



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 143



5th December 2024

ADVENT CHEERS



This is the penultimate Briefing of the year and finds us well into the season of Advent. I hope that the cheer that this brings is warming and that the preparation of Christmas in our homes, Churches and especially in our hearts is well underway. Unfortunately I haven't had much input from churches letting me know of when their Advent and Christmas services are, but for those who did, thank you. There is time yet as I hope to send a final 2024 issue out on Thursday 19th December, so please let me have details of your Christmas and New

Year services and events. In that issue will be a request for comments on how you would like to receive information from Synod, whether you want me to keep publishing a fortnightly Briefing, or whether you would want Synod to concentrate on using the website as the place where stories are shared, events are advertised and pointers to key areas given. This exercise is aimed at ensuring that what we have to offer our churches from Synod is not lost in an e-mail in-box but resonates around the Synod's churches. So please drop me a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk with that feedback, and anything you would like to share with the rest of the Synod.



If you have any news of welcoming people into Church, stories of celebration and hope or even notices of future events, especially during the Advent, Christmas and New Year periods, 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 19th December.

Thank you and God Bless,

Tim Crossley

Inviting



Line Management Training 2025

The HR department at URC Church House are once again running their Line Management course. Having done this course, I heartily recommend that those of you who are either line managing or are thinking about employing people in your churches sign up to do the course. As well as the hour-long sessions you will be able to link into other churches who are doing just what your church is doing as well as drawing on the vast experience of the Church House staff. Although this course is for anyone working within the URC with direct line management responsibility its scope is a bit wider, so first read the URC's [Essential line management](#) on the website then sign up for the course.

Each session is from 10.00am to 11:15am on the dates below and covers the several topics

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<i>Thursday 27 February</i>	<i>The Basics</i>
<i>Thursday 27 March</i>	<i>Managing Performance</i>
<i>Thursday 24 April</i>	<i>Appraisals</i>
<i>Thursday 15 May</i>	<i>Managing Attendance</i>
<i>Thursday 26 June</i>	<i>Flexible Working</i>
<i>Thursday 24 July</i>	<i>Recruitment</i>
<i>Thursday 25 September</i>	<i>Equalities</i>
<i>Thursday 16 October</i>	<i>Policies – Capability</i>
<i>Thursday 20 November</i>	<i>Policies – Disciplinary and Grievance</i>

To reserve a place on our training sessions, please email deepti.upadhyaya@urc.org.uk with your full name, Email, Synod/Church name and Role/job title.

It costs nothing, apart from your time each month, but it's value is beyond measure.

For more information visit: <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/guidance-support-for-churches-synods/employment-guidance/training-events-and-courses/>



NORTHERN
COLLEGE

Envisioning Worship Conference

For everyone interested in how worship affects mission

Theme: What if God is Child?

Dates: 11am on 8th March – 3.30pm on 9th March 2025

Venue: Luther King Centre, Manchester

Costs: Residential : £200, Non-residential : £120

Who is it for? Anyone intrigued by the idea of the childlikeness of God – in the midst of the smallest experiences; apparently weak but disruptive; curious, playful and imaginative; raging and dancing – and what this might mean for worship and mission. Anyone drawn to Bible explorations, creative workshops and more – and who is interested in imagining things differently.

For more information and to register, visit –

<https://northerncollege.co.uk/ewc-march-2025/>



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:



COULD YOU BE A YORKSHIRE SYNOD



YOUTH REP?

applications open

OCTOBER 2024 - JAN 2025

**CONTACT
MEGAN
07522 220213
WILDERNESS@
URCYORKSHIRE
.ORG.UK**



WHY BE A *YOUTH REP ???*

- CONNECT WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SYNOD**
- LISTEN TO OTHERS AND SHARE IDEAS: BE A VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN IN THE URC**
- TRAVEL TO NEW PLACES AND LEARN NEW SKILLS**
- ORGANISE EVENTS FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE**

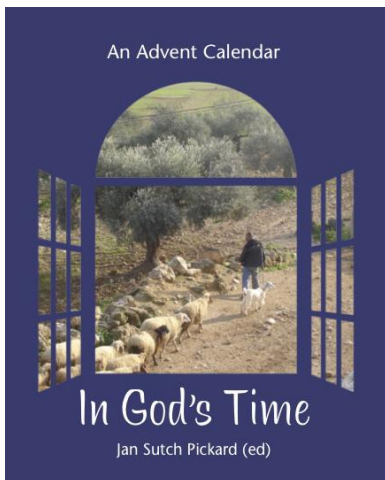


T&C'S: MARCH 2025 - 2027 TERM OF OFFICE, MUST BE 16 - 25 YEARS FOR THE DURATION, ALL EXPENSES COVERED.

Loving



'In God's Time' - an Advent Calendar with a difference



Instead of cardboard cut-outs the 'windows' we open are word-pictures and stories from the Land called Holy. Readers can respond with prayer.

We glimpse how people in Palestine/Israel face an unjust and divisive situation with courage and often hope and readers can respond with prayer.

And, in most cases, there is extra information, in an appendix, for further reading or action.

Written by members, associates and friends of the Iona Community.

Sadly, they could not include chocolate!

<https://www.ionabooks.com/product/in-gods-time-downloadable-book/>

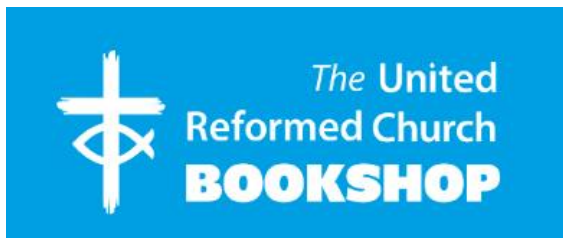
Sharing



SALTAIRE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER SERVICES

1 st	10.30am	MORNING SERVICE
8 th	10.30am	COMMUNION SERVICE
15 ^{t h}	10.30am	NATIVITY SERVICE
22 nd	<u>2.30pm</u>	CAROL SERVICE
29 th	10.30am	SONGS OF PRAISE CAROLS AROUND THE WORLD



Christmas from the URC Bookshop

Explore our range of resources, gifts, tree baubles and hanging decorations.

See <https://urchop.co.uk/christmas/>

Resources for churches

Explore our range of resources for churches, see <https://urchop.co.uk/church-resources/>.

Send a card to family and friends

Explore our range of Christmas cards, see <https://urchop.co.uk/christmas-cards/>.

Merchandise

Explore our range of merchandise, see <https://urchop.co.uk/merchandise/>.

Download the URC Catalogue at [Bookshop catalogue 2024.pdf](#)



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 at safeguarding.1and4@urc.org.uk will be answered within 24 hours.

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/>

Partnering



Hornsea URC Celebrating 150 Years

Quite an event – but we may well not have been here if it had not been for the Mission of a group of Independent Christians, as they were known then, from Fish Street Congregational Church, in Hull. Their mission? To bring the Gospel to ‘the dark villages of Holderness’ and they arrived in Hornsea in 1738.



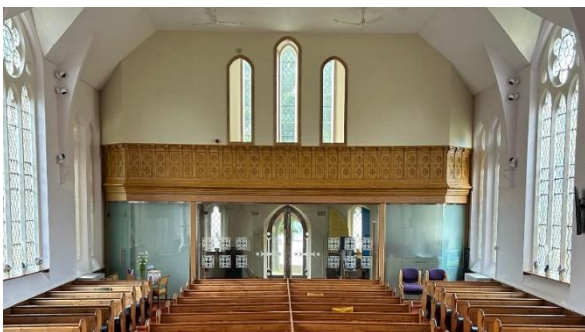
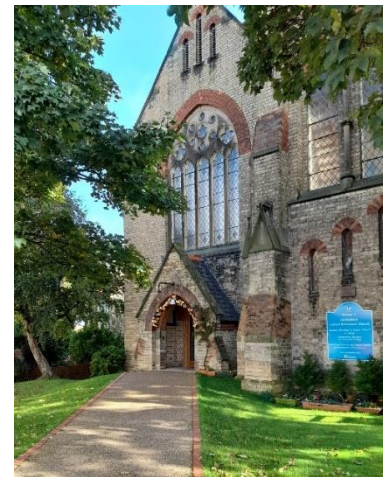
The Reverend George Lambert found the support of a local man, John Scaife, who opened his humble cottage as a meeting room – later to be registered as a place of worship. The word spread and so did the number of believers, so much so that a new church was built in 1808 – the Bethsaida Congregational Church.

It was a rapid time of growth for the non-conformist

movement in Hornsea and the Congregational church, with 120 members, had outgrown the Bethsaida premises. A plot of land was purchased and our present church was built in 1874 for a cost of £3,300!

The outward appearance of the church has changed little but the interior of the building has changed over the years, to meet the needs of the community which we serve.

Little did we know back in 2020, when we first had the vision to make the church 100% accessible to all, that the completion would coincide with our 150th Anniversary!



Thanks to the incredible support of the Yorkshire Synod, through the Vision and Opportunities Grant and the General Assembly's Legacy Fund along with other granting bodies, we had a wonderful month of celebration in October as the work was completed.

We had an Open Church Week with all who use the church taking part – along with a ‘How many Mice?’ competition (all winning a knitted mouse – thanks to our wonderful knitters).



We planted a tree

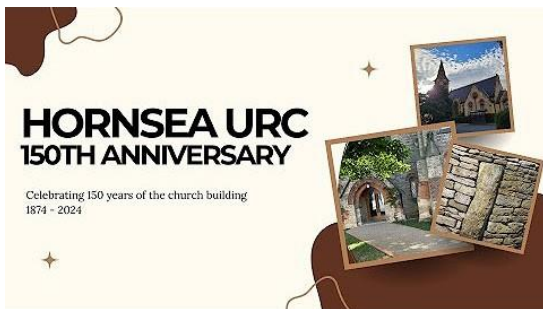
Held lots of Concerts



Enjoyed riding in the lift to the wonderfully warm and cosy Upper Room



Celebrated with a month of Worship Services opened by Jamie, our Synod Moderator.



[Hornsea URC - 150th Celebration month](https://hornseaurc.org.uk/)

Dedicated the new lectern to commemorate the occasion



And had hundreds of people through our doors.

Many folk were astonished at the quality of work and the difference it has made. Several people commented – “it is still a church with character but with a very modern feel”. There are now no steps to climb; a spacious entrance; clear vision and central doors; a lift to the repurposed ‘Upper Room’; improved lighting and secondary glazing to the west window. The building work may be completed but the work of mission – “To bring the Gospel and the love of Jesus to ‘the dark lives of Holderness’” still goes on.

If you are ever visiting the East Coast, it is really worth visiting our friends at Hornsea URC, to see their work in and for the community and how they bring the Love of God through Jesus Christ to everything they do. For more details visit <https://hornseaurc.org.uk/>

Musical Offering



We have had a message from a David Austin, who is an experienced church organist of moderate competency (his words, not mine) based in West Yorkshire. He isn't seeking a permanent post but he is looking to help out at churches that have an occasional need for a stand-in organist and is happy to travel up to 25 miles from home in Elland as he has his own transport.

He normally requests a fee, one that a church can afford, and one that will cover travel expenses plus the cost of a Sunday lunch out. He doesn't stipulate a specific fee and, for some special events, will even play free of charge.

Places where he has played in the past include Headingley St Columba and Waverley Huddersfield (in the old building).

If your church has an occasional need of a stand-in organist, then please contact David directly on 07790 480058.

Music and Trees in Roundhay

St Andrew's Roundhay is currently decked with 35 Christmas trees for their Christmas tree festival from 12 noon to 5pm daily, starting on Monday 9th December through to Saturday 14th December. As a prelude the church welcomed back The White Rosettes for a fantastic musical set on the evening of 4th December. For more details on the White Rosettes, please visit <https://www.whiterosettes.org.uk/>

As for the Christmas Tree Festival, full details of the trees and their creators can be found at <https://standrews.cc/christmas-tree-festival/> as this has an interactive programme for you to use. Although the Christmas Tree festival formally finished on Saturday 14th, you are most welcome to join St Andrew's Roundhay at any of their services over the festive period, details of which are here <https://standrews.cc/worship/weekly-services/>



The
United
Reformed
Church

Administrator Church Life Review London

Fixed Term contract until March 2026
35 hours per week
£36,103 per annum

Are you ready to help support the Church on its important journey of change?

The Church Life Review (CLR) is a significant and important journey of change to fully review all aspects of the life of the denomination.

In this role you will work closely with the Programme Manager on all administrative aspects of the CLR, playing a vital role in seeing that they are properly supported in their busy schedule.

You will be educated to A level or equivalent with GCSE passes (grade A-C) in English and Maths. You already have experience of PA and administrative work in an office environment and are highly organised, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills *and an ability to operate with discretion.*

We can offer you a flexible and friendly working environment; working from Church House and from home.

If you are interested in working with us and can meet the job requirements, please send your application form to:
Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
020 7691 9871 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/jobs

Closing date: 12 noon, Friday 3 January 2025 Interviews: Friday 10 January 2025



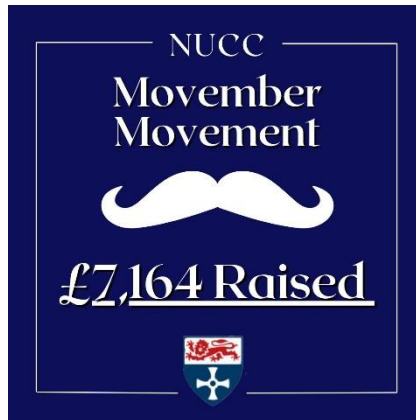
And Finally



Now You See it, Now You Don't



Four weeks ago you may recall that your erstwhile Synod Clerk had been volunteered by his daughter to grow a moustache on her behalf in aid of the Movember movement. It can now be revealed that as of the end of November, Lizzie's university cricket club had raised over £7100, an incredible amount and I hope that the Synod Clerk's efforts helped to bolster that figure.



So as promised, here is the result of his efforts – attempting a “Merv Hughes” style moustache and which is now immortalised in the



hallowed pages of the Briefing. Thank you all for your support, and I hope that the upper lip warms up after being insulated during this recent cold snap, as when the moustache was released on 1st December I can assure you that the top lip was decidedly chilly for a while.

I'm led to believe that the page is still open, so if you would like to retrospectively 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

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](#).

