



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 141



7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## REMEMBERING

This coming week we enter what has become a season of remembering. Did you remember to put the clocks back an hour on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October at the end of British Summer Time (or were you an hour early for the 10.30am service that morning)? Have you remembered, remembered the fifth of November, with its gunpowder, treason and plot? And dare I say have you remembered to start the process of boiling up the Christmas Brussels Sprouts yet?

November 11<sup>th</sup> has become the time, once again, when the the nation gives thanks to those who, for whatever reason, were taken from us through war. I am aware that there are many ways of marking this, from the high ceremony of the wreath laying at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and the civic events in our cities towns and villages, to quiet personal prayer in a hilltop cemetery with a lone Commonwealth War Grave. I'm also sure that many of our churches will be marking Remembrance Sunday on 10<sup>th</sup> November in their own ways, either individually or as part of a community service.

Similarly how we show outwardly how we remember is deeply personal. We see large poppies now on roadside lamp posts, on the front of vehicles, displays in shop fronts, in churches and on lapels. We also see poppies of different colours: red representing remembrance and hope, purple to remember the animals who were victims of war, the black poppy commemorates the contributions of black, African, Caribbean, Pacific Islands & Indigenous communities and the white poppy promotes peace, commemorates those who died in conflict and challenges the way we look at war. How we choose to remember, we all do it with the love of God in our heart and this must never be forgotten.

This Briefing continues to highlight events and courses aimed at developing our Christian journeys. We have sessions on presiding at Holy Communion and events which showcase resources and the means by which our churches can make a difference. There are also adverts aimed at those with possibly quite different gifts. One covers the opening in the Harrogate Area for a Youth, Children and Family Enabler and one of the other covers the news that Synod is looking for a new Trust Secretary. As I mentioned in the last issue, 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 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> November.**

Thank you and God Bless,

*Tim Crossley*



# A BUSY TIME AT NORTHCLIFFE



Northcliffe Church (Methodist/URC) in Shipley has had a rather busy month. Gwen Billingsley, one of the Elders there, has sent across a mini diary of the activities and outreach they have experienced during October. It all started on the evening of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> with a full community hall for the Big Charity Quiz Night. They were pleased to be supported by church members alongside teams from some of their user groups. A traditional pie and pea supper was enjoyed by all, but more

importantly they all had fun and in the process raised a superb £245 for Tearfund.

The church's Harvest worship on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October helped them explore the theme 'All Good Gifts'. Their practical gifts saw a mass of donations for the local Foodbank. They heard an update on the Guides' Community Garden project, and they reflected not just on the wonderful gifts of nature but of their own gifts and those of others. Alongside the ongoing foodbank collections, they have now moved on to gather items for the Immanuel Christmas Appeal to make up gift bags for their guests.



On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October every space at Northcliffe was teeming with people throughout the day for the first **Shipley Eco Fair**, which Northcliffe LEP was pleased to support. There were workshops, swap-shops, stalls and organisations – from **Veg on the Edge**, **Friends of Bradford's Becks**, **Shipley in Bloom**, **Friends of Northcliffe**, **Shipley Active Travel Hub**, to **Baldon Walkers are Welcome** and many more.

**Edward Street Café** was

doing a roaring trade selling gorgeous veg samosas and sticky flapjack. Children were busy colouring and making decorated bugs. The jumble trail in surrounding streets served to attract



people through the doors and our own charity bric-a-brac stall did well.

The Eco Fair was followed in the evening by the **Hall Royd Band** Concert 'Thank You for the Music' – a great success as usual. Then on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> we played host to the Bradford North and South Methodist Circuits' event 'Welcome the Stranger', explaining the work of **Beacon**, supporting asylum seekers and refugees.

This autumn our **Special Services for All Abilities** have

explored the Tower of Babel and Paul's shipwreck on Malta – they certainly cover the times and places, taking



inspiration from the Old and New Testament. They are adopting the new strapline '**Faith, Fun and Friendship**'. From 2025

they plan to build on their solid base and have six, **ALL, Together** services a year rather than the five held in 2024. For more information please visit their website at <https://bradfordnorth.org.uk/northcliffe/>.





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

Closing date for applications: Noon, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Interviews: week of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 at the Synod Office



# Inviting



## Let's get together

The URC's Children and Youth Work Team is hosting a new event, and they would love to see you there.

Join them for Talking About....Unpacking Advent, 28 November 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Register soon because spaces are limited.

We hope you're able to join us!



**Thursday, 23 March 2023 19:00 - Thursday, 28 November 2024 20:00**

**Talking About..... Unpacking Advent**

**[Register here](#)**

Children's and Youth Work Team  
86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT GB

# PRESIDENCY AT THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please book your place now for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

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 let us know which event you would like to attend and who will be coming from your church.



## Presidency at the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**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

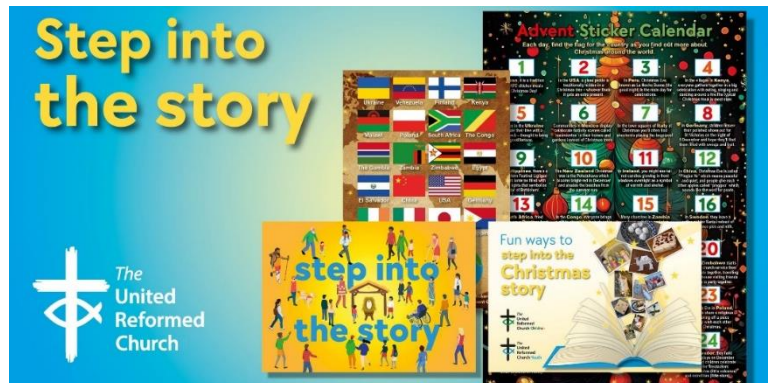
*SOLD OUT*

## URC Advent Pack: Step into the Story We Want to hear from You!!

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. It has been so successful that I'm told that the URC has sold out of the packs and that over 300 have been distributed around many of Yorkshire Synod's churches. As they are a great gift to give to families it would be great to hear from you as to how your church has celebrated the activities within the **Step Into The Story** pack.

As each pack contains:

- 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)



What would be brilliant is for you to showcase the activities you have done with these packs. Please get in touch with me at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or with Megan at [wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk) and we will then to put in your order TODAY.

*SOLD OUT*



# 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.

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 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	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](mailto:emma.pearce@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/>

# 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-qjpnqzd> and join us for this event



www.urc.org.uk



## Building



### Margaret commissioned as a Nationally Accredited lay Preacher



On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Hornsea URC, Margaret Preece was commissioned as a nationally accredited lay preacher. It was the culmination of a call which led to her working with the Synod Ministries committee team, the Stepwise programme and with the national church and is credit to Margaret in following the call she received to this work. She is seen here receiving her certificate from Jill Fletcher, who acted on behalf of the Synod's ministries committee team.

We at Synod congratulate Margaret in her accreditation and wish her well as she serves the churches of not just the Yorkshire Synod, but throughout the denomination

This is the last chance to book, as I hear 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 Friday, so if you have never experienced LYCiG and are moved to go, please get in touch as soon as you can.



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.

## 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](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/how-well-help-secure-future-uks-places-worship?dm_i=2JB1,210EB,59BX7G,7BR7D,1)

# 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)

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](mailto: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](mailto:office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)

Closing Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 12 noon

Interviews will take place week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Closing Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 12 noon

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## And Finally Handlebars at the Ready

We have a message from the URC's new Youth Intern, a certain Lizzie Crossley, who also happens to be the Synod Clerk's daughter. She is currently studying at Newcastle University, and between doing social media work for URC Youth and working hard in her studies, she is also the Social Media secretary for Newcastle University Cricket Club. The club this year are participating in this year's Movember Challenge, and as she is unable to grow her own moustache, she has asked the Synod Clerk to do it on her behalf.



NUCC



This November NUCC are taking on the Movember movement.

This advocates the significance of raising awareness about men's mental health and providing support to those in need.

Our target for the month is £2500 and throughout this some of the boys have set some extra challenges which they will fulfil if the targets are reached.

Alongside this we have set ourselves the challenge for each person to run 60km in the month.

if you can support us, any donations will be massively appreciated



So if you would like to support the Movember movement as it celebrates Men's Health Awareness Month and takes on men's health globally through Lizzie's initiative, then scan the QR code above or click the link to the Newcastle University Cricket Club Movember page here [https://uk.movember.com/team/2475966?mc=1&utm\\_medium=share&utm\\_source=dynamic&utm\\_campaign=copy-clipboard](https://uk.movember.com/team/2475966?mc=1&utm_medium=share&utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=copy-clipboard)

And hopefully the results of the Clerk's efforts will be revealed in the Briefing issue of 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**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](#).