



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Yorkshire Synod

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



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



## Yorkshire Synod

### Briefing

### Number 107



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
Yorkshire

4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

# CORONATION SPECIAL

As you will all know, King Charles III will be crowned on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Some churches are celebrating in style, others are being the focal point for their local community activities, whilst others will be looking at the spiritual nature of this ceremony. Many of us will be reflecting on what crowning involves, what its significance is and how it relates to us as (in the main) citizens of the United Kingdom and perhaps, more importantly, to us as Christians.

For me, when I hear the word coronation, wierdly my mind heads down a cobbled street to the Kabin, with the sound of a lone trumpet playing a melancholy tune, as I look for a chicken meat dish made from an Indian inspired creamy curry sauce, or, as it should be, my mind is drawn to these words of Matthew Bridges:

**1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.**

**Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.**

**2 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;**

**his glories now we sing  
who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.**

**3 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,**

**in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky**

**can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.**

**4 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.**

Please let me have details of what **YOUR** church did to celebrate and hopefully in the **18<sup>th</sup> May** edition I can show how we in Yorkshire Synod marked this special day in the life of our country. All you need to do is drop me a line at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

*Tim Crossley*

# Inviting



## Coronation Events

**Beverley Toll Gavel United Church** are organising a Coronation Fun Day from 10am- 4pm on Monday 8th May. They will be serving cakes and biscuits with drinks during that time. They also have a soft play in the church - and the uniformed organisations are providing activities in the drive.

**St Andrew's, Roundhay** have a couple of events on over this coming weekend:

St Andrew's Roundhay

Free Event!

Live coverage of the

### CORONATION

11:00am, Saturday 06 May 2023

We will be showing live coverage of King Charles III Coronation, in the sanctuary

Tea | Coffee | Cakes | Soft Drinks  
Bring a packed lunch if you prefer!

More details of these two events can be found at [St Andrew's Roundhay](http://StAndrewsRoundhay.org).  
[The life of our church congregation](http://TheLifeOfOurChurch.org)  
[\(standrews.cc\)](http://standrews.cc).

St Andrew's Roundhay

You are invited to a

### Coronation Celebration

Sunday 7th May, 12:30 - 16:00

In the Church gardens (inside if the weather is inclement)

BBO (small charge applies) | Beer & Wine Tent (Pay Bar) | Bouncy Castle  
Games | Make a Crown | Face Painting | Music

Shaftesbury Avenue, Leeds, LS8 1DS

### Coronation Tea Party

Herringthorpe United Reformed Church

Saturday 13 May 2-5pm (Tea at 3pm)

Activities for all ages | Dress code: Smart

Tickets £6 (£3 for U12s)

from Margaret Jackson (363734) or Miriam Ramsden (364175)

**Herringthorpe URC** are hosting a Coronation Tea Party on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>, so if you didn't have the opportunity to celebrate it over the main weekend, there's an opportunity with the good folk of Rotherham & district. For more details see [Latest News - Herringthorpe United Reformed Church](#)



# 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).

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## SYNOD FORUM – Coming soon

As you'll see from the next page, the Synod Forums are starting soon. The first one is to take place in sunny Hornsea on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, followed over the summer by Forums in Herringthorpe, Headingley and Wyke.

As explained in the last issue, 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. Everyone is welcome, there's no need to book ahead, all you need to bring is a packed lunch and a thirst for mission.



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

# 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.*



## 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)





## Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development Grant funds 2023

In the last few issues of the Briefing I have highlighted the fact that the Small Grants fund pot for 2023 was open for individuals looking for support towards their training. I'm happy to let you all know that the Large Grant fund pot is now open for churches and groups to apply to to enable them to offer development on a wider scale.

The **Discipleship Development Funds** are intended to contribute to the development of lay people and therefore the purposes for which it can be used are as broad as can be generated by creativity and vocation, in line with the aims of the URC's Discipleship Development Strategy (DDS), which are to equip the people of the United Reformed Church to:

- Create opportunities for everyone to encounter the living God, whether they already identify themselves as followers of Christ or not.
- Encourage everyone in their prayer life and relationship with God to enable them to live as disciples of Jesus.
- Encourage everyone to make the most of education opportunities that are relevant and appropriate for them in their discipleship journey.

The eligible costs would include, without being restricted to:

- National or denominational learning events, conferences or programmes developed in-house;
- Personnel costs;
- Courses (at any level) at any of the United Reformed Church Resource Centres for Learning or other suitable learning providers;
- Books, equipment and resources related to a particular topic or activity;
- Attendance at Synod learning events; and
- Travel costs for attending learning events.

There is a video for you to watch if you want at <https://youtu.be/HQ8ODOW3rA0> and lots more information on the dedicated URC website page at [Discipleship Development Fund - United Reformed Church](#)

As ever though, if anyone wants to discuss any form of Discipleship Development project then look no further than our Convenor of the Synod's Ministeries Committee, Kath Lonsdale. an application before submitting it please contact the Convenor of the Yorkshire Ministries Committee, Kath Lonsdale at [kathlonsdale@talktalk.net](mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net). And remember this is for any age to apply so please discuss with your young people as well as adults.

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# 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.

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## 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, 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

# URC Buildings Forum

*The next URC Buildings Forum webinar, Our Buildings in Community:  
Wednesday 24 May 11.30am - 1pm*

- *meet Roo Stewart, the URC's Programme Officer for Church and Society*
- *hear from a range of local church projects about how they are using their Church buildings to be a presence in the neighbourhood*
- *share your own experiences of setting up and running community-based activities*
- *get inspired and encouraged to start something new!*

For further information and to register your interest please email: [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk) including your name and email address and which church you belong to or are representing, if appropriate.

Please also save the date for the following online conference on **26th September 2023, 8pm - 9.30pm**, focussing on environmental issues for church buildings and working towards Net Zero.

Information about the Forum can be found at: [www.urcbuildingsforum.co.uk](http://www.urcbuildingsforum.co.uk).



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.

## 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 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 next 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**  
**16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 1pm-3.30pm via zoom**

If you would like to book a place on the above course 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)



# 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)**

# Partnering



**Bake for  
Christian Aid**

**You're  
invited!**



**What:** Cake & Coffee Morning

**When:** Saturday 20th May

**Where:** Christ Church, Hipperholme crossroads  
Downstairs Hall (entrance from car park)

**Time:** 10:00am - 11:30am

All welcome, bring a friend.

We're raising funds for Christian Aid to help people in poverty around the world. We'd love you to join us!



**We believe in life  
before death**

**Your gift can change lives! Find out more at  
[caid.org.uk](http://caid.org.uk) or [christianaid.ie](http://christianaid.ie)**

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# KELD RESOURCE CENTRE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOW ROW WITH KELD URC NEW FOR 2023: STUDY DAYS



The Keld Resource Centre will be holding three more study days over the summer.

**Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup>: Finding God through Pilgrimage.** Led by Felicity Barker

**Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>: Us reading Ruth reading Us!** Led by Rev. Peter Poulter

**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>: Rivers of Living Water: Reading John's Gospel in a Thirsty World.** Led by Rev. Jamie Kissack

The programme for each day will be as follows:

10.30: Arrivals and Coffee

13.30: Session Two

11.00: Session One

15.00: Refreshments and Departure

12.30: Lunch

There will be discussion, sharing, space to ponder .....

All participants are invited to bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided. The cost for the day will be £10 per person. To book your place, please contact Revd David Wood

Email address: [david.wood4@btinternet.com](mailto:david.wood4@btinternet.com)

## Loving



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 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Ravensthorpe with Hopton URC 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)

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)

10am—1pm

Saturday  
8th July  
2023

Christ Church  
Pitsmoor Rd  
Sheffield  
S3 9AQ

Free  
Admission

RSVP  
office@utu  
sheffield.org.uk  
or  
0114 2709907



NORTHERN  
COLLEGE



# HOLY ANARCHY IS CLOSE AT HAND!

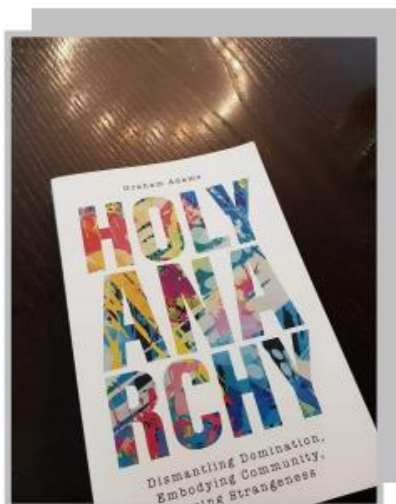


An opportunity to explore:

- Why may the Kingdom of God be like 'holy anarchy'?
- How could this help us to see the world differently—and seek to change it?
- What does this mean for the church, our worship and other things?

*The event will also be livestreamed—  
let us know if you would like the link*

Graham is a Congregational minister and Tutor in Mission at Northern College, part of Luther King Centre for Theology and Ministry.



*"Holy Anarchy is a refreshingly honest and insightful vision for a journey that is compelling, joyous and inclusive, one in which all persons are supported and loved and no one is considered inconsequential or irrelevant to the community of fellow travellers."*

- Prof. Anthony Reddie



## Personal Assistant

**Permanent contract**  
**35 hours per week**  
**Salary: £35,676**

### Are you an experienced PA passionate about communication and organisation?

The role supports the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Finance Officer, co-ordinating their work with various staff teams and that of the main committees of the Church.

You will have a vital role in seeing that they are properly supported in this busy schedule, acting as an administrative anchor, balancing a range of responsibilities confidentially and carefully. You will be part of a diverse team and your reliability as a team player will be key in enabling them to manage this work.

You are a highly organised, experienced PA with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. You have the ability to multi-task and work to tight deadlines, whilst maintaining a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. Being proactive with the ability to work without constant supervision is essential, with having the confidence to work to two managers. Confidentiality, sensitivity, and a thorough understanding of data protection principles are essential. Experience of using IT to manage diaries, projects and events would be a distinct advantage.

We can offer you a flexible and friendly work environment; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home.

**If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):**

**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT**  
**020 7691 9871 [recruitment@urc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@urc.org.uk) [www.unc.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.unc.org.uk/vacancies)**

**Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 22 May 2023 Interview date: Friday 9 June 2023**



## Repairs and Maintenance Surveyor

**London based with UK travel**

**Permanent contract, 35 hours per week**  
**Salary: Circa £60,000**

### Are you a building surveyor with experience of social housing?

The United Reformed Church Retired Ministers Housing Society is a Community Benefit Society providing housing for church ministers in retirement. Our 280 properties are dispersed across England, Scotland, and Wales.

This key appointment will manage repairs and maintenance operations within a small team. You will play a crucial role in the review and efficient delivery of the asset management strategy, assessing properties for their ongoing suitability and specifying repairs and adaptations to meet the needs of elderly tenants. Managing planned maintenance forms an important part of the role, alongside the need to deal promptly and effectively with reactive repairs. You will prepare job specifications and select and manage contractors within budget.

You are educated to degree level or equivalent experience, with at least 3 years post qualification experience in residential maintenance and surveying, ideally within the context of social housing. RICS or CIOB qualification would be an advantage. A good communicator and collaborator, you can write and present complex technical reports and are a team player willing to support colleagues. Good ICT skills are essential. Based in London with extensive travel, a clean driving licence is an essential requirement.

We can offer you a flexible and friendly work environment: hybrid working from Church House, London and from home is a possibility.

**If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):**

**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT**  
**020 7691 9871 [recruitment@urc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@urc.org.uk) [www.unc.org.uk/jobs](http://www.unc.org.uk/jobs)**

**Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 19 May 2023 Interview date: Friday 2 June 2023**

*This post requires an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.*

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](#).