



The
United
Reformed
Church

Yorkshire Synod

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United
Reformed
Church

The Briefing – Number 97

1st December 2022

Winter Warmer Initiative grants from the Yorkshire Synod Mission Fund are still available



The Yorkshire Synod is acutely aware of the challenges facing many people in our communities with the prospect of huge increases in energy bills this winter, and beyond.

We are pleased that some congregations are already responding (and intend to respond) with initiatives to offer warm spaces for their communities and Synod would like to help with this.

We would encourage congregations (and groups of churches, including ecumenical partners) who are planning such initiatives to apply to the small grants stream of the Synod Mission Fund for help (grants up to £2,500)

To ease the burden and speed of administration the Synod Mission Fund Panel are relaxing our normal procedures for applications as follows:

1. Applications can be made at any time directly to the Synod Clerk at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk. The applications will then be dealt with between SMF Panel meetings as soon as possible.
2. Use and attach the small grants form found at [Forms - URC Yorkshire Synod](https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/181121-Synod-Mission-Fund-SMALLER-grant-application-form.docx) ideally this one <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/181121-Synod-Mission-Fund-SMALLER-grant-application-form.docx>
3. Please insert the title "Winter Warmer Initiative" followed by the Church (or lead Church) name into the Mission Project Name field on page 1 of the form AND in the e-mail subject field so we can pick up applications quickly.
4. Please be very brief in question 1 (Your Project). Some description of what you are doing will be helpful but there is no need for too much detail describing the purpose of your project and how it helps the mission of your church.
5. Churches can still apply for an additional grant towards Winter Warmer initiatives even if they already have applications for other projects in train, submitted recently, or planned for the near future.
6. Churches can apply if your Winter Warmer initiative has already started.
7. We would still like to see indications of offers of match funding plus your latest accounts. Some indication of how your own energy bills are being affected will also be helpful. Insert this in the form at question 3 (How much of this can your church contribute?). Costs of the project for which you request funding must relate directly to the initiative. This includes anticipated additional energy costs but not normal energy costs.
8. Applications towards Winter Warmer initiatives can be submitted up to 31st March 2023

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please come back to either the Synod Clerk, Tim Crossley or the Synod Treasurer, Rev Simon Copley via the office with any questions you may have.

You will also be pleased to know that the Yorkshire Synod budget for 2023 includes £100,000 set aside to help churches in Yorkshire with the challenges of their own normal energy costs. This is in addition to £2 million that is being set aside by the URC centrally to help churches in all Synods. The detailed criteria for distributing these central funds is yet to be decided but further updates and other useful information will follow as soon as we have more details.

Warm Welcomes in Yorkshire

St Columba's, York



A warm welcome awaits you at
St Columba's United Reformed Church
Priory Street, York
**Community Drop-in Winter Warmer
Afternoon**



Every Tuesday 12.00pm - 4.00pm (except 20th December)
12.00 Short worship
12.30pm Soup and bread (no charge, pay as you feel)
12.00pm - 4.00pm a warm place
to do jigsaws, crafting, games, read or just chat.



Denholme

WARM WELCOME
with Denholme Shared Church

 **FREE**  **WARM**  **WELCOMING**  **SAFE**

Wednesday 10am-12pm at DMI
Our regular 'Place of Welcome' with hot drinks & biscuits.

Friday 12pm-3pm at Denholme Shared Church
Church is open for hot drinks/biscuits & cakes/activities/charging points/WiFi

Sunday 4pm-7pm at Denholme Shared Church
Church is open for our 'Sunday Supper Club.' Hot drinks/cooked meal/biscuits & cakes/activities/charging points/WiFi/games/toys and more...

  

Bringing the community together this winter

For more information visit [Denholme Shared Church \(denholmechurch.org.uk\)](http://denholmechurch.org.uk)

Roundhay

 **St Andrew's Roundhay** 

A warm, safe place, where you can expect a friendly and inclusive welcome!

Complimentary Refreshments
FreeWi-Fi
Quiet Space
Board Games

Welcome to our Warm Space
Supported by local ward councillors

Every Friday 13:00 - 16:00
Shaftesbury Ave, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1DS



If your church is planning something similar, please let us know at Synod office.

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. Registration is now open via office@urcyorkshire.org.uk. The link and pre information will be sent to those registered nearer the date.

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 York on 10th December at the Bar Convent on Blossom Street in York [The Bar Convent Living Heritage Centre \(bar-convent.org.uk\)](http://The Bar Convent Living Heritage Centre (bar-convent.org.uk)). If you are age 17+ and fancy coming to have a warm drink, good conversation and to meet others, we'd love to see you there from 10.30am through to 12 noon.



The new [bi-monthly newsletter](#) from the URC's Children's and Youth Work office is available [here](#) or sign up to join our mailing list for it [here](#).



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.

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/>

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

Pfalz/UK Advent service

The joint Advent Service between the URC and its partner churches in the Palatinate (Pfalz) region of Germany will take place live and online on **Sunday evening 4 December, starting at 6.00 pm (UK time)**. The theme this year is 'Arise and Shine' and will be based on the liturgy provided by our German partners. It will be led by Pfarrer Martin Henninger and Rev Philip Brooks, assisted by volunteers and singers from the URC and the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz.

The service will be fully accessible for both English and German speakers, with translations provided on screen. It is a celebration of the long-standing friendship between the two churches, that we share together in worship during Advent. There will be time in the service to meet with friends old and new. We would love to see you at the service and please feel free to advertise in your churches.

Topic: Pfalz/UK Advent service

Time: Dec 4, 2022 18:00 London

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81313999338?pwd=bXA1dWh4d2kxMTJOb3NZZitMdm52QT09>

Meeting ID: 813 1399 9338

Passcode: 292540

For news about what the URC is doing around the country, head here [URC News Update November 2022 \(urc-news.org.uk\)](#) and sign up for their monthly updates.



2024 URC Prayer Handbook - prayers requested

Prayers for the 2024 Prayer Handbook, *Full to the Brim*, are now invited:
<https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-and-worship/urc-prayer-handbook/> The deadline is February 24, 2023.

For more information, please contact
Andy Jackson, Head of Communications
The United Reformed Church

Safeguarding News

Training Update

This is the last call for the last training session of the year. It is an Intermediate Training course being held on 5th December between 10.00am and 12.30pm.

To book a place, please contact Paula Kitson at safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk.

Also, don't forget that Safeguarding Foundation training can now be accessed online via an e-learning package. Full instructions were given in previous Briefings, but here are the links: Foundation Course for a Laptop or Desktop Computer [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course \(canva.com\)](#) or for a phone or tablet [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course for phone and tablet \(canva.com\)](#). The narrated version of the Foundation Course with a voice over each slide [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course narrated version \(canva.com\)](#)

Situations Vacant



Mission and Training Officer

Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church



Full time – 37.5 hours per week (flexible, including some evenings and weekends)

Annual salary - £38 – £42,000 pa depending on experience

We are seeking an experienced person who is motivated to stimulate and encourage growth within the Synod. The focus of the work is to assist local churches in their mission and in implementing mission initiatives and by encouraging them to be confident in sharing their faith.

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a Christian.

Office based, with some working from home permissible, and regular travel around the Synod is an essential requirement.

An application pack can be accessed via the Synod website:

www.urc-eastern.org.uk or by emailing Marion Gentry on admin@urceastern.org.uk

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.

Closing date for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 21st December.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Assistant Data Analyst

- London
- Permanent contract, 35 hours per week
- Salary: £32,336
- Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 5 December 2022
- Interview date: Tuesday 13 December 2022



An tourist on holiday in Great Britain was inside a church in Salford taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign underneath it that read '£10,000 per call'.

The tourist, being intrigued, asked the minister there who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The minister replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 you could talk to God. The tourist thanked the minister and went along his way.

Next stop was in Liverpool. There, at a very large church, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Salford and

he asked a nearby CRCW what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K., thank you,' said the tourist, and he went on his way.

The tourist then travelled to Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham, Taunton, Nottingham, Cardiff, Cambridge, Southampton, Croydon and London. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same '£10,000 per call' sign under it. The tourist then realised that there was one part of the country that he hadn't visited so he booked a train from St Pancras and headed to Yorkshire to see if the good folk who lived there had the same phone.

He arrived in Sheffield, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '50 pence per call.'

The tourist was surprised so he asked the Elder on duty at the church café about the sign. 'I've travelled all over your country and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in all the other places I've visited the price was £10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?'

The Elder smiled and answered, 'You're in Yorkshire now, son. It's a local call.'

The Clerk has more of these jokes in a bag waiting to be let loose on you all, but only when the news is light and the events have been few and far between.

So you know what you need to do to ensure that the cheesy jokes are few and far between – send in your good news stories to the Synod office. Let us know what you are doing so that we can tell everyone else. Drop us a line at either clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk or at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk and you'll never have to see another tall tale like the one you've just read (even though at its heart there is a great truth!!)

You can also 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 and as Christmas is around the corner you have no excuse not to let us know what you are up to. Keep an eye open for the next Briefing due on 15th December. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk