



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 146

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025



## **New Year and New Names**

There are some changes afoot in Synod which will mean that the New Year brings some new names to the Synod. The New Year has also brought in some new technology, not least a new laptop for the Clerk, who is slowly coming to terms with the fact that although the keyboard looks the same, the Clerk's fingers don't necessarily land on the letters he is wanting to use. I'm sure that there are some biblical parallels here, but I will leave that to those who are more adept in that particular field.

So in terms of new names, you will see that the Elders' Development Group are going through a bit of a re-branding, so that their annual conference being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March will be known as the "*Annual Mathetes Conference*". Now I'm no biblical or Greek scholar, but in Greek, a follower of Jesus is called a *mathētēs*. This word is used across a considerable number of early writings, from the gospels included in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) to the Book of Acts and other early writings like the Apocryphon of John (Secret Revelation of John). So a *mathētēs* is a student, which we all are as we continue on our Christian journey.

Another new name that we will be seeing is that of Tony Harris, who will be joining us as the Wilderness Youth worker in the "N.O.W." group of churches. The churches in the Nidd, Ouse and Wharfe group have come together with the Synod's Children & Youth Work committee and have appointed Tony as their new Youth, Children and Family Enabler. He officially starts on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January and I hope to be able to bring a profile in the next issue of the Briefing.

The other new name that we would love to be able to bring to you is that of a new Trust Officer. As I mentioned last year, our current Trust Officer, Alastair, retires at the end of March and although we tried to recruit a successor at the back end of last year, we were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, we continue to look and the details of how to apply are on both the Synod website and in the advert below. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to apply.

Finally a further 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 follow that call and 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 13<sup>th</sup> February 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 its 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.

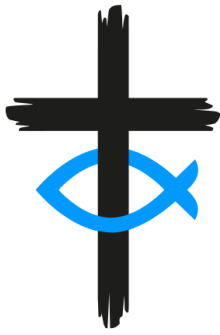
**For more information** and to register, visit –

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

Graham Adams



Small, Weak and  
Curious Subversions



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**



## The URC Waldensian Fellowship On-Line

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm**

### ***An Evening with Massimo Long***

Massimo has been working as a 'Deacon' in the Waldensian Church since 1995. For many years he concentrated on Youth Work – serving in the Pellice Valley before moving to the Isle of Elba and then to Turin. He recently returned to Pomaretto in the Waldensian Valleys serve within his home church community – a community much changed over the years.

He has also served the wider church through participation in the Synod Diaconal Commission, amongst other things.

During the thirty years he has been serving the church, there have been many changes, both in society and in the church: secularisation, technological changes, the web, media, and many more, and we hope to ask Massimo to speak of his experience of these and other matters and how they have impacted upon the life of the Waldensian Church. Therefore, a title to the evening might be.

### ***How Shall We Be the Church in a Changing Italy and in a Changing World?'***

#### ***Join Zoom Meeting***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476125567?pwd=MFRT3F5c0REU2IOYkVLa2x1cU5qdz09>

Please feel free to send this information on to anyone you think may be interested.

We hope to see you on January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 p.m.

John Bremner

Chairman, United Reformed Church Waldensian Fellowship

**Do join us on Zoom. All are welcome!**

# Partnering



## SITUATION VACANT

**Company Secretary and Trust Officer**  
**Yorkshire – Part time – 21 hours per week**  
**Salary circa £40.000 fte 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 and surveyors.
- Working with the Property Officer to take the lead in transactions relating to land and property

### We are looking for someone who is:

- Knowledgeable in Charity, Companies and Trust Legislation
- Educated to degree level or equivalent
- Able to prioritise 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: 9.00am, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Interviews: week of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the Synod Office



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

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)



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## Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development Small Grant Fund 2025

The Ministries Committee have so far approved 20 applications to this fund since 2022 and are pleased to say that there is another £2000 available for new applications in 2025. There is a new application form as the amount which you can ask for has increased to up to £300. So if anyone wants to discuss an application before submitting it or to ask for a new application form to be sent across please contact the Convenor of the Yorkshire Ministries Committee, Kath Lonsdale at [kathlonsdale@talktalk.net](mailto:kathlonsdale@talktalk.net).

**Remember this is for any age of lay person to apply for so please discuss with your young people as well as adults.**

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# 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**

**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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## National DBS Workshops

### DBS Barring Functions and the Legal Duty to Refer

This free Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) workshop is for those within the faith sector and will provide insight and guidance into the DBS Barring functions and when an organisation refers a staff member or volunteer to DBS following safeguarding concerns.

Key items that will be covered include:

- how DBS and those within the faith sector can work together to safeguard vulnerable groups
- what 'Regulated Activity' is
- when a DBS barring referral should be made, including when the legal duty is met
- the three different referral routes
- how to make a good quality referral
- the consequences of not making appropriate barring referrals
- the consequences of being included on one or both Barred Lists

The workshop will be presented live by the DBS Adviser for Yorkshire & The Humber.

There are two dates to choose from either:

21/1/2025 2pm <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0ebd7b23-eceb-4229-9b65-654d19fa73db@f24d93ec-b291-4192-a08a-f182245945c2>

OR;

30/1/2025 2pm [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Please feel free (and indeed it is encouraged) to pass this invitation onto your colleagues and networks within the faith sector.

If you have any questions before signing up to one of the workshops, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Rebecca Bool, the Regional Outreach Adviser for Yorkshire & The Humber at [Rebecca.Boot@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Boot@dbs.gov.uk) and more information on the DBS Adviser Service can be reviewed here: [The DBS Regional Outreach service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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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/>

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# And Finally

At the end of December, Idle Upper Chapel URC were contacted by the Rev Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator of the URC National Synod of Scotland as she had been given this hammer by a member of Giffnock URC in Glasgow whose friend had found it in a charity shop. At a recent meeting Rev



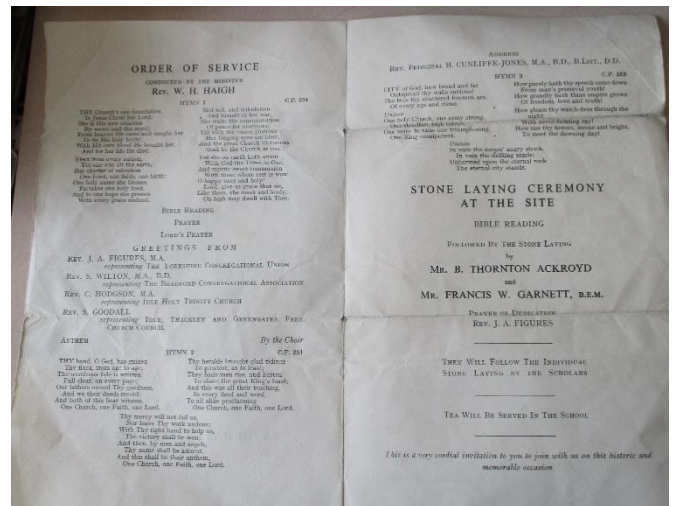
Sanderson passed the hammer to the Yorkshire Moderator, Jamie Kissack and it will be passed onto the folk at Upper Chapel, Idle in due course. These hammers were given to the children of the Sunday School who each laid a stone at a special ceremony when the 4th Upper Chapel was being built in 1956. The church is aware that some local people still have their hammers but were surprised to learn that one had ended up in Glasgow. The church put a post on one of their local Facebook groups (Idle Memories Past and Present) which has eight thousand members who live or have lived in Idle in the hope that



[Not quite passing the baton ... - URC Synod of Scotland facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/URCSynodofScotland)

someone might remember Gregory Bates or his family but unfortunately they have not yet found anyone who does.

However, Elder Susan Carter, has been in touch with a family with longstanding roots at Idle and has received this order of service for that day in April 1956 and a photo of one of the hammers "in action". This was shared with the church by Stewart Roberts, the little boy in the photo seen here with his father, Geoffrey Roberts, a long



time Deacon/Elder at Upper Chapel until his death several years ago. Stewart's aunt is still a member of the church although now she is in her 90s and finds it difficult to attend services regularly, she still keeps in close touch with the congregation.

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](#), at [United Reformed Church in Yorkshire - Home | Facebook](#) and [Wilderness URC Yorkshire - Home | Facebook](#), the YouTube page at [URC Yorkshire - YouTube](#) and the Twitter (X) page at [URC in Yorkshire \(@URCYorkshire\) / Twitter](#).