



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



**Yorkshire Synod**  
**Briefing**  
**Number 106**



**20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**SYNOD FORUM – At a Church near you**

Although this has been the place where the Synod Clerk traditionally had pointed his readers to various events and resources that are available, this time I am giving space to our Moderator, Rev Jamie Kissack. The reason is simple – Synod Forum is here.

*'In these challenging times it is more important than ever to support each other, and to do so with the bible at the heart of our conversation.*

*Only a few of us have opportunity to gather in our twice-yearly Synod meetings so we are creating a new opportunity to meet for fellowship and good conversation between the churches of the Synod. We are calling it 'Synod Forum'. We have chosen four dates and venues to make the conversation as accessible as possible. You are free to chose the date and venue that is best for you, listed on the next page and all will run from 10.30am – 2.30pm.*

*The conversation will be based around Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It will be mostly in small group discussions so you get chance to share with people from other churches. We hope that this will also be a chance for those with Synod roles to hear from the local church about your opportunities and challenges so that together we can find the best ways to support and encourage each other. The Synod Forum is your place to have your voice heard, and to help shape the priorities of the Synod.'*

Finally, please let me have details of what **YOUR** church did or is planning to do over the next two Bank Holiday weekends – especially as one will involve a Coronation.

The next Briefing goes out on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May** so please help me get your message out there, either via the Briefing or on the website at [Latest News - URC Yorkshire Synod](https://www.urchurch.org.uk/latest-news-urc-yorkshire-synod) All you need to do is get in touch with me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

*Tim Crossley*





10.30am – 2.30pm

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023

At Hornsea United Reformed Church, HU18 1PG

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023

At Herringthorpe United Reformed Church, Rotherham, S60 4JN

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

At Headingley St. Columba United Reformed Church, Leeds, LS6 2DH

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023

At Westfield United Reformed Church, Wyke, BD12 9DB

*All members and friends of the Yorkshire Synod churches are invited to join us in **bible study and conversation** about the life and mission of the local church, based around **1 Corinthians**. Come on the date and to the venue that is most convenient for you.*

Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee, tea and cakes or pastries provided





## Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration 15th April, 2023



I hope that you will all know that the United Reformed Church held its Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration on **Saturday 15 April 2023** at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. It was a wonderful experience with the service

celebrating all that the United Reformed Church is about. Around 1200 people attended and as well as enjoying the fellowship they were able to enjoy the diversity which is part and parcel of URC life. The service was led by the Revd John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, and the Moderator and Moderator-Elect of the URC General Assembly, the Revds Fiona Bennett and Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson and it reflected the denomination's past, present and future, as well as its place in the world Church.

Former General Secretary the Revd Dr David Cornick, URC and Council for World Mission (CWM) scholar Victoria Turner, and the Revd Professor Jooseop Keum, CWM's General Secretary, each delivered a sermon, and a specially formed Jubilee Choir sang 'Always trust the star that guides us on the way', Neil Thorogood's winning poem in the 50th Anniversary Worship



Resources Competition, in a setting by Scott Stroman. Other music in the service also included Colin

Thompson's competition-winning hymn, 'God of the Pilgrim Way'. The climax of the service was the uplifting celebration of Holy Communion using special glasses donated by our partner church in Germany, the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz. It can be viewed at [Service of Thanksgiving - United Reformed Church](#) and the order of service can be downloaded here [Order-of-service-2023-web.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#).



For those with eagle eyes watching the video may well spot a certain Yorkshire Synod Clerk with his long suffering daughter in the gathered congregation and he tells me that it was an extremely fulfilling experience to be there (and much louder than the YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/34bymAfzws0> implies).

Some of the pictures he took were rather shaky, but at least one of the Yorkshire contingent was having a good time whilst behind the scenes it was thirsty work for those who were part of the team that put this incredible day together.



# 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:valmorrison7@btinternet.com) Tel: 01302 530109**





## 18-25 Project

Friends, you might remember me, but let me reintroduce myself. I'm Samantha Sheehan and I am a Special Category Minister tasked with exploring how congregations can engage with 18-25 year olds and Young Adults. I live in Leeds and spend part of my time with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy team serving four of the Universities in Leeds. I also work with Megan in supporting the Young Adults (18-25ish year olds) in Synod (know of any, we would love to meet them at our monthly coffee meet up's) and the rest of my time is spent exploring how as church we can minister to and engage with young adults and hopefully talk with you lovely people sharing stories and working together to see what all this might mean for you!



Back in Oct 2020, I offered a presentation at Synod Together, as an introduction to the project and to start the conversation.

Well friends, the good news is I am still here, still happy to share in that conversation, to come and meet you where you are, listen to your stories, and help to explore how you might be able to reach out and engage with young adults in your area.

A good place to start, to help take stock, is to have a look at the [20-40 Task Group Report \(pg 22-32\)](#) which was presented at General Assembly in 2018. There are a number of questions in the appendix to help.

You can get in touch with me at [rev.s.sheehan@gmail.com](mailto:rev.s.sheehan@gmail.com) or phone 07484 791 049, always leave a message and I will get back to you.



The latest issue of the JPIT Newsletter is now out. Click here to read it [Joint Public Issues Newsletter \(jointpublicissues-news.org.uk\)](http://jointpublicissues-news.org.uk) and follow the link to subscribe to it as well.

# 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 **7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net) 01274 315203 07759525936

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:learninghub@urc.org.uk) and this is the e-mail through which you can sign up to receive it regularly.

# Safeguarding news

## National Safeguarding Training 2023



Refugee and Asylum Seekers  
May 30th 7pm-9pm

Substance Abuse and the impact on  
Safeguarding  
June 26th 7pm-8.30pm

Suicide Awareness  
September 11th 2pm-3.30pm

Domestic Abuse  
September 19th 1.30pm-3.30pm

Modern Day Slavery  
September 25 7pm-9pm

Safeguarding for Ministers Supporting Survivors  
October 9th 2pm - 4pm

Adult Safeguarding  
November 21st 7pm - 9pm

**All training will take place via zoom.  
Bookings can be made by emailing  
[Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)**

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 Denomination and the Synod are offering. The national courses are being run through [emma.pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:emma.pearce@urc.org.uk) and seven have already been scheduled and are listed in the advert on the previous page.

The two key Synod 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

**25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 10am-12.30pm via zoom**

**16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:safeguardingsupport@urcyorkshirenorthern.org.uk)

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## 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](mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net). Remember this is for any age to apply so please discuss with your young people as well as adults.

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**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



## Saltaire Celebrates World Heritage Day



With the village of Saltaire, Saltaire United Reformed Church is celebrating World Heritage Day on Saturday 22 April 2023. Most of the activities are being held in Roberts Park and throughout the village from 10am to 10pm and this family event will include guided walks, Heritage stalls, rides, live music and entertainment at the bandstand. The event will end with a spectacular lantern parade.

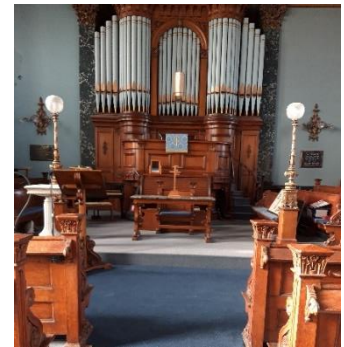
Saltaire URC will be opening its doors to visitors on both Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 1pm to 4pm.

Here is an opportunity to visit the church there to marvel at the skill of the craftsmen who have recently completed repair of the part of the ceiling which collapsed in February 2020.

In the church you will be able to browse through their albums containing photographs of events over many years, including the ever popular weddings album. You will also find information about the history of the church and be able to see some of their archived memorabilia.

There will also be opportunity to listen to the organ being played at various intervals during the afternoons.

Saltaire URC looks forward to welcoming you to this Grade 1 Listed church. Yes, there is still major work to be done, but we still think it's worth a visit!



# Inviting



## General Assembly 2023



The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church 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 and lay people including 2 'under-25s'. We are particularly looking for any lay people who would like to be involved this year as it affords 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](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

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# 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?"

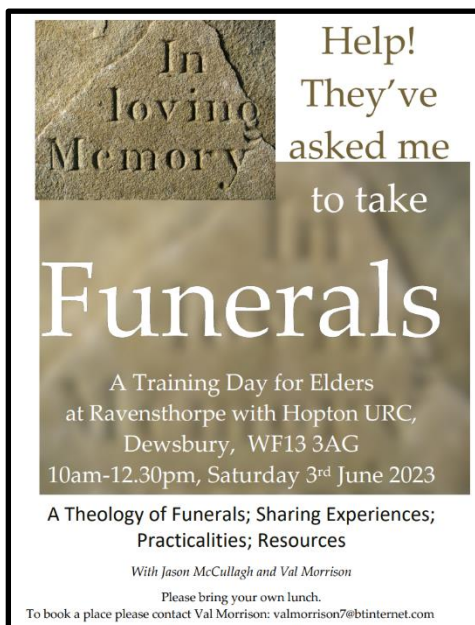
1) The Zoom sessions which take place from **Friday 9 – Saturday 10 June 2023**. These sessions are for accepted candidates entering EM1, and are in fact mandatory for them. Over the last 2 years, however, we have extended the invitation to new Church House and Synod admin staff, and also Assembly Accredited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

## Loving



**In Loving Memory**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:valmorrison7@btinternet.com)

Hot off the press is this month's [URC News Update April 2023 \(urc-news.org.uk\)](http://urc-news.org.uk) Click on it to get the latest news from around the denomination.



**#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](mailto: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!**

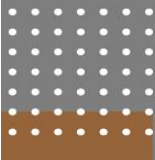
25 FEBRUARY - SHEFFIELD

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](mailto: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](http://www.bit.ly/inclusive-practice2023)**



**SOUTHERN  
SYNOD**  
Children & Youth Work

# Dan Holmes In Concert

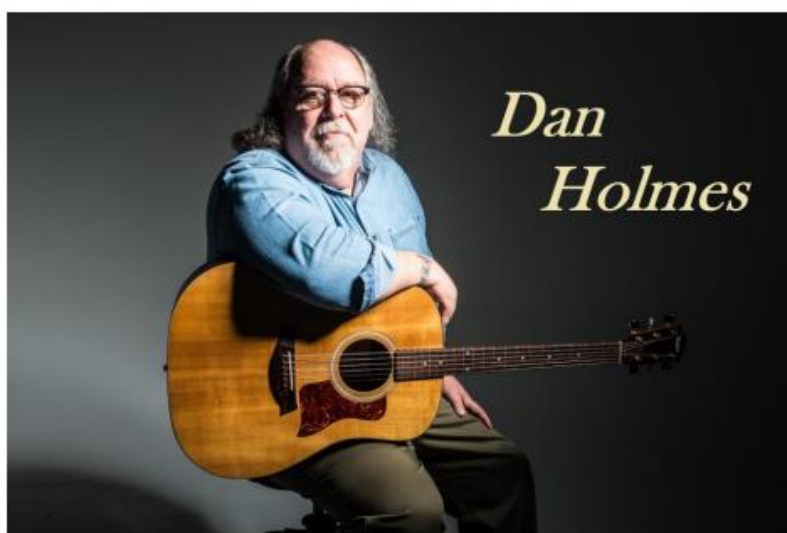
**Portholme Church**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:tickets@portholmechurch.org.uk)*

Portholme Church Portholme Road Selby North Yorkshire YO8 4QH  
[www.portholmechurch.org.uk](http://www.portholmechurch.org.uk)

Dan will also be performing at Knaresborough URC on 29<sup>th</sup> April and will be taking part in the service at Bilton Grange on the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](#).