

Yorkshire Synod

Briefing
Number 127



11th April 2024

Synod in the Spring Time – part two

Where did the past three weeks go? We have had Holy Week, Easter, Easter week and this week since the last issue of the Briefing and the activity levels in Synod are still as buoyant as ever. I hope that your devotions and celebrations over this most important of times has been fruitful and that you have been able to grow in faith and that your churches have been able to grow as well. Indeed, by looking at the level of activity that is still happening around the Synod it seems like the Easter period has been very fruitful. A key theme that has come out of the items that have been submitted is that of Inviting. Most of what is contained in this time's Briefing are offers of invitation. These range from invitations to learn more about Jesus to invitation to events in the communities in which our churches sit. It's really great to hear that our Church is an open and welcoming Church and that we have the ability to welcome in the way that the Lord would want us to welcome. Similarly, the activities being offered also show how easy it is for us to be partners with other groups as well as being able to build the Kingdom from the resources we have on offer from Synod. The success of the Alpha Course at Hipperholme also shows how easy it is to share what it means to follow Jesus and I pray that they are able to build on this year's success when the course runs again in 2025. Finally, all this is done through Love. As you'll see the Synod Forums are using Paul's first letter to the Corinthians as the basis of the discussions and as Paul says, "there are three things that last forever: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of them all is love."



This may be the place to mention that the phone system has just been changed at Somerset House. As with lots of new technology it will take a week or so to get used to the new kit, so please bear with us as we get used to it. Happily, the phone number hasn't changed and neither have the e-mail addresses. However, one thing that you may spot if you ring and get through to the answerphone is that the message has been changed and you'll get to hear the dulcet tones of the Synod Clerk.

So, with this in mind, there's no excuse not to ring the office up with all the details of what is happening where you are. Tell me what you plan for the warmer end of spring 2024 and your plans for the summer so that I can help spread that news, especially what you did in the run up to and over Easter. Drop me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out on Thursday 25th April with a deadline of Wednesday 24th April 2024.

Thank you and God Bless,

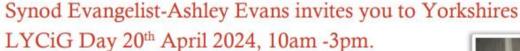
Tim Crossley
Synod Clerk

Loving



Leading Your Church into Growth

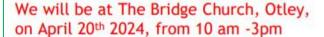




Last November we had our latest LYCiG conference for the five Northerly Synods in Preston.

It was a great success.

I would like to invite you and your friends from your church or group of churches to come to our follow up day.



You are most welcome to join us, it will be a fabulous day together, looking at some of the principles of church growth and sharing together of what 'works' and how things are going.

Coffee & tea will be provided. Please bring your own lunch or take advantage of the excellent, nearby bakers, butchers, sandwich/cafes or fish & chips.

If you could RSVP with numbers that would be most helpful.

Yours in Christ

Ashley<><



Something must have been funny.



Yorkshire folk have smiles all round!



If you are interested, please let Ashley know directly on either 07403423082 01274241234

or

evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk



THIS WEEKEND!

Join us for an inspiring walk through the New Testament



"Relax and enjoy the journey as an experienced guide encourages you to see God's Word through the 'Big Picture'. Our FUN and MEMORABLE sessions will help you learn with such CLARITY you'll be able to retell the whole STORYLINE to a friend.

We will also do our best to INSPIRE and EQUIP you to keep

digging deeper."

One event over two days

Friday 12th April 2024 7 - 9.15pm AND Saturday 13th April 2024 9.30am - 1pm at Bilton Grange URC, Harrogate

For further details and to book please contact Caroline Butler (Knaresborough URC)

Tel: 07904 509802 Email: butler.caroline@outlook.com

ACCESSIBILITY IN LITURGY AND WORSHIP

FREE WEBINAR – WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL at 19:30 – 21:00

THE JOINT LITURGICAL GROUP OF GREAT BRITAIN, of which the URC is a member, invites you to join Léon van Ommen, Senior Lecturer in Practical Theology, and Co-Director of the Centre for Autism and Theology, University of Aberdeen and Rosie Addis, Rector of St. Peter's Linlithgow and St Columba's Bathgate, and Chair of Deaf Action as they reflect on:

Photo: the Welcome Table at Open Table communion service, Liverpool

- What does accessibility in worship mean?
- What does it look like to offer radical hospitality?
- What does it mean for us as embodied beings?
- What is our theological and liturgical response?



To sign up for this free event click this Eventbrite link:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/accessibility-in-liturgy-and-worship-tickets-868555702487?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1

United Reformed Church Waldensian Fellowship





Gathering at Hinsley Hall, Leeds

Celebrating 850 years of the Waldensian Movement

Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 April 2024

This year, the Waldensian Church celebrates the 850th anniversary of the movement started by Pietro Valdo, who sought to preach and live the simple Gospel message.

We shall explore something of the history of the Waldensian movement during our time together.

This will also be an opportunity for us to share our experiences of meeting the Waldensian people, both in Italy and here in Britain – so bring photographs and other memorabilia!

Information about the Gathering, costs and timings, and a booking form, are available from:

George Morton, 4 St Annes Road, Manchester M21 8TD

email: g.morton50@ntlworld.com; telephone: 0161 881 8195



World Heritage Weekend at Saltaire URC

The weekend of Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April sees the first of this years events in Saltaire with the World heritage Weekend taking place in the village. As ever Saltaire URC is taking part and is opening its doors on the afternoons of both days.

Refreshments are available (for either preparing you for an ascent of the Bell Tower or as a means of recovery once you've descended from it, as well as regular musical interludes on the impressive nineteenth-century pipe organ.

The church will be open from 2pm to 4.30pm on the Saturday and from Noon to 4pm on the Sunday – although there is still the regular 10.30am service which is open to everyone to attend.

For more details visit please https://saltairefestival.co.uk/events/world-heritage-day-2/

Saltaire Arts Trail

As well as being part of the World Heritage Days over the weekend of the 27^{th} and 29^{th} April, Saltaire URC is hoping to participate in the Saltaire Arts Trail over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend of the 4^{th} , 5^{th} and 6^{th} May 2024

As part of the Arts Trail in the village, Saltaire URC hopes to have an exhibition of tapestries entitled *Tales from the Loom*, by artist *Chrissie Freeth*, displayed in the United Reformed Church. Opening times for the exhibition are:

Saturday 10am to 4pm
Sunday 12 noon to 4pm
Monday 10am to 4pm
Please check the Saltaire Arts Trail
website

https://saltaireinspired.org.uk/ a
few days beforehand, if you plan





to visit the exhibition, to check it has been installed. In addition, why not join students from Bradford College of Art in the grounds of the United Reformed Church, for drop-in textiles activities on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

There will also be an exhibition of work by the students on the theme *Connections: People and Place.*

Faith Talk

How do we talk about and share our faith as individuals and as churches?

This webinar is the first in a series as the Church seeks to develop a more holistic vision of mission.

Join us for a relaxed 90 minutes at **7.30pm** on Wednesday 1 May.

For more information or to **register for the webinar** please contact:

mission@urc.org.uk





KELD RESOURCE CENTRE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOW ROW WITH KELD URC NEW FOR 2024 : STUDY DAYS



We are delighted to announce a new series of study days for 2024 and issue a warm invitation to come to any or all of them! They are:

Thursday July 4th: Revd. Michael Pearson

Five impossible Things to Believe before Christmas!

Saturday August 17th: Revd. Peter Sinclair

After Sunday: Being Church Seven Days a Week

Thursday September 26th: Ms. Dorothy Thomson

There's a Sermon in There Somewhere!

The programme will be as follows:

10.30 : Arrivals and Coffee 12.30 : Lunch

11.00 : Session One 13.30 : Session Two

15.00: Refreshments and Departure

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 at david.wood4@btinternet.com



Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Weekend

"Lifting parables from the page: preaching for today's Church".

at the Wydale Conference Centre, Brompton by Sawdon near Scarbrough https://www.wydale.org

We are pleased to say that registration for our third Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders weekend at Wydale Conference Centre is NOW OPEN.

This will be $19^{th} - 21^{st}$ July 202424 (Friday teatime to Sunday lunch).

We are excited that Rev Dr Susan Durber 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 synod and grants so you will only need to cover your travel costs.

There are 30 places available and you are now invited to register with the office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or 0113 289 8490.



Yours in Christ's service

Kath Lonsdale, Anne Dale, Jill Fletcher, Rod Morrison,

Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Planning Group

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

To offer support for the Church's humanitarian support for those affected by the ongoing crisis in Gaza please visit the URC's website at Church. Also please visit the Church. Also please visit the Christian Aid Appeal site which includes supporting key facts and information, together with the opportunity to make donations direct to Christians Aid. You can also contribute through the URC's own programme Commitment for Life at Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory — United Reformed Church.

Faithful Flourishing:

discipleship development and training opportunities



Voice Coaching with Steve Arnott

Saturday 20th April 2024 (10am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm - 4pm)

St James' URC, Newcastle upon Tyne



Steve is a well known local actor and director with over 25 years experience in training and teaching across the Tyneside area.

Open to all involved in leading worship, this half day, fun and highly interactive session will offer an opportunity to explore vocal and public speaking techniques.

Many of us now lead worship in churches with effective sound systems and we may be tempted to think that this means we don't need to worry too much about projecting our voices and making ourselves heard. However, effective public speaking is about much more than volume!



Whether you've been leading worship for a long time or are just starting out, this session will help you to ensure you are making the most of your voice!

Come along for the morning or afternoon session.

Participants in both sessions are warmly invited to come together to share lunch which will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

To book a place please contact Lucy (details below) stating whether you would like to come to the morning or afternoon session, if you will be joining us for lunch and whether you have any dietary requirements.



Lucy Cooke Learning & Development Officer Email: lucy.cooke@urc-northernsynod.org

Tel: 07752 385197

Making Disciples Day

Saturday 18th May 2024 – 10.00am to 3.30pm Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury

36, Longcauseway, The Princess of Wales Precinct, Dewsbury WF13 1NH

This is a day for all members and friends of our churches in the Yorkshire Synod. It will be led by Andrew Roberts, author of Holy Habits and Linda Rayner, URC co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions.



Andrew and Linda write, "In response to the call and commission of Jesus to go and make disciples we will share and explore stories of initiatives in this area that have been fruitful and consider stories that have not been so fruitful and see what learning we can take from these.

We will also take time to consider how we can be bearers of good news and people of hope as we seek to make God known in difficult times and situations.

There will be plenty of time for both group conversations and personal reflection which will include the provision of prayer stations."

Please bring your own lunch – tea and coffee will be provided.

To book a place please email valmorrison7@btinternet.com



10.30am – 1pm Followed by lunch together

Saturday 11th May 2024
At St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Scarborough, YO11 2LN

Saturday 1st June 2024
At Gleadless United Reformed Church, Sheffield, S12 2NP

Saturday 8th June 2024
At Salem United Reformed Church, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG

Saturday 6th July 2024
At Christ Church LEP, Hipperholme, HX3 8AA

All members and friends of the Yorkshire Synod churches are invited to join us in faith-shaped conversation about the life and mission of the local church.

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

Building on the success of last year's Synod Forums as opportunities for fellowship and good conversation, we will be meeting again in four different locations around Yorkshire Synod in May, June and July. You are free to choose the date and venue that is best for you. All will run from 10.30am - 1pm. You are encouraged to stay to share a bring-your-own lunch.

As last year, 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 will

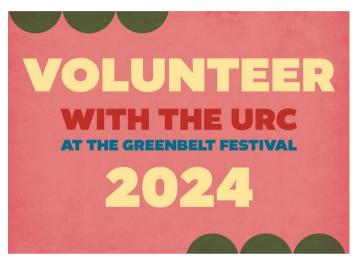
picking up on some of the themes in the URC's Theos report (https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/URC-report-Final.pdf), and will be asking Where do we see flourishing in Yorkshire Synod? (And what might be the barriers to flourishing?)

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.

Partnering (**)

Volunteer with the United Reformed Church at The Greenbelt Festival 2024!

22 – 25 August 2024 at Boughton House, near Kettering



yoURCafe venue team

As well as being an exciting opportunity to be part of the URC team in the yoURCafe venue, now in its third year, offering food saved from landfill, crafts, talks, music and more, you will also get to enjoy the myriad activities the festival has to offer.

You will receive a complimentary weekend pass, food vouchers and a car or caravan pass as a thank you.

For more information on how to become a volunteer, what is involved, and how to apply, visit https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/

Youth Engagement team

Are you aged 18+?

Do you enjoy supporting 12–17 year-olds? Have experience, gifts, skills to share? Then volunteer on the URC Youth Engagement team.

The opportunity comes with festival benefits, training and support.

Email <u>children.youth@urc.org.uk</u> for more information.

The theme for this year's festival is **Dream On.** If you would like to know more about this theme and why it has been chosen, you can read a blog by Paul Northup's, Greenbelt's Creative Director, here.

The deadline for applications is Saturday 20
April and the Volunteer Team will aim to inform applicants as to whether they have been successful (or not) by the end of Thursday 25
April. Demand for spaces is high (as ever) and although we had an amazing team of volunteers last year, we always welcome and encourage new people to join.



Sharing

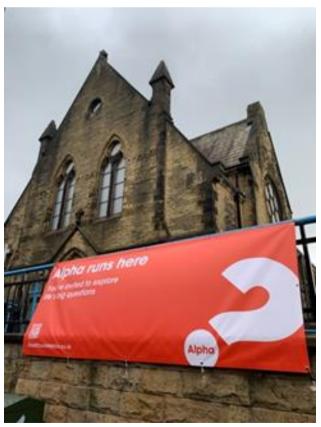


ALPHA @ CHRIST CHURCH

Following on from showcasing what the Synod Mission Fund is helping to resource in Darnall in the last issue, here's another project which has benefited from Synod Mission Fund input, and on a more modest scale.

Christ Church, Hipperholme – a Methodist/United Reformed Church LEP - has just completed a second successful Alpha Course at Christ Church. On this most recent 10-week course, they were helped by a wonderful group of volunteers - out-front and in the kitchen, with speakers Revd Colin Sherwood and Pamela Hales contributing to the discussions. Although they used outside caterers (Village Pantry – Emma always looks after us and her Lasagne was the biggest hit!) the preparation by the volunteers was as much part of the course as the course itself. It was financed predominately by donations from the guests and the Synod Mission Fund grant, for which they are extremely grateful.





It was an excellent and well attended course (10 attendees) exploring life's big questions and the Christian Faith, over a warm meal and with great conversations, where everyone forged new friendships and felt the movement of Spirit at work in them.

This year the attendees were asked for feedback and how they described themselves before and after Alpha. Joyfully, two people moved completely from 'Searching' to 'Christian'. Praise the Lord!

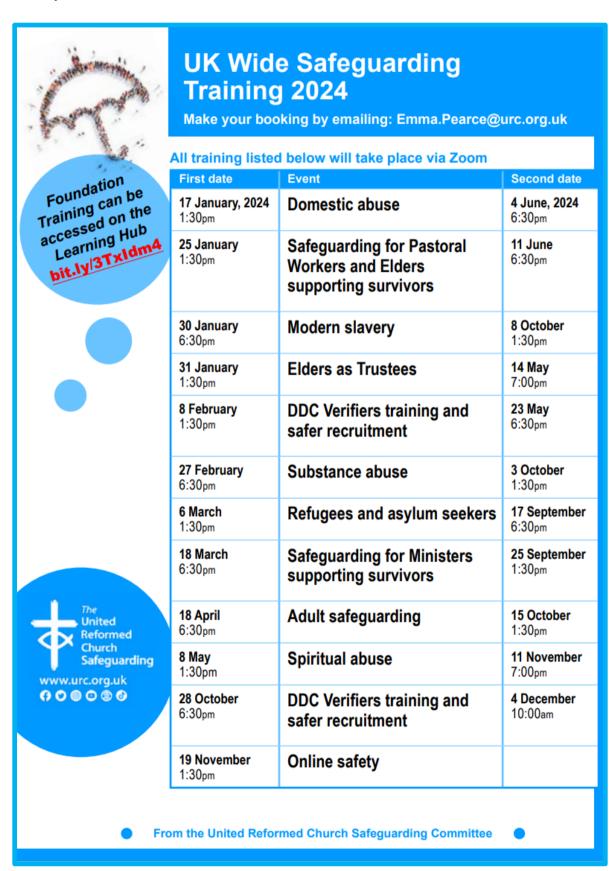
They took on suggested improvements in the hope that the course runs again next January (we have already been contacted by someone who has seen the banner from on the bus!) and we are encouraged by some great feedback:

- "I have found answers to my questions."
- "Being able to share, in a safe place, nonjudgemental and loving has been so precious and have loved meeting other Christian's with different experiences. Thank you! I feel more able and equipped to love people in Jesus' name.

A massive thank you has gone out from Christ Church to everyone involved. You were all amazing!

SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding team have asked that you are reminded that they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year (and even 366 days in Leap Years!!). Details can be found on the Yorkshire website at https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/safeguarding/ and any query, either by phone or by e-mail will be answered within 24 hours.





A resource centre for learning

Supporting Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders 2024

"Living in Praise"

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th September

Arrivals from 4pm (course start 6pm) - 2pm departures

Our 2024 Supporting Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders residential will be using the Year C Lectionary to help us reflect on what we have to share with our churches that will engage with peoples' lives, our local communities and address some of the big issues the world is facing. By using the lectionary Year C we hope to offer you insights and resources that will help your worship leading throughout the coming year.

As ever this popular event will include input from college staff and others. There will be time for discussion, reflection and worship, as well as social time together. There will also be space to enjoy the facilities and beauty of Westminster and Cambridge. We look forward to seeing you back again or for a first visit. A warm welcome awaits.

Prices (inclusive of accommodation, meals and course):

- Single room £195
- Double room £390
- Day delegate £ 90

For more information and a booking form please contact the Tutorial Office 01223 330649

office@westminster.cam.ac.uk











Serving the United Reformed Church

More details as well as a booking form can be found on the Westminster College website at https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/urc/events



The URC History Society Conference

16-18 September 2024, University of Durham

The Church on the margins: learning from the past to shape the future

Speakers include:

- 1. Dr Michael Hopkins: "Durham and its Dissent"
- 2. Nancy Graham: "The trajectory of Erik Routley"
- 3. Prof. Alec Ryrie: "A remarkable work of grace": the first era of Presbyterian missions (c. 1740-70)
- 4. Prof. Peter Ackers: "The Churches of Christ and the early twentieth century British labour movement"
- 5. Dr Victoria Turner: "Coming to terms with Coloniality: The Changed Mind of Bernard Thorogood as General Secretary of CWM"
- 6. Prof Stephen Taylor: "Episcopalian congregationalism: a neglected episode in the development of Anglicanism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries"



This is an open and welcoming conference, for those with a general interest through to professional historians/theologians. We welcome serving ministers, because the conference is about exploring where we have come from in order to know where we are going. £275 full board in single room, £250 per person sharing a double room. Payments to United Reformed Church History Society 40-52-40, 00032467 Ministers can access EM3 funding towards this and for others it comes within the scope of the small DDF grant application for lay folk in Synods. For more information on this contact Kath Lonsdale through the Synod office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

United Reformed Church Buildings Forum Webinar

'Living stones for a living church: buildings for the ministry of Mission'
Part 1 – 21st May 7.30pm
Part 2 – 4th June 7.30pm

This is an open invitation to attend the **URC Church Buildings Forum webinar** on Zoom on 21 May 2024 7.30-9pm. Following the launch of these webinars just over three years ago, The Revd Dr John P. Bradbury will return as the keynote speaker to address how we may best use our building and assets for mission and ministry, particularly within the context of the **Church Life Review** and its outworking. As always with the webinars, you will have the opportunity for conversation in breakout rooms and, importantly, it will also be a listening exercise to hear the questions that you have, the challenges that churches face, and positive ideas, examples and news to be shared.

A complementary and more pragmatically focussed Part Two will take place on 4 June 2024 7.30-9pm. There will be a presentation of North Western Synod's strategy 'A Church with People at the Margins: A Strategy for Mission and Ministry' and examples of a number of local churches already on that journey, in order to stimulate debate and encourage other synods and local churches.

Coming along to one of the webinars will be more useful than not coming to either, but we do hope that you will be able to attend both.

To register for either or both seminars please email mission@urc.org.uk.

And Finally

New Children and Families Worker Appointed

Shiregreen URC, Sheffield, welcomes Tracey Winfrow as their new worker with children, young people and families from April. Tracey has a wide range of experience in churches, schools and chaplaincy in South Yorkshire.

Tracey will strengthen the work with younger members of the community and their families as the church rebuilds its provision for parents and youngsters after COVID. Already offering therapy space for children with issues and links with the local primary school, it is hoped to develop support for toddlers to teens and those who care for them.



Tracey seen here sharing the Easter story with some of the Shiregreen children this year

Having already organised an Easter Trail for

children and carers, Tracey is now planning to restart a toddler group in mid-April and strengthen the contacts with local primary schools.

Tracey will be officially commissioned at a service on April 14th, led by Revd. Barry Welch, one of the URC Team Sheffield ministers.

If you have a good news story from your part of the Synod, drop me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll make sure it hits the back page!!

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.