

Yorkshire Synod

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





Yorkshire Synod

Briefing
Number 109

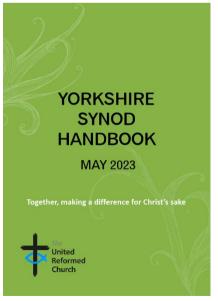


8th June 2023

Wow!!!! Where did those three weeks go. Nearly halfway through the year and we are in Forum Season. The first of the Forums was held at Hornsea back in May and was well attended from those who are based in the east of the Synod. The open nature of the gathering and its rooting in Paul's First letter to the Corinthians meant that the day's conversation was wide reaching as well as being central to the 5 Threads of Mission that is currently running through all we do in Synod. As you'll see from the poster on page 2 of this time's Briefing the next three Saturdays see Forums at Herringthorpe, Headingley and Wyke.



Please do come along and share your hopes, experiences and dreams of how we can weave these five threads into our lives and the lives of our churches.



One of the key things we try to do is to bring people together. Of the many things discussed at the Forum in Hornsea was that more sharing between churches would be welcome. Well we now have a much more up to date way of doing that as the new **Yorkshire**Synod Handbook has just been published. Each Church Secretary has received a booking form, so if you want, please order a copy through them. If not we are taking bookings through the Synod Office: the cost will be £4.00 if you want it posting out or £3.50 if you want to pop in and collect it.

Please let me have details of what **YOUR** church is doing. As you will see this time, there is a lot going on, so to add to all of this all you need to do is drop me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out next month on 22nd June.

Tim Crossley

Loving



CHILDREN AND YOUTH FRIENDLY CHURCH.



During the service on the morning of 21st May, The Bridge Church in Otley were pleased to be acknowledged as a Children and Youth Friendly Church. Pictured are Isobel Evans, who was responsible for the **Bridge Church's** application, Rev Samantha Sheehan, Minister to the 18-25's and University Chaplain, Daniel Raddings, Yorkshire Synod Youth Representative and our Minister, Rev Jason McCullagh.

Rosie Buxton

It is with great sadness that we bring you the news that Mrs Rosie Buxton, CRCW Minister, who took early retirement in January this year, passed away in the evening of Tuesday 30th May 2023.

Until retirement Rosie had been serving in the Huddersfield Group of Churches at Moldgreen, Waverley and Brackenhall URCs and was the driving force for much community development in the Synod. Rosie was passionate about her work and was an advocate for financial inclusion. She was also a governor at Northern College for a number of years and took a great interest in



the development and learning of future CRCWs. Prior to her joining us in Yorkshire she had also served at St David's, Bettws between 2008 and 2011 and in the Swansea Region Churches in Community group from 2011 to 2018.

Rosie was much loved and respected both locally, within the Huddersfield group, Yorkshire Synod and the wider URC and we will miss her dearly. Please do hold Rosie's husband, Andy, and all their family and friends in your prayers.



SYNOD FORUM IS HAPPENING

As you'll see the Synod Forums have started. The first one took place in sunny Hornsea on Saturday 13th May and was a great success. This will be followed in June by three further Forums in Herringthorpe, Headingley and Wyke.

As has been mentioned, 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 10th June 2023

At Herringthorpe United Reformed Church, Rotherham, S60 4JN

Saturday 17th June 2023

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

Saturday 24th 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

EXILE OR EXODUS

In the Coronation Special issue of the Briefing back in May you may have been able to read the short article offered by Rev Samantha Sheehan who is a Special Category Minister in Leeds working with the 18-25 age group as well as engaging with young adults. One of the things she asked us to do was to look at the 20-40 Task Group Report (pg 22-32) which was presented at General Assembly in 2018. In this issue Samantha has expanded on this theme and it is presented here.

The Lost Generation

In recent years there has been a lot of conversation about the missing generation. A group of people who we feel are missing from our congregations, often those we would also describe as young adults.

A year ago, I was asked to share in a discussion entitled: Exile or Exodus: the Church and the lost generation

Both exile and exodus offer an interesting image and reflection on those who we think are missing from our congregations, but which one best describes them?

Exile – suggested banishment, told to leave and not return. Exile is often the result of over stepping the mark, not toeing the line. It's seen as punishment. Someone is sent out and away into the unknown. Abandoned and cut off from the community.



Exodus – is often the decision of the person/people leaving. They are very much in control and have chosen to move, with a sense of adventure and purpose, a plan maybe... looking for something else. Or their leaving could be less positive in that they felt they had no other choice other than to leave. But not Exiled.

Maybe it is not one or the other, but a mixture of both. I wonder what your experience is? Research and interviews with those under the age of 40 has shown that some have felt they have had no other option but to leave, feeling that they have been pushed out because they have challenged the status quo, asked questions, felt unwelcome and unable to be a part of the community. Others have found that the church has been lacking in its authenticity, judgemental and hypocritical. And so have gone in search of somewhere where they would be accepted for who they are, given space to explore, and seek their own answers. Often searching for places with likeminded people of a similar age.

From an internal church perspective, the Exodus we think is happening actually started some 60 years ago as folk started to question the faith they were being brought up with. The desire to rebel against parental figures (and institutions) meant the church started to fall out of favour as it tried to 'control' how its parishioners lived their lives... Life lived started to ask questions of faith and God and answers where lacking. Church stopped reflecting society.

There is a disconnect which seems bizarre because our churches are made up of people who live in the world...

We are also places of stories, our bible is one story, the story of God speaking to God's people, we each have a story and experiences which tell us something of God.

We can start breaking down some of the barriers, some of the past experiences by sharing stories, by sharing about how God has been present in our lives. Writing our own gospel of Good News. We are going to need to venture into the wilderness – the places where our exiled and exodus have ventured to start sharing stories once more and begin to rebuild the trust and relevance which has been lost.

I hope in the next few articles to try and offer some insight into what and how we might be able to do this.

As always if you or your local congregation want to explore more, get in touch, I'd be happy to help you.

Blessings

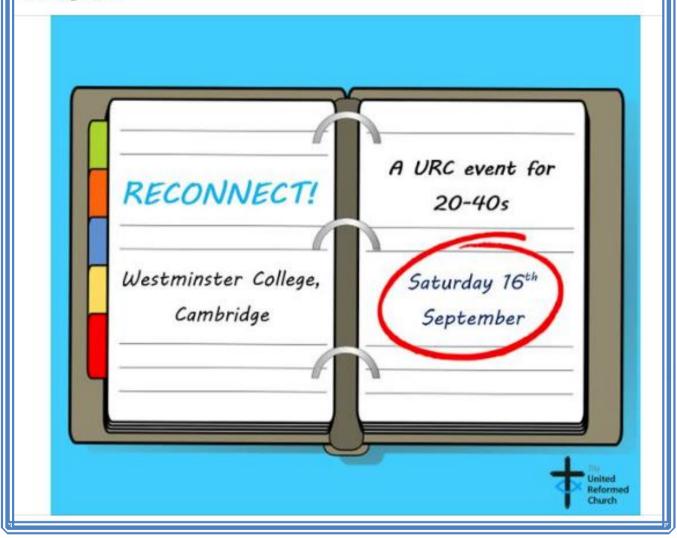
Samantha



RECONNECT!: a time of fellowship, worship, and conversation for people aged 20-40s who are involved or interested in the URC.

Saturday 16th September 2023, 10am-4.30pm at Westminster College, Cambridge.

Optional meal and overnight accommodation on Friday night. Booking details coming soon!



NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN? NOW YOU DO!

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR

Online Presence

You may not know where to begin, **now you do!** Come along on Zoom and hear experiences, ask questions and learn about websites, social media and more!



Tuesday 13th June @ 7pm **OR** Wednesday 21st June @ 10am To sign up, email: website@urcyorkshire.org.uk



Yorkshire Synod is pleased to be running, in June, a session to help you start thinking, or dig deeper into your online presence. As churches, our online presence has become more significant, more visible, over the past 3 years, and now is a great time to take stock, and review what you've achieved, give thanks to God for it, and see where you might go in the future. This is a bit of a firestarter session, which may branch out into different groups in the future, designed more specifically for the stages at which you might find yourselves. Come along and find out what it's all about!

We will be discussing the key role of offline media (e.g. Noticeboards, and print) in this session too. The session is designed for you and your church to pick up at whatever stage you're at. Whether you have a thriving social media presence, a basic website, you simply Zoom your services every now and then, or none of these, this session is for you!

If you have little knowledge, if you have lots, come along and share! This session will be facilitated by Dan Morrell, from Media for Ministry.

The session will take place on Zoom, and is running twice (you do not need to attend both:

Tuesday 13th June @ 7pm Wednesday 21st June @ 10am

For more information, or to sign up, email website@urcyorkshire.org.uk



Contact luhunthurc@gmail.com to book! Places are limited, don't delay, book today!



The Joint Public Issues Team is the Methodist Church, Baptist Union and United Reformed Church working together for peace and justice. Click here to find out more about our work.

Dear friends

Back in March, over 1500 of you supported our joint statement opposing the Illegal Migration Bill. We handed the statement in to 10 Downing Street in April, and we have now received a formal response.

Click here to read the reply from Robert Jenerick, Immigration Minister.

The reply focusses on the justification for the Bill, naming the increase in small boat arrivals and the Prime Minister's promise small boat channel crossings. It also lays out the increased funding for border force and detention, as well as justifying the Rwanda plan and the UK's contribution to taking refugees to date.

The reply reinstates the argument that the UK cannot 'make routes available for every eventuality', but dodges the statements call for new safe routes to be established. As the Illegal Migration Bill makes its way through the House of Lords, we need to continue to raise the call for a more compassionate approach towards people seeking sanctuary in the UK.

Refugee Week - 19-25 June

We have another opportunity to raise this call in the upcoming refugee week, from 19-25 June. This is a chance to stand together again to show solidarity for people seeking asylum and call for a better approach. We're inviting you to:

- Show Hospitality not Hostility to people seeking asylum by hosting a tea or meal during refugee week. Click here to download our toolkit.
- **Pray with us** on Sunday 25th June, which is Sanctuary Sunday. You're invited to pray with us for a more compassionate approach to people seeking sanctuary **Click here to download our joint prayer.**

The Illegal Migration Bill will continue in the House of Lords for the next few weeks, where it will face a number of amendments. Now is a good time to write to your MP or to ask to meet with them, to ask them to support changes when the Bill returns to the Commons. Click here to find details of amendments.

Thank you for continuing to support refugees and people seeking asylum by advocating for a fairer and more compassionate approach.

Hannah

Campaigns and Church Engagement Officer, JPIT



Yorkshire Churches Day (YCD) is a chance for every place of worship in the county to open up and showcase the amazing history and heritage found inside their buildings.

It is a day to tell stories and bring to life the variety, beauty, history and sheer wonder of Yorkshire's churches, chapels and places of worship. The aim of the day is to encourage everyone to visit their local church even if they have never stepped foot inside a church before. It will be a day for those who are curious about history and heritage of their local surroundings as well as offering an invitation to those looking for God.

This year we are running YCD in partnership with Heritage Open Days (HOD), holding it on **Saturday 16**th **September**.

As part of the HOD remit, entry to your event must be free, but there are many ways you can engage your visitors and encourage donations.

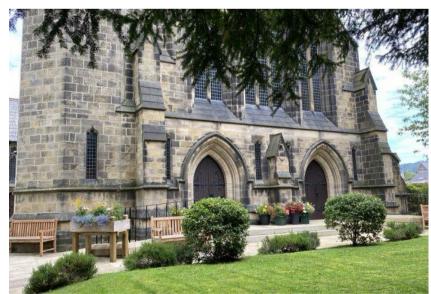
Ideas include providing refreshments, running tours, staging exhibitions, offering bell ringing, putting on recitals, offering skills/craft demonstrations - there are so many possibilities.

To register, visit <u>Homepage | Heritage Open Days</u> and add details of your church, stating you are opening for Yorkshire Churches Day. The **deadline for entry is the August 10th 2023**. Full details on how to register and advice on fundraising events and how to attract publicity can be found here <u>Yorkshire Churches Day – Helping Yorkshire's Historic Churches & Chapels (yhct.org.uk)</u>

It was during lockdown that the Trustees of the YHCT came up with the concept of a 'Yorkshire Churches Day'. The day is an opportunity to raise much needed funds for places of worship in Yorkshire as well as an opportunity to spread the Good News. The future of many church buildings is under threat due to crumbling roofs, windows and stonework, but this is an opportunity to engage with visitors, to share the Gospel and to encourage a commitment to Christ which will mean that our church buildings become more than museum pieces.

The YHCT works to ensure these places of worship are kept in good repair, recognising the contribution they make to society at large and the support they provide to local communities. By taking part in Yorkshire Churches Day, you are helping all places of worship in Yorkshire as well as your own church. We'd encourage you to donate up to 50% of any funds raised to the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust, to help us continue to offer vital support to churches, chapels and meeting houses across Yorkshire. Do also

consider joining the YHCT as a Friend.





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 <u>guidance</u> 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.



Building (5)

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/HQ80D0W3rA0 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 at kathlonsdale@talktalk.net. And remember this is for any age to apply so please discuss with your young people as well as adults.

Lay Training news





The latest edition of the Education and Learning Newsletter is now available. To receive it it only takes an e-mail to sign up to it – send your details to marion.brown@urc.org.uk and you'll be on the list in no time at all.

In the meantime there are three **FREE** zoom session being organised by URC Training through a collaboration between the Children & Youth Work and Education & Learning Committees:

EXPLORING RESILIENCE FOR CHURCHES

Thursday 22nd June- self-care and resilience. 7.15-8.45pm. Led by Adam Scott.

This first session will focus on personal resilience or self-care. Resilience is a word we use a lot, especially recently, and Adam will help us explore what it means for us as individuals in the world we live in as we adapt and endure through times of change.

Thursday 29th June- Resilience and community-care. 7.15-8.45pm. Led by Adam Scott.

This second session will focus on community resilience or community care. We can be adaptable and have worked on our own resilience, but our external environment affects us each day. Adam will help us explore what community resilience is, how important it is and how change can help us all flourish.

The Revd Dr Adam Scott is the Principal at Northern College, Manchester.*

Thursday 6th July- Enabling resilience (making safe spaces). 7.15-8.45pm. Led by Alex Clare-Young.

This session will focus on practical things we can do/offer/give access to in church buildings, gatherings and community spaces. Alex will encourage thinking around how we navigate space and self in relation to enabling resilience and flourishing.

The Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young is an ordained URC Minister working in a Pioneer role with Downing Place Church in Cambridge City Centre and is an Associate Tutor at Westminster College, Cambridge.*

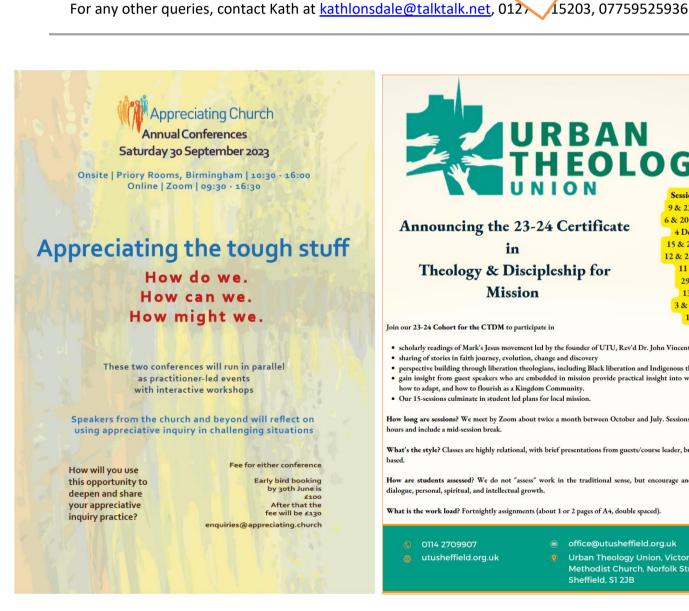
*Northern College, Manchester and Westminster College, Cambridge are two of the three URC Resource Centres for Learning that offer learning and training opportunities.

To book onto these sessions go to the Eventbrite link: https://bit.ly/Resilience4churches

Yorkshire Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders weekend.

Trauma and Resilience – Bible and World' 'Preach Cionan In and Shank You to all who have at the Wydale C Centre, Brompton by Sawdon near Scarborough Signed up and Inain You to all who have in the 🛰 left for our second Lay preachers and Worship We are pleased to ¬9th July 2023 (Friday teatime to Sunday lunch) Leaders weekend at W ant lecturer from Northern College, will be We are also excited that D. our main speaker at the confe will be joined by our Moderator, Rev so you will only need to cover This weekend will again be paid for by g If you want one of the two place office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or Kath Lonsdale, Anne Dale, Jill Fletcher, Ro

Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Planning





Announcing the 23-24 Certificate

Theology & Discipleship for Mission

Session Dates 9 & 23 October 6 & 20 November 4 December 15 & 29 January 12 & 26 February 11 March 29 April 13 May 3 & 17 June 1 July

Join our 23-24 Cohort for the CTDM to participate in

- · scholarly readings of Mark's Jesus movement led by the founder of UTU, Rev'd Dr. John Vincent
- · sharing of stories in faith journey, evolution, change and discovery
- perspective building through liberation theologians, including Black liberation and Indigenous theologians.
 gain insight from guest speakers who are embedded in mission provide practical insight into what works, how to adapt, and how to flourish as a Kingdom Community.
- Our 15-sessions culminate in student led plans for local mission

How long are sessions? We meet by Zoom about twice a month between October and July. Sessions last for 3-

What's the style? Classes are highly relational, with brief presentations from guests/course leader, but dialogue based.

How are students assessed? We do not "assess" work in the traditional sense, but encourage and facilitate dialogue, personal, spiritual, and intellectual growth.

What is the work load? Fortnightly assignments (about 1 or 2 pages of A4, double spaced).

- 0114 2709907
- utusheffield.org.uk
- office@utusheffield.org.uk
- Urban Theology Union, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB

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



Partnering





Congratulations to Stainbeck URC on a hugely successful café today for Christian Aid!

On Saturday 20th May the outward looking folk at <u>Stainbeck United Reformed Church – The United Reformed</u> <u>Church in Stainbeck (stainbeckurc.org.uk)</u> hosted a fabulous <u>Christian Aid</u> Cafe on 20th May.





POSITIVELY RURAL

Exploring the rural-specific contexts of poverty

5 July 7:30pm via Zoom

Join the Positively Rural team, plus guests Deacon Eunice Attwood (Methodist Church at the Margins Officer), Dr Chris Shannahan & Dr Stephanie Denning of Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace

& Social Relations

Hear more about two research projects – Life on the Breadline & Rural Hidden Hardship Life on the Breadline update – Life on the Breadline (coventry.ac.uk) and how they help inform our local rural contexts.

Join the conversation around rural poverty, the impacts & how we as Christians can respond.

Register here: https://PositivelyRural230705.eventbrite.co.uk
Deadline – 2 July (for administration)



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 6th: Finding God through Pilgrimage. Led by Felicity Barker Saturday August 19th: Us reading Ruth reading Us! Led by Rev. Peter Poulter

Thursday September 28th: 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:

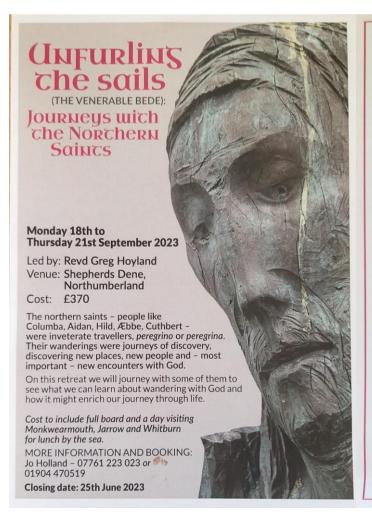
10.30: Arrivals and Coffee 13.30: Session Two

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, please contact Revd David Wood at david.wood4@btinternet.com.



Rev Dr Greg Hoyland

Greg spent 20 years of his working life in pastoral ministry as a curate, vicar and university chaplain and a further 20 as a university lecturer in Theology. He has a particular interest in the early church of Northern England and works as a volunteer for English Heritage at Rievaulx Abbey.

Rev Dr Greg Hoyland FRSA FHEA

Built in 1906 as a family home, Shepherds Dene was given to the Diocese of Newcastle in 1945 by Geoffrey and Ethel Newell. It is now shared with the Diocese of Durham and is run as an independent

The Newalls hoped that "those who come to Shepherds Dene for knowledge will find it and those who come for rest will go away



Shepherds Dene

Shepherds Dene is an outstanding example of the 'arts and craft' style of architecture. The 20 acres of grounds were also planned as an Edwardian garden. The house and grounds are remarkably preserved and full of original features

In the last few years, the house has been refurbished to provide some en suite bedrooms and the grounds have been brought back to the former glory. There is wifi throughout. You'll find all the home comforts you would expect of country house living

refreshed". There is a spiritual atmosphere about Shepherds Dene, imbued with over 60 years of prayer and fellowship, which is cherished at all costs.

Registration Form

Email:

To secure a place please return this booking slip, together with payment by way of a cheque in favour C.J. Holland to:

Jo Holland, 5 The Rowans, Skelton, York YO30 1YX Tel: 01904 470519. Email: joholland@ymail.com

In the event of cancellation being necessary as a result of further Covid restrictions a refund of fees will be given

Saturday
8th July
2023

Christ Church
Pitsmoor Rd
Sheffield
S3 9AQ

Free
Admission

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

NORTHERN
COLLEGE

LUTHER
KING
CENTRE
FOR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

URBAN
ORTHEOLOGY

HOLY ANARCHY IS CLOSE AT HAND!

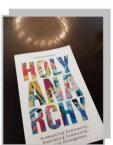


An opportunity to explore:

- 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



CHURCH AND OUTREACH WORKER

for Altrincham United Reformed Church,

Cecil Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9NT

We are a friendly and welcoming church family seeking a person who will help us in developing relationships with the wider community through innovative projects. Why not come and join us on the church's journey in the Altrincham area? You will also play a full and active part in the life of our church.

This is an exciting new post with the full support of a small management team. There is an office base although some homeworking will be an option.

The position is available for up to 37.5 hours per week. Flexibility on when the hours are worked will be required with some work on evenings and weekends.

Salary will be between £27k to 30k (full time) depending on experience. The post is budget limited but expected to last for three years initially and will be subject to review after six months.

A job description is available from the Church Secretary Sue Jesson at jessonsusan@gmail.com, 07973 391154.

To apply, please send a covering letter detailing your reasons for applying together with a copy of your CV to Sue Jesson, Church Secretary at the above address.

Closing date for applications is 15th July 2023 and dates of interview to be advised

You can also keep an eye on all our social media platforms for news; on the website at Home - URC 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.