



The
United
Reformed
Church

Yorkshire Synod

Somerset House
St Paul's Street
Morley
Leeds
LS27 9EP



The Briefing – Number 94

20th October 2022

More 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 more 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.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS of the URC at Norristhorpe Chapel

On Saturday 8 October a good number of folk gathered in the Chapel for a Concert to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church. There was a varied and interesting program, mainly made up of local talent who provided music, drama, monologues, a quiz with an appearance from the Norristhorpe Belle Ringers. A good time was had by all, with a great deal of participation and laughter, as well as more serious items. One guest singer was Marilyn from Longcauseway who sang a number of items accompanied by Maryon. Maryon, also played a John Rutter piece on the organ and accompanied our final hymn (*'How Great Thou Art'* which had also been the answer to one of the questions in the quiz: *Which hymn of Swedish origin won the Songs of Praise viewers' favourite vote in 2013 and came second in 2019?!*).



The entertainment was followed by refreshments including a wonderful variety of cakes made available by members. There was also a retiring collection that raised a magnificent **£147.40p** which has been donated to the URCs 'Commitment for Life' scheme (*an article on Bangladesh appeared in the Chapel's October Newsletter*).

The following day (**Sunday 9 October**) there was a Celebratory Service at Norristhorpe taking as its main theme the 50th Anniversary of the URC. The service was led by Rev Chris Wood, who offered an explanation to the background of the United Reformed Church, referring to a booklet entitled 'Where do we Come From?' (*a copy of which has been provided to the Chapel for those that wanted to explore this subject further*). The service concluded with a celebration of Holy Communion. The congregation was also treated to refreshments after the service, which included some of the cakes left over from the day before.



Church Events and News

On Saturday 15th October, **Upper Chapel, Idle**, held a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research and raised over £500 in just one day. Here are a few of the stalls there on the day with Faith looking after the bookstall whilst Dorothy, Pauline and Brenda kept watch over an absolutely mouth-watering table full of the Idle bakers' endeavours.



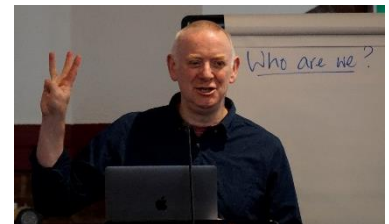
Yorkshire Synod Autumn Meetings



Bilton Grange
United Reformed Church

On Saturday 8th October and again on the evening of Thursday 13th October, Yorkshire Synod met for its Autumn meeting.

On the Saturday the meeting was hosted by Bilton Grange URC and those who attended in person were welcomed most warmly. The meeting centred on Yorkshire's Missional Synod initiative, which has been driven by our Mission Advocate, Jon Steel. The three resolutions covering the outing of God's mission at the heart of our Synod activity, adopting the 5



Threads of Mission and a commitment to ensuring that Synod's ethos is always mission focused were overwhelmingly carried and as Jon put it, the real work of mission starts now.

A key element of that mission was the adoption of the Synod's Locally Recognised Children and Youth Leaders' policy. Introduced by Megan Tillbrook, this piece of work has



been long in the making and will enable those who look to lead the activities for young people in our churches to be recognised formally and with that to be resourced effectively from both the Synod and denomination. Again, this resolution was overwhelmingly carried and the plan is that the policy will be rolled out to all the Yorkshire churches in the weeks and months to come. Finally it was great to have a bookstall back at Synod. Thanks go to Barry Simmons of Brackenhall URC who was able to bring a great selection of items from Christian Books in Huddersfield. Thanks also to John Wadsworth

who also brought a selection of his own books, poems and hymns for us to share and to the folk at the URC bookshop who sent me various Prayer Diaries, Calendars, histories, worship resources and socks. I still have some socks (as well as Prayer Diaries and Calendars) available at the Synod office, so please let me know if you want any and I'll organise a delivery.

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 in Huddersfield on 5th November. If you are 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 York on 10th December.

Venues for both to be announced.





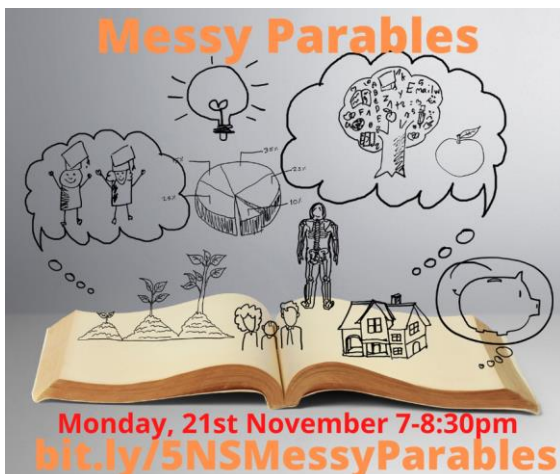
Online Bookings for the 2023 Youth Assembly are now open

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@urc.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**. 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. 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.

Safeguarding News

Safeguarding Foundation Training

The URC's Safeguarding Foundation training can now be accessed online via an e-learning 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 your 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 choose 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 \(canva.com\)](https://www.canva.com/learning/safeguarding-foundation-course/) or for a phone or tablet [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course for phone and tablet \(canva.com\)](https://www.canva.com/learning/safeguarding-foundation-course-for-phone-and-tablet/). The narrated version of the Foundation Course with a voice over each slide [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course narrated version \(canva.com\)](https://www.canva.com/learning/safeguarding-foundation-course-narrated-version/)

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

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.....

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!

Chronic Pain and Faith and Science in the Local Church



For those among us who take an interest in Faith, Medicine and Science, the following workshop being run by the Faraday Institute in Cambridge may be of interest. All this information can be found on the Faraday Institute website, including registration details: <https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/>

Living with Chronic Pain: A Christian response

November 5th, Westminster College, Cambridge and online

Faith and Science in the Local Church – A Workshop for Christian Leaders

January 13 – 14, 2023, Cambridge and online

Full details to be had from Dr Zoe Binns, Events Manager, The Faraday Institute, Woolf Building, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0UB, UK. Tel: 01223-748-888

zcl21@faraday.cam.ac.uk

www.faraday.cam.ac.uk

URC: Spirituality presents... **22nd - 26th November 2022, online**
7:30am - morning prayer,
12:30pm - digging deeper
7:30pm - discussion time

praying with those who wait

How might we learn from
those on the edge of
Christ's advent?

Come to one, some or all of
these **free, online** sessions!
Sign-up / more info:
bit.ly/urcspiritualitynov22

Some of you may recall, or will have attended, the last URC: Spirituality online event that took place in June (an online quiet day) or the last series of events in January.

Now URC: Spirituality are pleased to be publicising its upcoming online week of events: **“Praying With Those Who Wait”**. This week of free sessions will look at the, perhaps, more unheard areas of Christ’s Advent. This will take place in 3 sessions each day, from Tuesday 22nd to Saturday 26th November 2022. Each session is independent so feel free to attend one, some or all of them on Zoom.

A week of online sessions exploring characters and scenarios on the edge of Christ's advent. Hosted by URC: Spirituality. The sessions are independent so feel free to come to one, some or all of them!

Each morning there will be a short morning prayer time to start the day. This is a perfect way to begin your day in a contemplative way, giving whatever you may be up to that day, over to God. At lunchtime we will have a series of sessions run by various people from the URC: Spirituality core group and beyond. Exploring largely unseen characters, or picking up on largely unexplored themes. In the evenings we welcome guest speakers from across the breadth of spirituality as we continue to explore these characters and themes. These will be largely discussion-based and will finish with a short time of prayer to close the day.

The sessions will be held on Zoom, hosted by Media for Ministry. Media for Ministry has had a longstanding friendship with URC: Spirituality. Since first supporting "Streams in the Wilderness" back in May 2021, their expertise and sensitivity makes them a perfect fit with URC: Spirituality. Some of the M4M team have even led sessions at past events!

The sign up link is here: <https://prayingwiththosewhowait.eventbrite.co.uk> or you can distribute a shorter link: <https://bit.ly/urcspiritualitynov22>

Situations Vacant



The Methodist Church

Yorkshire West District

The Yorkshire West Methodist District is looking to appoint an **Admin Assistant**

to start as soon as possible

Part time appointment, 20 hours per week

We are seeking a part time Admin Assistant to work as part of the District Team.

The person appointed will be required to:

- Work under the direction of the District Administrator, dealing with office correspondence, telephone enquiries, e-mail, photocopying, collating, filing etc.
- Maintain data in line with the latest GDPR requirements.
- Take minutes at meetings, some of which may take place in an evening.
- Assist in the production and circulation of District resources.

The post will be for 20 hours per week,
worked 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday to Thursday **or** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday to Friday, based
at the District Office, 4 Easby Road, Bradford, BD7 1QX
and may include occasional evening and weekend work.

A flexible term-time plus three weeks working pattern may be considered.

The rate of pay will be £11.23 per hour,
with enrolment in the District's NEST workplace pension scheme.

For more information and an application pack please contact the PA to the Chair of District:

pa@ywmethodist.org.uk or 01274 442670

Closing Date: Friday, 11th November 2022 at 12 noon Interviews will take place on Tuesday, 22nd November 2022.

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The Yorkshire West Methodist District came into being on 1st September 2017 and was formed from a joining together of the former West Yorkshire District and part of the previous Leeds District. The geographical area covered by the District stretches approximately 80 miles from Ingleton in the north to Penistone in the south, and 50 miles from Todmorden in the west to Knottingley in the east. The District is made up of a range of communities and settings, including extensive rural areas, large cities and urban towns, and smaller market towns and villages. Throughout this diverse area there are local Methodist churches of people gathering together as disciples of Jesus Christ to worship God and serve their local communities.

Yorkshire West Methodist District

4 Easby Road, Bradford, BD7 1QX

01274 442670

admin@ywmethodist.org.uk

<https://www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk>

The East Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church is seeking to appoint a **Children's and Youth Development Officer** (Ref CYDO)



This is a full-time post for 37.5 hours/week (including evening and weekends) on a permanent contract.

Salary: £32,796 to £33,624 depending on experience and qualifications
This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Disclosure

This post offers a challenging opportunity for an experienced and professionally qualified Children's and Youth Worker with training and development skills. We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed Christian to develop our strategy, serve the churches of the Synod in offering advice, training, and support to those working with children and young people and to work with the wider United Reformed Church. The Officer appointed will be a member of a collaborative Synod team and therefore good team working skills are essential.

If you share our passion for children and young people playing their part in the mission of God, please contact:

Mrs Chris Willis
East Midlands Synod Office
1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood
Nottingham, NG5 3AA
Tel: 0115 9609241
E-mail: admin@urc5.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 30th November 2022
Interviews to be held : w/c 12th December 2022

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian

We are committed to diversity and equality of opportunity. We especially welcome applications from women and Black and Minority Ethnic Groups who are currently under-represented in this area of work in the Church.

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 3rd November. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley
Synod Clerk