



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 138



26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It is great to hear that many of the invitations that were offered over the summer resulted in really successful events. The Family Fun Day at Emmanuel, Waterthorpe, was just one of many I know about, and this is a special one as the Synod Mission Fund was able to help resource them in opening up their church to the wider community. Synod will also be sending out invitations to church representatives and anyone who is interested for the Autumn meeting, which will be held at Christchurch, Ilkley, on Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>.

There will be more details of the agenda in the next issue, but we will be discussing pioneering ministry and how that can be used to further the work of God in our area.

Don't forget also that Synod is investing in the future of the Church by looking to 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](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

Thank you and God Bless,

*Tim Crossley*

Synod Clerk

**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](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

## They are a Crafty lot in Leeds.....

Three churches in Leeds – **Christ Church Halton**, **Headingley St Columba** and **Stainbeck** are marking the Season of Creation with a craftivism project. Craftivism is for anyone who wants to make beautiful and useful craft with a message — helping us and others to stop and reflect.

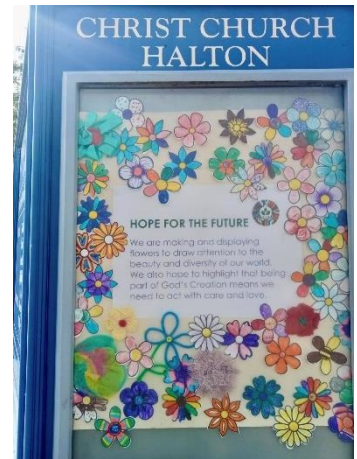


The churches are making and displaying flowers to draw attention to the beauty and diversity of our world. They also hope to highlight that being part of God's Creation means we need to pray and act with care and love.

So, members of the congregation and community groups who use the three

churches' buildings, including Rainbows and Brownies, Badgers, Messy Church and an art group, as well as individuals who responded to social media posts have been drawing on craft to create flowers.

There are knitted flowers, crocheted flowers, fabric flowers, coloured in flowers – so many beautiful flowers. And these flowers are being displayed on our railings, our windows and our trees outside to highlight that, through our prayers and actions, God's Creation can thrive and flourish.



## And Full of Fun in Waterthorpe.....



Earlier on in the month – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> to be precise – Emmanuel Church in Waterthorpe, south-east of Sheffield, held a Family Fun Day and it was amazing.

With some help from the Synod Mission Fund they were able to open up the church and community centre to their neighbours for a busy activity filled day.

As you'll see from the pictures there was singing, building, creating and cooking. Some managed to hook ducks, whilst others were able to change

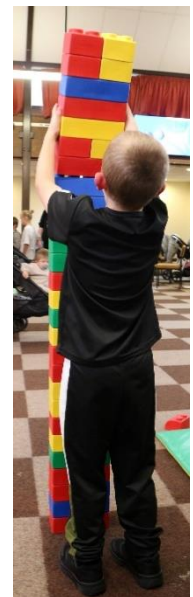
their whole persona with face paint.

Over 200 people visited the church that afternoon

learning that the church is place for fun as well as place for worship.

For more on this event, visit the Emmanuel Waterthorpe facebook site at

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=emmanuel%20church%20waterthorpe>



# 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!**

**Inviting**



# Knitted Bible Exhibition



**The Bridge Church**  
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN OTLEY

Bridge Street, Otley, LS21 1RW



**36 Knitted Bible Scenes on loan from St George's URC, Hartlepool**

**10th to 27th October**  
**Thursday, Friday, Saturday**  
**10am to 4pm**  
**Sunday - 12 noon to 4pm**

**Tea, Coffee and Juice available**

**Visiting the knitted Bible is FREE,**  
**but donations are welcome.**



# 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/](https://slclm.org/whats-on/events/)

[office@slclm.org](mailto: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.

# Ministry Enquirers' Conference



Join us on **5 October**

Learn what God might be asking of you at the Ministry Enquirers' Event taking place on 5 October from 9.30am-12.30pm on Zoom.

Here you'll be able to think about God's call to Stepwise, Worship Leading, Lay Preaching, Lay Pioneering, Ministry with children and young people, the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work.

For joining details, [please email the Ministries Team](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) at URC Church House for more details ([ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk))

# 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk).

**Lindsey Brown**  
Evangelism and Ecumenical Officer | United Reformed Church  
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT  
[lindsey.brown@urc.org.uk](mailto:lindsey.brown@urc.org.uk) | 0207 871 7872 | 07494 761894 | [www.urc.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1npXCWKf00)

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



# Partnering



## 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](mailto: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



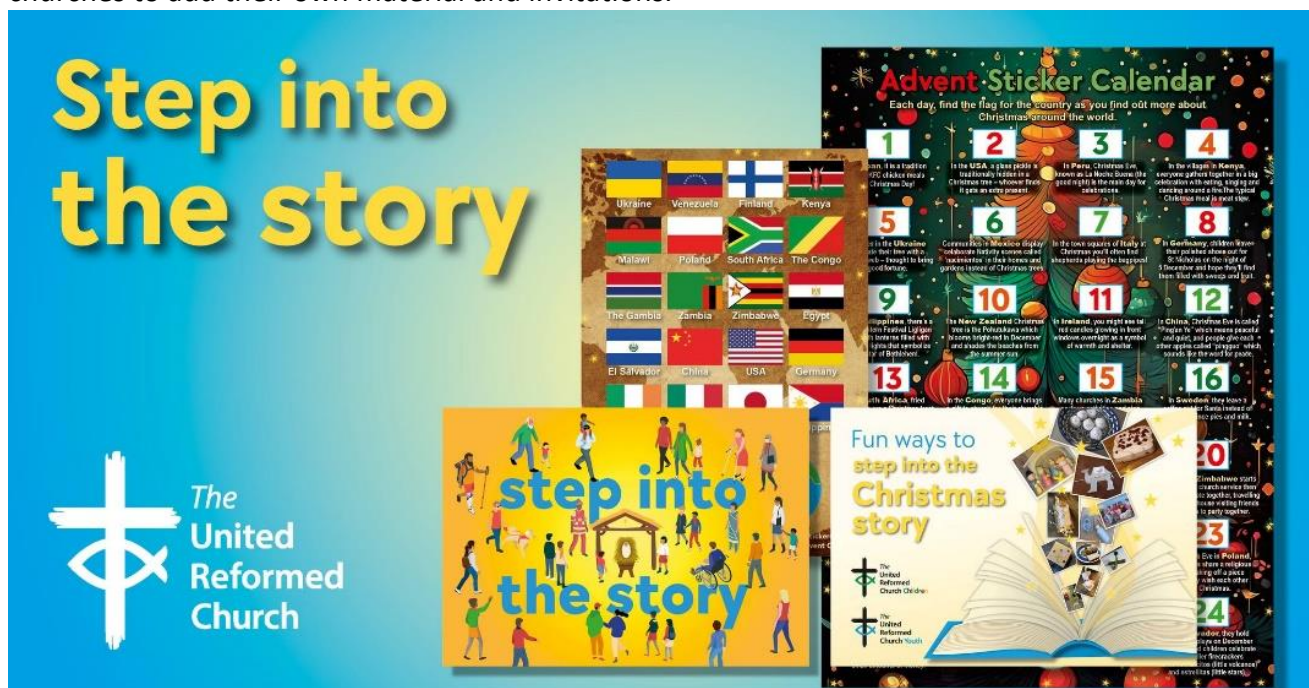
# WILDERNESS

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](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk) to put in your order TODAY.

# Sharing



## 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](mailto:paulakitson.1and4@urc.org.uk) – and a zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the event where appropriate.

Refresher Training – via zoom  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @10am

Intermediate Training – via zoom  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September @10am  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @1pm

Advanced Training – via zoom, both parts must be completed.  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @ 1pm & Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 @ 1pm

|                       |   |                       |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 28 October<br>6:30pm  | DDC Verifiers training and<br>safer recruitment | 4 December<br>10:00am |
| 19 November<br>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](mailto: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. 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. If there is any further information that any church may need, please contact your Carrie Kaunda, the Yorkshire Safeguarding Officer straight away 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](http://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](mailto:megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

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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](mailto:rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

Reformed Church Five Northern Synods

There are still a few places remaining on the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) Conference in November at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, to which churches are invited.

*'The Conference is a wonderful 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.'*

If you would like to know more information, you can contact Rev Ashley Evans, Synod Evangelist at [evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or for booking via [rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or you can book directly through the QR code on this page.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## **Buildings for Mission Forum: Webinar Tuesday 12 November 11.30 – 1pm**

Transforming your church building and its land: a close-up of one URC, a wide view of others

Hear from a URC minister who has worked with her church through a major vision-led redevelopment, and from a Synod Green Advocate on some creative ways in which church land is being used for mission.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BUILDINGS FOR MISSION FORUM WEBINARS

**TRANSFORMING  
YOUR CHURCH  
BUILDING AND ITS  
LAND**

a close-up of one URC, a wide view of others

Tuesday 12 November 2024  
11.30am - 1pm

Register at [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk)

**To register or to find out more, email [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk).**



# Planning and Organising a Quiet Day

## 5 October 2024 10:30am to 4.00pm

### Venue: Online via Zoom

### Cost: FREE

This is a day to help people think about some of what's involved in leading a quiet day, to help people preparing to lead their first quiet day, and for people with more experience to add to their skills.

Among the things we'll think about are:

- Themes for quiet days
- Drawing on your own experience — with an eye to Henri Nouwen's idea of "hospitality as a model for pastoral care"
- Online and in person quiet days
- Working with groups
- When things don't go as expected
- Using supervision



The day will draw on the ["What's a quiet day"](#) discussion on 11 September, but there's no need for people to have taken part in that to join in this day.

*This is a free event, but please book by clicking via the URC Spirituality website at [https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp\\_event/organising-a-quiet-day/#em-event-booking-form](https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/organising-a-quiet-day/#em-event-booking-form) so that we can send you a Zoom link in the evening of 4 October.*

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](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or our Moderator, Revd Jamie Kissack at [moderator@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:moderator@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

## And Finally

# South Leeds fits EV Charger to Manse

We have a bit of an Eco theme emerging here as we have received news that The URC in South Leeds has fitted an Electric Vehicle Charger to their Manse.

Although their manse is currently rented out, the church took control of the situation and organised the installation rather than allowing the tenant to arrange things as the property did require an electrical upgrade. This upgrade was done by the Utility Provider, in their case Northern Power Grid, and it was done at no expense to either the tenant or the church.

Kindly, Janet Howse, of the URC in South Leeds, has offered a point by point guide as to how they did it, hopefully to inspire other churches who have manses or even to us in our own houses.

1. Contact an electrician (who is qualified for these type of installations) not all are.
2. Electrician advised that the church would need the MPAN number, which they found on their Utility Provider's bills.
3. Once the MPAN number is passed on to the Power Provider (by the electrician) the Power Provider have around a fortnight in which to respond after which time if the information has not been forthcoming the Utility Provider incur fines.
4. This will then be followed by a visit from the Power Provider to ascertain if the existing fuse box was sufficient to meet the demand. In our case it wasn't so an electrical upgrade was done by the Power Provider at no charge to the church.
5. This was followed by a site visit from the electrician to determine where to site and to provide full cost.
6. Actual installation.

For The URC in South Leeds the total cost of the actual installation to the church has been just over £1,000.00 inclusive of VAT which included the electrician's fees and the cost of the charger and took in the region of two months to complete. The URC in South Leeds hopes this little guide helps, should others within Synod want to move forward with the installation of an EV charging point within their manses.

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**If you have a good news story from your part of the Synod, drop me a line at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto: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](#).