



The
United
Reformed
Church

Yorkshire Synod

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Reformed
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National News

JUBILEE STOP PRESS

October 1 - Jubilee events postponed

Last week, the URC heard about the revised dates for the national rail strikes on October 1 and 5, news that was confirmed yesterday (Wednesday 21st September). Many meetings and conversations have taken place, and we've decided, with the heaviest of hearts, that the best option is to postpone our jubilee events.

After close to three years of planning, this postponement is deeply disappointing, but we want the URC to celebrate its jubilee properly, with all who want to take part.

We let you know about the new date as soon as possible, and please keep all who are affected by this news in your thoughts and prayers.

All attending the events on October 1 were going to receive a special copy of *Reform*, which is also celebrating its 50th anniversary. If you would like to receive copies for you and for others in your church, please email reform@urc.org.uk with your address details and the number of copies required.

**With warmest wishes and thanks,
Andy Jackson and Sam Richards
Convenors, 50th Anniversary Planning Group**

It is a huge pity that the events being planned in London to celebrate the URC's Jubilee have had to be postponed, but I am hearing that work is ongoing to ensure that we are still able to mark our denomination's 50 years of service. Please hold all those who have worked tirelessly for so long in your prayers and pray that they will be able to bring us together very soon.

As ever, please keep an eye on circulars from Synod and from the URC's Communications team on our usual social media and e-mail platforms as more details emerge.

Remembering Queen Elizabeth II

The news a fortnight ago of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II came just after the last issue of The Briefing was published. Fortunately Synod was able to call upon our Churches to bring to our collective notice of where places of prayer were possible, where books of condolences were available and which churches were able to broadcast the funeral on 19th September. I know I will have missed a few churches who have opened their doors in response to



Heywood Chapel, Northowram

Elizabeth II's death, but the response of those whose efforts were recorded on the Synod website at [Latest News - URC Yorkshire Synod](#) was amazing. Thank you all, and I pray that by



Bolton Villas Family Church

opening doors God's love through Jesus Christ our Lord has touched many hearts and souls. Here are a selection of the pictures sent in from Heywood Chapel Northowram, Longcauseway Dewsbury, Hornsea, Bolton Villas and Skipton showing the tributes and gatherings which marked the passing of our country's longest reigning monarch.



Longcauseway, Dewsbury



St Andrew's, Skipton

O God, our rock and our redeemer, we come to worship you and to give thanks for your servant Elizabeth.

We thank you for her long life and her dedicated service to commonwealth and nations.

We thank you for what she has meant to each one of us...

We treasure memories

of meeting her

of celebrating and marking moments in her life,

of the opening of parliament,

of her presence at significant times in our history,

and of her speaking to us on radio and television.

We rejoice that she lived and shared the faith we hold and that she followed her vocation, hearing a call to serve.

We pray for those who will miss her most deeply, that they may find comfort and hope.

We celebrate and affirm our faith that death is defeated, that new life awaits your children, and that creation is renewed in Christ.

We pray for our nations at a time of change and for our new King. May he follow his mother in faithful service and may your blessing rest on him.

We pray too for our elected representatives in parliament, for our public servants and for all citizens, of all faiths and none.

And, in this day and time, we pray, as we are always glad to pray, may your Kingdom come.

Amen.

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. Hopefully returning is a book stall run, this time by Christian Books Huddersfield, and organised by Barry Simmons of Brackenhall URC. As well as this I am told there will be a selection of items supplied by the URC shop. Please bring along a bob or two and remember that Bookshops like these need as much support as we can give. More details for the bookshop can be found here [Christian Books Huddersfield | Facebook](#).

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.

Hopefully papers for both session of the Synod Meeting will be available via e-mail to your Synod Reps early next week and I look forward to seeing you all in a fortnight.

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 five 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.....

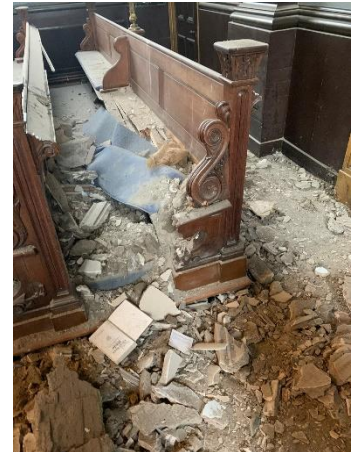
Saltaire URC

As many of you will know, the church at Saltaire suffered severe damage in the two storms of February 2020. Since then work has been ongoing to the point that it is nearly finished. Happily this coincides with the annual [Music & Arts Festival In Bradford | Saltaire Festival](#) when it is hoped that the doors of the church will be open to visitors during the 2 weekends Saltaire Festival takes place. Those with eagle eyes will see that the Festival was to have taken place between 9th and 18th



are being carried out..

September, but due to the death of Elizabeth II it was postponed by 2 weeks. So the aim is to open church on the Saturdays and Sundays of both this coming weekend 24th & 25th September and the following weekend 1st & 2nd October between 1pm and 4pm Tidying up and cleaning is well under way and it is hoped that a small display will be up in the church highlighting the collapse of the ceiling and subsequent repairs that



Please pray for Saltaire URC, its members and friends as they seek to welcome visitors for the first time since 2019!

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

Making Sense of the Minor Prophets

On **Saturday 11th February**, between 10.00am and midday Dr Alison Gray, one of the Old Testament lecturers from Westminster College, will lead a zoom session for us on this day entitled "Making Sense of the Minor Prophets: An overview and a deep dive into preaching on Jonah" This is a date for the diary for anyone interested in joining this session. Whether you are a minister, lay preacher, worship leader or just interested in this topic please consider keeping this date free. Keep an eye open on the website for more details nearer the time.

Lay preachers and worship leaders conference

You know how every now and then I get advance notice of events, well this is one such advance notice. Thanks to our ever efficient and attentive Ministries Committee Convenor Kath Lonsdale who has let me know that the next Lay preachers and worship leaders conference will be at Wydale from **7th to 9th July 2023** - look out for more information in the new year.

Children and Young Peoples News

Morning Coffee Together

Throughout the autumn the Morning Coffee Together sessions for Young Adults will be wending its way around the Synod, with the next one due at Bilton Grange to coincide with the Synod meeting. If you age 17+ and fancy coming to have a warm drink, good conversation and to meet others, we'd love to see you there. 10.30am - 12noon.

Also keep an eye out for them in Huddersfield on 5th November and in York on 10th December.



Youth Residential

The Wilderness team is organising a YOUTH RESIDENTIAL at Peak Venture in Sheffield from 30th September through to 2nd October.

Details of how to book can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/xp1oYgrzG5nTHgBp9>

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



Online Bookings for the 2023 Youth Assembly are now open

Each year the URC Youth Assembly brings together a diverse group of under-25s from across Scotland, England and Wales for a weekend of business and fun combined, exploring issues and topics relevant to Church, society and life through workshops, seminars, discussions and creative activities. Next year it is being held again at Whitemoor Lakes near Lichfield between 27th and 29th January.

The cost is £119 if the booking is received on or before 11 November 2022; £149 if booking received on or after 12 November 2022. To book visit [URC Youth Assembly - United Reformed Church](https://www.urc.org.uk/youth-assembly) and if money is an issue, please contact us on 020 7916 8683 or email children.youth@urc.org.uk as financial support is available.

Employment Opportunity



Youth Support Worker (5-8 hours per week)

This neighbourhood project is looking to grow and develop its work by appointing a part-time Youth Support worker to lead WOW, our Wednesday night youth group. We have a team of volunteers and employed staff – a Project Coordinator/Youth worker and Children and Family worker. Hours are mainly worked in term time, with flexibility to cover Holiday Club and residentials. Salaries are paid monthly at the same rate throughout the year.

We can offer:

- The chance to be part of a growing and developing organisation
- A team of committed volunteers
- The chance to be creative with the direction of the work
- Support and opportunity for personal development within the role

Salary in the range £19887-£21207 (JNC scale 5-8) pro rata, dependent on qualifications and experience. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Hannah Dey at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church office: 07918 029840 or hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday 30th September and interviews will be held in the late afternoon on Monday 17th October.

National News

Church Life Review

As we celebrate our 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.urch.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@urch.org.uk or send by post to Church Life Review, 21 Crawfurd 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!

Safeguarding News

Update in relation to Safeguarding Foundation Training

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

Full details were published in the last issue of the Briefing, but in a nutshell it means that for local churches everyone can access the training wherever and whenever they want. 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 Knowles, 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.

All that is required is to copy and paste <https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/> into a device of your choice and follow the instructions. It's as easy as that.

We appreciate this is a new way of learning, but please embrace it and make best use of the resources available to you. If you have any queries please contact Paula Kitson, the new Synod Safeguarding Support Officer at safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk.

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. Watch this space as more courses are planned soon.

**Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord,
the Lord himself,
is the Rock eternal.
Isaiah 26:4**



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 6th October. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk