



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 145

9<sup>th</sup> January 2025



## Welcome to 2025 and a Happy New Year

Just think, we are entering 2025, marking a quarter of the way through the twenty-first century, and where are we? I'll leave that question to be answered by those of a more philosophical nature as where we are depends on many factors. However where we are in Yorkshire Synod is still working to enable the churches in our orbit to spread the Good News that became manifest at Christmas and to bring the communities we serve to God through Jesus Christ.

To do this work Synod relies on strong partnerships; with churches, with church congregations, with Church House in London and with individuals. Our hope in Synod is to further strengthen those partnerships so that we can create an environment where people can grow in God and churches can feel supported in their work to spread the Word in the places they serve.

One of the things that I hope to be able to do this year is to make our lines of communications more effective. To do this though feedback is needed, especially in how you use the Synod website, how churches like to receive information from us at Synod and beyond and how churches can use technology to increase their presence in an ever busy social media world. It won't happen overnight and it requires a concerted effort synodwide, but it really is worth doing if we as a church are to remain relevant as we enter the second quarter of the twenty-first century.

This Briefing isn't as full as the ones at the back end of 2024, but nonetheless, please take more than a moment to look through to see what is happening in the next few weeks and months. One thing that we are short of are news stories from around the Synod, to share among ourselves and to share beyond the boundaries of the Synod. The more people know about what we do, the more chance we have of opening their hearts to God. So please send me details of your events and news and we'll put them here, on the Synod website and further afield.

Finally a call for folk to help in the running of Synod. We are always looking for people to help in the mission and direction of Synod and the URC in general. If you know of anyone who you feel could help, or if you feel as though you have a gift to offer, please get in touch with either myself at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or our Moderator Rev Jamie Kissack at [moderator@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:moderator@urcyorkshire.org.uk).

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.**

**Thank you**

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

To reserve a place on our training sessions, please email [deepti.upadhyaya@urc.org.uk](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> March – 3.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> 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/>

Graham Adams



Small, Weak and  
Curious Subversions

# Partnering



The Immanuel Project • Serving the homeless and vulnerable of Bradford • Charity No 1152419

The Immanuel Project is a Christian charity

dedicated to serving the homeless and vulnerable individuals of Bradford. At their Hub, they provide essential support services, a welcoming environment, and a sense of belonging to those in need.

They are currently looking for a full-time Guest Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator based at their head office and have asked that we circulate this around our churches. For more details and how to apply please look at this link: <https://snicket.org/jobs/guest-engagement-volunteer-co-ordinator/>

# Loving



# Leeds Lent Prayer Diary



Leeds  
Church  
Institute

The Leeds Lent Prayer Diary is an ecumenical resource produced by Leeds Christian Community Trust which promotes collective prayer across the city. For each day of lent it features a local project working to bring positive change to the city of Leeds through mission, social action, education, arts, and more.

Many churches across Leeds (and beyond) order the diary each year, and the Leeds Christian Community Trust would like to work with us in Yorkshire Synod to expand the diary's reach. At the heart of the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary is the motivation to deepen connections between people, churches, and projects, which we know aligns with the mission of the URC.

If you would like to see a copy of last year's diary, please contact the Synod Clerk at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) and to place an order for the 2025 edition please contact Emma Rice, the Information and Communications Officer at [leedslentprayerdiary@gmail.com](mailto:leedslentprayerdiary@gmail.com)

# 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:



**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.**

# Sharing



## East Riding Conference on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) for the Church Based Faith Sector

Toll Gavel United Church, in partnership with Community VISION and partners, would like to invite you to their East Riding Conference on Domestic Abuse and VAWG.

The conference is aimed at all staff, paid and unpaid, working and volunteering within a church based faith sector setting in the East Riding.

The objective of the conference is to bring together faith sector representatives and partners to network, collaborate and raise awareness of domestic abuse and VAWG related issues affecting our communities.

During the conference, attendees will gain knowledge of local services supporting those impacted by domestic abuse and VAWG, including local domestic abuse and safeguarding services, and other partnership wide organisations supporting communities in the East Riding. Light refreshments will be provided, but please feel free to bring along a lunch if you wish.

### Agenda for the day:

- 09:30-10:00** - Registration and networking
- 10:00-10:10** - Rev. Fran Rhys (Toll Gavel Church Minister) and Linda Johnson (Church Safeguarding Officer) - Welcome to the day and housekeeping
- 10:10-10:30** - Martin Batstone (East Riding of Yorkshire Council) – Domestic Abuse, VAWG and the Faith Sector
- 10:30-11:00** – Presentation from the East Riding Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership (DVAP) team
- 11:00-11:30** – Coffee break and networking
- 11:30-12:00** – East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board and Domestic Abuse
- 12:00-12:30** – East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership and Domestic Abuse
- 12:30-13:00** – Jackie Bowes, Deputy Lieutenant – VAWG and the East Riding
- 13:00-14:30** – Lunchtime Service Spotlight – relaxed informal session during which you will hear about a range of local partnership services supporting communities impacted by domestic abuse and VAWG related issues
- 14:30** – Close of day

**When:** Saturday 8 February 2025

**Where:** Toll Gavel United Church, Beverley HU17 9AA

### Register Here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/communityvision/1491040>

Please book via the link or email [gemma.jennison@communityvision.org.uk](mailto:gemma.jennison@communityvision.org.uk)

# Holiday Forum in a Day



Saturday 1st February 2025

Meeting ID: 992 160 9377

Passcode: DDpFX2



**Theme Leader**  
Revd Clare Downing

**Worship Leader**  
Revd Mike Redshaw



9:00am - 9:30am	Zoom Opens with the chance to catch up with each other.
9:30am - 10am	Morning Worship led by Rev Mike Redshaw.
10:15am - 11:15am	Theme Talk led by Rev Clare Downing "All of me loves all of you!"
11:30am - 12:30pm	The Living Library - with Ruth White
12:30pm - 1:45pm	Lunch Break (The zoom room will be left open if anyone wants to have lunch together)
1:45pm - 2:15pm	Farm Walk with Abi and Ava
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Card Making with Linda Gowland
End of the day session. Zoom will be open again from 6:30pm	
6:30pm - 7:00pm	Zoom Opens with the chance to catch up with each other
7:00pm - 7:45pm	Songs of Praise led by Angela Storer and Garcia Yearwood
8:00pm - 9:30pm	Social Evening with a few rounds of a quiz

Wendy, Abi and the Holiday Forum Steering Group News send news of the Holiday Forum in a Day which will be taking place on Saturday 1st February 2025. The attached image has both the Zoom meeting link and the timetable for the day.

The invitation is open so invite family and friends to come along too as it's a great way to get a taster of what's to come when the Holiday Forum meets in August. It's also your chance to meet Revd Mike Redshaw, the Worship Leader, and also Revd Clare Downing, the Theme Leader who will be leading on "All of me, loves all of you!" It certainly promises to be a great day.





## 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](mailto:safeguarding.1and4@urc.org.uk) will be answered within 24 hours.

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## 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. 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/>

## And Finally



A picture for the season of Epiphany, with thanks to Judy Rogers.

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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](#).