



The
United
Reformed
Church

Yorkshire Synod

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The Briefing – Number 90

25th August 2022

For me this time of the year always has a feeling of renewal. Summer holidays have been taken and one feels refreshed and recharged. Schools start their new academic year soon, social organisations begin new activity programmes and in churches thoughts turn to the early autumn round of meetings. This year my two elder children will see this time of year as a new start in perhaps starker relief than most of us. My daughter will begin a new chapter in her life at university whilst my eldest son moves from doing GCSE's to life in the sixth form.

In Synod we are also doing things that are new to us. We are preparing for the new round of meetings, designed to support the work of the churches within the Yorkshire Synod family. Much of this work is done by volunteers, and sadly we are lacking volunteers in some areas. If you are called to give time to the work of the Church through Synod, please let me know. Synod is also very aware of the reports of increased utility costs in both domestic, commercial and church settings. This concern has not gone unnoticed by the Church as a whole and conversations at all levels are taking place to try to find a way in which churches can be both afford to provide heat and power to their



premises as well as offering places of warmth and comfort for those who will struggle. Some of that work will be done ecumenically and I would recommend that you look at the [Joint Public Issues Team \(jpit.uk\)](http://www.jpit.uk) website which has plenty of resources to help.

THE BIG DAY OUT

Ticket sales are open and will not close until Friday 9th September.

Please contact the synod office to book your tickets
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>



JUBILEE

To keep up with all the events associated with the Jubilee here's the link [Our 50th Anniversary - United Reformed Church](#). Indeed, for those who are interested in going there is an opportunity to be part of the stewarding team at Church House and Central Hall on 1st October. More details in the link.

Jubilee Weekend

As planning continues for the URC's 50th Jubilee events on Saturday 1 October, the good folk who are organising the Jubilee weekend are asking for your help in promoting the three events on offer, and recruiting stewards to help ensure the smooth and safe running of the day.



With regards to stewarding, help is needed at Open Church House to welcome visitors, guide them around the building and help manage safety and security. Support is also needed at the Worship Service, especially with serving Communion, which will, in many cases, involve carrying trays of bread and wine up flights of

stairs. **If these are things you, or anyone you know, might be able to help with, please email 50@urc.org.uk as soon as possible.**

In terms of promotion, the Service of Worship at Central Hall, Westminster, the Open Church House event and Walk to Westminster now each have their own tab on the events page, giving information about each event in a more accessible way. These can be linked to directly in emails and social media posts as follows:



Service: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/#service-of-thanksgiving-and-celebration>

Open Church House: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/#open-church-house>

Walk to Westminster: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/#walk-to-westminster>

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact

Andy Jackson, Head of Communications, The United Reformed Church, 020 7916 2020
50@urc.org.uk www.urch.org.uk

Church Events and News

Yorkshire Synod Autumn Meetings

It's that time of the year again when the thoughts of the Clerk turn to where and when we next meet together. So I'm happy to say that this autumn the Synod meeting will be spread over two days in order that we can continue our Jubilee challenge to be more missional and to receive our usual business papers. On **Saturday 8th October** from 9.30am we will meet at a new venue, Bilton Grange URC in Harrogate. As far as I know it will be the first time this century that we will have met in the Harrogate area. This part of the meeting will focus on Mission and Worship and is open not only to our church's Synod representatives but



to our wider worshipping community. Part two of the meeting will be held interactively online on **Thursday 13th October** at 6.30pm. A link and the documentation for the whole event will be sent out for this in due course so keep an eye on your in boxes and in the news section of the website.

Lay Training news

Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development small grant fund 2022

We have been pleased to give out £500 of the £2000 Yorkshire were allocated for this year from the national small grant Discipleship Development fund but it would be good if we could have more applications to use the rest of this money before the end of the year. So far money has been agreed for new bible study resources and for sending a young helper on a messy church course. If anyone wants to discuss an application before submitting it please pass on my contact details. Remember this is for any age to apply so please discuss with your young people as well as adults. Every blessing

Kath Lonsdale, Convenor of Yorkshire Ministries, kathlonsdale@talktalk.net

LYCiG

The **Leading Your Church into Growth Northerly Synods' Conference** will be taking place between 7th and 9th 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 newsheets 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.....

West Park URC Harrogate host a Gilbert & Sullivan service



On August 14th at West Park URC in Harrogate, a service was held as part of the Gilbert & Sullivan Festival which is an annual event in the town. A congregation of over 100 came from across the country and an augmented choir was directed by West Park's organist David Wilberforce who organised the service. It was led by Rev Dr Ian Bradley, Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History at The University of St Andrews and featured a number of Sir Arthur Sullivan's hymn tunes including *Bishopgarth* and *St. Gertrude* (Onward Christian Soldiers). Rev. Bradley told the congregation that the origin of *St. Gertrude* was somewhat unusual. Sullivan was staying at the home of Gertrude Clay-Ker-Seymer in Hanford, Dorset when he composed the tune and decided on the name there and then. The singing as one might expect was of the highest order and a most uplifting and memorable service was enjoyed by all.

For more information on West Park URC, visit

[Harrogate West Park United Reformed Church \(harrogatewestparkurc.org.uk\)](http://harrogatewestparkurc.org.uk)

Children and Young Peoples News



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 \(list-manage.com\)](http://list-manage.com)

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.

Worship, discussion, music, bedtime stories and superb crafts on our theme of 'Revoluting Christians' 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/>





Hybrid Church Meet-up

Wednesday 7th September 2022
7:30-9pm

Come along to
YOUR space to
share and learn..

- Share ideas and good practice 
- Hear valuable, experienced input 
- Gain inspiration on Children's and Youth Work, Community Outreach, Technology and Worship 






For more info, email:
jenny.mills@urc.org.uk;
dan@media4ministry.co.uk



Meeting ID: 892 8553 7599
Passcode: 655777

National News

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 12th to Friday 16th 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. 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

Church Life Review

As we celebrate our 50th Jubilee, the Church Life Review Group would like to hear your perceptions by discussing the questions below. You may do so at any convenient gathering, and we encourage you to think about reflecting on the questions during worship on the 30th October. Supporting worship material will be available via the Daily Devotions and Worship Notes at www.urc.org.uk

1. The Jubilee year was a time of great joy. Reflect quietly on a time when you have felt most joyful in your church life.
2. The Jubilee year was a time of celebration. What would you like to celebrate about the United Reformed Church?
3. The Jubilee year was a time of liberation. Are there any church burdens that, if freed of, would liberate you to flourish?
4. The Jubilee year was a time of economic transformation and big dreams. If money was no object, what would you invest in to make your local church more effective?

Responses are requested by Monday 28th November. Please upload your response to <https://tinyurl.com/URCJubilee> or email churchlifereview@urc.org.uk or send by post to Church Life Review, 21 Crawford Gardens, Rutherglen. G73 4JP.

It would be lovely if you felt you could share information about the consultation, the questions (and the link) in any communications, at any events, courses or other gatherings you might be planning to hold between now and November. If you would like more cards though, Andy Jackson has heaps!

Heritage Open Days

The Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust has been in touch inviting churches to get involved in an exciting new initiative - **Yorkshire Churches Day (YCD)**.

Their vision for Yorkshire Churches Day is to have one day a year when all places of worship in the region open up and showcase the history and heritage found inside their buildings. It is a wonderful opportunity to show off the value of the many historic religious buildings in Yorkshire both as places of worship and important centres for the local community.

The aim of the day is to encourage everyone to visit their local church even if they have never stepped foot inside a church before. It will be a day for those who are curious about the history and heritage of their local surroundings and to find out how our church buildings are still active places of worship.

This year Yorkshire Churches Day is being run in partnership with the Heritage Open Days (HOD) initiative on **Saturday 10th September**. Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, when thousands of people come together to celebrate their heritage, community and history.

To take part, a church needs to register on the HOD website [Homepage | Heritage Open Days](http://www.yhct.org.uk/yorkshire-churches-day/) by 31st July, open up on 10th September and explore missional and fundraising events to hold on the day.

Full details of the signing up process and help and ideas about publicity can be found at <https://www.yhct.org.uk/yorkshire-churches-day/>

For more details please contact Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust through Tom Ramsden the YHCT Chairman at generalenquiries@yhct.org.uk or through their website <https://www.yhct.org.uk/>.

Safeguarding News

Update in relation to Safeguarding Foundation Training

In line with other denominations and private and public sector bodies, the foundation training package in relation to safeguarding is now available to be completed online via an e-learning package.

Some of you may ask what e-learning is?

Well, e-learning is a type of learning conducted digitally via electronic media, typically involving the internet. It can be accessed via most electronic devices including a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone, making it a versatile and easy way for people within the local churches to learn whenever and wherever they are.

What this means for local churches is that everyone can access the training wherever and whenever they want to do so. You don't have to make yourself available for a specific time and date, you don't even have to complete it in one go. The package allows **you** to take as much or as little time as **you** need and allows **you** to learn at your own speed.

The training has been completed by URC training and development officers including Matt, the Synod's Safeguarding Officer. The package is easy to follow and understand and at the end of the training you are given the option of obtaining a certificate as well as ensuring you won't need to attend any other URC foundation training for a further three years.

Accessibility

All you need is a connection to the internet and a device of your choice. It works best with something that has as large a screen as possible, but please use whichever device is available to you and best suited to how you want to view the information.

The package is accessed by the URC Learning Hub which you can get to by copying and pasting the following into your browser - <https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/>

Once there you will be asked to sign in and create a username and password, exactly like you would anywhere else and then you can access the training package.

The package autosaves so when you feel you have had enough training for one day, you can stop and it will save your progress where you finished – so you don't have to start all over again!!!

We appreciate this is a new way of learning for many within our local churches – but please embrace it and make best use of the resources available to you.

We also understand that people within our local churches may have questions and queries about this new training package. All queries should be directed to Paula Kitson, the new Synod Safeguarding Support Officer. Paula will do her best to answer your questions and she can be contacted via her email address at safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk

There will no longer be regular Zoom or face to face safeguarding foundation training at a local church level as it is anticipated that people will use the above option to access the training. Again, if you have any queries please direct them to Paula.

Intermediate and other training will continue to be delivered utilising the same methods as we have done over the past 3 years, delivered directly by the synod safeguarding officer.

*Matt Knowles,
Safeguarding Officer*

What is God asking of YOU?



Ministry Enquirers' Event

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

Come and chat in person with those in ministry
and find out what God is calling you to!

Enquirers' Event

Saturday 1st October 2022

10am-1pm at Church House

Register your interest with ministries@urc.org.uk



The Management Team of the St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island invites you to a

Gift Day

being held at the Centre on
Saturday 3rd September 2022, 2pm - 4.30pm
(safe crossing times 10.55am - 6.35pm)

An opportunity to visit the newly refurbished building and to see the plans for the garden,
based on ideas by the late Ruth Crofton
Refreshments will be available

Donations towards the upkeep of the building, the development of the garden, and the
ongoing ministry of this unique place will be very welcome, from individuals and congregations

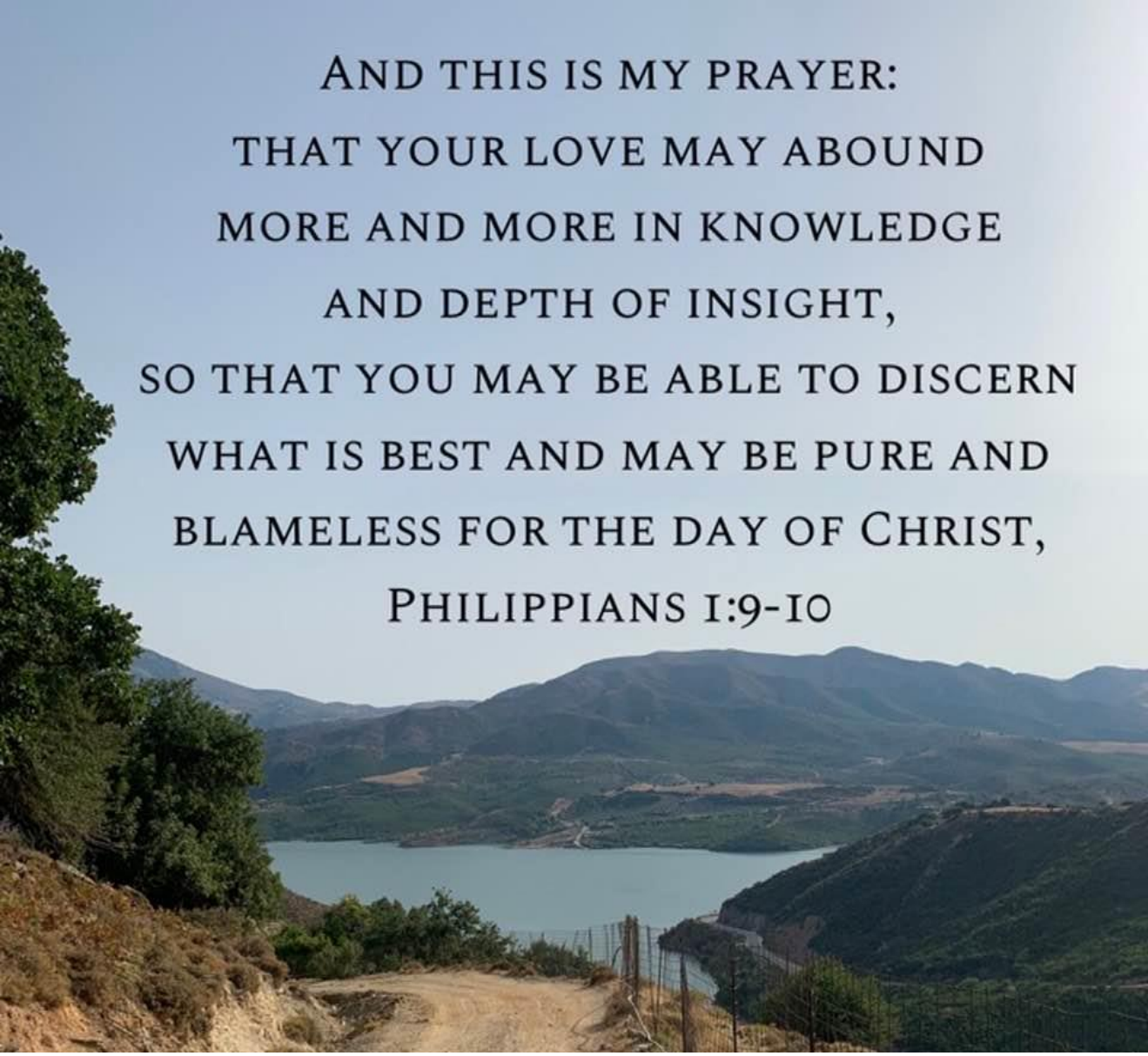
Further information from:

jeanwbarr@btinternet.com (07762 195516)

alison.shiel@hotmail.co.uk (0191 281 3417)



If you are unable to join us but wish to support the work of the Centre please contact
Jean Barr, details above.



AND THIS IS MY PRAYER:
THAT YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND
MORE AND MORE IN KNOWLEDGE
AND DEPTH OF INSIGHT,
SO THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DISCERN
WHAT IS BEST AND MAY BE PURE AND
BLAMELESS FOR THE DAY OF CHRIST,
PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10

Thanks again to Ashley Evans, our Synod Evangelist for this image, which was uploaded to the Synod's facebook page. You can 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](#).

Please don't hide these events and resources in your inboxes. 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 8th September. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk