



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 132

27th June 2024



It's Here; Sun, Sea (nearly) and The Spirit

There are some big things happening in the next fortnight (and beyond) and like in previous weeks we are being invited to lots of events and to make some important choices.



A week today we are being invited to choose those folk who want to represent us in Parliament. The JPIT team have some excellent resources to help us discern the choices we make, steeped in the Bible, in Justice and in Fairness. The URC (with other denominations) are supporting JPIT's "LOVE, PRAY, VOTE" initiative and have uploaded a very useful resources page on their

website at <https://jpit.uk/elections>. Please make use of it if you can.

There are plenty of other invitations to events across Synod which will explore our environment, our local communities and our faith. We are also three quarters of the way through the Synod Forums, with the final one being held at Christ Church, Hipperholme a week on Saturday (6th July). Once the team behind the Forums has brought together all that was discussed over the four events, I hope to be able to use The Briefing to bring you the feedback.

Other invitations are to the Summer Fun day in August at Herringthorpe and I would like to highlight two special invitations, one on Saturday 27th July when we welcome Joe Amoah into Harrogate St Paul's, and on the following Saturday, on 3rd August when we welcome Simon Cross to the Hull Churches at St Ninian's & St Andrew's. Full details can be found on the Synod Calendar at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/calendar/>

We also have invitations to a couple of key 'Leading Your Church into Growth' events. On the evening of Tuesday 23rd July there is an introductory session to the local LYCiG course and we are also invited to make our bookings for the three-day conference being held at The Hayes in Swanwick in November. Keep on reading the Briefing for further details.

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 11th July.

Thank you and God Bless,

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk

Inviting



The LYCiG *local* course



Leading your Church
into Growth

Over the last few years, Synods have been helping to resource our churches in all sorts of ways.

One of those ways to attend a LYCiG (Leading Your Church into Growth) conference, and to use the materials. However as a starter Ashley Evans, our Synod Evangelist will be leading an Introductory training session on the 23rd July at 7pm which will cover how to run the Leading Your Church Into Growth *Local* course at your church or group of churches.

If you are interested please let Ashley know by contacting him at Evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk so that he can send you the zoom link.

With this we are able to help your church family to go on a journey of discovery and excitement.

And then 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. This is a great opportunity to

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 Northernly
Synods

meet with URC folk 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.

If you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley Evans. Tickets are on a first come, first served basis and you can book directly through the QR code, by emailing rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk, or by following this link <https://buytickets.at/theunitedreformedchurchyorkshireprovincetrustltd/1245607>

Rev Ashley Evans, Evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk, lycig@urcwestmidlands.org.uk



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

Mobile---07403423082, Landline-01274241234,



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.

Short Courses at Trinity College Glasgow

The good folk at URC Education and Learning have asked that you be made aware of these short courses being run by Trinity College Glasgow in the coming academic year, 2024-25. These courses are a mixture of online, in-person and hybrid formats (specified on each course poster, banner and website page), and so will be suitable for a range of people. Comprehensive information for all of our courses is available at our website:

<https://www.trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/>

Please don't hesitate to get in touch directly if you would like specific sizing of the promotional material or have any questions. The primary contact is Heather O'Connor whose e-mail is TrinityCollegeGlasgow@gmail.com.

2. Preaching in Church Contexts

Practical Theology Short Courses

PREACHING IN CHURCH CONTEXTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This creative, practical and stimulating course will help you to develop as a preacher through reflection on why and how we preach. The course offers students an introduction to the processes involved in constructing, writing and delivering sermons in Christian contexts. We will explore the relationships between the form of biblical texts and the sermons we preach on them, as well as reflecting on delivery, style and method. A key feature of the course is the opportunity to learn from tutor and peer feedback on sermons preached in class.

TUTOR
REV DR DOUG GAY
(Lecturer in Practical Theology at the University of Glasgow, preacher, minister, author)

WHO IS IT FOR?
This course is for those who wish to grow as a preacher and have already completed a level 1 course, or other forms of further education.

APPLICATION INFO
To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegglasgow@gmail.com.
Comprehensive course information available at:
trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/preaching-in-church-contexts

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON | 4-6PM
WEDNESDAYS
25TH SEPT - 4TH DEC, 2024
£207 PER APPLICANT

“ DOUG GAY ENCOURAGES US TO UNDERSTAND THE WORK OF PREACHING AS AN ARTFUL FORM THAT IS GENERATED OUT OF A LIFE LIVED IN FAITH. ”
- Review of God be in My Mouth: 40 Ways to Grow as a Preacher (2018)

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Twitter.com/trinityglasgow

TRINITY COLLEGE University of Glasgow
Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

1. History and Theology of Worship

Practical Theology Short Courses

HISTORY AND THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces students to the history and theology of Christian worship. It provides an understanding of the development of current forms of Christian worship, the nature of sacramental distinctions, and new sources and ecumenical confluences in 20th- and 21st-century worship. It provides perspectives which will underpin future worship practice and the development of advanced worship leading skills.

TUTOR
PROFESSOR CHARLOTTE METHUEN
(British Anglican priest, historian, and academic at the University of Glasgow)

WHO IS IT FOR?
This course is for anyone interested in the history and theology of Christian worship with experience within a Christian church.

APPLICATION INFO
To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegglasgow@gmail.com.
Comprehensive course information available at:
trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/history-and-theology-of-worship

ONLINE | 6:30-8:30PM
MONDAY EVENINGS
30TH SEPT - 25TH NOV, 2024
£207 PER APPLICANT

“ SUCH A POSITIVE AND HELPFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE ”

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TRINITY COLLEGE University of Glasgow
Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

3. Contemporary Art and Visual Worship

Practical Theology Short Courses

CONTEMPORARY VISUAL ART AND WORSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course offers an exploration of the integration of contemporary visual arts in Christian liturgy and the worship environment. The course is open to learners of any background, with no prerequisite knowledge of art or liturgy, and is ideal for those who are seeking to develop the visual arts in their church or faith organisation. The course will engage theologically and artistically, and by the end of the course students will be equipped with practical and theoretical skills for developing creative visual arts practice in their own area.

TUTOR
DR CAROL MARPLES
(Artist, teacher and creative liturgist for the Soul-Marks Trust)

WHO IS IT FOR?
Learners of any background, with an interest in visual arts, who are looking to develop these in their church or faith organisation.

APPLICATION INFO
To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegglasgow@gmail.com.
Comprehensive course information available at:
trinitycollegglasgow.co.uk/visual-art-and-worship

ONLINE | 7-9PM
THURSDAY EVENINGS
3RD OCT - 28TH NOV, 2024
£207 PER APPLICANT

“ THE CONTENT WAS PRACTICAL AND INSPIRING, TAUGHT WITH PASSION AND INTEGRITY. THE IMPACT OF THE COURSE REMAINS AND INFLUENCES MY MINISTRY.. ”
- Student feedback, Spring 2022

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TRINITY COLLEGE University of Glasgow
Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

4. Creative Writing as Spiritual Reflection


Practical Theology Short Courses

CREATIVE WRITING AS SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will enable and support the use of creative writing as a means of theological reflection upon personal, spiritual and contemporary experience. Each week participants will engage with key texts, undertake writing exercises, produce their own creative writing and share their work within small groups. By the end of the course they will have produced a piece of creative writing and a critical reflection on this for assessment and/or feedback. The ethos of the course will be supportive, participatory and require the engaged, respectful participation of all members.

TUTOR
LIZ MACWHIRTER
(Award-winning writer, theologian)



WHO IS IT FOR?

This course is for people who would like to engage with creative writing as part of their spiritual journey in a supportive and communal setting.

APPLICATION INFO



To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegeglasgow@gmail.com.

Comprehensive course information available at:
trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk/creative-writing-spiritual-practice

ONLINE | 7-9PM
MONDAY EVENINGS
SEPT 30TH - NOV 25TH, 2024
£207 PER APPLICANT

“EXCELLENT TEACHING OPENING UP NEW UNDERSTANDING OF CREATIVE WRITING AND ENCOURAGING ONGOING PRACTICE.”
- Student feedback, Spring 2022

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Twitter.com/trinityglasgow

Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

6. Listening in Mission

Practical Theology Short Courses

LISTENING IN MISSION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the practice and theology of listening in mission within local communities and how this may renew imagination and impact of the church in a rapidly changing society. Course attendees will explore common mission approaches and be introduced to practices of local community research, theological reflection, and spiritual discernment, in order to develop practical skills in mission attentiveness. Processes that enable group reflection, observation, listening to stories and interpretation will be introduced so these skills can be deployed in church or mission teams.

TUTOR
TO BE CONFIRMED.

WHO IS IT FOR?

This course is applicable to those who lead in local church situations and those interested in innovating and pioneering in church mission.

APPLICATION INFO

To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegeglasgow@gmail.com.

Comprehensive course information is available at:
trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk/listening-in-mission

ONLINE | 7-9PM
THURSDAY EVENINGS
30TH JAN - 27TH MAR, 2025
£207 PER APPLICANT

“THOUGHT PROVOKING AND STRETCHING. PRACTICAL AS WELL AS THEOLOGICAL, CHALLENGING US IN OUR PERCEPTIONS OF MISSION.”
- Student feedback, Autumn 2021

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Twitter.com/trinityglasgow




Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

5. Designing and Leading Worship

Practical Theology Short Courses

DESIGNING AND LEADING WORSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to designing and leading Christian worship services utilising theological and historically rich patterns and practices and adapting these to participants contemporary church context. It will stimulate participants to be reflective, recognise how worship works and become more skilled at designing and leading meaningful, participatory acts of church worship. This class is in a 'hybrid' format, with classes taking place in-person and an option to attend online via Zoom.

TUTORS
TUTOR TBC
(UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW)

JO LOVE
(IONA COMMUNITY)



WHO IS IT FOR?

This course is accessible to those in a church who are beginning to lead acts of Christian worship and for local church leaders who wish to refresh their understanding and practice.

APPLICATION INFO

To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegeglasgow@gmail.com.

Comprehensive course information available at:
trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk/designing-and-leading-worship

HYBRID | 7-9PM
MONDAY EVENINGS
20TH JAN - 27TH MAR, 2025
£207 PER APPLICANT

“THE COURSE EQUIPPED ALL OF US FOR LEADING WORSHIP WITH A RICH VARIETY OF SESSIONS FROM FOLKS WITH DIFFERENT SPECIALIST AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE.”
- Student feedback, Autumn 2021

Facebook.com/TrinityCollegeGlasgow
Twitter.com/trinityglasgow




Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

7. Liturgy and Prayer

Practical Theology Short Courses

LITURGY & PRAYER

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops participant skills in planning, writing and producing worship materials including spoken liturgies, prayer and rituals and leading these in the context of Christian Worship.

This course will aim to extend student competence in the production of worship materials including spoken liturgies, prayer and rituals; explore the significance of worship and ritual in relation to the human life cycle; examine resources which are helpful in the construction of Christian worship, and support the development of writing and presentation skills through active practice.

TUTOR
REV DR DOUG GAY
(Lecturer in Practical Theology at the University of Glasgow, preacher, minister, author)



WHO IS IT FOR?

This course is designed as a follow up for those who have completed another course in worship, or who have experience in leading worship.

APPLICATION INFO

To notify your interest, please email trinitycollegeglasgow@gmail.com.

Comprehensive course information is available at:
trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk/liturgy-prayer-worship

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON | 4-6PM
WEDNESDAYS
JAN 15TH - 26TH MAR, 2025
£207 PER APPLICANT

“THOSE SEEKING TO FRESHEN UP THEIR CRAFT WILL BE ENGAGED BY GAY'S CONVERSATIONAL VOICE AND ENRICHED BY HIS IMAGINATIVE APPROACH.”
- Rev John Davies

Facebook.com/TrinityCollegeGlasgow
Twitter.com/trinityglasgow




Course image design by Kelsey Johnston

Loving



Building on the success of last year's Synod Forums, this year's sessions have nearly finished. The last of this year's Forums will be taking place at Christ Church, Hipperholme on Saturday 6th July. It is this summer's final opportunity for fellowship and good conversation and it is really 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 United Reformed Church 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



DARE

The Darwen Asylum Refugee Enterprise

Refugee
Week

17-23 June 2024

Trinity St Andrews Church celebrated Refugee Week this year by inviting friends from the Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise to visit Skipton on 16th June, for the day. Members of the DARE group took part in the service. The preacher was Rev Gilbert Esambe, a minister of the Lancashire East Missional Partnership, who is very involved in the work of Central URC in Darwen that runs the DARE project.

Two members of the group read lessons and the congregation were told a little of their stories, whilst the children made Refugee Week suncatchers and orange heart badges which were given out to the congregation as they left the service. This was a truly memorable service, alive with singing and praying for our refugee friends.



After the service visitors were treated to a wonderful hot meal provide by members of the congregation, followed by a walk up to a nearby open space with magnificent views over Skipton and a playground for the children.

Events such as these bring together diverse communities and say more than words can do alone. They are literally faith in action. The theme of this year's Refugee Week was 'Our Home' and we hope that our friends from DARE found a home away from home in Skipton.



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

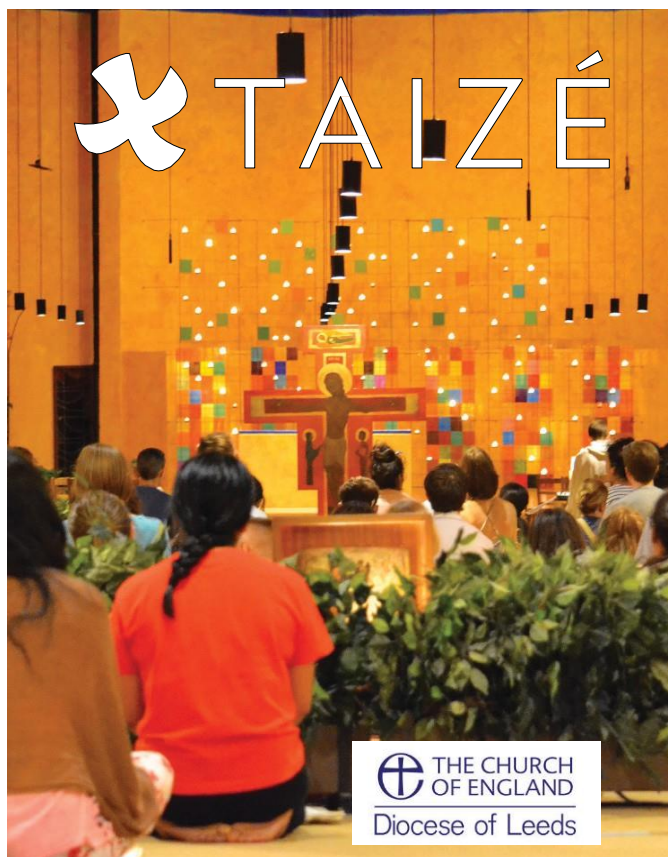
Please feel free to bring a photograph, memento or toy to help focus on the special people and occasions that we are celebrating

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



The Temple Park Centre in Sheffield is at the heart of what we know in Yorkshire as the Manor Project. Up to a couple of years ago Simon Loveitt was in post as a CRCW there, and although he has now headed south to help them level up with the north, we still have close links. They recently held a Celebration Day, and you can see that celebration, and how they are moving forward by clicking here https://youtu.be/V2okMxjV2_0 to watch a video of the day on YouTube. For more information visit the Celebration day page on their website at <https://templeparkcentre.org/2024/05/29/temple-park-centre-celebration-day/> or go directly to the main site at <https://templeparkcentre.org/>



Hitting the high notes at Heckmondwike

The afternoon of Sunday 23rd June saw the fabulous **Cafe Jam worship group** at a gathering of the churches in SPACE (SPen And Calder Enterprise).

Congregations from Heckmondwike URC, Longcauseway church, Norristhorpe URC and Ravensthorpe with Hopton URC were spiritually uplifted with both familiar and new worship songs during the all age worship.



The proceedings began with an 'afternoon tea' style lunch prepared by people of the Heckmondwike church, followed by the quality live music as performed by Malcolm, Rita and Helen, expertly coordinated by Richard. The group, Cafe Jam, had travelled from areas of the Mersey Synod and were warmly received as praise, prayer and reflections enhanced the whole worship experience. Truly inspirational!



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	



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



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?

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

[jpit.uk/elections](https://www.jpit.uk/elections)

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

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:

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, peace-making, 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, see [jpit.uk/election](https://www.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.

If you need more advice or support, or have further ideas or suggestions, please email: roo.stewart@urc.org.uk or phone: 020 7916 8632. However in the meantime, here's something that may be useful for your Church Magazines:

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

Whose voices are missing from our elections?

You are at greater risk of not being able to participate in the democratic process if you:



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

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



Last time we had a food orientated “And Finally”, so I thought I would continue the theme with a “Bake Off” version. This is from our friends at St Andrew’s Roundhay where they had a great evening of church groups coming together to create something. So, when The Red Kite Explorers [Red Kite ESU | North Leeds Scouts \(nlscouts.org.uk\)](http://RedKiteESU.org.uk) asked the church catering team for help with a “technical style baking challenge” required for a badge, the culinary experts at St Andrew’s were delighted to help. On 23rd May they brought ingredients, tins, pans and expertise along to the “Bake off–Lemon Meringue Pie Challenge”. The first challenge was that many of the young people had never heard of lemon meringue pie and didn’t know what it should look like!! The generation gap has never felt wider!! Anyway, the teams got themselves ready and the baking began. First they made the pastry which they would take home with them to turn into tarts as we did not have time to let it chill. This was messy and the results were mixed but everyone gave it their best shot. Then we moved onto the pastry cases we had prepared earlier (very Blue Peter) and, while they were blind baking, we made the lemon filling. We had lots of fun and laughter zesting and juicing lemons and oranges and all fillings were successfully completed. Cases filled, we turned to the meringue topping and the associated challenge of separating egg whites and yolks. “Be prepared” they taught us in brownies and guides, and thankfully we had been, as we needed a few of the extra eggs we had brought along! Toppings were splodged, swirled and piped and finally the meringue was popped in the oven. Technical challenge achieved! Great results from them all!



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](#).