



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 140



24th October 2024

A PIONEERING AUTUMN

The 9th October saw the Synod meet at Christchurch Ilkley for its Autumn meeting. As Clerk I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to the members of Christchurch for the incredible hospitality they showed us and the way in which they were able to cope with all of us who arrived from the four corners of the Synod. Maybe I was seduced by the cakes on offer (especially the ginger parkin - always a favourite of the Clerk's), but we were all treated as honoured guests with a warm and intentional welcome. Thank you Christchurch Ilkley and I pray that your work in the town and beyond bears much fruit.



At the meeting we were introduced to one of our new ministers, Rev Simon Cross, who led a session on Pioneer ministry. This discussion opened up a huge variety of experiences along those lines, but one thing that was made very clear – we can all be pioneering in our ministry, lay or ordained, with a big old building to look after or from a rented room. The opportunities are limitless and the rewards are eternal. Synod will be exploring these themes in conjunction with the well established 5 Threads of Mission so keep an eye open for events aimed at developing these themes. Indeed, it was announced that next summer will see another four more Synod Forums being held around the county. The dates have been set for Saturdays 25th May, 31st May, 7th June and 12th July next year but the venues are yet to be announced. Watch this space for updates.

This Briefing already has events highlighted which can develop individual journeys, in particular sessions on presiding at Holy Communion, as well as highlighting resources and the means by which our churches can make a difference in the community. There are also a couple of adverts aimed at those with possibly quite differing gifts. One covers the opening in the Harrogate Area for a Youth, Children and Family Enabler to work in developing the life of the church at its younger end. The other covers the news that Synod is looking for a new Trust Secretary. This may be a surprise to many of you, but our current Trust Secretary, Alastair Forsyth, has indicated that he will be retiring at the end of March 2025 and as such Synod is looking for a replacement. The formal advert is in the body of this Briefing, but details can be had from the Synod Office and the closing date for applications is 15th November. There will be time to wish Alastair all the best for his retirement, but he will still be working for the Synod until then with hopefully a reasonable handing over period to his successor.

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 7th November.

Thank you and God Bless,

Tim Crossley

Synod Clerk

Quadruple Baptism at Trinity Church, Rawdon

Last time I mentioned the fact that Herringthorpe URC has received their URC Children & Youth friendly church award, and this time I can move the Christian journey along a little with the news that on Sunday 8th September there were great celebrations at Trinity Church, Rawdon, as 4 young people went through the waters of adult Baptism.



The picture here shows (from left to right) Kieran Seville and Cali Ash, Haydn Wilson and Michael James (who led the baptism ceremony), Victoria James and Ellie James.

The Church Secretary, Monica Leyburn, related, "Each person, Kerian, Cali, Victoria and Ellie, chose their favourite hymn and gave a short testimony before they were baptised. it was a very moving service where everyone felt the presence of the Holy Spirit."



Keiran's Baptism



Victoria's Baptism

To find out more about what Trinity Church, Rawdon is doing in Sharing God's Love, serving their community and shaping disciples, please visit their website at <https://www.trinityrawdon.org.uk/>



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



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 or call 07522 220213.

SITUATION VACANT

Trust Secretary, Yorkshire – Part time – 21 hours pw

Salary circa £24,000, Permanent

Based at the offices of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church in Morley, Leeds. Responsibilities include

- Carrying out the responsibilities attached to the post of Company Secretary
- Acting as Secretary to the Annual General Meetings of the Trust Companies
- Preparing Trust papers and agendas
- Being the principal point of contact with the Synod's solicitors
- Working with the Property Officer to take the lead in transactions relating to land and property

We are looking for someone who is:

- An excellent administrator
- Educated to degree level or equivalent
- Able to prioritize work in the face of conflicting demands
- Familiar with church structures
- Able to represent the Synod and the United Reformed Church

Application pack available from the Synod Office – office@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Noon, 15th November 2024.

Interviews: week of 2nd December 2024 at the Synod Office



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/

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.



Portholme Church

(Methodist / United Reformed)



SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

light
party

AN ALTERNATIVE TO HALLOWEEN
PORTHOLME CHURCH
SELBY

2 November 5-7pm

Live DJ, food and activities for the whole family
Contact Lydia Harrison to book
07579765617 or
lydia.harrison@methodistyouth.org.uk

FREE FAMILY FUN!

Portholme Church, Selby are holding a Light Party on Saturday 2nd November as an alternative to Halloween, open to children and families. As well as a DJ there will be art and craft activities and food. All are welcome and for more details, head to their website at

<https://portholmechurch.org.uk/>.

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 or moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk to inform us, which event and who will be coming from your church.



Wednesday 27th November 2024 10am-1.30pm
Heath URC, Free School Lane, Heath, HX3 0DW

or

Saturday 1st 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 or 0113 289 8490

BIG DAY OUT 2025



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



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:



Loving



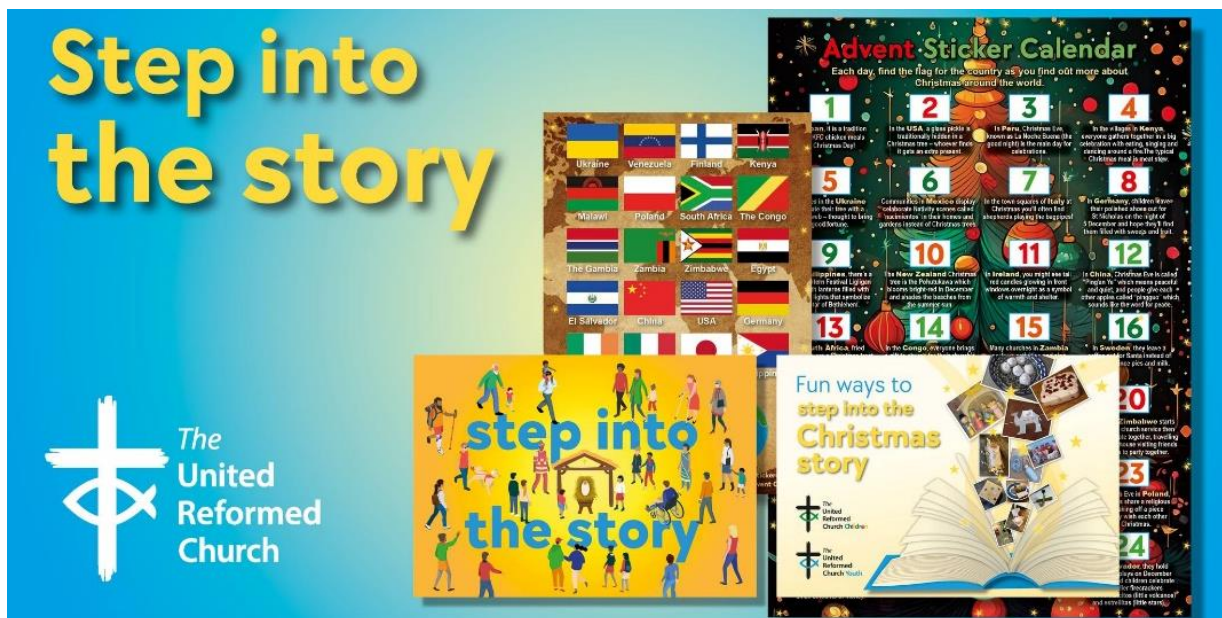
WILDERNESS

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



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 – and a zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the event where appropriate.

Refresher Training – via zoom
Saturday 16th November 2024 @10am

Intermediate Training – via zoom
Wednesday 20th November 2024 @1pm

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

Advanced Safeguarding Training – Face to Face
Herringthorpe, Rotherham – 30th of October 2024 commencing at 5pm.

Advanced Training –via zoom, both parts must be completed.
Monday 25th November 2024 @ 1pm & Monday 2nd December 2024 @ 1pm
If you wish to book a place, please contact Paula Kitson –
paulakitson.1and4@urc.org.uk

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

Spiritual Abuse Webinar

Wednesday 27th 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



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/>

New heritage fund for churches

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has announced a new strategic initiative to address the challenges facing the UK's beloved places of worship and build a brighter and more sustainable future for them at the heart of communities. Around £15 million is available. [Learn more about the new initiative and apply](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/how-well-help-secure-future-uks-places-worship?dm_i=2JB1,210EB,59BX7G,7BR7D,1) here https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/how-well-help-secure-future-uks-places-worship?dm_i=2JB1,210EB,59BX7G,7BR7D,1



Historic England

As well as notification of the above fund, our erstwhile Property Office, Jane Bunyan, is drawing our attention to the following interesting “must read” from Historic

England. In order for our historic buildings to be fit for purpose and continue to contribute to a greater future, they must continue to change and evolve. Buildings are a major consideration in address the climate change crisis and by retaining, using and appropriately adapting our historic buildings they can be a key part of the lower carbon emissions solution. So Historic England has produced an Advisory Note to provide clarity on key considerations and to support consistent decision making and this can be found here: [HEAG321 Adapting Historic Buildings for Energy and Carbon Efficiency \(emlfiles4.com\)](https://emlfiles4.com/HEAG321_Adapting_Historic_Buildings_for_Energy_and_Carbon_Efficiency)

Building



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. I’m told the deadline is this weekend, so if you have never experienced LYCiG and are moved to go, please get in touch as soon as you can.

Leading your Church into Growth
Conference

25-27 November
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Talk to your Synod Rep for more information.

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

Reformed Church Five Northerly Synods

‘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 or for booking via rachel@urcyorkshire.org.uk or you can book directly through the QR code on this page.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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.



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

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

These two roles are hot off the press (as it were) over at Christchurch, Ilkley. Please contact them for more details at office@christchurchilkley.org.uk



Facilities Supervisor/Caretaker

An opportunity has arisen for the above role at Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley.

Part-time appointment 20 hours per week,

to be worked flexibly between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, with 2 core hours each day (to be agreed with the successful candidate)

The successful candidate will need to be able to undertake the following duties:

- Be a welcoming and helpful presence at Christchurch
- Ensuring the Church is a clean, safe and welcoming place for our visitors
- Responding to the needs of our room hirers
- Some cleaning duties and building maintenance
- Ordering cleaning products and consumables as needed
- Day to day Line Management of our cleaner
- Act as Fire Marshall and keyholder
- Take room booking enquiries, liaise with room hirers and assist with invoicing

Applicants will ideally hold up to date First Aid and Health & Safety Certificates.

Please note: This role will entail some lone-working. Christchurch are also seeking an Evening Caretaker & Keyholder and candidates may apply and be considered for both roles.

The post will be based at Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley, LS29 9LW

The hourly pay offered will be £12.62- £13.20 per hour, depending on experience.

The appointment requires an enhanced DBS Disclosure

For more information and an application pack please contact Carole Riley,
Operations Manager by email at office@christchurchilkley.org.uk

Closing Date: 8th November 2024 at 12 noon

Interviews will take place week commencing 18th November 2024



Evening Caretaker & Keyholder

An opportunity has arisen for the above role at Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley.

Part-time appointment 10 hours per week, to be worked flexibly between 6 pm and 10 pm, Monday to Friday. Actual days, start and finish times will be variable in accordance with the needs of the Church. There may occasionally be the need to work flexibly on a Saturday between 6 pm and 10 pm.

The successful candidate will need to be able to undertake the following duties (essential):

- Be a welcoming and helpful presence at Christchurch
- Ensuring the Church is a clean, safe and welcoming place for our visitors
- Responding to the needs of our room hirers
- Some light cleaning duties as required after a room hire
- Act as Fire Marshall and keyholder
- Be able to work flexibly to respond to the needs of the Church

Other requirements (desirable):

- Hold an up to date First Aid Certificate
- Hold an up to date Health and Safety Certificate

Please note: This role will entail some lone-working. Christchurch are also seeking a Facilities Supervisor/Caretaker and candidates may apply and be considered for both roles.

The post will be based at Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley, LS29 9LW

The hourly pay offered will be £12.00 - £12.62 per hour, depending on experience.

The appointment requires an enhanced DBS Disclosure

For more information and an application pack please contact Carole Riley,
Operations Manager by email at office@christchurchilkley.org.uk

Closing Date: 8th November 2024 at 12 noon

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And Finally Northern Lights revealed



I'm ever so grateful to Mandy Grant for her staying up until 10.50pm on Thursday 10th October to capture the Northern Lights seemingly enveloping the church building at St Andrew's Roundhay. An incredible picture if there is one and one which just shows the wonder of God's creation that is all around us.

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](#).