

### **Yorkshire Synod**

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





## **Yorkshire Synod**

Briefing
Number 110



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Midsummer is here, and what a summer we are having. There have been Forums around the Synod and training is being planned for Elders and Lay Preachers alike. Outdoor activities are being planned for the more energetic among us, whilst those for whom a more academic path is more attractive are also well catered for. The final Synod Forum of the Summer is upon us. The previous three at Hornsea, Herringthorpe and Headingley have been a



huge success, so why waste the opportunity to travel across to Westfield Wyke URC for the final one this coming Saturday, 24th June from 10.30am. The round table nature of the gatherings has been a real benefit to those who have attended and more feedback can be found on the Synod website at <a href="Synod Forums - a great success! - URC Yorkshire Synod">Synod Forums - a great success! - URC Yorkshire Synod</a>



The 2023 United Reformed Church General Assembly takes place from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 3rd July at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick. As usual there is a group from Yorkshire Synod representing us all. Items on the agenda include Legacies of Slavery and proposals for repairing justice such as mandatory anti-racism training; ways to support the Transcarpathian Reformed Church in Ukraine; opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill; the nature of the relationship between the URC and the URC Trust; the appointments of Synod Moderators; proposals for a formal ministry of URC Children's, Youth and/or Family Minister and the Church Life Review.

A round-up of all the business discussed and decisions made will be available <a href="here">here</a>, and the General Assembly papers can be viewed and downloaded <a href="here">here</a>. The proceedings will also be livestreamed on the <a href="URC">URC</a> website.

Please keep in mind and pray for not only the Yorkshire representatives, but all those who are attending General Assembly as they discern the future of the URC as a whole.

Finally, 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 <a href="clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk">clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk</a> and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out next month on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Tim Crossley



## **Making More Disciples**

The **Elders Development Group of the Yorkshire Synod** are delighted to invite you to attend the annual 24 hour conference to be held at Wydale Hall (https://www.wydale.org/) in North

Yorkshire on **28**<sup>th</sup> **to 29**<sup>th</sup> **September 2023**. It will be led by Andrew Roberts, author of Holy Habits (<a href="https://www.holyhabits.org.uk/andrew-roberts">https://www.holyhabits.org.uk/andrew-roberts</a>) and the topic will be 'Making More Disciples'.



#### In Andrew's own words:

"Lucy Moore (the founder of Messy Church) suggests that 'Many of us face an inner conflict about the imperative to 'make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19). There can be a little voice in us that wants more people to become Christian for selfish reasons – to keep the local church going. But God's call to Abram was to 'be a blessing'. What difference might it make to our mission if we set out in faith simply to 'be a blessing'?"

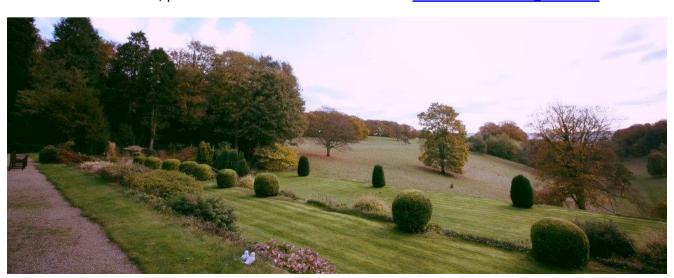
This question will be explored in the light of biblical texts, wisdom from various writers, stories and our own experiences though conversation and plenty of space for personal reflection in keeping with the relaxed atmosphere of the retreat.

The conference will start with lunch on Thursday 28th September, and finish after lunch on Friday, 29th. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Each church will be restricted to three places, until we can review demand. There is no charge for this conference as the Yorkshire Synod are paying for this residential.

Attendees will need to make their own way to Wydale Hall. In terms of accommodation, each room is ensuite. There are some rooms specifically for those with mobility needs.

To book a place, please send in your request to the Synod Office (<u>office@urcyorkshire.org.uk</u>) giving the name of your church, attendees and any specific dietary or mobility needs. Please reply by **July** 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 so that any requirements can be passed onto Wydale in good time.

For further information, please contact Bronwen Robinson on <a href="mailto:bronwenrobinson@me.com">bronwenrobinson@me.com</a>



# Loving ( )



## Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury, WF13 1NH Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August from 10am-1.30pm

Rev Jamie Kissack, Yorkshire Synod Moderator, will be leading a session to reflect together on our practices of presiding at Holy Communion.

- All are welcome who preside at Holy Communion (lay and ordained)
- Arrivals and tea/coffee from 10am the session will begin at 10.30am
- Please bring a packed lunch and again drinks will be provided
- If you would like to attend, please book your place by contacting the Synod Office asap at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or 0113 289 8490



Contact <a href="mailto:luhunthurc@gmail.com">luhunthurc@gmail.com</a> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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**<sup>th</sup> **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.

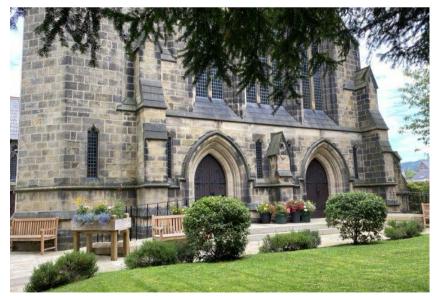
Ideas include providing refreshments, running tours, staging exhibitions, offering bell ringing, putting on recitals, offering skills/craft demonstrations - there are so many possibilities.

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 10**<sup>th</sup> **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.



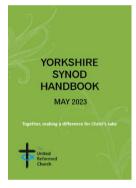


## Gift Aid claims on digital donations

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.

## **Yorkshire Synod Handbook**



One of the key things we try to do is to invite people to come together and to share their experiences as Christians. 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. We are also 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. Contact office@urcyorkshire.org.uk today!!



## **Emerging Adults**

In the third of her articles from the 18-25 Project for the Synod Briefing (and elsewhere in Synod), Rev Samantha Sheehan explores the Christian journey of those in their 20's and 30's.

Friends the reality is that our young people who are connected with our congregations are going to leave at some point. It's just going to happen. For many different reasons.

Some will leave because they are moving away for further education, some will leave because of work commitments, some for the reasons we explored last month (Exile or



Exodus). Some will leave because their spiritual growth is needing something else, they may feel called somewhere else. Some will leave because of family changes, beginning a new relationship or the end of a relationship. We could go on... there are many different reasons why people leave congregations, and many more for young people especially as they journey through their late teens and early twenties.

If we travel back in time to the 1960/70's we could say that by the time a young person reached their early 20's then they would have completed their education, gained long term employment, financially independent, living outside the parental home, and most likely be married with their first child. Fully entering their adulthood.

Fast forward today, this no longer the case, according to the <u>Office of National Statistics</u> in 2019 the average age of marriage was 34 years for men and 32 years for women. Same-sex couples and average age is 38 years for men and 33 years for women.

Added to this is the prolonged time of education with an increased number of 18 year olds attending University for an undergraduate degree (3yrs) and possible post graduate (1-2yrs). Employment also looks different, with the desire to seek a job which pays well and is also enjoyable and fulfilling may lead to multiple short-term employments in close succession and periods of unemployment.

Not to mention the unstable housing market, the challenge of saving a deposit for a mortgage, on top of the significant debit incurred from attending university, all impacting on feeling financially independent and able to fully vacate that parental home.

Our young people are living through this extending time of no longer adolescents but not quiet adult. Psychologist Jeffery Arnett has called this life stage – <u>Emerging Adulthood</u> – an in-between age.

All of this has an effect on faith and congregation belonging.

So much of what we do as congregation (mostly unconsciously) is aimed towards the 1970's assumption that young people quickly enter their adulthood and settle into employment, relationship and stable housing. Where once this happened within a 5years period now can take well over 10years. Where once someone was settling into adulthood in their early 20's it is now taking them into their 30's and beyond.

This offers challenges for the church of today:

- How are we helping our children and young people grow a faith which will journey with them during this time of change?
- What can we offer into this time of uncertainty? What biblical stories speak into times of transition and uncertainty?
- Where might there be point of connection?

If you would like to explore this more, then get in touch, I'm here to help.

# 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 <a href="https://youtu.be/HQ80D0W3rA0">https://youtu.be/HQ80D0W3rA0</a> and lots more information on the dedicated URC website page at <a href="Discipleship Development Fund-">Discipleship Development Fund -</a> <a href="United Reformed Church">United Reformed Church</a>

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 <a href="mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net">kathlonsdale@talktalk.net</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:marion.brown@urc.org.uk">marion.brown@urc.org.uk</a> 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: <a href="https://bit.ly/Resilience4churches">https://bit.ly/Resilience4churches</a>

## Number 84: A Residential Missional Community





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

Does taking time out to think and pray through new possibilities, or taking a gap year feel timely?

#### Are you excited by new ways of being and doing Church?

From Spring 2023 onwards for those aged 18 and over, Redcar has a rare opportunity in the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church to become part of a household of three living within a simple Rule of praying, eating, studying and serving together while accompanying Redcar United Reformed Church & Redcar Baptist Church in missional presence in Redcar. The residents of Number 84 will form a Jesus-shaped community. This will be an experience of incarnational living whereby the members of the household will live amongst their

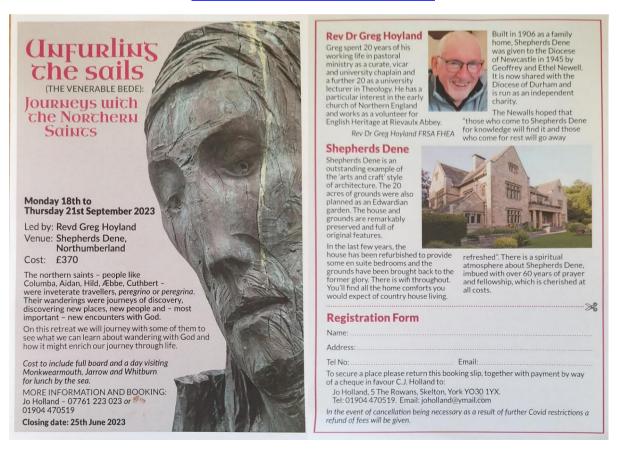
neighbours with biblical imagination. They will order their communal life according to a rhythm of daily prayer, bible study, shared meals and purposeful service. In addition to having time to reflect on their own walk with God and to further their own discipleship, the residents will commit to praying for and serving their community through finding work in the town which may be paid or voluntary. They will worship and fellowship with the URC/Baptist church which is located next door to the house.

In these ways Number 84 will be a household that prays, studies, serves and lives together in God's love. It will be a Fresh Expression of church within the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church. The Synod will exercise pastoral care and oversight of the household. If needed, a modest maintenance allowance is available.



You are invited to register your interest as soon as you feel able and Information Packs are available from Lisa McAvoy, Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8JJ. Tel 0191 232 1168

lisa.mcavoy@urc-northernsynod.org





Onsite | Priory Rooms, Birmingham | 10:30 - 16:00 Online | Zoom | 09:30 - 16:30

## Appreciating the tough stuff

How do we. How can we. How might we.

These two conferences will run in parallel as practitioner-led events with interactive workshops

Speakers from the church and beyond will reflect on using appreciative inquiry in challenging situations

How will you use this opportunity to deepen and share your appreciative inquiry practice?

Fee for either conference

Early bird booking by 30th June is £100 After that the fee will be £130 enquiries@appreciating.church URBAN

Announcing the 23-24 Certificate in 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 thologians, 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-hours and include a mid-session break.

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

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).

- utusheffield.org.uk
- office@utusheffield.org.uk
  - Sheffield, S1 2JB

## JOINT LITURGICAL GROUP LITURGY AS **PROCLAMATION** OF THE GOSPEL



Keynote Speaker: Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

A day exploring Liturgy and Worship as a way that many people hear the Good News, and deepen their journey of Christian discipleship.

#### 28 September 2023

11-5pm, Llandaff Cathedral Tickets £30 | £15 students including lunch and refreshr







WWW.JLG.ORG.UK

#### **Brighouse & District Lions** President Pamela Lumb

SUNDAY 2nd JULY 2023 MARCH & HYMN TUNE CONTEST



Youth to Championship Sections

Town Hall Square from 12.30pm

E-mail: brighousemarchcontest@gmail.com

## **Safeguarding news**

### **Safeguarding Intermediate Training via Zoom**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 7pm – 9.30pm Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 10am – 12.30pm

There are some new Intermediate courses being put on as well during July. These are key courses designed for the Safeguarding leads in YOUR churches.

If you wish to book a place on these courses, or require further information, please get in touch with Paula Kitson at **safeguarding@urc1and4.org.uk** or by telephone on 07562 606024.

And don't forget that these courses are still running, contact <a href="mailto:emma.pearce@urc.org">emma.pearce@urc.org</a> for more information





## 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 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, please contact Revd David Wood at <a href="mailto:david.wood4@btinternet.com">david.wood4@btinternet.com</a>.

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

## 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 <a href="Home - URC Yorkshire Synod">Home - URC Yorkshire - Home | Facebook</a> and <a href="Wilderness URC Yorkshire - Home | Facebook">Wilderness URC Yorkshire - Home | Facebook</a>, the YouTube page at <a href="URC Yorkshire - YouTube">URC Yorkshire - YouTube</a> and the Twitter page at <a href="URC In Yorkshire">URC In Yorkshire</a> (@URCYorkshire) / Twitter.