

The Briefing – Number 93

6th October 2022

Jubilee Celebrations

Although the official celebrations and the service at Methodist Central Hall had been postponed on 1st October due to the rail strikes, it has really been encouraging to hear that many of our churches have celebrated the URC's Jubilee in style over the weekend. The creative juices have flowed, from new hymns for us to share, to trees being planted, to craft gifts being distributed and displayed. As yet I haven't heard when the new national celebration dates will be, but as soon as I know more I'll be letting you all know via The Briefing, via the Website and on our usual social media channels.

So here are a few of the events that have taken place and I hope that they inspire us all to go out into our communities and celebrate all that the URC has to offer. We start with the **Hull Team Churches of St Ninian's and St Andrew's Hull, Zion Cottingham and Christ Church Swanland** who held a joint service on 2nd October. Everyone present was given a knitted fish as a memento of the occasion with no two alike - representing our individuality. Kelvin Young, a member of one of the churches, also adapted the words to the tune of a well-known Christmas Carol. No guessing which one, but he's happy for you all to share it.

Come and join the celebration.

Chorus:

Come and join the celebration;

it's a very special day.

Come and share our jubilation;

the URC is fifty today !

1. *We have journeyed, guided by the living God;
He's been with us,
leading us in every step we trod; so Chorus.*
2. *Old ways merged, we took new paths with God as
guide;
power within us,
knowing He was always by our side; so Chorus.*
3. *We faced problems, the road was not an easy task;
God's great Spirit,
gave us strength and courage which we lacked; so Chorus.*
4. *To the future, now we plan with hopes on You;
trusting, praying,
God will point the way for us to go: so Chorus.*





Again on Sunday 2nd October, the congregation at **Heckmondwike** watched as some of their young people planted a tree in the church grounds. Church Secretary, Janet Virr, let us know that it was a special event tinged with poignancy as the tree was for the Platinum Jubilee of our late, much loved sovereign Queen Elizabeth II. Little did they know when they planned this event some months ago that the planting would take place barely three and a half weeks after her death and two weeks after her funeral. In fact the date was chosen to coincide with the URC's 50 year Jubilee

and Heckmondwike UR Church Anniversary which was newly formed in January 2022 after an amalgamation with Grove URC Gomersal.

At **Toll Gavel United Church, Beverley**, the 50 years of the URC were celebrated with a service led by Jon Steel, (Yorkshire Synod's Mission Advocate) and which also included a special cake! Some church members had the following comments to make:

"It was a fitting celebration- in many ways the URC are ahead of other churches in the equality, diversity and inclusion stakes

and their divestment from investing in fossil-fuel companies."

"The cake was part of our jubilee celebration at Toll Gavel Church." "It's 50 years since the founding of the United Reformed Church – a joining together of Congregational and Presbyterian churches in England. The Church on Lairgate closed in 1980 and joined Toll Gavel Methodist church." "The United Reformed Church and the Methodist



Church are natural partners. Stronger together!

The churches in Beverley continue to work together through Churches Together in Beverley."

All in all a good time was had by all.



Finally in Halifax, **Heath URC** had a double reason to celebrate this past Sunday (2nd October). First of all the Harvest service marked their achievement in attaining the EcoChurch Silver Award and secondly they were able to have a full Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Parade service, the first since the onset of the Covid pandemic. Not only that but the Scouting groups contribution to Eco Church was highlighted

and everyone was encouraged to talk with the Eco Team at Heath, led by Jane Simmons, as to how they might be further involved. It was a really wonderful service, taken

by the amazing Rev Daphne Hull, who kept everyone fully engaged and laughing!

For more information on how Heath got their award, please visit [Eco Church | Heath Church, Halifax](https://eco-church.org.uk/heath-church-halifax) (heathchurchhalifax.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. 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 sessions 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 the next week. If anyone would like hard copy papers, please let the office know and we'll do our best to get them to you before the day(s).

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.



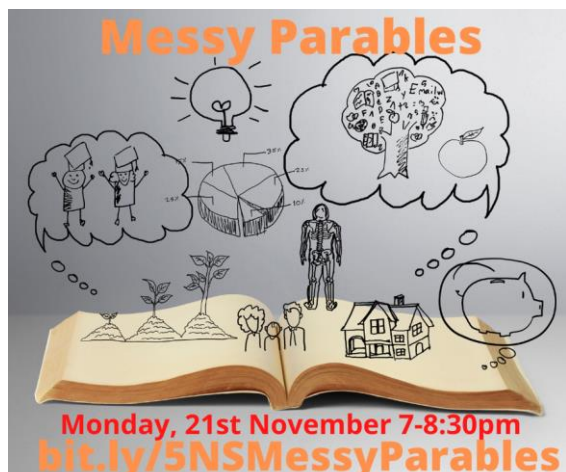
Online Bookings for the 2023 Youth Assembly are now open

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](#) 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.

Calling All Messy Church Workers!

Monday 21st November 7 - 8.30 pm



The Five Northerly Synods have arranged another messy zoom gathering. We have listened to your suggestions and understand that the times in between special celebrations can be a challenge.

Fear not, we offer you this event in November, along with plenty of time to chat and share with volunteers just like you.

This offers a great chance to gather, listen, share, and support each other. A warm welcome awaits you all.

For further information please email [Hannah Middleton](mailto:Hannah.Middleton@5NS.org.uk), Northern Synod Children's Work Advisor.

URC Buildings Forum Online Event: two Synod Moderators' experiences of church development!

If you want to hear more about this, please look out for further details of the next **URC Buildings Forum Conference** which is to take place on **Tuesday 15th November 2022 from 7.30pm until 9.00pm**. This online event will focus upon stories about church buildings being used for mission and how local churches can be guided in facing this challenge as we come into the 'New Reality' after the pandemic. There will be an opportunity to hear about the experiences of developing a church building, its life and its mission, and learn of some of the joys and pitfalls of following that path, with the Revd. Ruth Whitehead and the Revd. Steve Faber as guest contributors. There will also be time during the conference for a conversation about the Environmental Policy agreed at General Assembly. As usual, there will be time in small groups to talk about your own experiences, opportunities and challenges.

To register, please email mission@urc.org.uk with 'Forum Online Event' in the subject heading by 31st October 2022, along with your name, email address, and details of which church or organisation you are representing. Login details will be sent a few days before the meeting.

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 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.....

Talking about ... Hybrid Church

It's back; another opportunity to talk about the realities, risks, joys and challenges of Hybrid Church, brought to you by Education and Learning and Children and Youth. On Tuesday 11 October, from 7.30 to 9.00pm, there will be a chance to meet online with other people from local churches seeking to worship, work with children and young people, and gather and learn in a hybrid way.



As with previous sessions there will be conversations around the tech side of hybrid church as well as the practical out-workings and the experiences we seek to enable. It is a space where those attending drive the meeting – what questions do you have and what help do you need? We are not here to give answers but to facilitate discussion – and usually answers emerge!

We are here to offer space to learn and find out more as well as share expertise in this continually changing world!

Zoom meeting ID: 892 8553 7599, Passcode: 655777

Any questions, please contact jenny.mills@urc.org.uk or dan@media4ministry.co.uk

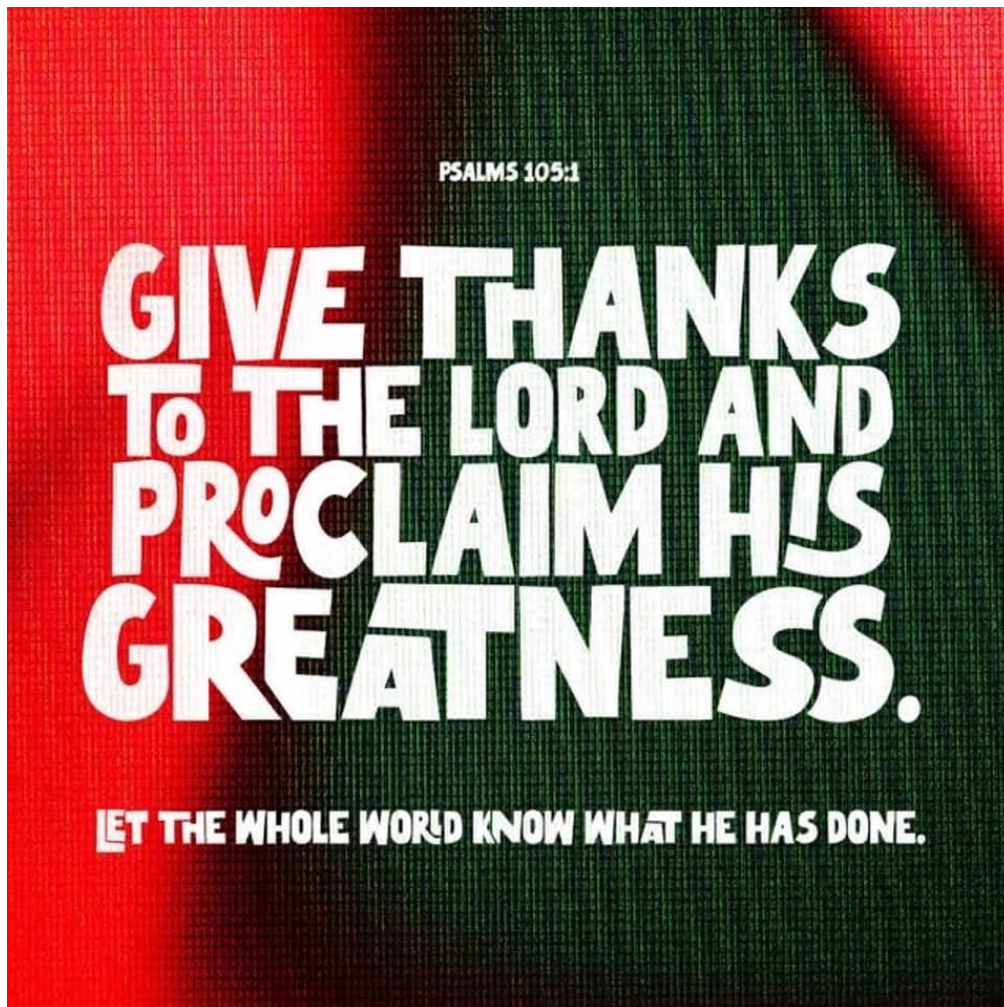
Church Life Review

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.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!



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](#).

Safeguarding News

Safeguarding Foundation Training

Matt Knowles, our Safeguarding Officer has reminded us about General Assembly Paper T5 which was passed at General Assembly in July 2021 ([book-of-reports-2021.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#), p245). Amongst other things this paper provided guidance on different roles within synods and local churches and which level of safeguarding training was required for each role. This guidance should have been implemented by July 2022. The main area which needs to be covered is that all local church elders as trustees require at least the foundation level of safeguarding training.

This can now be accessed online via an e-learning a package. All you need is a device and a connection to the internet which doesn't need to be at home – you can do this training at someone else's home, in a church, in a library, in a coffee shop or even on a bus!!! The training doesn't have to be done in one sitting – you can do it in bite sized chunks, when and where it suits you! At the end of the training there is a short quiz and then you are asked to enter you details. That's it!! You then

send a message off to Church House via the press of a button and you will then receive your very own certificate and the records updated that you have completed your training.

Its really easy to do.

All you need to do is to select from one of the options below. There are 3 to chose from – the first two are in relation to what sort of device you are using. The third option is a narrated version where there is no need to read the training – you can just sit back and let someone read it to you. All three work in the same way and have the same conclusion at the end. So all you need to do is to select which option suits you best, move your cursor over the blue coloured link, press the CTRL button your keyboard (which is usually at the bottom left) and press the button on your mouse. That is it. Just complete the training in your own time and wherever you want. All I would suggest that if you are using the narrated option and you are in a public place you may want to use some earphones!!

So here are the links –

Foundation Course for a Laptop or Desktop Computer [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course \(canva.com\)](#)

Foundation Course for a phone or tablet [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course for phone and tablet \(canva.com\)](#)

Narrated version of the Foundation Course with a voice over each slide [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course narrated version \(canva.com\)](#)

Please note – if there are any issues in relation to the above or you have any questions, concerns or queries relating to the e-learning package, please contact our synod safeguarding support officer Paula Kitson at safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk.

At synod we are mindful that this option, as good as it is, is not suitable for everyone. Therefore there will be a Foundation Course provided on Zoom led by Matt Knowles on Thursday 10th November 2022, between 10am and 12.00pm. To book a place on this course please contact Paula on the above email.

Intermediate Training

For those that require it, intermediate training will continue on Zoom led by Matt Knowles. There are several courses now been made available – again please contact Paula to book a place.

The dates available are –

Tuesday 25th October 2022 – 10am to 12.30pm, Wednesday 2nd November 2022 – 1pm to 3.30pm and Monday 5th December 2022 – 10am to 12.30pm

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 20th October. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk