom course which will run from 7pm to 8.30pm  
on the following dates:**

**25 April 2022**

**9 May 2022**

**23 May 2022**

**6 June 2022**

**20 June 2022**

**4 July 2022**

**To book your place please contact your Synod CYDO+.**

**Please don't hide these events and resources in your inboxes or within the trees hiding your own churches' woods. Why not send the 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 due on 19<sup>th</sup> May. All you need to do is get in touch with me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).**

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*