

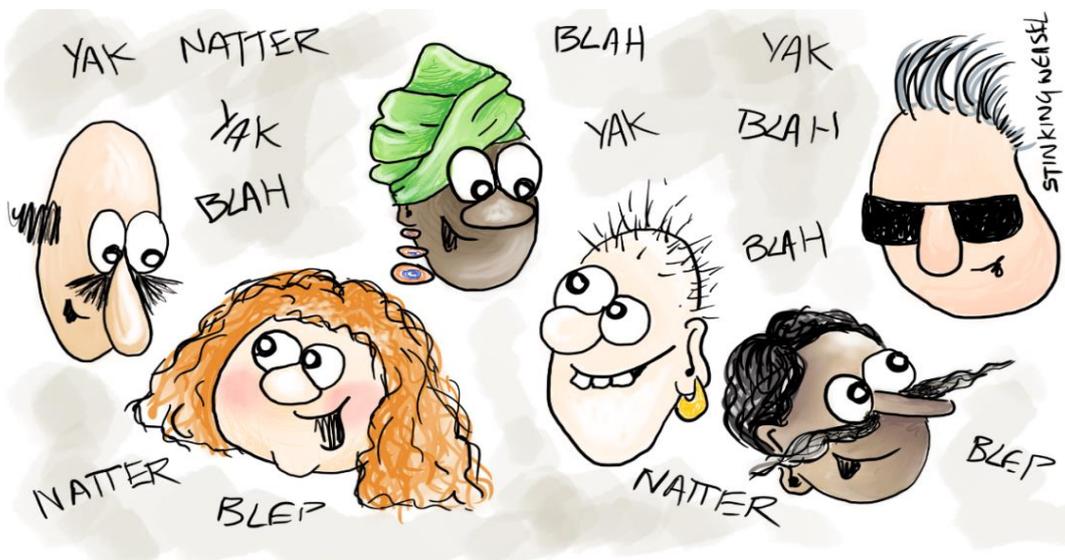
## The Briefing – Number 87

7<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Appreciative Conversations

We all know it's good to talk but it's even better when we feel listened to and heard.

This **free one-day workshop** is about how, in all our conversations - in church, at work or with family, friends or neighbours - we can ensure all parties **know** they've been heard.



Drawing provided by Siggy Parratt-Halbert [www.stinkingweasel.co.uk](http://www.stinkingweasel.co.uk)

Come and join us  
if you want to make your conversations more effective and enjoyable or you just  
want to be re-energised and resourced!

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 10am - 4 pm at Yorkshire Synod Office**

Led by Emmanuelle Bastide-Wilson & Jenny Poulter

*Refreshments & lunch will be provided and travel expenses can be claimed*

For more info or to book please contact Emmanuelle:

[embastide@icloud.com](mailto:embastide@icloud.com) or 07941 923 420

## Children and Young Peoples News

### Month-long prayer initiative to launch for children across the URC



As many of you will now have heard, URC Children, a new umbrella for children aged 0 to 12-years-old connected with the United Reformed Church (URC), is being launched in July through a new prayer initiative.

All local congregations are invited to 'Pray like Hannah' across the month of July for children.

Children have always been important to the life of the URC, and as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, it seems timely to renew this commitment formally.

The URC General Assembly, meeting 8-11 July, will be asked to mark the launch of URC Children by resolving afresh to ensure that all structures and councils of the church (local church meeting, Synod and General Assembly) are consistently mindful of the voice of children and of the impact of their decisions on children and future generations.



More about Pray like Hannah can be found [here](#).

Finally, if you are thinking of running a holiday club in your own church this year or working ecumenically with others to run something similar, whether for children or intergenerationally, you may be interested to look at our second book of holiday club materials which is now available on our website or by request as a digital copy. *Timetravellers* takes children and adults on a whirlwind journey through time to talk with children from Bible times and bring back what we learn to help us in our walk with Jesus today and in the future. It comes with video dramas, original music and a range of appendices to help you adapt for different settings. You can find it on

<https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people/children-youth-work/time-travellers/>

## THE BIG DAY OUT

Ticket sales are 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)

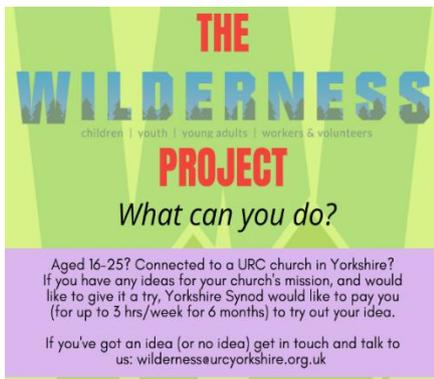
0113 289 8490

Include your church/group, group leader (and contact email), the number of paid tickets and how many free under 4 tickets and look out for the special coach funding offer.

Here's a quick reminder of what is on offer

<https://youtu.be/Ec4zHtt0BW0>



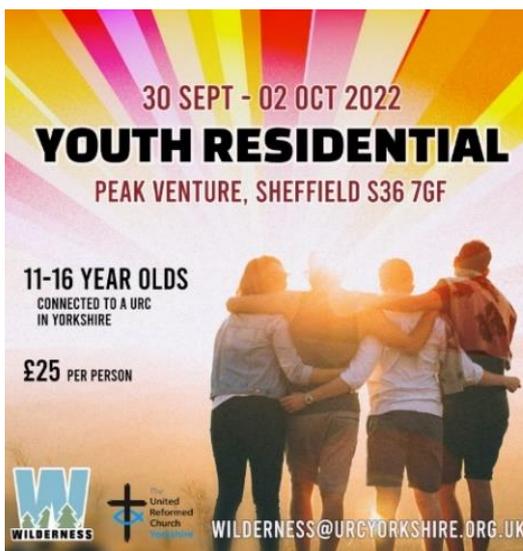


**The WILDERNESS Project is back for 2022.**  
*Here at the Yorkshire Synod we want to see young people participating in the mission of God in their church. More than that, we want to PAY YOUNG PEOPLE to participate in the mission of God in their church.*

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.**



The Wilderness team is organising a YOUTH RESIDENTIAL at the end of September. This will be at Peak Venture in Sheffield and details of how to book can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/xp1oYgrzG5nTHgBp9>

To subscribe to the Wilderness newsletter click here [URC Yorkshire Synod \(list-manage.com\)](#)

## **LYCiG**

The **Leading Your Church into Growth Northerly Synods' Conference** will be taking place between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November at Hinsley Hall, Leeds. Each of the 5 Northerly Synods has been allocated a set number of places, but there may be more places available than first thought as one or two of the synods may not be able to fill their allocation. Keep an eye on all good URC websites and Briefing newssheets for further updates.

Looking further ahead, the URC LYCiG team are looking at doing a national LYCiG conference for the whole of the denomination. Keep June 2023 clear in your diaries.....

**Free resources from Thy Kingdom Come are available, from prayer journals to a reflection on 1 Peter by Justin Welby to a booklet for children, to focus churches on prayer and invitation.**

**<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>**

## Worship Resources



The URC's new **Worship Notes** initiative is now up and running. They are designed to help everyone who plans worship and will be found on the URC website here [www.urb.org.uk/worship-notes](http://www.urb.org.uk/worship-notes). They are in digital format and can be easily downloaded. They will help those who need to plan worship in a hurry, they will give refreshment to hard pressed Elders, Lay preachers and Ministers, and they can either be used as they are or adapted for local use.

The notes are planned to be released at least a month before the Sundays to which they relate so as to facilitate good planning and put them on the URC website so you can always find them at short notice!

To find out more visit [www.urb.org.uk/worship-notes](http://www.urb.org.uk/worship-notes) and to get reminders each month [You can sign up for these emails here](#).

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## Lay Training news

**Revd Jenny Mills**, the Secretary for Education and Learning has been in touch to highlight the news that The United Reformed Church is launching the **Newbigin Pioneering Hub** to offer a space for Pioneers to connect and learn.

This lay training course will begin in September 2022 and will be run by Seedbeds and the Church Mission Society (CMS) who have a history of offering training for Pioneering ministry. The Hub will be cited in a current and active Pioneering project at Lodge Road URC/Community Church, Birmingham.



If you are interested in finding out more, please email [info@seedbeds.org](mailto:info@seedbeds.org) or contact [ministries@urb.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urb.org.uk)

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## Northern College Taster Weekend

**Northern College** (as you might have seen in Reform) are holding a very heavily subsidised weekend (literally, a whole weekend for £50 which is refundable if anyone takes a course in the future) which might allow people to consider candidating, or taking a course for interest, or finding out more about assembly accredited lay preachers.



It is taking place from **5.30pm on Friday 22nd July, to 2.30pm on Sunday 24th July 2022**.

Here's a link to a video which you might find interesting and which we'd be grateful if you'd pass on as you think appropriate. <https://northerncollege.co.uk/taster-weekend/>

If anyone wants to know more, please contact Rosalind Selby, the Principal of the College at [Rosalind.selby@lutherking.ac.uk](mailto:Rosalind.selby@lutherking.ac.uk).

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## National News

### **Come to church at Greenbelt**

The URC turns 50 this year and we're having a special service at Greenbelt to celebrate! Come to church at Greenbelt on **Sunday 28 August**, which will begin with one of the largest and most memorable communion services you've ever been part of, listen to superb music from Guvna B and Martyn Joseph, and join us for a special 50th birthday party that reflects the rich diversity of the URC.

With food for every taste, activities for all ages and space to enjoy being with each other, why not bring along your whole congregation for the day? Throughout the bank holiday weekend, we'll have a full programme running in our new café which challenges and inspires, equips, and entertains. Worship, discussion, music, bedtime stories and



superb crafts on our theme of 'Revolting Christians' combine with great coffee and tea, delicious treats and affordable meals. All this plus the adventurous and epic Greenbelt programme means that this will be an unforgettable time for everyone who comes. For more information, head over to our URC@Greenbelt page:

<https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/>

### **Church at the Edge: Church on the Margins**

THURSDAY 14th July, 1.30 – 2.30pm **Sign Up here:** <https://forms.gle/9kdPpVtQgy1PRqiu9>

**Join via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282111517>

Are you a busy activist, minister or others engaged in community ministry (however you might choose to interpret that term), and need a space to meet with others, to be open and honest about current difficulties, and to seek support from each other in living through these challenging times? The Church at the Edge monthly Zoom sessions, brought to you by Church Action on Poverty and the URC's 'New Reality Same Mission' group, are an

opportunity to take an hour away from the business of life, to reflect, recharge and be inspired...

In each session, we are joined by a speaker sharing their own personal reflections on the broad theme of what it means to be a Church on the Edge, followed by an opportunity to reflect on the theme, and to share and reflect together with others in small groups. It is very definitely a space to relax and reflect, not a meeting or workshop.

The final session of this current series is facilitated by Lucy Zwolinska, former JPIT Policy & Engagement Officer, who will be speaking from her experience as Coordinator of the Poverty Truth Commission in Gateshead about tackling the causes and effects of poverty by involving the people who experience it.

### **From our colleagues and friends in Citizens UK:**

We're excited to tell you about a new opportunity to join us at [Still Small Voice](#), a residential 5-day retreat at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, taking place from Monday 12 September - Friday 16 September 2022.

This retreat is aimed at a range of participants: those in ministry and ministerial training, lay and ordained; from those relatively new to Community Organising through to veterans of the craft. Between the practice of Community Organising, and the heritage and resources of Christian faith, lies rich and fertile territory. During this retreat you will explore that ground, with a particular focus on contemplation and action; mysticism and resistance. How do we balance these in our own spiritual/organising lives, and how can we enable our faith communities to be renewed and re-energised by embracing that balance too? We will bring to that exploration a spirit of 'co-creation' – everyone will participate by taking some kind of leadership role – learning and growing together. If you have any further questions, please email the learning team at [learning@citizensuk.org](mailto:learning@citizensuk.org)

### **The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK)**

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has launched the £2.6 billion [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#), which aims to level up all parts of the United Kingdom. All areas of the UK

will be receiving an allocation from the Fund The spending of the Fund at a local level will be planned and delivered by councils and mayoral authorities.

The Fund will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives, most significantly for churches these include:

1. Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
2. Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Timeline: The first payments expected to lead local authorities will be from October 2022 so it is likely that applications from grassroots organisations will be open from Autumn this year.

The Funding period will last until March 2025.

## Calling all Black and Ethnic Minority Members (& Friends) of the United Reformed Church... Weaving the Tapestry

As part of the URC's Jubilee celebrations, we want to showcase the rich and vibrant contributions of Black and ethnic minority people to the tapestry that is our Church story.

We are putting together a publication to share our reflections, our prayers, our poems, our pictures (photos and artwork) - in short, our contributions

to 50 years of the United Reformed Church. But we need your input...

Do you have a story to share about how you come to be part of the United Reformed Church... the role(s) you have played to make your local or wider church a more diverse and welcoming fellowship... reflections on the URC's journey towards being a more inclusive body? Have you written (or will you write) a prayer or poem, or song - either inspired in some way by being part of the URC, or which might be offered as a resource to be used by the URC?

Do you have Black and ethnic minority children and young people in your local congregation... and could they share an image – in words or pictures - of the church of which they dream?

Revd George Kalu and Karen Campbell would love to hear from you (...or maybe you can think of someone else who needs a little nudge to get them to contribute!) **We need all contributions by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August.** We may not be able to include everything, but we will read/consider all submissions and let you know by the end of August which contributions we are able to use.

Submissions should be sent to: [publishing@urc.org.uk](mailto:publishing@urc.org.uk) including your name (or the name of the author/artist) and your Synod.

Get your creative hats on, and let's start weaving.

## Worship Resources



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## Mission Committee

The Synod is on the hunt for a volunteer to take on the role of Yorkshire Synod's representative on the national Mission Committee. Usually the call for a volunteer to take on this role coincides with our bi-annual Synod meetings. However, our current representative is heading to pastures new over the summer and the next meeting is to be a 24-hour residential meeting (lunch to lunch) on 22-23 September at the Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City.

The areas the committee deals with is wide ranging, covering mission, evangelism, missional discipleship, global and intercultural ministries (including commitment for life), church and society, ecumenical and interfaith relations, fresh expressions and pioneering. While they would welcome people with an interest in all of it, they realise this is too ambitious, so if anyone would have a particular interest in one of these areas that would be fine. Currently, the area the least represented in our members is probably that of *ecumenical and interfaith relations*. The main thing, however, is that the people who sit on the committee are willing to be liaisons to synod. Finally, in terms of balance on the committee, women, Black and minority ethnic people and younger people are definitely underrepresented.

I hope this helps in creating a spark within you to take on this role, or to identifying someone who would be willing to take this on and I look forward to hearing from you at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

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## Safeguarding News

### **New Synod Safeguarding Staff Member Arrives!!**

We are pleased to announce that we have a new safeguarding staff member who has joined our Synod Team from the beginning of July 2022!!

A big welcome to Paula Kitson, who will be working alongside our current Synod Safeguarding Officer, Matt Knowles, as a Safeguarding Support Officer.

Paula will be working part time for both Northern and Yorkshire Synods providing much needed assistance to Matt, ensuring that we continue to provide a high level of safeguarding guidance and support for our local churches.

She will be overseeing the management of training, DBS checks and all other manner of things in ensuring all safeguarding information is kept up to date. In doing so she will be in contact with local churches to make sure we have the correct up to date information for you in relation to safeguarding, as well as providing support and guidance to churches when required.



Paula comes to us with over 22 years' experience working in the safeguarding arena, with expertise in the management of information and the support provision. She has a wealth of knowledge in how to support safeguarding officers in dealing in all areas of safeguarding so she is a welcome addition to the Synod Team. Paula is keen to get to know you all so look out for some correspondence from her in the near future!!!

\*Just to note that the current structure for reporting concerns in relation to safeguarding at the Synod remains the same. All issues and concerns should be reported to the Synod Safeguarding Officer, Matt Knowles, in the first instance as we do now. In Matt's absence, Paula will be contactable if needed to provide signposting to another Safeguarding Officer and support when required.

Paula can be contacted via email at [safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk) or via her works mobile 07562606024.

Finally Matt tells me that the national Safeguarding team are publishing a quarterly newsletter. It will be sent around to all

## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



church safeguarding leads and will be available to download from the URC Website's Safeguarding page at [Safeguarding - United Reformed Church](https://www.urchurch.org.uk/safeguarding). If you struggle to download let Paula know via [safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk) and we'll get the latest issue across to you.

## Church Events

### CELEBRATING THE 350<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HEYWOOD URC, NORTHOWRAM

The local fellowship at Heywood URC, Northowram, near Halifax were delighted with the attendance over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> June as they celebrated the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of their non-conformist fellowship in 1672.



Oliver Heywood had been appointed the vicar of Coley Church at the age of twenty having attained a degree in practical theology at Cambridge University. For twelve years he maintained a successful ministry, but when the political and religious climate changed, demanding among other things that all clergy should use the Common Book of Prayer and be episcopally ordained, he refused to conform, and ended up losing his living. He was excommunicated from the Church of England; had his possessions confiscated, was fined and was prevented from preaching. However he continued to travel and preach extensively – on average 1,000 miles a year on horseback – encouraging the non-conformist fellowships to hold firm to their beliefs. Eventually the authorities caught up with him and he spent nearly a year imprisoned in York Castle.

When Laws were relaxed, he purchased the property in Northowram which he had previously rented and established a non-conformist fellowship there, which he referred to as a 'Meeting House' (the cottage still exists), eventually building a chapel in the village.

Over the weekend of celebration the Chapel was open on both days for visitors to pop in and see the displays and slide presentation. Additionally, Mike Beecham, a local historian, took a group around the village pointing out Oliver Heywood's cottage, a later manse that was at one time the home to the Northern Independent Theological College, as well as the school that he established for the education of local children. *(The photo shows Mike Beecham and a group of visitors outside the Chapel that was built in 1836 to replace the first chapel).*

In the afternoon of Saturday, Sheila Graham spoke to a large gathering about her book which she had written for the occasion entitled: 'A Melting Season – Inside the Mind of Oliver Heywood' following which a group were taken on a tour of the Chapel graveyard by Alan Rushworth, a local resident.



On the Sunday afternoon, over 40 people attended an Anniversary Service at the Chapel which was led by the Revd Chris Wood, a retired URC minister, who has been associated with Heywood Chapel from an early age having been brought up in the nearby village of Lightcliffe. He was recently appointed 'Synod Companion' to the Chapel. After the service more drinks and cakes were served!

The weekend was deemed a great success, and the small fellowship acknowledged the generous help that it had received from the Northowram Historical Society.



Pay what you can

**Longcauseway Church**  
Faith, Hope & Love in the Heart of Dewsbury

## Wellbeing Wednesday

*A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken*

*Ecclesiastes 4:12*

## messy vintage

Every 1st Wednesday 1.30pm — 3.30pm

**6th July, 3rd August & 7th September**

a time of friendship, sharing memories,  
craft activities, worship and praise  
with light refreshments.



To book a place:

See events on  Longcauseway Church

 churchsecretarylcw@outlook.com  07591 582848

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The Princess of Wales Precinct, Dewsbury, WF13 1NH

# KELD RESOURCE CENTRE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOW ROW WITH KELD URC NEW FOR 2022 : STUDY DAYS



As a new venture this year, we are offering a series of three study days. They are as follows

**Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup>: Revd John Proctor, Christian Witness in a Confused and Connected World (Acts 19-20)**

**Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>: Revd David Wood, Seek the Ancient Paths : Old Testament Spirituality for Today**

**Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup>: Revd Trevor Pitt, Looking at Green Theology**

Each day will follow a similar programme

10.30 : Arrivals and Coffee

11.00 : Session One

12.30 : Lunch

13.30 : Session Two

15.00 : Refreshments and Departure

All participants are invited to bring a packed lunch and the cost for each day will be £10 per person. To book your place on any or all of the days, please contact Revd David Wood

Email address: [david.wood4@btinternet.com](mailto:david.wood4@btinternet.com)

We hope you will find these days stimulating and rewarding

A URC ZOOM EVENT

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church of Scotland

# 'HOLY LAND?'

LEARNING ABOUT ISRAEL & PALESTINE

*If you want a good introduction to why there is an ongoing conflict in the "Holy Land", come hear both sides with a focus on solutions, including a Q&A with members of the wonderful 'The Parents Circle'*

WITH SOLUTIONS NOT SIDES

25 JULY  
5.30PM - 9.00PM  
INCLUDING DISCUSSION TIME & DINNER BREAK

Email today for the ZOOM link  
[urcinterfaith@urc.org.uk](mailto:urcinterfaith@urc.org.uk)

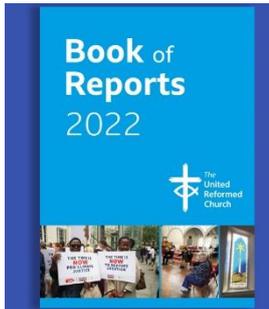
If you know someone who is maybe at the start of their journey to understanding the situation in Israel Palestine or could be interested in a wider perspective, **please invite them to this webinar.**

Working together with [Solutions Not Sides](#), the Church House Mission Team is offering this introductory webinar for anyone who wishes to be better informed and have a deeper understanding of the issues in the Holy Land. It would be great if you could offer specific, personal invitations as well as emailing to your networks – we want to encourage as many people as possible to benefit from a better understanding of these complex issues.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Carole Sired of the Mission and Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations team on 020 7916 2020 or by e-mail at [ecumenical@urc.org.uk](mailto:ecumenical@urc.org.uk).

## Clerky Comments

I'm writing this on the day before I and 15 others from Yorkshire Synod join with many others from around the country to be your representatives at General Assembly. This year is the first in-person meeting for four years, but there is still the lingering



worry of Covid-19 and as a result this year's meeting is now a hybrid one. This certainly marks a departure from what has been done in the past, but as it is Jubilee Year why not! There are many things that need to be reset this year and the agenda at General Assembly does reflect that. For those who want to follow the proceedings please keep an eye on the URC website at [General Assembly - United Reformed Church](#) from where you'll be able to watch a livestream of the proceedings. I'm also told that it is being streamed on Facebook as well, so there's no excuse not to watch.



More seriously though, please keep those who are there with your blessing close to your hearts and pray that the decisions made are made for the greater glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King so that His Kingdom can be realised here. All being well I'll be updating you all as to what has happened in the next Briefing (earmarked for publication 21<sup>st</sup> July), especially about those areas which affect us in Yorkshire and in our local churches.



In Yorkshire through our emphasis on Mission and Outreach that reset button is also being pressed and over the summer, I hope that churches will be able to engage further with our Mission Advocate, Jon Steel. Keep your eyes peeled for more challenges, more resources and more opportunities to spread the Word.

However in the meantime don't forget to keep an eye on all our social media platforms for news; on the website at [Home - URC Yorkshire Synod](#), the facebook pages at [United Reformed Church in Yorkshire - Home | Facebook](#) and [Wilderness URC Yorkshire - Home | Facebook](#), the YouTube page at [URC Yorkshire - YouTube](#) and the Twitter page at [URC in Yorkshire \(@URCYorkshire\) / Twitter](#). Each of these resources are used in a different way and it would be great to see whether you use these in conjunction with The Briefing or rely on only one resource centre. I look forward to hearing from you all via [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

**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 coming soon. All you need to do is get in touch with me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).**

*Tim Crossley*

*Synod Clerk*