



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 139



**10<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

## AUTUMN SYNOD SPECIAL



This weekend sees the Yorkshire Synod meeting at Christchurch Ilkley for its autumn meeting. Gathering there on Saturday morning at 10.15am, church representatives from across the Synod will join in fellowship to discern the journey God has for us in Synod through the stories and presentations given by our speakers and through the resolutions that are to be moved.

At the heart of the meeting will be the call to serve, be it through pioneering ministry, intentional communities and individual calls to discipleship through the URC's Stepwise programme. Furthermore, mention will be made of the way in which Synod's own journey has been shaped by the 5 Threads of Mission it adopted a couple of years ago and which is regularly alluded to in the Briefing.

All are welcome at this meeting, and although the formal decisions lie in those representatives chosen by individual churches,

contributions are welcomed. If you are unable to get to Ilkley on Saturday, please pray that the proceedings run smoothly and that the representatives follow that path God is preparing for us.

It is hoped that the next issue will have a report of what occurred, but in the meantime I hope this issue of the Briefing will be a bit of a foretaste of what will be discussed in Ilkley and that it whets your appetite to find out more about how Synod is supporting Yorkshire Churches, members and friends in their Christian journeys.



**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 24<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)



As part of the decision by Synod to invest in the future of the Church it is looking to recruit a **Youth, Children and Family Enabler** – as you'll see from this advert. If you are, or if you know of somebody who is, interested in knowing more, please get in touch via [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or call 07522 220213.

## Children & Youth Friendly Award at Herringthorpe



Rev Matt Stone, the minister at Herringthorpe URC is feeling blessed!! Last weekend (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October) he was able to celebrate with Herringthorpe's amazing children's and youth team as they received their Children & Youth friendly church award from Megan Tillbrook on behalf of the Yorkshire Synod. If you want to look to receiving a Children and Youth Friendly award in your church, please contact Megan at [megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or via the Synod office.

# 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 successfully ran the Sheffield 10k on September 29th to raise funds for **Blood Cancer UK** (RCN 216032).

This was 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://www.justgiving.com/Amy-Copley-is-fundraising-for-Blood-Cancer-UK)



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

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.

They had hoped to raise £10,000 as a group of family and friends (10k for £10k). At the moment (10<sup>th</sup> October) they have raised over £13,000, and you can still add to that by clicking on the link above or connect with Simon on whatsapp or by e-mail so I can send you the link (**07498 11152** or e-mail **whiteknight\_copley@hotmail.com**)

Or simply got to Blood Cancer UK's website to donate ([bloodcancer.org.uk](http://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.**

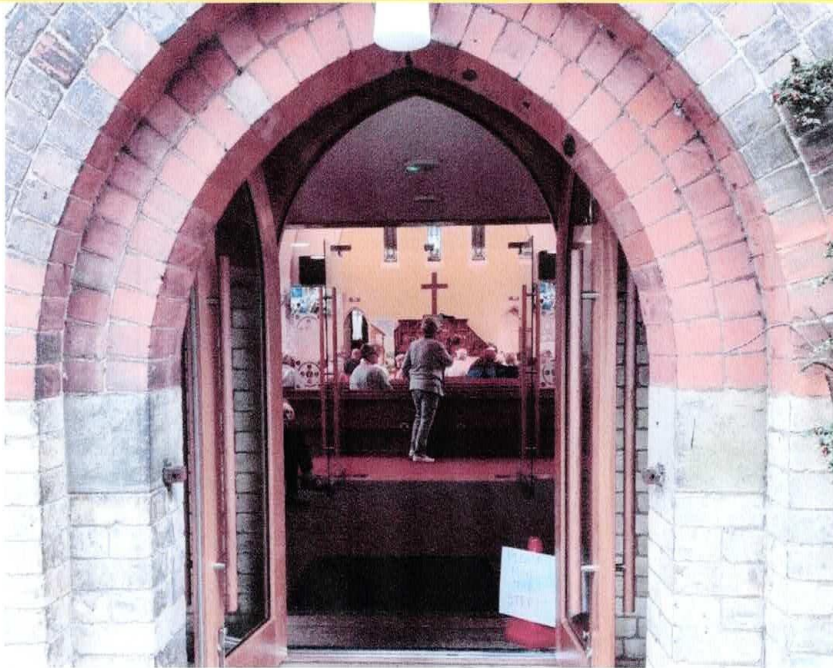
**HORNSEA United Reformed Church**

**150 years Celebration**

# **Open Church Week**

**14<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup> October**

**10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.**



**Come in** and see what happens here – what has changed - discover the history - present-day activities – stay for a cuppa or just sit and enjoy the building.

If you are unable to get across to the east coast you can see how Hornsea have re-ordered their building on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYld3KXDtcl>

It's well worth a watch.



# 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.

# PRESIDENCY AT THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following a couple of successful events in 2023 and some requests for further training, there are two future events planned in different areas of the Synod for those who preside at the sacraments in churches on Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 10am-1.30pm at Heath URC, Halifax and on Saturday 1st February 2025 at 10am-1.30pm at Elloughton URC, East Yorkshire.

Both events will be led by Revd Jamie Kissack and Mrs Val Morrison, each event consisting of a reflective session on the practices of presiding at Holy Communion. This is an open invitation to all who preside at Holy Communion – lay and ordained.

The day will begin with arrivals and refreshments from 10am. The session will start at 10.30am and finish with lunch (please bring your own packed lunch) and drinks will be provided. Departure around 1.30pm.

If you have any questions or you would like to book, please contact the Synod Office at [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or [moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk) to inform us, which event and who will be coming from your church.



**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 10am-1.30pm**  
Heath URC, Free School Lane, Heath, HX3 0DW

or

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 from 10am-1.30pm**  
Elloughton URC, Main Street, Elloughton, HU15 1HR

**Rev Jamie Kissack, Yorkshire Synod Moderator and Mrs Val Morrison, will be leading these events to reflect together on our practices of presiding at Holy Communion.**

- All are welcome who preside at Holy Communion (lay and ordained)
- Arrivals and tea/coffee from 10am – the session will begin at 10.30am
- Please bring a packed lunch and again drinks will be provided
- To attend either event, please book your place by contacting the Synod Office asap at [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or 0113 289 8490

# 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**



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:



# Loving



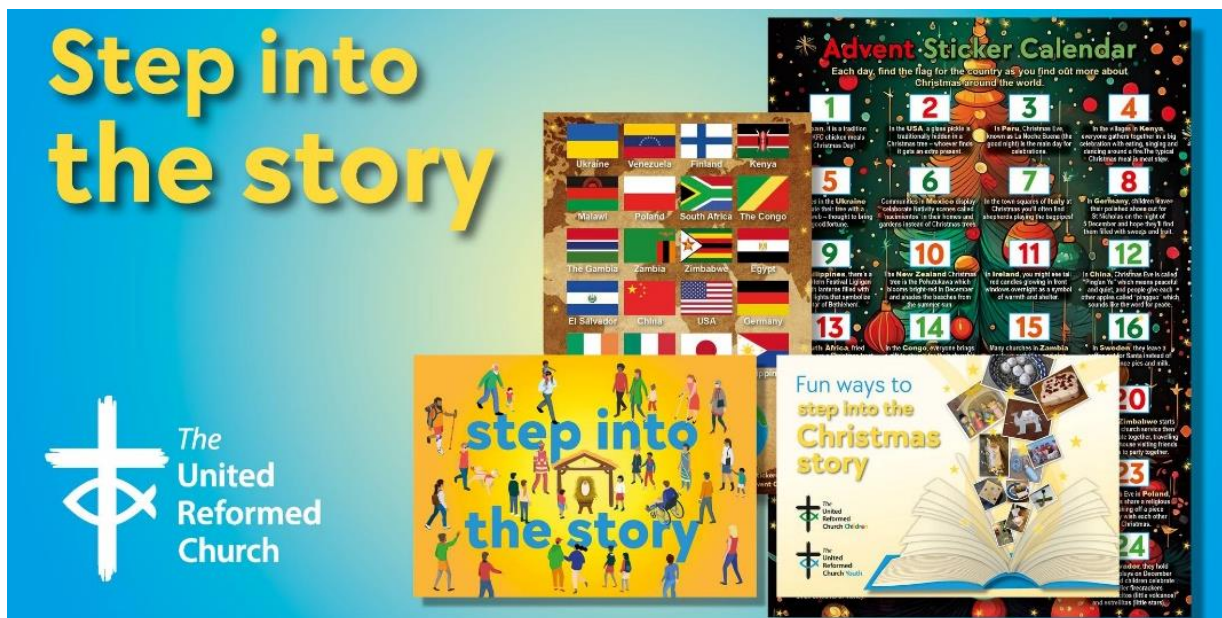
# WILDERNESS

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



## 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

YNKE  
The United Reformed Church  
YoYo

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. For more information please contact Megan Tillbrook at [megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:megancyp@urcyorkshire.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 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.

# 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.

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  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @1pm


**Advanced Safeguarding Training – Face to Face**  
Waddington Street, Durham - 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 commencing at 1pm.

**Advanced Safeguarding Training – Face to Face**  
Herringthorpe, Rotherham – 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 commencing at 5pm.

**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**  
If you wish to book a place, please contact Paula Kitson –  
[paulakitson.1and4@urc.org.uk](mailto:paulakitson.1and4@urc.org.uk)

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

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)



## Spiritual Abuse Webinar


**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 1.00pm – 3.00pm**

**Click this link to book**  
[Spiritual Abuse Webinar booking](#)


We are delighted to be hosting a one-off webinar with Dr Lisa Oakley focusing on Spiritual Abuse.

Dr. Lisa Oakley is an Associate Professor at the University of Chester. She is also the Chair of the National working group for abuse linked to accusations of witchcraft and spirit possession and the Church of England Task and Finish Group on Spiritual Abuse and acted as a core participant to the independent inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Lisa has conducted research into issues of faith, safeguarding and abuse for the past 16 years. Her doctorate was on the topic of spiritual abuse and in 2013 she co-authored a book entitled *Breaking the Silence on Spiritual Abuse*. In 2019 a further book was published entitled *Escaping the Maze of Spiritual Abuse. Creating Healthy Christian Cultures*. Lisa has presented on these topics nationally and internationally.

Please do register at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/null/t-gjpnqzd> and join us for this event



The United Reformed Church Safeguarding  
[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)



# 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/>

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## Building



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)

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.

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# Partnering



**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.

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

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)

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

## Huddersfield welcomes Helen Snashall into the Unite, Respect, Connect CRCW role



Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September saw the commissioning of Helen Snashall as a CRCW minister at Moldgreen URC from where she will head the **Unite, Respect, Connect** project based out of the Huddersfield Group of Churches. Helen will bring a wealth of experience to the project and Synod wishes her well as she continues this incredible piece of work in Huddersfield.

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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](#).