



Yorkshire Synod

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



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

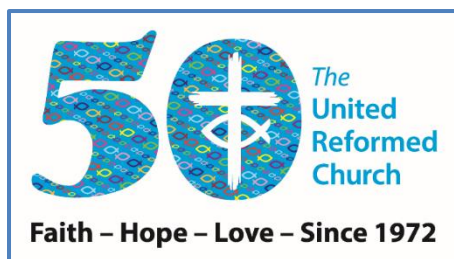
Number 101



2nd February 2023

Welcome again to the new look Yorkshire Synod Briefing. Hopefully by now you will be getting used to the way in which the stories and events are being ordered. As I mentioned in the January editions during 2023 we will be building on the work done in 2022 using the framework offered by the 5 Threads of Mission shown below. So as you continue to read through this and future issues of the Briefing you will pick up on some of the logos and images that have been developed. These 5 Threads of Mission: 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.





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!

URC Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration and Open Church House event now on Saturday 15th April 2023

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. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order. However, if you are no longer able to attend, again visit <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](#)



The brand new Education and Learning Committee bi-monthly newsletter has just been sent out to those on existing mailing lists. If you want to have a look, please follow this link [E&L News Feb 23](#)

urc-news.org.uk and if you want you can sign up to receive it regularly. This issue has a few Yorkshire links, so well worth a visit just for that!!

Loving



Warm Welcomes in Yorkshire



Bingley

Bingley's Bi-Monthly Coffee Mornings continue this month, with their door being opened on Saturday 11th February with their coffee morning being for the work of Water Aid.

For those that know me, this is a charity which is close to my heart, as it was to my late father, Ronald Crossley, latterly an Elder at St Andrew's Skipton. As a Civil Engineer specialising in water supply he knew how important the provision of clean, wholesome, water is, both to us in the developed world and to those whose infrastructure is less advanced. Even if you can't get to Bingley on 11th February, please look favourably on [Donate to WaterAid UK today - the UK's dedicated water charity](#)

 Bingley United Reformed Church More than 200 years on Dryden St	COFFEE MORNING
	<p>Bring & Buy, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Cake Stall etc</p> <p>in aid of</p> <div>WaterAid</div> <p>to be held at</p> <p>Bingley United Reformed Church Main Street (behind Lady Max) BD16 2LU</p> <p>Sat 11th February '23 10am – 12 noon</p> <p>No entrance charge donations welcome</p> <p><small>Charity No 288701</small></p>

If your church is planning Winter Warmer Hubs or something similar, please let us know at Synod office. We really want to show that the Yorkshire welcome is a warm, Christ filled welcome.

Contact is at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Energy Efficiency and Places of Worship

Recently we have been receiving a few enquiries from churches asking about how they can reduce their utility bills or how to be more energy efficient. Sadly there is no quick answer, but this useful page on the Historic England website may hold a few pointers. On the [Energy Efficiency and Places of Worship | Historic England](#) site, advice is given on saving energy, reducing heat loss and reducing energy used for heating as well as other hints and tips about maximising what you already have. The office also has a "Save energy, reduce your carbon footprint & keep warm this winter" checklist that is another useful tool to help make your buildings warmer places.



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.

Building



Racial Justice Sunday

Sunday 12th February 2023 is Racial Justice Sunday and Zaidie Orr, the Synod's Racial Justice Advocate is encouraging all churches to take some time to mark this specific Sunday.

For 2023 the focus will be remembering Stephen Lawrence

The 22nd April 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the racist killing of Black teenager, Stephen Lawrence, in Eltham, southeast London. In many respects, Racial Justice Sunday is one of the many legacies of Stephen Lawrence's life. As such, in marking Racial Justice Sunday, churches are remembering a young man who in life aspired to be an architect, but whose legacy has seen him become an architect for justice, equality, dignity and unity.

The Racial Justice Sunday Resources are produced by CTBI's sponsoring churches. They will provide readers with opportunities to pray and take action on racial justice-related matters, not only on that Sunday but throughout the year. The link for further information and resources is below.

[Racial Justice Sunday 2023 – Stephen Lawrence \(ctbi.org.uk\)](https://ctbi.org.uk)

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.

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.



ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Eco Church Training



Wednesday 15th February 7pm

Organized by the United Reformed church Northwestern Synod. Open to all.

On zoom

Meeting ID: 886
8206 2324
Passcode: 872016

For churches moving forward with Eco Church

Moving from bronze-silver or silver-gold.
What is the best way forward for your church and our planet?
Please email us to let us know you are coming.



liz.delafield@nwsynod.org.uk
daleen.tencate@nwsynod.org.uk



07740 112 628



<https://nwsynod.org.uk>

Sharing



GEAR's next 'Refreshing Your Ministry' event on Zoom is on Wednesday 8 February, 2-3.30pm:

Refreshing Your Prayer Life

Jesus is the source of living water

led by Rev. Mary Irish



Prayer is fundamental to our calling. Come and encourage others and most importantly be refreshed yourself in new explorations of prayer.

Mary is a URC minister, an ex-hospital chaplain, an active spiritual director and has been part of GEAR for 40 years.

RYM Zoom events are open to all serving and retired Ministers and CRCWs, local leaders, lay preachers and elders. To book your free place, please email Richard Bradley: Richard.Bradley@nwsynod.org.uk



**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



News from the URC's Head of Communications, Andy Jackson, who tells us that subscriptions to *Reform* have been taken back into Church House. A new website to manage subscriptions has been set up, and with it a phone number and e-mail address:

1. **Phone: 020 7520 2721** (office hours only)
2. **Email: reformsubs@urc.org.uk**
3. **www.reformsubs.co.uk**
4. **Cheques and correspondence: Reform, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT**

Because of Covid, copies were sent direct to subscribers who got their magazine via their church distributor. We're carrying this on but will start to revert back to bulk mailings this year.

Prayer Handbooks, new Elder lapel logo pins and the 50 Hymns for 50 Years book, along with the other jubilee books, Golden Threads, Traditions and Transitions and Steve Tomkins' That They All May Be One are all available via [The United Reformed Church Bookshop](http://TheUnitedReformedChurchBookshop) - books, resources, gifts and more (urcshop.co.uk)



Partnering



'No. 84', Redcar, Cleveland

Is New Monasticism catching your attention? Does being part of a small innovative residential missional community appeal?

Does taking time out to think and pray through new possibilities, or taking a gap year feel timely?
Are you excited by new ways of being and doing Church?

From Spring 2023 onwards for those aged 18 and over, Redcar has a rare opportunity in the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church to become part of a household of three living within a simple Rule of praying, eating, studying and serving together while accompanying Redcar United Reformed Church & Redcar Baptist Church in missional presence in Redcar.

If needed, a modest maintenance allowance is available.
You are invited to register your interest by Friday March 31st 2023.

Information Packs available from
Lisa McAvoy, Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, 4 College Lane,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8JJ. Tel 0191 232 1168
lisa.mcavoy@urc-northernsynod.org

The United Reformed Church Waldensian Fellowship

The URC Waldensian Fellowship is planning a visit to the Waldensian Church in Italy, to take place in the period from 4th to 18th May, 2023.

The visit will be based in comfortable and well situated Church Centres in two areas of Italy. The programme for the visit is as follows:

Firstly a week in the historic Waldensian Valleys in the Cottian Alps, west of Turin, visiting historic sites set in dramatic alpine scenery.

Then a four days at a Waldensian Centre on the Ligurian coast, a few miles from the French border, where we will see something of the Waldensian Church's witness in wider Italian society.

We would be delighted if you were interested in joining us for the entire visit, or for one or other of the two parts.

Total cost of the visit (excluding travel to and from Italy) will be around £750.

Part One of the visit on its own would cost £400 and Part Two would cost £350.

For more information please contact Revd. John Bremner on ecumenical@urcscotland.org.uk

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Officer,
United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland
3/2 Atlantic Chambers, 45, Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6AE
Tel: 0141 248 5382

Inviting



YOU'RE WELCOME COURSES

The Education and Learning part of the URC is again running its "You're Welcome" courses again. This year there are two versions of the course, which brings in elements of courses that have run in the past, in particular "Ethos and History" and "What is the URC?".

1) The Zoom sessions which take place from **Friday 9 – Saturday 10 June 2023**. These sessions are for accepted candidates entering EM1, and are in fact mandatory for them. Over the last 2 years, however, we have extended the invitation to new Church House and Synod admin staff, and also Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers.

2) The residential course at Westminster College, Cambridge, which runs from lunch on **Monday 2 October through to mid-morning on Wednesday 4 October 2023**. This course has always been for ordained ministers of other denominations working in Local Ecumenical Partnerships and also for those on Certificates of Eligibility. In recent years we have also invited Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers, AALP trainees and new Synod field staff eg Training Officers and CYDOs. The sessions are led by staff and resource persons from the URC and Westminster College. Please note there is a **fee** for this course (£150 last year and the year before) and this fee, plus the delegates' travel expenses, should be covered by their URC synod.

Both versions of the course include sessions on the history of the URC, what it means to be part of the URC and its mission today, and how to be intergenerational and intercultural.

For more details and further information please contact Philippa Linton, the Administrator to Education and Learning at philippa.linton@urc.org.uk.



YOUNG ADULTS COFFEE

FREE COFFEE @ 10:30AM!

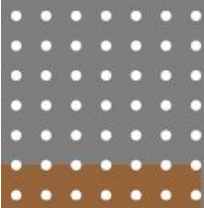
25 FEBRUARY - SHEFFIELD

11 MARCH - HOLME URC (AT SYNOD MEETING)

22 APRIL - LEEDS

20 MAY - YORK

15 JULY - HUDDERSFIELD



Join 'Wilderness Young Adults' on
Facebook for more info!

Or email

wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk



United
Reformed
Church
Yorkshire



MILTON MOUNT FOUNDATION

Secondary Education

The Milton Mount Foundation offers bursaries to assist with the cost of secondary school fees to the children of Congregational and URC ministers, and also to the daughters of members of these churches. Subject to the availability of sufficient funds, it may also be possible to provide grants to assist with the cost of school uniform and educational trips for ministers' children at both state and fee-paying schools.

Higher Education

Bursaries are offered to daughters of Congregational and URC ministers **starting their first undergraduate degree** in autumn 2023. Bursaries are also offered to those beginning a **first postgraduate degree**, for up to three years. Subject to sufficient funds being available, similar grants may also be available for sons of ministers.

For further information and application forms, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Rosie Hopkins, at miltonmountfoundation@gmail.com or on **01252 715087**.

The closing date for all applications for the 2023-24 academic year is **10 May 2023**.

URC retreat
FOR CHILDREN, FAMILY
AND YOUTH WORKERS



Tuesday 23rd May from 10am-2pm

Potteric Carr Nature Reserve, Mallard Way,
Doncaster, DN4 8DB

Time to be, reflect and
share together

Contact Hannah Dey to book on
hannah.dey@thriveleeds.org.uk

Yorkshire Synod - Elders' Conference

Saturday 22nd April 2023 10:00am-3:00pm

Bilton Grange United Reformed Church,
Harrogate, HG1 4LN (and online option)



Elders' Conference - 'Resilience'

*Do you sometimes wonder how to cope with yet more change, new ideas, new technology and a changing social context. Our Annual Elders Conference to be held on 22nd April 2022 at Bilton Grange will give us all some time to think about some techniques which might help. Our subject is **Resilience** – with the dictionary definition 'an ability to recover quickly from or adjust easily to, misfortune, change or disturbance': this will be an interactive, flexible and fun day conference exploring the importance of resilience in church leadership. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with others from churches across Yorkshire, learn about the science of resilience, and practice activities that help develop resilient individuals and communities.*

The conference will be led by Rev. Dr. Adam Scott, Principal of Northern College and has experience of Pastorate and Chaplaincy Ministries along with extensive experience in the field of Psychology.

We aim to run this as a hybrid event with in-person and virtual access.

To book your place please contact Val Morrison –

valmorrison7@btinternet.com - 01302 530109



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/>

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

THE UNIVERSITIES' CHAPLAINCY IN LEEDS TRUST – CHAIR

An experienced and committed Chair is sought for The Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust which serves four large, dynamic and differing institutions:

The University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Arts University and The University of Law, Leeds.

The Chaplaincy Trust has responsibility for oversight, management, encouragement and support of an ecumenical chaplaincy team of 12 full and part-time chaplains representing eight Christian denominations.

As Chair, you would provide active leadership of the Trust and be the main point of contact with denominational leaders and the senior management of the universities. You would have a commitment to Ecumenical Christian Chaplaincy and an understanding of its place in Higher Education. The commitment is likely to be around 30 voluntary (part) days per annum.

For more details please email:

The Rt Rev'd Tony Robinson,
bishop.tony@leeds.anglican.org

Closing Date for applications:

28th February 2023

THE UNIVERSITIES' CHAPLAINCY IN LEEDS TRUST -

PART-TIME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CHAPLAIN

The Universities' Chaplaincy in Leeds Trust seeks to appoint a chaplain to join the ecumenical team of chaplains. The chaplain to be appointed will contribute to the general ministry of the chaplaincy team, but in particular will serve international students and co-ordinate chaplaincy services provided for those students.

The role is a remunerated part time post of 10 hours per week.

For further information see attached Job Description and Person Specification.

Application forms should be sent electronically to the Chaplaincy Service Manager at chaplaincy@leeds.ac.uk by 9am on Tuesday 28th February 2023

This post is subject to a "Genuine Occupational Requirement" under the Employment Equality Regulations (2003).

More information and full Job description can be found here:

<https://unichaplaincy.org.uk/vacancies/>

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 at andy.jackson@urc.org.uk

Early Lent Gifts

I know that you will all have been extremely organised and well ahead of the game. However, if there was someone who 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)

We also have copies of *That They May All Be One, The story of the United Reformed Church*, *Golden Threads* and *Traditions and Transitions*; three books published to celebrate last year's jubilee. All are available by post from the Synod Office. Alternatively, if you live near enough to the synod office, you could always collect your order, let us know and we'll make sure Somerset House is open for you.

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. Please send the Briefing around your own church mailing lists as these events are for everyone, and 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 23rd February. All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk