



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 137



12th September 2024

MORE INVITATIONS AND WELCOMES

This issue of the Briefing is a really positive one, with stories of welcome, celebrations and more importantly invitations. The doors have been flung open to show how we can be an open, friendly inclusive people and in particular how we at Synod are prepared to invest in the future of the Church by looking to



YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY ENABLER

To serve churches in the Harrogate & Knaresborough Group of the United Reformed Church in Yorkshire :

- 4 YEARS FULL-TIME ●
- UP TO £30,095K ●

CLOSING DATE:
08/11/2024

For more information:
 **MEGAN TILLBROOK**
07522 220 213

Application Pack Available:
office@urcyorkshire.org.uk 

recruit a **Youth, Children and Family Enabler** – as you'll see from this advert. It goes without saying that a huge amount of work goes into resourcing our commitment to the future of the Church and now that Synod is looking to recruit a Youth, Children and Family Enabler we can put that commitment into action. So if you are interested in knowing more, please get in touch via the e-mail or phone number on the advert, or if you know of someone who may be right for the role ask them to get in touch via the e-mail or phone number.

If you have any news of welcoming people into Church, stories of celebration and hope or even notices of future events, please let me know by dropping me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out on Thursday 26th September.

Thank you and God Bless,

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk

All SHINE at Westfield URC, Wyke



The Synod's Children & Young People Development Practitioner, Megan Tillbrook, visited Westfield URC, Wyke on Sunday 1st September to present Imogen Illingworth (14) with her **Lundie Memorial Award**. Every month, URC Children's and Youth Work celebrates an individual who is using their God-given skills, time and talents to good effect within their church, their community or their Synod.

The following is some of what Imogen has to say about this her witness at Westfield URC:

*"Since **SHINE** (Serve Him in Everything – Westfield URC young people's Sunday group) began when I was 7, I have seen Westfield as my church. I enjoy **SHINE** more than school because it is more fun and we do things whilst we are talking about the bible. I like helping out with the younger children after the service and helping to serve refreshments to everyone. If I have friends sleeping over I always say to them "I am going to church do you want to come with me?" If they say no I say "I am not missing" and go on my own but I am always pleased when they come with me.*

I was very happy to be told I was August's winner of the

Lundie award. "

At Westfield the congregation is very proud of Imogen's faithfulness and commitment to the fellowship and she thoroughly deserves this award. It includes a £100 cheque which she has decided already to split between SHINE for resources and buying items needed for Wyke foodbank.

Who could you nominate for a Lundie Memorial Award?

Anyone under the age of 26 can be nominated and anybody can make a nomination at any time of the year. Suggested nomination areas are:

- a young carer
- a young person running a holiday club
- a child volunteering at a dementia café
- a young person fund raising for a Messy Church outing
- a young person providing live music for services
- a child raising money for an overseas development project
- a young person training older people in the use of technology
- a child who turns up early every week to set out the chairs for a club
- a young person volunteering as a peer mentor at college
- anyone under 26 who is playing their part in the mission of God in any way
- To make a nomination, download and complete a nomination form from the URC website at <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/family-friendly-church/lundie-memorial-awards/> or <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/lundie-leaflet-2023.pdf> and send it by post or email to your Megan at megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Keep on Running



10k for £10k

Help Simon fund research into blood cancer

Simon Copley our Synod Treasurer doesn't often ask for money, but.....!

He is running the Sheffield 10k on September 29th to raise funds for **Blood Cancer UK** (RCN 216032)

This is to honour his amazing niece **Rebecca Robinson** who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia when giving birth to her daughter Annabel in April - read her story here: [Amy Copley is fundraising for Blood Cancer UK \(justgiving.com\)](http://justgiving.com)



Becky (on the right) is pictured with her sister Amy, who is organising the family group doing the run.

They are hoping to raise £10,000 as a group of family and friends (10k for £10k)

Thankfully, Becky is clear after two rounds of chemotherapy (one more to go) but many are not so fortunate. The survival rate from this form of cancer is not high. Please help Simon's family and friends raise awareness and support this amazing charity.

The link above also takes you to our just giving page.

Or connect with me on whatsapp or by e-mail so I can send you the link (**07498 111152** or e-mail **whiteknight_copley@hotmail.com**)

Or simply got to Blood Cancer UK's website to donate (**bloodcancer.org.uk**)

(or, for you non-techy folks, drop a donation in to my address at 73 New Road, Firbeck, S81 8JY and I will make sure it gets to the charity) - **Thank you so much!**

Yorkshire Welcomes!

New Members at Idle

Last time I was able to showcase a Yorkshire thank you as we marked Alan & Janet Kendall's service to Pilots and Children & Young Peoples work. This time I can mark a Yorkshire welcome as on Sunday 8th September **Idle Upper Chapel URC** were delighted to welcome three more members of their church family into formal membership.



Pictured here (l-r) are David, Pauline and Robert with Church Secretary, Graham Carter.

New MP at Heath

Also being welcomed on Saturday 8th September at **Heath URC** in Halifax was their newly elected MP, Kate Dearden, who joined them to help celebrate the 30th birthday of the Fairtrade logo. Halifax became a Fairtrade town a few years back following the efforts of their previous MP, Holly Lynch, and a group that included Clive Holmes and Jane Simmons (here pictured with Kate Dearden in the middle).

The celebrations and coffee morning, with Fairtrade stall was a success and needless to say, all the cake included Fairtrade ingredients. The wonderful Clive Holmes takes his stall to a variety of churches around Halifax. For many years he did this with his late wife Kay, and has continued doing so as it was so important to her.



Inviting



A Celebration of



b: Isaac Watts

*J*oin us to mark the 350th anniversary of Watts's birth



SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

AT MELTON MOWBRAY URC, LEICESTERSHIRE
2.00 FOR 2.30PM - 4.00PM

Including an Act of Thanksgiving and opportunities to hear and sing your favourite Watts hymns - with free refreshments afterward, including Melton Mowbray pork pies!



*W*ith keynote speaker the Revd Dr Robert Pope



The
United
Reformed
Church
East Midlands
Synod

Book free at:

<https://bit.ly/isaacwattscelebration>
or call the Synod Office: 0115 9609241



Sustainable Flowers

26TH OCTOBER 2024

Helen Chambers, floral designer, will share top tips on sourcing and arranging flowers sustainably; followed by a hands-on floral arrangement workshop

Programme will include:

- **Introduction to Sustainable Flower Arranging**
- **Sourcing Sustainable Materials**
- **Eco-Friendly Alternatives**
- **Waste Reduction Techniques**
- **Design Principles and Techniques**
- **Practical Demonstration**
- **Care and Maintenance of Sustainable Arrangements**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Discussion and Q&A**

Tea and coffee will be provided.

FULL DAY ****Hands-On Workshop**** - please bring a packed lunch; all materials, tools, flowers and foliage will be provided.

£20 for the morning demonstration 09:30 - 12:30

£40 for the full day with workshop 09:30 - 16:00

slclm.org/whats-on/events/

office@slclm.org 0114 230 3199



ST LUKE'S CHURCH CENTRE, BLACKBROOK DRIVE, S10 4LS

St Luke's Church Lodge Moor (Registered Charity No. 1136795) St Luke's is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Lodge Moor.

BIG DAY OUT 2025



The
United
Reformed
Church
Yorkshire

BIG DAY OUT



Activities :

- ✓ Bible Study
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Family Theatre

Prices:

18 & over £5 &
19 - 25 £3
Under 18 FREE

A note

from the planning team:

'Plans are well underway for our BIG Day Out next year. We are looking forward to seeing you at YSP to enjoy a time of fun and friendship. So get the date in the diary, get your coaches booked and spread the word!'

Saturday 17 May 2025, Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Following the recent announcement that the next **BIG DAY OUT** will be on **Saturday 17th May 2025 at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park** - <https://yvsp.org.uk/>, those who are arranging the event are asking for some willing volunteers to help out on the day.

To help the day run smoothly, they would really appreciate volunteers to greet people as they arrive, give them a programme, a map, let them know where things are happening and to be the happy, welcoming faces of the **BIG DAY OUT**.

Also, volunteers will be needed to help in the craft room. There will be no preparation necessary, just a willingness to be involved. The team are anticipating that the craft room will be a children and family area and will run from 10.30am - 12noon and 1pm - 2pm. More information about the day will be circulated in due course, but in the meantime if you could help out on the day, please do get in touch as soon as possible and let us know via the Synod Office by email at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or telephone on 0113 289 8490. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



With thanks and best wishes
The **BIG DAY OUT** team



Do you ever wonder how you can be comfortable sharing your faith with others? Are you worried you might be laughed at or dismissed or considered strange? Are you concerned you wouldn't know what to say if someone did want to know more? Join us for the second FaithTalk, a light-hearted conversation exploring how we talk about our faith.

Thursday 3 October at 7.30pm

To register or to find out more, email mission@urc.org.uk.

Lindsey Brown
Evangelism and Ecumenical Officer | United Reformed Church
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
lindsey.brown@urc.org.uk | 0207 871 7872 | 07494 761894 | www.urc.org.uk

URC
YOUTH ASSEMBLY
2025

All are

welcome

Arrive as strangers, leave as friends

7-9 March 2025

New venue with twin rooms and menu choices
Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton, NN3 6LL

A fun weekend to have your say, make friends
and find fellowship

Worship - Bible study, music, prayer spaces,
late night communion

Youth Decides - discussion on issues that matter to us -
leading to action and engaging the wider church

Workshops - grow your skills and thinking
while exploring the theme

Entertainment - campfire, karaoke, sports, games and more

£120 early bird until 1 December / £150 from 2 December
until 2 February 2025

Please talk to your church and synod about help with funding.

Open to Year 10 / S3 students up to 25 years inclusive.

Book your place today:

<https://linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly> or contact children.youth@urc.org.uk



Here's a taste of Youth Assembly 2024

Just scan the QR code, or visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1npXCWKf00

For all young people with a connection to the United Reformed Church including:



Partnering



ROTHERHAM'S CHURCH IN THE PARK

Every year, Clifton Park in Rotherham hosts the Rotherham Show, a two-day festival that welcomes up to 90,000 people. The Show has a full programme of music, dance, theatre and circus, as well as numerous stalls from different businesses and community groups.



For many years, Rotherham's churches have had a presence, and this year was no different. Rotherham United Churches, which includes

Herringthorpe URC, had a large tent called 'Church in the Park' with four different areas: a prayer area with different prayer stations/activities; a performance area from where we told the story of David and Goliath (the theme of this year's tent), led action songs and provided music; a 'Messy Church' craft area with David and Goliath themed crafts; and an information area, with Gospels of Mark and leaflets about faith and the different churches involved, as well as stand from Christians Against Poverty. All of this is provided free of charge, unlike many of the Show's activities.



Different churches took a lead at different times over the weekend, and Herringthorpe URC had a fantastic team of 16 who staffed the tent on Sunday from 11am-1pm, with many staying on to help later in the afternoon too. We had lots of opportunities to share faith and to pray for people, and to be a Christian presence in the midst of Rotherham's biggest annual event. Thank you to the Synod Mission Fund, who supported our involvement with a contribution towards the cost of the tent and crafts.



If your United Reformed Church is involved with any local ecumenical projects and you would like to help resource it, look to the Synod's Mission fund. Either give the Synod Clerk a call, drop him an e-mail at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk or head to the Yorkshire Website at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/forms/> and download the forms you'll find there.

KELD RESOURCE CENTRE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOW ROW WITH KELD URC

NEW FOR 2024: STUDY DAYS



We are delighted to announce that this year's study days has already begun and we issue a warm invitation to come to any or all of them! We have already welcomed Rev Michael Pearson who led on **Five impossible Things to Believe before Christmas!** and Revd. Peter Sinclair on **After Sunday: Being Church Seven Days a Week.** The final study day is to be held on Thursday September 26th when Ms. Dorothy Thomson will lead on **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



RURAL MISSION



The URC nationally are looking for someone in each Synod to be part of a **Rural regional network**. Ideally that person should be:

- well connected & able to network locally (lay or ordained)
- involved in rural mission & ministry (not necessarily in an agricultural chaplaincy role)
- keen to support, encourage & resource local rural congregations (eg pass on the summary info notes 4 x per year) as well as represent them at national level

We meet as an ecumenical group for an hour four times per year (Thursdays daytime) online to share encouragement, resources, pray together & also engage with input on a topical rural issue or subject. Emails in between times are kept to a minimum.

Early notice diary dates for 2024-2025: All Thursdays, 11.30am - 12.30pm (zoom link reminder & agenda emailed out one week in advance)

- 10 Oct 24
- 23 Jan 25
- 20 Mar 25
- 12 June 25
- 18 Sept 25
- 20 Nov 25

I know that few of the URC Yorkshire Synod churches are truly rural, but there are many on the urban/rural fringe, so you are interested in being involved in this work please drop me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll put you in touch with the national URC team.

New small grant available to build links with uniformed groups

This is something that was hidden in the corner of the regular URC News update. I know that many of you have used the Discipleship Development Fund to help with individual Christian journeys and learning, but this snippet has widened the fund's remit.

In a nutshell, new small grants of £50 or £100 are available for URC local churches from the Discipleship Development Fund to support churches building links with uniformed groups Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Guiding or Scouting. [Apply for the new small grant.](#)

Loving



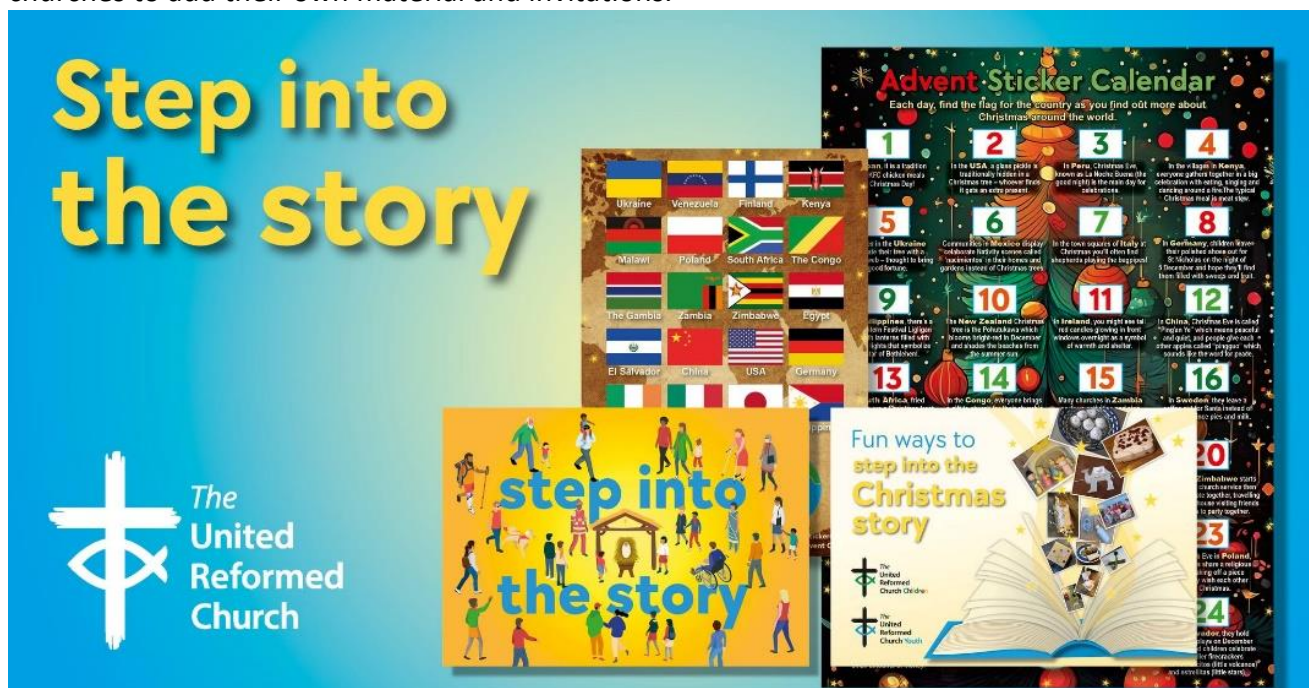
WILDERNESS

children | youth | young adults | workers & volunteers

URC Advent Pack: Step into the Story PRE-ORDER NOW

This year's Advent Packs from the URC Children's and Youth Work team invite people to 'step into the story' and focus on Christmas as everyone's story with traditions, crafts and recipes from around the world to enrich the celebration.

The Advent Packs are a great gift to give to families. They arrive in unsealed, A5 envelopes for churches to add their own material and invitations.



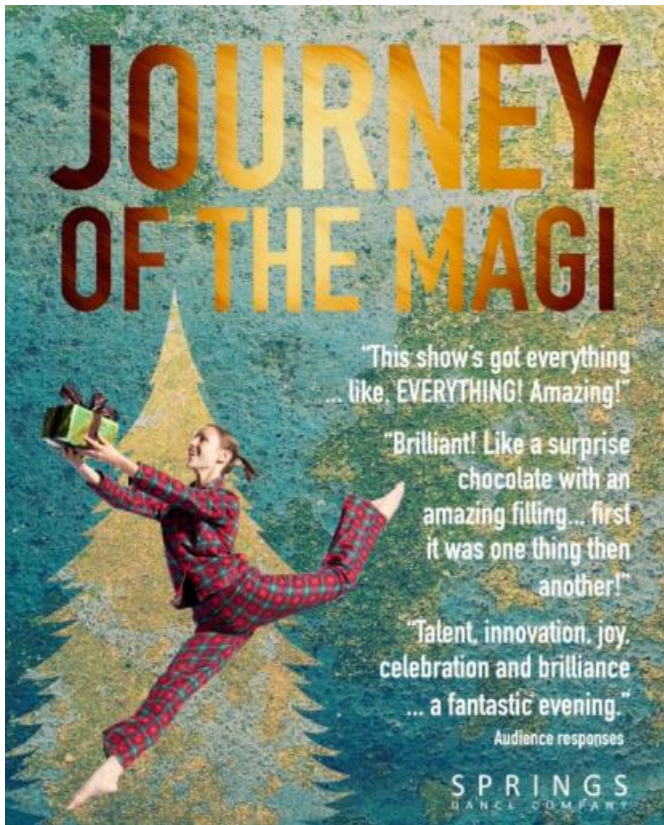
Each pack will contain:

- A giant poster with a 'countdown to Christmas', featuring lots of suggestions for things to do, QR codes to the Faith Adventures: Children Together take-home postcards with the Bible story, prayer and activity for the four weeks of Advent
- Four mini-books (which look like presents) with ribbon to hang them up as decorations – each telling part of the Christmas story with playful photo illustrations and a simple prayer
- Four stained-glass windows to colour (linked to the four books)

Once again, the [United Reformed Church in Yorkshire](http://www.urcyorkshire.org.uk) is offering 50% these Advent gifts: Just £15 for 10 packs or £32.50 for 25 packs.

Email wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk to put in your order TODAY.

Sharing



NOW BOOKING FOR 2024

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your local community through this fast-paced, brilliantly-witty yet poignant performance. Springs is taking bookings from churches for performances between November 22nd and December 22nd 2024.

Watch now:

youtube.com/watch?v=qlQmZj6hDoE

“Absolutely fabulous show. Wonderful mix of fun, wit, and meaning. It made me laugh and it made me cry all in a couple of minutes.” Richard, Poynton Methodist Church

“The show was wonderful and it was such a thrill to have the hall buzzing – everyone was captivated.” Sue, Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall

“... the best of both worlds: a vibrant piece of entertainment and an opportunity to step back, to reflect, and to refocus.” John, Moortown Baptist Church

Webpage:

springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi

All we need for the performance is a clear flat space of around 7m x 7m, on which we lay our dance floor. Springs provides the lighting, sound equipment and set and needs 6 hours in the space to set up for the show before the performance start time.

Journey of the Magi is enjoyed by children and adults alike, and can be accompanied by a workshop or series of workshops in theatre, church, school or community settings.

The fees for *Journey of the Magi* are:

- For a weekend performance (Friday – Sunday): £1250
 - For Monday or Tuesday: £1050
 - For Wednesday or Thursday: £1150
- Plus a donation towards the travel costs.

Accommodation with local hosts may be requested. Many venues cover their costs by charging between £6 and £12 for tickets.

For more information and to book for Advent 2024 contact our office on 07775 628442 or email: touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk.

“...booking *Journey of the Magi* ... was one of the best decisions I have ever made. There is no way that, as a church minister, I could ever have even dreamt of taking people to the heart of Christmas in the way that *Journey of the Magi* did.”

Rev Paul Timmis



Photo Roger Vaughan © www.kccapex.co.uk/161127-journey-of-the-magi-155

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 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.

Refresher Training – via zoom

Wednesday 25th September 2024 @ 7pm

Saturday 16th November 2024 @10am

Intermediate Training – via zoom

Monday 16th September @10am

Wednesday 20th November 2024 @1pm

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

Monday 25th November 2024 @ 1pm

Monday 2nd December 2024 @ 1pm

28 October 6:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	4 December 10:00am
19 November 1:30pm	Online safety	

Finally, there are two more UK wide Safeguarding training sessions left this year: For more information and to book onto these courses, please contact emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

Safeguarding Committee – Voluntary Independent Member

The National Safeguarding Committee has a vacancy for an external and independent Member.

The advert is advertised on the URC website at <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/> (scroll down to Volunteer Positions)

Please do feel free to forward to your external contacts. This position requires that the successful candidate is **not** a member of the URC or in a URC role.

Staying safe in church buildings

The Synod Safeguarding Team is reaching out to all churches across the Synod to signpost you to the following website: <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/marauding-terrorist-attack-mta-run-hide-tell> This website gives specific guidance on what to do if you or your local churches are faced with any instances of threat from people who may wish to cause harm to anyone associated with your church. Please don't let it frighten you, it is just there to ensure your safety and to know what to do if anything should occur especially with there having been instances of civil unrest and public disorder in our Synod recently. If there is any further information that any church may need, please contact your Carrie Kaunda, the Yorkshire Safeguarding Officer straight away who will advise and assist you with any issue or visit <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/guidance-support-for-churches-synods/staying-safe-in-church-buildings/>

Building



Joined Up Conference, York 2024

**Saturday
19 October**

10am - 3.30pm
*Registration & Marketplace
open from 9.30am*

Haxby and Wiggington
Methodist Church,
YO32 2JJ

£15

joined up
CONFERENCE 2024
York

This year's theme: *Sharing our Stories*
Includes 10+ workshops marketplace and lunch

Contributors include:
Care for the Family, Roots,
Paraklesis, Wonderful Me,
Open the Book & many more....

BOOK HERE

With
Matt Woodcock
www.mattwoodcock.co.uk

Hot off the e-mail is advanced notice of the **Joined Up** Conference being held in York in October. More details will be following, but we have a little more information through Megan Tillbrook via megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Zion URC, Cottingham has a spare electronic hymnal and would like to offer it

to another church who hasn't got one and has a need of one.

The church is not looking for payment and would really just like to bless another congregation, but may welcome a donation or gesture of gratitude.

The offer will be on a first-come first-served basis and preferably the new owners would need to collect.

If you are interested, please contact Hull Group Minister, Rev Simon Cross direct at simon.cross@urc-minister.co.uk for further details.

We are currently looking for a member of the URC's Pensions Committee - I have attached the role description and further information can be found here: [Jobs - United Reformed Church](#) We would be most grateful if you could circulate this around your network or to people you know who may have the expertise needed.

Not only that, but the Synod is still in need of people to offer their time to various Synod Committees. If you have a call to serve the Synod, please contact either myself at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk or our Moderator, Revd Jamie Kissack at moderator@urcyorkshire.org.uk

And Finally

Eco-Group Community Litter Pick in Doncaster



Rev Matt Stone of Ardeen Road URC in Doncaster has been in touch with this great story of community involvement.

The church's eco-group organised a community litter pick after their creation-themed Messy Church back in August. They were delighted to have several of the Messy Church families join them, and they spent around an hour picking up litter from around the local shops.



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](#).