



Yorkshire Synod

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



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing Number 105



6th April 2023

A HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL

It is quite a difficult thing to write a little introduction to this Briefing during Holy Week. What do I say that hasn't been said before? How do I make this small introduction to the activities and events coming up in the next few weeks and months fit in with this most important week of the Christian Calendar? What few lines of text can I bring to inspire you all to look at the Synod's 5 Threads of Mission initiative when the example of Jesus Christ's love for us, sacrifice for us and redemption of us is so visibly clear this week? Hopefully the events highlighted here can do just that.

As I mentioned in the last issue of The Briefing, this time of the year brings new life, new growth and new energy and there are many things happening in our Synod which offers just these things. One such place is in Darnall, where the continued work of the St Albans House Christian Community there, which is partially funded by the Synod Mission Fund, is building bridges, is partnering with the community, is sharing with those less fortunate, is inviting in all who pass their way and most importantly is offering love and peace to those who really need it. Please pray for them as their work continues over the next few years.

Finally, please let me have details of what **YOUR** church did over the Easter Weekend. I hope to be able to bring you a feel of how the URC's 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration on 15th April went and I hope to be able to bring you stories of how other churches joined in that celebration. The next Briefing goes out on **Thursday 20th April** so help me get your message out there, either via the Briefing or on the website at [Latest News - URC Yorkshire Synod](https://www.urchyorkshire.org.uk/latest-news) All you need to do is get in touch with me at clerk@urchyorkshire.org.uk.



Tim Crossley

Building



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 2023 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

Email: valmorrison7@btinternet.com Tel: 01302 530109



Lay Training news

Lay preachers and Worship Leaders Weekend

‘Preaching Trauma and Resilience – Bible and World’
at the Wydale Conference Centre, Brompton by Sawdon near Scarborough
<https://www.wydale.org>

We are pleased to say that registration for our second **Lay preachers and Worship Leaders weekend at Wydale Conference Centre** is **NOW OPEN**. This will be **7th – 9th July 2023** (Friday teatime to Sunday lunch).

We are excited that Dr Megan Warner, Old Testament lecturer from Northern College, will be our main speaker at the conference, and that once again we will be joined by our Moderator, Rev Jamie Kissack.

This weekend will again be paid for by grants successfully applied for, so you will only need to cover your travel costs. **There are 30 places available** and you are now invited to register with the office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or 0113 289 8490.

Yours in Christ’s service

Kath Lonsdale, Anne Dale, Jill Fletcher, Rod Morrison,
Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Planning Group

For any queries, please contact Kath at kathlonsdale@talktalk.net 01274 315203 07759525936



Education & Learning
Keeping you posted



The second edition of the Education and Learning Newsletter has just been distributed and it follows on from the success of their first Newsletter issued last month. This issue focuses on all things Education and Learning and in it are a number of links to follow for more information including Church Leadership Programme, Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher courses, Exploring Eldership, Stepwise and training offered by Northern and Westminster Colleges.



Also on offer are the Exploring Easter Resources offered by the Stepwise Faith-Filled Community group in North Western Synod. To find out more contact Daleen Ten Cate, Missional Discipleship Mentor for North Western Synod, at: Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk

Please have a look at it here [E&L News April 23 \(urc-news.org.uk\)](https://urc-news.org.uk) and share this as you are able. Education & Learning we would love to hear from you with any comments, questions, or contributions on learninghub@urc.org.uk and this is the e-mail through which you can sign up to receive it regularly.

Help!
They've
asked me
to take
Funerals

A Training Day for Elders
at Ravensthorpe with Hopton URC,
Dewsbury, WF13 3AG
10am-12.30pm, Saturday 3rd June 2023

A Theology of Funerals; Sharing Experiences;
Practicalities; Resources

With Jason McCullagh and Val Morrison

Please bring your own lunch.
To book a place please contact Val Morrison: valmorrison7@btinternet.com

Funeral Training

Increasingly Elders are being asked to conduct funerals and we have been asked to repeat the session we ran a little while ago to help them in that task.

The session will be led by Rev Jason McCullagh and Mrs Val Morrison and will be informal, sharing experiences together with some input from our own experience.

Details are included on the attached flier. To book please contact Val at valmorrison7@btinternet.com

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.

Safeguarding news

Our Safeguarding team are urging all who are in positions of trust within all our churches to enrol onto one of the Safeguarding courses that the Synod is offering. The two key courses are the **Foundation Course** which is accessed online and the **Intermediate Course** which can be offered both online video course, or if there are sufficient numbers, in person.

Safeguarding Intermediate Training

25th April 2023 – 6.45pm to 9.15pm – in person training at Herringthorpe URC, Wickersley Road, Rotherham, S60 4JN. Places are limited on this course so please book early.

4th May 2023 – 10am-12.30pm via zoom

16th May 2023 – 1pm-3.30pm via zoom

If you would like to book a place on any of the above courses please do so soon as the spaces are running out quickly. Also if you need more information on these and other courses, or for other related Safeguarding matters, please contact Paula Kitson, our Safeguarding Support Officer at safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk

Loving



Dear Friends

This past month has seen a number of events we've seen life breaking through in difficult circumstances. As we marked the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, we've been reminded that thousands of people have opened up their homes to people displaced by the conflict. As the government introduced new legislation unjustly punishing refugees, over 1000 church leaders from the UK demonstrated their opposition in a joint statement. As new life breaks through in spring flowers and trees beginning to bud, we are called to remember to look for signs of hope, even in challenging times.

This month's newsletter [Joint Public Issues Newsletter \(jointpublicissues-news.org.uk\)](https://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk) shares some signs of hope, as well as inviting you to gather with us to learn new skills to challenge injustice, share your successes and hear how others are working for change.

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.

Sharing



Gift Aid claims on digital donations

Churches and chapels that have installed card-readers to take casual donations by visitors should note the following: HMRC has issued new [guidance](#) which states: "Donations made using digital platforms, credit card or debit card may incur an administration fee which reduces the actual amount received by the charity. Subject to the normal qualifying conditions, *the gross donation paid is eligible for Gift Aid*, regardless of any processing fees incurred by the charity. The charity may treat these administrative fees as charitable expenditure. Where the charity is unable to demonstrate a clear audit trail of administration fees incurred Gift Aid should only be claimed on the net donation received" [our emphasis].

This might be an opportunity to claim more Gift Aid.

Partnering



ATTERCLIFFE & DARNALL CENTRE OF MISSION St Albans House Christian Community.

Our Prayer for 2023

To be able to Grow in number our Christian community, to create deeper connections with people and transform Attercliffe and Darnall

Bible verse Isaiah 61 1-4

One of the projects the Synod Mission Fund supports is the Attercliffe and Darnall Centre of Mission, in partnership with the Church Army (Anglican) and the Methodist Church partially based at The Church of Christ in

Darnall. The leads for this project, Kinder and Gina Kalsi, are doing a wonderful job, reaching out to those in need in that part of south-east Sheffield. Yorkshire Synod's commitment has enabled the project to extend until August 2025 with the outreach ranging from engaging with schools, community organisations, inter-faith groups as well as reaching out to those who are unchurched.

Here are a few snippets from the latest newsletter:

Create Afterschool Church - for some time, we have been considering how we might offer something after school for children. This was galvanised by a conversation with a head teacher, who explained how some of their young people wanted something to do early evening. Then a couple of parents expressed frustration at the lack of opportunities for primary school aged children to get together outside school. So when a local church member suggested something similar, it seemed that the timing and opportunity were right.



And so, to test the idea, at Christmas, we organised Create Christmas - an afterschool space with craft, worship and a meal for families. And what fun we had! We had around 10 families and the event was certainly intergenerational - with ages from 1 to 80 something!



Thanks to a couple of wonderful volunteers and the involvement of the families, we made toilet roll nativity scenes, Christmas angels (with plenty of glitter!) and stained glass window decorations. We heard the Christmas story, prayed and then ate together. When asked if we should do it more regularly, the response was unanimous - yes!

And so, since January, Create Afterschool Church has been meeting weekly.

We alternate activities, so that it isn't too onerous on the very small team. So we have weeks of craft activity, games, building - including lego and cooking. We have learnt about Jesus getting lost, being baptised and thought about being good neighbours like the good Samaritan. The families that come have invited others to come along too, and we can't wait to see how God will bless the lives of all of us that are part of it.

Please pray for...

- With all the plans and activities, we would love to have others join us, to develop community here. Please pray for people who could join our core group, who have a heart for the people in the area.
- The continuing development of Create Afterschool Church and how we engage the different age groups who come along.
- That we engage with new people over Easter, and have opportunity to share the love of God with people
- Our 3 year Review in April
- The continuation of people working together in Unity to increase aspiration of the area.

If you want to showcase your mission, please get in touch with me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Inviting



General Assembly 2023

General Assembly, the full meeting of the United Reformed Church, has gone back to annual gatherings (from an earlier pattern of meeting every 2 years). This year, General Assembly will take place between 30th June and 3rd July, at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Each Synod is able to send 16 representatives, comprising ministers, lay people and 2 'under-25s'. We are particularly looking for any lay people who would like to be involved in General Assembly – an opportunity to be involved in discussions about the current and future work of the church, and to listen to varied speakers and conversations. If you are interested in learning more about General



Assembly, you can look at the links on the URC website here [General Assembly, Assembly Executive & Assembly committees - United Reformed Church](#). If you would be interested in attending this year, could you please contact the Synod Clerk at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk. Some of the places have been allocated and their names were brought to the March 2023 Synod for approval. However not all the places are taken so please get in touch for either this year or for subsequent General Assembly meetings in the years to come.

YOU'RE WELCOME COURSES

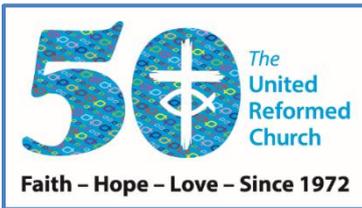
The Education and Learning part of the URC is again running its "You're Welcome" courses again. This year there are two versions of the course, which brings in elements of courses that have run in the past, in particular "Ethos and History" and "What is the URC?"

- 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 e.g. 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.

URC Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration and Open Church House event



I hope that you will all know that the URC has announced that the new date for its Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration is **Saturday 15 April 2023**. This is only a week and a half away, but I hear that tickets for the service and for the Open Day at Church house are still available. 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 or if you would like to come along, 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.



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](#)



Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving



Live Streaming

from Methodist Central Hall, Westminster at
**Christ Church,
Hipperholme crossroads, HX3 8AA**

Saturday
15th April 2023
2.30pm

All Welcome

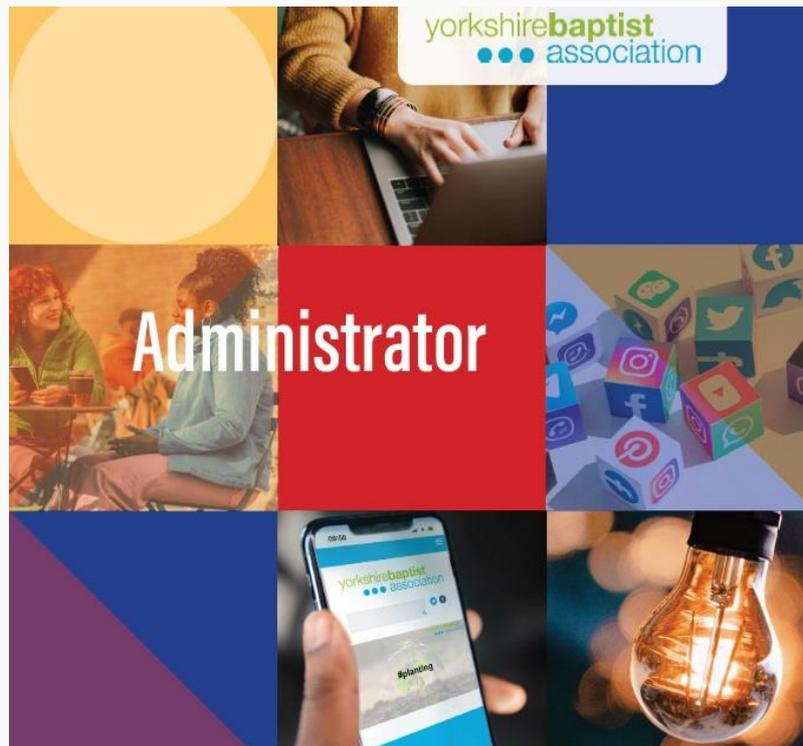
I have also heard that the service will be live streamed on the Saturday afternoon. Not only can you tune into the URC website, you can watch in fellowship with others.

I hope that more churches will follow Christ Church Hipperholme & Lightcliffe's lead by streaming it live for those who cannot make the trip to London.



#planting #revitalising #reimagining

We're recruiting a new Administrator



THE YBA is looking to appoint a part-time Administrator to our Admin Team based in Leeds city centre. This role has arisen as a result of the upcoming retirement of the current post holder. With excellent administrative and organisational skills, the successful candidate will be highly organised and have a strong track record of multi-tasking. As a member of a team of three, good communication, collaboration and flexibility are essential as together we support our Regional Team and member churches.

An application form is available upon request from Debbie Gamble by email at debbie.gamble@yba.org.uk

[For full details of the role - click here.](#)

Interested applicants are invited to email Debbie to arrange an informal conversation. The closing date for applications is **Friday, 21st April, 2023.**



YOUNG ADULTS COFFEE

FREE COFFEE @ 10:30AM!

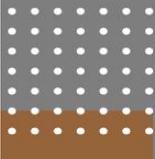
25 FEBRUARY - SHEFFIELD

11 MARCH - HERRINGTHORPE URC (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



Inclusive practice: pastorally supporting LGBTQ+ young people

Free online training session led by Frontier Youth Trust

Weds 26 April 2023

7:00pm -8:30pm

Discussion topics will include:

- **Creating LGBTQ+ inclusive environments**
- **Inclusive language and use of pronouns**
- **Pastorally supporting LGBTQ+ young people**

Register at

www.bit.ly/inclusive-practice2023



**SOUTHERN
SYNOD**
Children & Youth Work

Dan Holmes In Concert

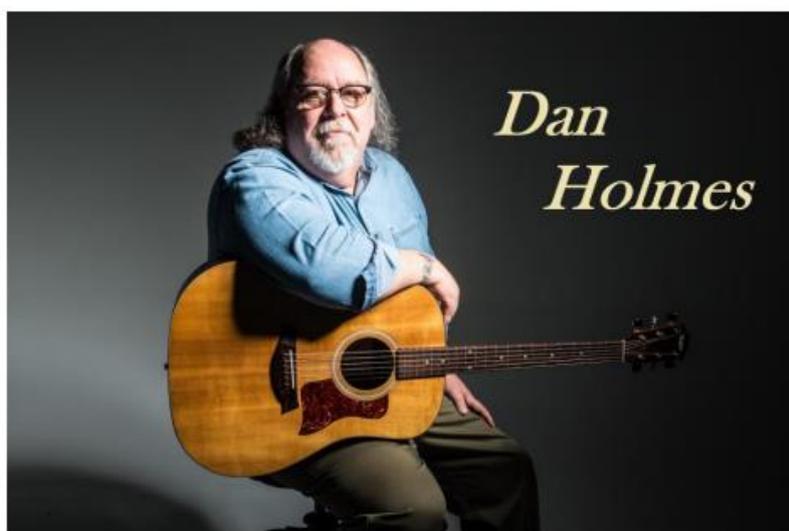
Portholme Church

Friday 28 April 2023 at 7:00pm

Dan lives in Illinois, USA and we are delighted to be a stopping point on his 4th UK Tour. He is a Christian singer/songwriter who creates his own inspiring music about God's presence in the world today. Dan last visited Portholme Church in 2018 – join us for another evening of songs, stories and joyful music.

Please join us for this FREE concert

Email tickets@portholmechurch.org.uk



Visit his [website \(danholmesmusic.com\)](http://danholmesmusic.com) or his Facebook page "Dan Holmes Music".

Dan's music will touch you, inspire you and move you!

*Tickets: Free, but we will welcome donations on the evening for our 2023 Mission Project
– Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone*

See [Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital, Sierra Leone](#) for more information
Light Refreshments after the performance

Tickets available by email from tickets@portholmechurch.org.uk

Portholme Church Portholme Road Selby North Yorkshire YO8 4QH
www.portholmechurch.org.uk

Dan will also be performing at Knaresborough URC on 29th April and will be taking part in the service at Bilton Grange on the morning of 30th April. For more information visit <https://www.knaresboroughurc.org/> and [Bilton Grange Urc | Facebook](#)

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

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](#).