



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 99



The
United
Reformed
Church
Yorkshire

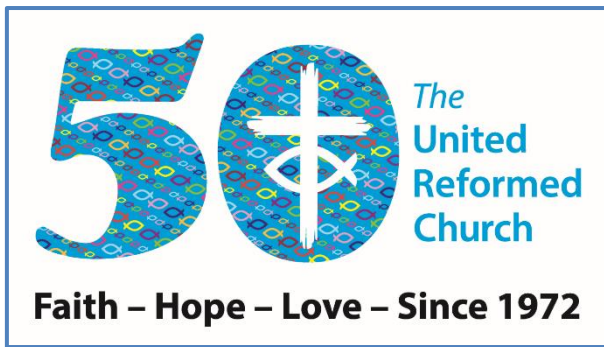
5th January 2023

The Yorkshire Synod team wish you all a very Happy, Prosperous and Christ filled New Year. We hope that the Love of Jesus flows through you all to enable His Church to be renewed and refreshed in 2023 and beyond.

Welcome to the new look Yorkshire Synod Briefing, one which is much more mission focused than the Briefings of the past couple of years and reflects the incredible work that was done during 2022 by Jon Steel, whose term as Mission Advocate ended at the end of December. I hope that we can build on his work in 2023 and what you may see dotted throughout the Briefings are the logos and images that have been developed. At the heart of this work was the adoption by Synod of the 5 Threads of Mission. These threads: Sharing, Building, Partnering, Loving and Inviting, are at the heart of our wider Mission to Yorkshire and when woven together we can act as witnesses to Jesus in our words and actions.



As the year progresses you'll see more references to how Synod will be working through the 5 Threads and as ever, please visit [Home - URC Yorkshire Synod](https://www.urchurchyorkshire.org.uk) or get in touch with us at office@urchurchyorkshire.org.uk for more information.



Many of you will have been celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church over the past twelve months, and I know that the denomination's Jubilee has been marked in many ways, including special services, tree plantings, displays and rededications all around our wonderful Synod. Resources are still available online at [Our 50th Anniversary - United Reformed Church](#) and I'm happy to let you know that it's not over yet!

What we missed back in October is back on as the **URC Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration and Open Church House event** is being rearranged for Saturday 15th April 2023.

Andy Jackson, the Head of Communications, has communicated that following on from the postponement of the original event due to rail strikes, the organisers have been working hard to find a new date to celebrate the URC's 50th. Trying to find a revised date which works for those leading the service and the availability of Methodist Central Hall has not been an easy task. Their initial hopes for May 6 were scuppered when the new King chose that date for his Coronation!



Nevertheless the URC is delighted to announce that the new date is **Saturday 15 April 2023**. In an ideal world, we would have opted for a longer gap after Easter, but we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations.

The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on April 15 from 10am-12 noon.

Tickets

If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order. If you are no longer able to attend, please <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. Or email 50@urc.org.uk and we can cancel the order for you.

Anniversary Choir

If you would like to sing in the Anniversary Choir, you can find out more details and the dates of the rehearsals by visiting <https://bit.ly/urc50-choir>

Stewards and enquiries

If you are able to volunteer as a Steward at the service, please email 50@urc.org.uk which is also the email address for any enquiries relating to the new date.

For more information on the new date and the plans for the celebration, please visit [New date announced for URC's Jubilee service - United Reformed Church](#)

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.

Loving



Warm Welcomes in Yorkshire

Westfield Wyke

Warm space for Wyke foodbank Christmas toys and hamper distribution

Between 4th and 10th December Westfield URC Wyke, hosted a special week when parents referred to the Wyke foodbank were given appointments to choose 2 main presents and 3 stocking fillers per child. 168 children benefitted from this offer. Following on from that Westfield Wyke continue to provide a warm space, warm drinks, people to talk with and the opportunity for prayer. Many visitors have commented on how good it was to come into rooms with the heating on. People stayed longer and felt listened to, they were not rushed as visited this warm environment. There were many grateful and heartfelt comments from both visitors and volunteers.



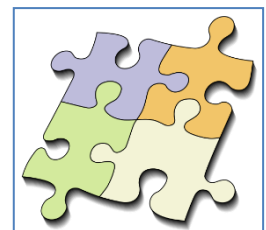
Westfield Wyke URC benefitted from a Synod Winter Warmer Mission Fund grant to help do this fantastic work. If your church is looking to provide that little extra to ensure that there is a warm space in your community then please send in an application to clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.



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

For more information visit [Denholme Shared](https://denholmesharedchurch.org.uk)

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 details of other local winter activities, scan the QR code.

[Church \(denholmesharedchurch.org.uk\)](https://denholmesharedchurch.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.

Bingley

While the United Reformed Church was celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2022, Bingley URC had a milestone event of its own when it held the 100th bi-monthly Coffee Morning since these began in 2001. Covering a wide selection of charities (local, national and international) these have raised a total of £34,850.



The 100th event was in aid of the Woodland Trust (co-incidentally also celebrating its 50th Anniversary). Past events have covered a wide spectrum, including the Addis Abba Fistula hospital in Ethiopia, a local Mobile Cancer Care Unit and Parkinson UK.

We could not have done all this without support from local people and friends from other churches.



Sharing



**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.

Enquirers' Event

Saturday 11th February 2023

10am-3pm online

Register with ministries@urc.org.uk

to receive Zoom details



NORTHERN COLLEGE

Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders' Conference

Friday 24th — Saturday 25th February 2023

The kingdom of God as Holy Anarchy?



Fancy something a bit different? A new book, "Holy Anarchy", by Revd Dr Graham Adams, our mission tutor, will be the springboard for us to explore topics related to worship and preaching. The book includes new hymns and worship resources, but also offers prompts for us to engage creatively with the challenge of God's kingdom, by looking at:

- preaching the kingdom
- a spirituality of play
- conflicts within scripture
- the challenge of suffering
- community work
- creation-care

The Conference will take place at Luther King House in Manchester. The cost of the event is **£147.50 (residential)** or **£85 (non-residential)**. Additional bednights can be booked on request at an additional charge.

To register please contact paul.barrett@lutherking.ac.uk

Northern College is an open and inclusive community of learning, worship and fellowship, supporting the development of the 'whole people of God'

www.northerncollege.co.uk

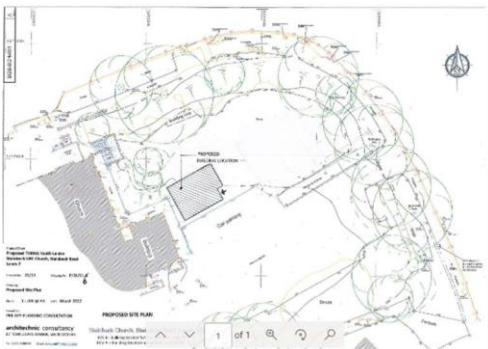
Partnering



THRIVE

Meanwood Development: December 22

As the year came to a close, the THRIVE partnership in Stainbeck, Leeds had much to celebrate about where they have got to and are also looking forward to where 2023 will take them! They have had a focused season of fund-raising, which has met with such success that they have reached the stage of placing a deposit on a modular building. This feels a big step forwards and they are grateful to all the donations and funders who have made that possible. It's been an encouraging local effort alongside the time given to writing funding, so together they have got to this good first stage, one jar of jam sale at a time!



The new year will see them applying for planning permission so that they can place the building in the grounds of **Stainbeck United Reformed Church**. They are very grateful to Iain Cant, who is an architect guiding them through this process, which makes it all feel much more possible and understandable.

As they await the outcome of that application, THRIVE will continue to seek funding to adapt the building as needed, creating a kitchenette and making it accessible for all.

Stainbeck URC and THRIVE work wonderfully and closely with **InterACT Church and Community Partnership**; they find their way forward with this work together, sharing the load and navigating the challenges. So as they move forwards into 2023, they are looking to begin regular youth work at Stainbeck Church and will meet with a small group of young people to explore what that could look like. It will be created and structured together, so that there is opportunity and space for them to take the lead. As the building work begins, there will be another chance to involve young people, as they start to understand some of the practical tasks that need to be done to make this happen. It feels a long time ago that they dug a hole in the ground to test the foundations, but they will soon be needing to get the spades out again!



Stainbeck URC and THRIVE have benefitted from a substantial grant from the Synod Mission Fund to help get this project off the ground. See what else they do at [Stainbeck United Reformed Church – The United Reformed Church in Stainbeck \(stainbeckurc.org.uk\)](https://stainbeckurc.org.uk). If your Church is looking to do similar work in partnership with other agencies, please contact clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and have a look at the Synod Mission Fund guidelines and forms at [Forms - URC Yorkshire Synod](#)

Shiregreen on the map



A snapshot of the work at Shiregreen URC, Sheffield, is now on the Synod Website and on YouTube. They emerged from lockdown responding to the needs of the elderly in their community as well as being able to create a safe space for mums with babies denied of 'normal' social contact. Jean, one of the members interviewed, was 93 in November! Have a look at either [Shiregreen on the map - URC Yorkshire Synod](#) or https://youtu.be/NkiBKj_QDUA to see if this is something your church could replicate in your community.

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

Inviting



Children and Young Peoples News

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 still 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. This year it is being held again at Whitemoor Lakes near Lichfield between 27th and 29th January.

The cost is £149 and to book visit [URC Youth Assembly - United Reformed Church](#). If money is an issue, please contact us on 020 7916 8683 or email children.youth@urc.org.uk as financial support is available.

Building



Coming in 2023



Read
the URC
Environmental
Policy



Lay Training news

Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development small grant fund 2023

During 2022 the Ministries Committee were pleased to authorise 8 different applications to the national small grant Discipleship Development fund which used up the whole of the £2000 Yorkshire Synod was allocated. Happily Synod has had confirmation that the same amount will be available during 2023.

If anyone wants to discuss an application before submitting it please contact the Convenor of the Yorkshire Ministries Committee, Kath Lonsdale at kathlonsdale@talktalk.net.

Remember this is for any age to apply so please discuss with your young people as well as adults.

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.

Annual Elders Conference

22nd April 2023

Speaker: Rev Adam Scott, Principal, Northern College – more information to follow....

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.

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

HR News

For all those who are in churches who employ folk, or for those who are looking to employ staff, the Church House team are offering a series of **Line Management Training** dates in 2023. These are online training sessions for around one hour from 10 am – 11 am.

You can find the details here: <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/guidance-support-for-churches-synods/employment-guidance/training-events-and-courses/>

Session	Date	Topic
1	Thursday 9 February	The Basics
2	Thursday 9 March	Managing Performance
3	Thursday 20 April	Appraisals
4	Thursday 11 May	Managing Attendance
5	Thursday 8 June	Flexible Working
6	Thursday 6 July	Recruitment
7	Thursday 7 September	Equalities
8	Thursday 5 October	Policies - Capability
9	Thursday 16 November	Policies - Disciplinary and Grievance

For more details, please contact **Deepti Upadhyaya**, the HR Coordinator at Church House rather than us at Synod. Her details are 020 7691 9871 or deepti.upadhyaya@urc.org.uk

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

Very Early Candlemas Gifts

I know that you will all have been extremely organised and well ahead of the game last year so I imagine that you won't be looking to indulge in any Candlemas shopping this year. However, if there was someone who slipped through the net who deserves a gift, or someone who just deserves a gift, then look no further than the Synod office as we have still some limited supplies of the following – all on a first come, first served basis:

- URC Jubilee Socks Size 4-7 - £4.95 (plus postage)
- URC Buildings Calendar 2023 - £1.99 (plus postage)
- URC Prayer Handbook 2023, Cities of Sanctuary - £5.99 (plus postage)
- URC Celebrate Together 50th Anniversary free booklet - (postage only)



I realise that with the postal strikes, it might not be guaranteed when you would receive your order, but we would endeavour to send them out asap. Alternatively, if you live near enough to the synod office, you could always collect your order, with negotiation with the office staff, to make sure there's someone at Somerset House before you set off.

Do let us know as soon as possible if you want to make a purchase and we can organise it with you.

God Bless and have a very happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year.

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. Keep an eye open for the next Briefing due on 19th January. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley
Synod Clerk

