



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 131

13th June 2024



Here comes the Summer

Finally, it's here, the late running Briefing. Apologies to those who expected this to be with them last week, but a combination of holidays and meetings at our end meant that we pushed this issue back a week.

Happily, though, there is no sign that things are slowing down over the summer. There are still lots of things happening and I'm happy to be able to bring you some of the things that have already happened around the Synod. Don't all rush to the last page now, but the Wayfarer Community Drop-in café at Emmanuel St John is just one of those success stories following Jesus' request of Peter to "Feed my Sheep".

We are also three quarters of the way through the Synod Forums, with the final one being held at Christ Church, Hipperholme in three weeks' time. Once the team behind the Forums has brought together all that was discussed, I hope to be able to use The Briefing to feed back to you all as well.



If you hadn't noticed, it appears we are having a General Election on 4th July. The URC (with other denominations) are supporting the Joint Public Issues Team's "LOVE, PRAY, VOTE" initiative and have uploaded a very useful resources page on their website at <https://ipit.uk/elections>. Please make use of it if you can.

The summer will also see the arrival in Synod of two new faces. On 27th July at St Paul's Harrogate, Joe Amoah will be ordained and inducted into the pastorate there. Joe is no stranger to many of the URC Youth in Synod as he has recently served as chaplain to URC Youth Assembly. On 3rd August at St Ninian's & St Andrew's in Hull we will welcome Simon Cross into ministry and into the Hull pastorate. Simon's route to ministry has been through his local church in Lincolnshire and I'm sure we can give him a big Yorkshire welcome in August. For more details, keep an eye on the Yorkshire Synod diary at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/calendar/>.

Finally, 15 of us will be heading to the General Assembly of the URC at 'The Hayes' in Swanwick between 12th and 15th July. This annual meeting of the whole denomination is the place where the direction and mission of the URC is determined. Please pray for the Yorkshire representatives, as well as for all those representing their own Synods around the country, as they discern God's plan in the URC and beyond. More details will appear here [General Assembly papers - United Reformed Church](#).

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 and where we can find it. Tell me what you plan for the summer so that I can help spread that news. Drop me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out on Thursday 27th June.

Thank you and God Bless,

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk

Inviting



Leading your Church
into Growth

Conference

25-27 November

at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Talk to your Synod Rep for more information.

TO BOOK: Use the QR code or email
rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Reformed Church
Five Northerly
Synods

It is with great excitement that the LYCiG team is able to offer our Six Synods (Scotland, Northern, North Western, Mersey, Yorkshire and now West Midlands) 12 places each on this year's 'Leading Your Church into Growth' conference.

If you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Rev Ashley Evans or book directly through the QR code or by emailing rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk

This is on a first come first served basis.

Rev Ashley Evans

Evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk

lycig@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Mobile---07403423082

Landline-01274241234



Why don't you follow me at...

<https://www.facebook.com/ashleymtevans>

This is a great opportunity to meet with URC folks from various places to learn together about how much God loves us and wants us to share that love in practical, doable and life affirming ways.

I'm going

It's going to be good

Do you want to come with me?



POSITIVELY RURAL
A place to call home?

Wednesday 3 July - 7:30pm

Exploring some of the issues around rural housing and homelessness

Book your place:
<https://240703-Home.eventbrite.co.uk>



Positively Rural is an online community hosted by the Learning Network and is open to anyone of any denomination involved in rural ministry, including volunteers, lay workers and clergy.



Regional Gathering
8th July 2024

Calling Appreciative Inquiry practitioners in Northern England!

On Monday 8th July there will be an “Appreciating Church” gathering being held here at the Synod Office at 12.30pm and led by Rev Fiona Thomas.

“The event will be a time and space to eat together, worship together, learn together, deepen the sense of being a community of practice, and exercise our appreciative muscle.”

An on-site opportunity for conversation with Appreciative Inquiry practitioners working with churches or from church backgrounds. Facilitated by Fiona Thomas, Developmentalist for Appreciating Church....”

More information can be found on the attachments and for booking, please click the link below
<https://appreciating.church/events/appreciating-church-regional-gathering-in-leeds/>

SUMMER FUN



FRIENDSHIP, GAMES, FAITH & FUN

AUGUST 15 | 12 - 4PM | £2PP
HERRINGTHORPE URC



Book
your
place
here

Sign up with Megan Tillbrook
wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk



After such a wet spring and it feels like the summer is still so far away



However, here is an event to give you that summer feeling!

THURSDAY 15 AUGUST at

[Herringthorpe United Reformed Church](#)

Get your young people together and come and join in with
an afternoon of fun and friendship.

We will have inflatables available, a nerf war, summer craft
activities, food and drink, and short faith seminars.

Bookings now open!

For more information contact wilderness@urc.org.uk.

Loving



Building on the success of last year's Synod Forums, this year's sessions have already started. The last of this year's Forums will be taking place at Christ Church, Hipperholme on Saturday 8th July. I'll be reminding you of it again in the next issue as this final opportunity for fellowship and good conversation is too good to miss. As with the previous Forums, the Hipperholme one will run from 10.30am – 1pm and 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 be 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.

The Synod Forum Yorkshire

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



Free to Believe Conference 2024

Coming to our Senses

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Wed 4th to Fri 6th September 2024

Free to Believe Conference 2024

The Hayes Conference Centre

Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th September 2024

Cost £275 (Booking Form Attached)

Coming to our Senses

*'The Word made flesh is here made word again' (Edwin Muir, The Incarnate One).
A focus on embodiment, a continuing challenge for churches, and worldwide.*

Speakers:

Kathy Galloway

Former Leader of the Iona Community, and former Head of Christian Aid Scotland.

Victoria Turner

Editor - 'Young, Woke and Christian'

Worship Leaders:

Fiona Bennett

Minister of Augustine URC, Edinburgh

Kathy Galloway



For more information please contact Revd Sally Massey Thomas
Minister with St Paul's Bayswater and Kensington United Reformed Churches, Acting Ecumenical
Officer Thames North Synod, Email - minister.stpaulsbayswaterurc@gmail.com ,
Tel - 0207 912 3253 / 07738 766677

Partnering



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



Steps along the Way

An event to remember and celebrate:
the lives of loved ones now died, the occasion of our baptism, wedding days - our own
and those of friends and family

Keld Chapel Sunday July 7 at 2.00pm

Led by the Revd Peter Poulter

Please feel free to bring a photograph, memento or toy to help focus on the special people and occasions that we are celebrating

Caroline volunteering as a Police Chaplain

We are really pleased to report that Mrs Caroline Pathak, a Lay Preacher in Yorkshire Synod and also Mission Enabler at Longcauseway Church in Dewsbury, is volunteering as a Police Chaplain in West Yorkshire. Caroline says *"It's a great privilege to come alongside those who tirelessly work for public safety."*

Read here a little about Caroline's journey: Caroline Pathak began her career as a teacher in India for a significant period and took up the role of a warden in a boarding school. She moved to the UK in 2006 and pursued her theological studies. She worked both in mainstream and special needs schools, care sector and pastoral work in London. In 2016, she moved to Bradford



taking on a pastoral role. Her passion to

support the community was a clear call from the beginning following her mother's example. Her work reflects her strong Christian faith.

Whilst working as Mission Enabler at Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury, Caroline began her journey as a Volunteer Police Chaplain in August 2023. She loves to serve the community she works with, making connections with organisations and individuals.

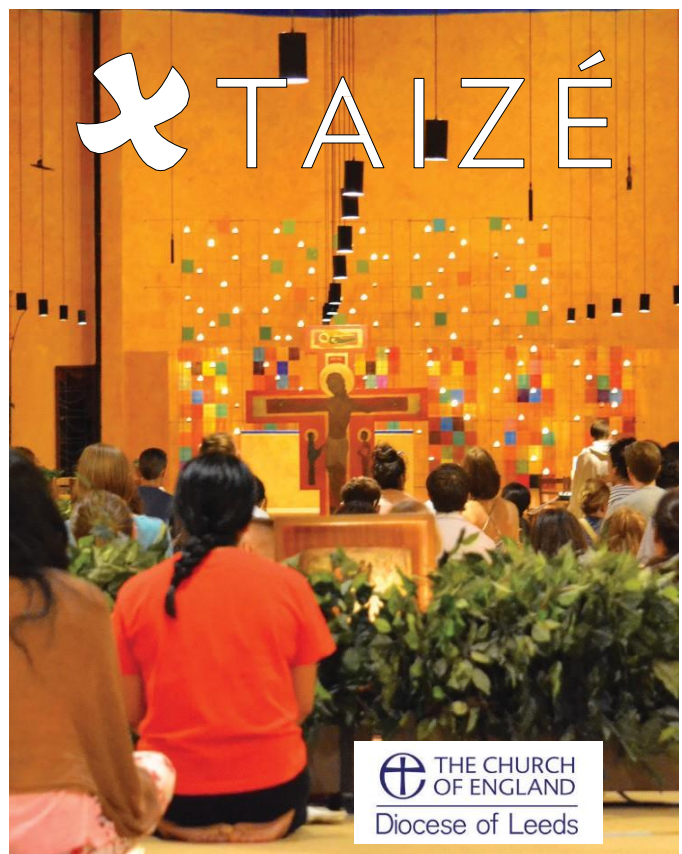


TAIZE PILGRIMAGE

We have been contacted by our friend, Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam, the Bishop of Huddersfield. She is leading a pilgrimage to Taize during August 2024 and it is hoped the Archbishop of York will also join it for part of that time. The pilgrimage is open to young people, families and church leaders so that we can better connect faith and daily life through the rhythms of prayer that community life affords and in the company of fellow pilgrims from all over the world – in a place which a former Pope called a "little springtime for the church."

You need to have a British passport or other passport with Schengen visa and the cost will be £300 per person. This includes a contribution for the stay in Taizé and return travel to Huddersfield (other stops negotiable).

There is a leaflet available which I can send out (e-mail me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) but for more information please contact Bishop Smitha at bishop.smitha@leeds.anglican.org or taize@holynativity.co.uk and we are told that bookings and full payments are due by 5th July.



Sharing



Church Related Community Work

Creating Change in Communities & the Church

Church & Community Engagement Newsletter

New this spring is the first edition of the Church & Church & Community Engagement Newsletter! It's packed full of information, resources and means of encouragement to enable you and your church to be even more present and engaged within your local neighbourhood and with communities as an expression of God's love and mission.

It is run by Steve Summers (Development Worker) and Samara Andrews (Administrator) who are based through Church House in the Church Related Community Work and Special Category Ministry section. In each issue they will bring us news of all that is happening in the life of CRCW and SCM projects around the denomination as well as highlighting partner activities and resource sources.

This is the link to this first issue [Church & Community Engagement News \(urc-news.org.uk\)](https://urc-news.org.uk) or <https://tinyurl.com/26wjxoe9> or for more information and to sign up to the newsletter contact Samara at samara.andrews@urc.org.uk.

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.

Safeguarding Training

The Safeguarding team have put together some fresh dates for Intermediate and Advanced Safeguarding Training as well as a few dates offering Refresher Training.

As ever, to book a place, please let Paula Kitson know which course and the date you wish to attend – her e-mail address is paulakitson.1and4@urc.org.uk – and a zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the event where appropriate.

Intermediate Training – via zoom

Thursday 27th June 2024 @ 7pm
Monday 16th September @10am
Wednesday 20th November 2024 @1pm

Refresher Training – via zoom

Thursday 25th July 2024 @ 10am
Tuesday 13th August 2024 @ 1pm
Wednesday 25th September 2024 @ 7pm
Saturday 16th November 2024 @10am

Advanced Training – via zoom, both parts must be completed.

Monday 25th November 2024 @ 1pm
Monday 2nd December 2024 @ 1pm



UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub bit.ly/3Txldm4

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event	Second date
17 January, 2024 1:30pm	Domestic abuse	4 June, 2024 6:30pm
25 January 1:30pm	Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting survivors	11 June 6:30pm
30 January 6:30pm	Modern slavery	8 October 1:30pm
31 January 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees	14 May 7:00pm
8 February 1:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	23 May 6:30pm
27 February 6:30pm	Substance abuse	3 October 1:30pm
6 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers	17 September 6:30pm
18 March 6:30pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting survivors	25 September 1:30pm
18 April 6:30pm	Adult safeguarding	15 October 1:30pm
8 May 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse	11 November 7:00pm
28 October 6:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	4 December 10:00am
19 November 1:30pm	Online safety	



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee



Westminster College Cambridge

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.



Serving the United Reformed Church

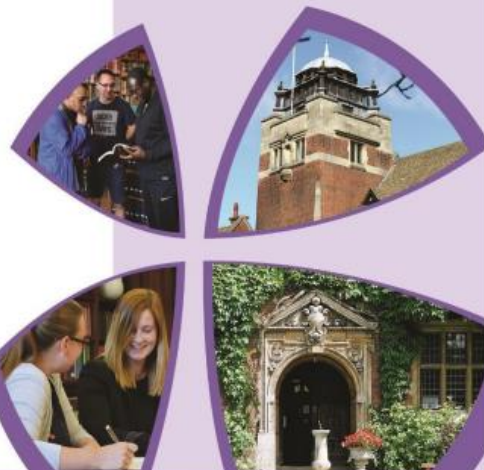
Prices (inclusive of accommodation, meals and course):

- 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



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>

Also the College is seeking immediate nominations and applications for a Convenor of Governors for Westminster College. This is an opportunity to support the College at an exciting time of change and development. Do you have experience of UK higher education? Do you value good governance? Do you enjoy charring meetings? If so then we would love to hear from you. For details please visit <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>. To find out more about Education and Learning in the URC and how Westminster College fits into that please contact jenny.mills@urc.org.uk.

Building



The Joint Public Issues Team has launched a range of General Election resources for congregations and we have received this from Roo Stewart, the URC's Programme Officer for Church and Society.

These are intended to help churches and their neighbourhoods to consider the issues

that will come up during the election, to engage with their local candidates and to ensure that the voices of members of each community are heard.

The URC has joined the national 'Voter Registration Ambassador' scheme, which encourages those who are eligible to vote to ensure they are registered to vote and have appropriate photo ID (or have applied for a postal vote) in time for the general election on 4 July. All congregations are invited to become a [Voter Registration Champion](#), also means thinking of those who are less likely to vote in a general election. For church buildings which serve as a community hub for a broad range of people during the week, this is an ideal opportunity to encourage many more people to engage in the democratic system by choosing who will speak for them in the UK Parliament.



The General Election on 4 July is an opportunity to help your congregation consider the big issues that affect our society. So the Joint Public Issues Team has produced some resources that might help you:

Get registered
You can register to vote as many times as you like - but you'll still only get one vote!
You can register to vote from age 16 - but you need to be 18 or older to vote in the General Election.
You can register online or with a paper form. Follow the QR-code or link below to find out how.
It takes five minutes to fill in the form, but can take six weeks to be registered, so don't wait.

Get Voter ID
This is the first General Election where you will need to show photographic proof of identity.
Some forms of ID you can use:
• passport
• photocard driving licence
• blue badge
• concessionary travel pass even if it has expired, as long as the photo still looks like you.
To check what you can use, or to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, use the QR code or link below.

Vote!
It's a privilege to be able to vote - please use this important opportunity. It was not always possible for many in our society.
JPIT has produced resources called 'LOVE, PRAY, VOTE' to help you engage with the election.
These are available using the QR-code or link on the right.
Could you help someone else to register and check they have Voter ID? Or offer to give them a lift to the polling station on the day?

GET READY TO VOTE

Scan the QR code with your phone or type the link in your web browser

jpit.uk/elections

Produced in February 2024 by The United Reformed Church, an ambassador of the Citizens UK Voter Registration Champions Scheme

- How to hold a hustings event for your community
- Issues briefings and key questions for candidates on issues of immigration and asylum seekers, the environment, the economy, peacemaking, poverty and engagement in a politics characterised by listening, kindness and truthfulness
- A poster explaining appropriate photo ID
- How to encourage fruitful conversation between people with different viewpoints
- Ideas for a 'Voter Registration Sunday' or 'Elections Sunday' - where part or all of a service is dedicated to engaging with issues around the General Election or overcoming the barriers that might hinder people from voting, such as voter registration, voter ID or voter apathy.
- Because of the deadlines for electoral applications, the final Sunday this could usefully be done before the General Election is **16 June** - see jpit.uk/election

As always, we encourage churches to be courageous in speaking out about the issues that affect your neighbourhood and our world. **During an election, any communications made on behalf of a church (regulated in the UK by the Charity Commission) must not be party political** – i.e. endorsing or criticising a key policy of a particular party. This might seem tough to do, but you are at liberty to share your church’s values as long as they cannot be perceived as partisan. E.g. ‘We believe that poverty can be ended in the UK if there is the political will. We are urging all our election candidates to put this high on their political agenda for the next government’, or ‘We are praying for all our local candidates, for safety during their campaigns, that they would hear the voices of the marginalised in our communities, and they would take seriously our commitment to care for our planet’s creatures and climate.’ We have **practical advice on preaching and praying** during the election period in our [blog](#).

Whose voices are missing from our elections?



Source: Electoral Commission – 2023 Report: Electoral Registers in the UK

If you would like a colourful, glossy A3 poster – ‘Get Ready to Vote’ – explaining how to get ready to vote to display inside or outside your church building, we can send some to you. (These were originally sent out to churches in March.)

If you need more advice or support, or have further ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear from you. Please email: roo.stewart@urc.org.uk or phone: 020 7916 8632.

A short message for church news bulletins, etc:

The General Election will be held on 4 July.

You might already be tired by the media coverage, but this is an important opportunity to choose who will speak up for our community.

- If you’re eligible to vote, are you 100% sure you are registered?
- Do you know what photo ID you need to take to the Polling Station?
- Which issues do you care about most?
- Are there voices in our neighbourhood that are not being heard?
- Could you help a neighbour get out to vote on election day?

The Joint Public Issues Team has created resources to help you engage in the general election. jpit.uk/election

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 [Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal - United Reformed 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](#).

Solar Panels

Our erstwhile Property Officer, Jane Bunyan (as well as the Eco Apostles), have been made aware of new guidance for the installation of Solar panels to church buildings. Full details can be found through the Historic England website at <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/building-services-engineering/installing-photovoltaics/>, so if you are thinking of helping God's planet, please take a look here and contact Jane at property@urcyorkshire.org.uk



WE ARE HIRING!

St Andrew's Roundhay United Reformed Church, have a vacancy for a Financial Administrator to take on book-keeping, room bookings and grant applications. Flexible hours and location based upon 20 hours per week.

Salary is £15,600 per annum.

Closing date for applications is 21st June, 2024.


Please visit our website for full job specification.



APPLY TODAY!

Please submit your CV and a short covering letter, stating why you would be suitable for the role, to:

 recruitment@standrews.cc or post to

 St Andrew's Roundhay, Shaftesbury Avenue, Leeds, LS8 1DS

www.standrews.cc





The
United
Reformed
Church

Education and Learning Transitional Lead London

Full time

Fixed-term contract or termed appointment (for one year)
Salary: Circa £60,500 or URC Minister's stipend

Do you have the vision and skills to lead Education and Learning in the church through changing times?

This role supports the Education and Learning Committee of General Assembly, the three Resource Centres for Learning and the Training and Development officers in our Synods. Their joint goal is to enable the United Reformed Church to provide integrated education and training to equip the whole people of God for mission. A key part of this role is to encourage and foster continued evolution towards better meeting our goal in changing circumstances, in which intergenerational learning is key.

You will have proven experience of delivering education and learning as well as change management capabilities.

*Applications are invited from candidates who are a member of the United Reformed Church or of a church belonging to World Communion of Reformed Churches, Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, Council for World Mission, Action for Churches Together in Scotland, Churches Together in England, Cytun (Churches Together in Wales), Free Churches Group or Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. **

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 9874
recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/jobs**

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 14 June 2024

Interview date: Wednesday 26 June 2024

*In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian
This post is subject to an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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 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 full-time (37.5 hours per week) but we will be willing to consider applicants who wish to work fewer hours. Flexibility on hours worked will be required with some work on evenings and weekends.

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

A job description is available from the Church Secretary Sue Jesson:
Contact jessonsusan@gmail.com.

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 31st July 2024

Date of interview to be advised.

If you wish to have an informal discussion about this role please contact Sue Jesson on 07973 391154.

And Finally

If Food Be the Gift of Love, Serve On!



After a brief Warm Space venture back in 2020, Sharon Hall and her husband, Ian, of Emmanuel St John's Church in Scarborough were pleased to get the go ahead to open a place of food and fellowship under the banner of WAYFARER. Using the "Feed My Sheep" passage (John 21, 15-19) they knew that God's calling was not just to offer tea and biscuits, but to provide meals, to 'Feed my sheep' and knew that this was God's nudge.

For over three months now they have had twenty folk attending and through a pay as you can ethos (with help from the

congregation at ESJ) they have been able to fund each weeks meals and drinks. They never cease to be 'wowed' by the windows of heaven's blessings making this venture possible.

By joining three long tables they make a 'family meal' of it! Smaller tables round the room have newspapers and activities (of which people have their favourites): some were provided by members of the local Anglican church, St Saviour's. A member of their own congregation has provided rhubarb crumble from their allotment, plus biscuits from her son's employment. An initial stranger, now familiar, has weekly provided cutlery from her hunts in charity shops!

Table and chair lifting, washing up, Sharon's sister's skills with food and the use of the kitchen are all part of the framework which holds this mission together. Recently a member of church provided (ad hoc) a surprise pudding of strawberries and cream, so the dessert they had prepared went in the freezer for the following week!

Homeless people (two with their dogs at times) all are welcome, and there is no US and THEM, we are all God's sheep! Some have hard circumstances, but a listening ear and a sandwich to take home at the end brings them a brief respite. A gentleman left recently who was in a really difficult situation and looked unwell, said as he was offered a lift home, 'I've got a really warm feeling in the bottom of my stomach – thank you',

God, we pray you will fan that 'feeling' into a flame for that gent, and may each visitor find you present at WAYFARER, in each empty chair!

Fill the room and all hearts, Father... AMEN.

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](#).