



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 150

28th March 2025



Lenten Lines

I don't know how long I can keep up with the alliterative titles to the Briefings, but as we reach the halfway point in Lent it's worth stopping and reflecting on where we are in our preparations for both Easter and the seasons that follow. The Synod team have been so busy this past few weeks; March always seems to be the month where there never seems to be a day without a meeting – from Synod meeting earlier in the month, to the regular financial and trust meetings to church meetings. It has felt that we are being busy for busyness's sake. This is one of the reasons this Briefing is a little late, but that busyness has benefitted us in Synod as I am happy to announce that Mrs Rachel Crawshaw will be moving from one desk in the Synod Office to another as she takes on the roll of Trust Officer from 1st April. She replaces Alastair Forsyth, who retires on 31st March, and I hope that you will join me in wishing Alastair all the best for his retirement as well as welcoming Rachel into this role at a time when there is such a lot going on in Synod and within the denomination as a whole.

It does mean that we are in need of a new Finance Assistant – the advert is further in the Briefing, and we are also looking for a Communications and Digital lead to help us to be more proactive in the way in which we communicate.

The last two weeks haven't seen as many more events come to our notice, and so most of those we showcased last time are again advertised. However, one thing that I need to emphasise is the **BIG DAY OUT** on Saturday 17th May. The advert is repeated, but one thing which may help churches is the opportunity to apply for funding to offset transport costs. As in previous years, Synod is happy to help those churches who are organising coaches and the best way to apply is to visit the website at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/big-day-out-in-2025/> and download the Transport Grant Form that should now be there.

Please let me know what you are all doing over Easter. The next issue is due out on 10th April, so is right in the slot for announcing all the activities your church is doing over our greatest Church festival. Please get in touch so that I can spread your word.

Finally, 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 or our Moderator Rev Jamie Kissack at 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 and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out on Thursday 10th April 2025, which will be the last one before Easter.

Thank you

Tim Crossley

Loving



BIG DAY OUT 2025: Tickets Now on Sale

SATURDAY 17 MAY

YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

BIG DAY OUT

TICKET PRICES:
ADULTS 26+ £5.50
19-25 YEARS £3.50
UNDER 18 FRE

ACTIVITIES PROVIDED 10.30AM - 2.30PM
TURN OVER FR MORE DETAILS!

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- 10AM ARRIVALS**
10:30AM OUTDOOR GAMES
BIBLE STUDY*
FOREST CHURCH*
FAMILY CRAFT
- 10.45AM SING-A-LONG**
- 12NOON FAMILY SHOW: THE PARABLE KEEPER**
PICNIC LUNCH
- 1.15PM GODLY PLAY***
FOREST CHURCH*
SING-A-LONG
- 2.00PM WORSHIP TOGETHER**
2.30PM YOUR OWN TIME!

***SIGN UP ON THE DAY!**
SELF-LED PRAYER WALKS ALSO AVAILABLE



HOW TO BOOK:
SCAN THE QR CODE
LINK: [HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/Z2CPU](https://shorturl.at/z2cPu)
CONTACT
OFFICE@URCYORKSHIRE.ORG.UK

The Yorkshire Synod BIG Day Out is upon us. We are so excited to gather on Saturday 17 May 2025 at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to share friendship together. Tickets are now on sale and to book you can either use the QR code here or go through this link:

<https://shorturl.at/z2cPu>

The Yorkshire Synod is subsidising entry tickets. Adult entry tickets are usually £9.50 each, but the subsidised prices are Age 26+ £5.50, Age 18-25 £3.50 and under 18's are completely FREE. Please add all under 18's onto your booking as we do have to give final numbers to the staff for health and safety purposes. If you are struggling to book online, please contact the synod office. Finally the Synod Mission Fund is also offering grants to cover travel costs.

Please enquire at the synod office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or contact the Clerk at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk or visit <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/big-day-out-in-2025/>

This is an event for all ages to come and enjoy together, and we encourage you to publicise this widely and invite all your church contacts. This includes all groups that use the Church building including slimming world, dance class, uniformed organisations etc, any neighbouring churches and any friends/relatives of all who have an association with the church.

Inviting



More news from the Children and Young People's Synod team

There is a lot happening around Synod this spring, and these events need to be shared around Synod so that you can be promoting and encouraging in your own churches and groups.

Youthscape Essentials Course

This is a 10 month course (one session per month) which has been put together for all those who already do, or who would like to work with young people. Each session of this course offers an insight into contemporary culture or research into young people's lives, a practical skill to learn and develop and a personal characteristic which can be applied to building effective relationships with young people. It really is an insightful and useful course. This course and the GrandFaith course are being delivered by Megan Tillbrook and my Five Northerly CYDO+ colleagues.

You are invited to Youthscape Essentials, all round training for every volunteer youth leader.

We are going to learn and pray in a community with a shared heart and hope for young people and for God.

Each of the 10 sessions includes:

- 1 insight into youth culture to explore
- 1 practical skill to try out together
- 1 area of Christian character to reflect on

We always start with the voice of a young person through a special recorded video, and we close by being sent out in hopeful prayer.

Whether you have been involved in youth ministry for years or you are thinking of getting involved, Youthscape Essentials is the place for you.

Running online, monthly, from Tuesday 25th February to Monday 24th November 7pm to 9pm.
For a list of dates please contact cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk.
To book go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> or use the QR code and enter course code 1245085.



Youth FORUM 2025

Three forums so far have been planned for 2025. The first gathering is on 29th March at Heckmondwike URC. As part of the day we will be going to a local Pottery Barn for a pottery wheel

FORUM FOR YOUTH

SATURDAY 29 MARCH
SATURDAY 05 JULY
SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER
10.30AM - 3PM

FOOD & FUN ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

 For young people interested in working with one another to make our churches better for youth and children.
Turn over for details on how to attend.

 **SATURDAY 29 MARCH**
Heckmondwike URC, 139 High street
WF16 0DY

 **SATURDAY 05 JULY**
Herringthorpe URC, Wickersley road
S60 4JN

 **SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER**
St Andrew's URC, Shaftsbury Avenue
LS8 1DS

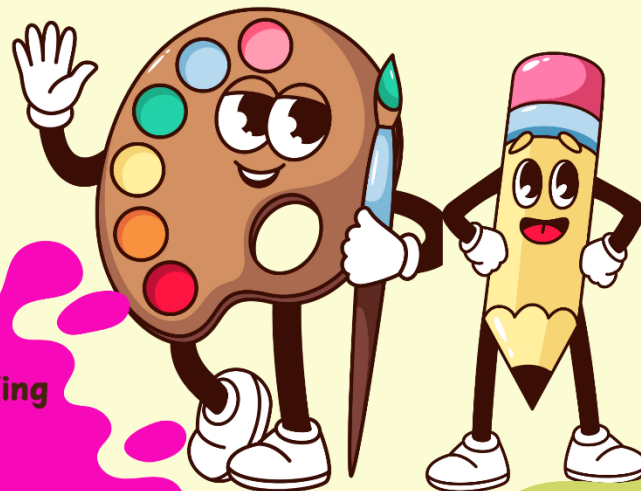
Contact Megan Tillbrook to book your place
megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk / 07522 220213

lesson and some pot painting. Other sessions include gathering at the Stag Community Church – Herringthorpe URC on Saturday 5th July, then on November 15th at St Andrew's Roundhay.

Use the QR code or the following link to book:

<https://buytickets.at/theunitedreformedchurchyork.../1546359>

Children's Mascot Design Competition



Are you a budding artist?
Creative?
Or do you just enjoy drawing???

Get your design made into a real mascot!
The mascot will then travel around Yorkshire, visiting churches, becoming a mega star and an important member of the Wilderness Hub team.

Submission Guidelines

Format

Submit your design as either a (JPEG or PNG) document or a hand sketched design.

Deadline

The deadline date is Friday 20th June

Contact

Send your designs to the team at wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk

For more information and to send in your designs, contact wilderness@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Leading Your Church into Growth 2025 Yorkshire Synod Programme

The Synod is pleased to announce that our Synod Evangelist, Rev Ashley Evans, is running 'Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) Vision Days' being held at various churches within our Synod over the coming months. The day is to seek God's vision for your church and to help you implement it. We hope your church will be able to take part in one of them. The first four dates are confirmed as:

Saturday 5th April at Holme URC, Bradford

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH DAY

9:30 5 April
-3:30 2025

HOLME URC
BROADSTONE WAY
BRADFORD BD4 9RY

The United Reformed Church

A DAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR CHURCH AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT

For more info contact:
evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Saturday 28th June at The Bridge URC, Otley

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH DAY

9:30 28 JUNE
-3:30 2025

THE BRIDGE
UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH
BRIDGE ST
OTLEY LS21 1RW

The United Reformed Church

A DAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR CHURCH AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT

For more info contact:
evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Saturday 10th May at Longcauseway, Dewsbury

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH DAY

9:30 10 May
-3:30 2025

LONGCAUSEWAY
CHURCH
36 THE PRINCESS OF WALES
PRECINCT
DEWSBURY WF13 1NH

The United Reformed Church

A DAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR CHURCH AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT

For more info contact:
evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Saturday 5th July at Gleadless URC, Sheffield

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH DAY

9:30 5 JULY
-3:30 2025

GLEADLESS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
280 HOLLINSEND RD
SHEFFIELD S12 2NP

The United Reformed Church

A DAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR CHURCH AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT

For more info contact:
evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk

All from 9.30am – 3.30pm

For more information and booking, please contact Ashley at evangelist@urcyorkshire.org.uk

**Saltaire United Reformed
Church
World Heritage Day
Saturday, April 12, 2025**

Church building open for visitors
11am-4pm

Archive material and photos
available to view

Listen to the organ
Light refreshments available
from 11am

Bell tower tours (max 12 each tour)
1-4pm

Guided walk of Saltaire starting at church
11am – cost £9 per person



We look forward to welcoming you

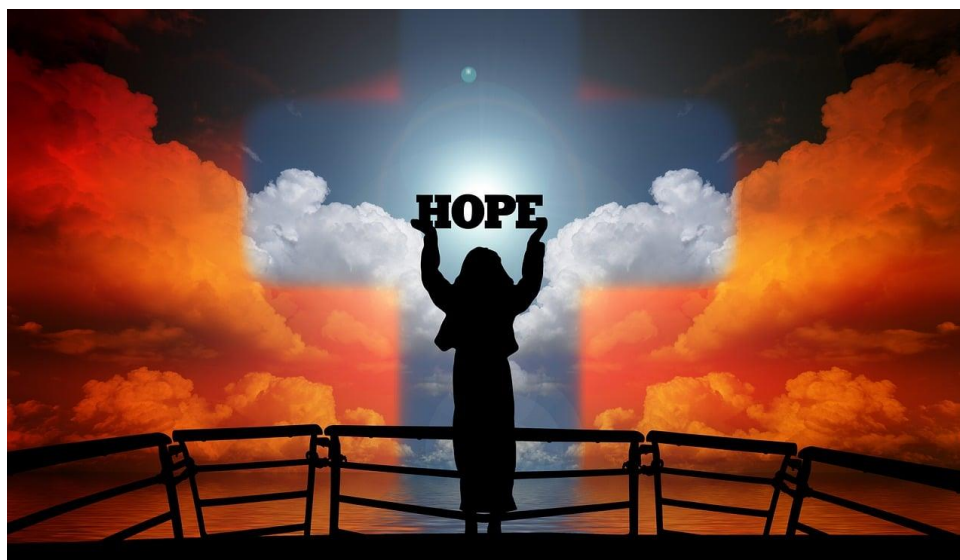
Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Weekend

"Hope in a Troubled World"

25th – 27th July 2025

(Friday teatime to Sunday lunch)

at Wydale Conference Centre, Brompton by Sawdon near Scarborough www.wydale.org



We are excited that Hannah Fytche, Associate New Testament Tutor at Westminster College, will be our main speaker at the conference, and that we will be joined by our Moderator, Rev Jamie Kissack.

This weekend will again be paid for by Synod and grants so you will only need to cover your travel costs.

To register your place, contact:

office@urcyorkshire.org.uk or 0113 289 8490.

For any queries, contact Kath at:

kathlonsdale@talktalk.net

01274 315203 or 07759525936



Partnering



Discipleship Development Fund Deadline

Philippa Linton, the administrator for the denomination's Education & Learning committee has sent the following to remind us of the upcoming deadline **of 31st March** for applications for **Discipleship Development Fund Large Grants**.

For the Large Grant, around £5,000 per award per year is available to recognised groups within the URC. Grants can be put towards any purpose that will contribute to the Discipleship Development of lay people in or connected with the URC. Multi-year projects can be supported for up to three years and a tapered approach to funding is encouraged. Applications for grants that only partially fund a project are acceptable, but the application will need to identify the source of the other funds. Any recognised group can apply, but if the group applying is not an Assembly Committee or a Synod, it will need to gain approval for its application from their Assembly Committee or Synod. Applicants need to clearly demonstrate how the grant will be used to develop discipleship and lifelong learning within the URC. That means that it needs to be approved by our Yorkshire Synod Ministries Committee, and to do so, please drop a line to them via office@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Over the past few years, the DDFLGAG (Discipleship Development Fund Large Grants Award Group) has awarded grants to a variety of projects encouraging people's discipleship across the URC. These include:

- Funding for a Children's and Family Worker in Birmingham
- Funding for a Discipleship Development Worker at Cheltenham URC
- Two 'Leading Your Church into Growth' conferences run by the five northerly Synods
- Two retreat days run by the Leeds URC Partnership Retreat for churches across the Partnership
- Funding to take a youth group from Thamesmead to a Christian festival
- A Worship and Bible Hub in North Wales
- 'Faithful Flourishing Day' in Northern Synod
- A 3-year initiative supporting the discipleship of Trans and Gender Non-conforming people in Oxford
- Funding for marginalised and minoritised families and individuals to attend the URC Holiday Forum
- A World Poetry Day in Hull, to encourage the discipleship of local church people

And many more! Please spread the word as we are always open to receiving more applications. All the information about how to apply can be found here – it is important that anyone applying follows all the criteria, including if requested the submission of church accounts: <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/developing-your-faith/discipleship-development-fund/>

Application forms then should be emailed to: secretaryeandl@urc.org.uk

Sharing



NEWS FROM THE DENOMINATION



Andy Jackson, URC Head of Communications has sent the following, with links to several of the new videos available to download from the URC's YouTube channel. Hopefully those who lead services or who are organising supporting events can download them so that they can be shown to a wider audience. You can find the following new videos on the URC's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/URCUK

Legacies of Slavery

A video about the trip to Jamaica where the Revd Tessa Henry-Robinson delivered the confessions and apology from the URC for the role played by its forebears in transatlantic slavery, and the failure to dismantle the continuing legacies which blight our world today. Part of an ecumenical pilgrimage to learn more about the legacies of slavery, the trip included Karen Campbell, the URC's Secretary for Global & Intercultural Ministries: <https://youtu.be/vYGfPh1za1c>

Watch an interview with Tessa about the purpose and meaning of the trip: <https://youtu.be/AQmiJ-XDgis>

Watch an edited version of the video followed by an interview by Dr Steve Tomkins and the Revd Geoff Felton, Moderator of the URC's Mersey Synod, who spent his sabbatical learning more about the impact of slavery around the world. https://youtu.be/O9iTASKQ2_s

Read more about this work on the URC website: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-do/legacies-of-slavery/>

Supporting Ukrainian Refugees

The conflict in Ukraine is three years old, and it is estimated that up to a million people have been killed or wounded. After the devastation of the Second World War across the UK, communities belonging to the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia collected funds and sent them over to the Reformed churches that now makes up the United Reformed Church. The URC is now helping out the church family in western Ukraine: <https://youtu.be/grZ3zCfhicU>

What is a Synod?

An introduction to the 13 Synods in Wales, Scotland and England: <https://youtu.be/zpiEJbPdsO4>. This accompanies the What is the URC? video: <https://youtu.be/ceeONbrYtvE>

An introduction to the Nominations Committee

Members of the new URC Nominations Committee introduce themselves and how the drive to safer recruitment is having a positive impact on the committees and volunteers that help the church in its life and mission: <https://youtu.be/m8wSrijCxJEs?si=hvIN9GCtnaacyZie>

Induction of Tessa Henry-Robinson as Free Churches' Group Moderator

On Palm Sunday (April 13) at 6.30pm, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson will be inducted as Moderator of the Free Churches' Group at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London.

Tickets are free (but required because of the venue), and can be reserved here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1277875783869?aff=oddtcreator>

Rejoice and Sing LIVE

On May 3, at Methodist Central Hall, Coventry, a hymn-filled service of celebration for the 35th anniversary of the URC's hymn book, *Rejoice and Sing*. Lots of hymn singing, a scratch choir lead by Roo Stewart (all singers and choirs are welcome), talks from David Thompson, Stephen Orchard and Anne Sardeson, contributions from Dominic Grant, David Jenkins and Brenda Stephenson, a panel discussion lead by Steve Tomkins, an exhibition and the chance to gather with many others to sing lots of superb hymns. Plus a special message from Brian Wren. A café will be available for lunches and drinks.

Reserve your free tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1110387832899?aff=oddtcreator>

150th Anniversary of the World Council of Reformed Churches

With roots in the 16th-century Reformation, and particularly in the theology of John Calvin, the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) dates its organisational history to London in 1875, and has been unifying churches over the course of its existence. It now represents 100m Christians from 230+ member churches in 109 countries around the world. A service to mark its 150th anniversary will be held on July 12 at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road.

Free tickets can be reserved here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1257520550819?aff=oddtcreator>

Another Yorkshire Lundie Award Recipient



Joe Wood of Rotherham is always looking for ways to share the Gospel and this is why he was the recipient of December 2024's Lundie Memorial Award. Joe, from the Stag Community Church (aka Herringthorpe URC), has been closely involved in the activities there, helping out with the church's children's and holiday clubs over the past three years. "Joe really makes a difference in the life of the church," said Lu Hunt the church's Children and Families worker (seen here presenting Joe with his award). "We're so proud of him and so grateful for everything he does." Joe doesn't stop: he helps run a youth group on a Thursday, he helped in the Synod Youth Residential by bringing resources to help with Bible study and he hopes to lead youth sessions at church on a Sunday morning. "I like helping people learn about Jesus," Jo says, "and helping them to become disciples I would say to any other young person considering being involved in their church that it's good to get involved and help people become disciples."

For more information about the Lundie award and how to make a nomination visit <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/family-friendly-church/lundie-memorial-awards/>

SITUATIONS VACANT

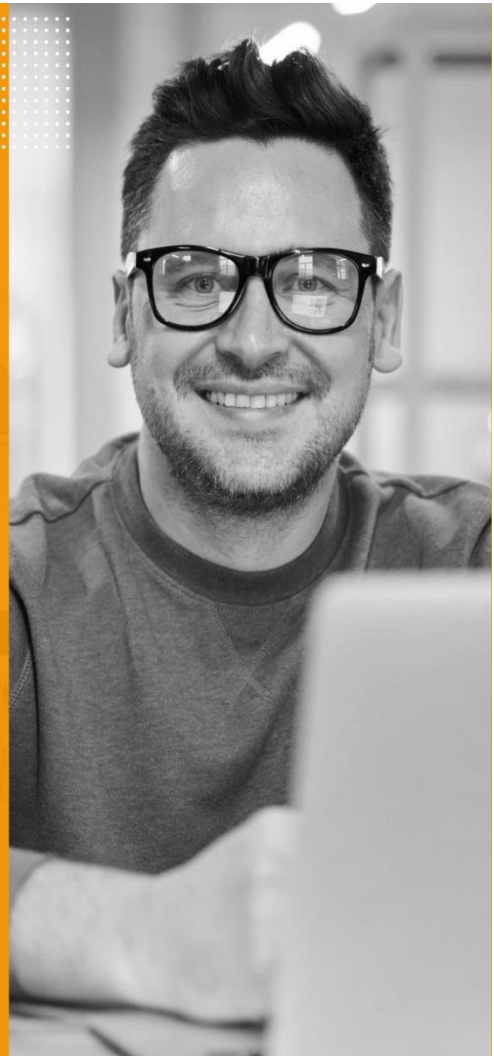


WE ARE HIRING!

COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL LEAD

- 14 hours
- £25,000 FTE
- Closing date: 9am 22/04/25

For more information & details on how to apply: office@urcyorkshire.org.uk



Synod Finance Assistant



Yorkshire Synod – Part time – 24 hours per week

Salary circa £25.000 fte Permanent

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

Responsibilities include

Providing support for Finance Officer.

- Accounting/Bookkeeping using computerized systems
- Entering all payments and receipts into the relevant cashbook, reconciliation tasks and maintaining a record of up-to-date bank account balances balance.
- Posting all cashbook entries to the relevant ledger, and balance.
- Preparation of Trial Balances at the end of each month.
- Preparation of month end reconciliations.

We are looking for someone with:

- AAT (or equivalent) qualifications.
- Experience of computerised accounting systems, eg Sage etc.
- Experience of inputting information into databases.
- Excellent numeracy and literacy skills with attention to detail and accuracy
- The ability to work flexibly and contribute flexibly positively

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

Closing date for applications: 9.00am, Monday 31st March 2025



Children, Youth & Families Worker in the church and the community in Stocksbridge, Sheffield

A five year post to develop both church-based and secular work with children, young people and families.

- **to support two churches which have existing children's work**
 - **Junior Church in one and Children's Club in the other**
- **to develop activities of wider interest and support to young families**

The new post will work in two churches, in Stocksbridge, near Sheffield.

- Christ Church, a URC/Methodist LEP, with a wide range of church and community activity and a newly created children and families suite. A URC Child-Friendly Certified Church.
- The Stocksbridge Christian Centre, a Methodist/Anglican LEP which hosts the Food Bank, the Community Outlet and a new family learning space.
35 hours a week, £25,116 per year. Full-time 5-year Fixed Term Contract

Information Sheet, Background Paper and Application Form can be downloaded from the Christ Church website at www.christchurchonline.org

Applications must be returned to ianlucaft@btinternet.com by 9.00 am on Monday 7th April 2025

Informal prior enquiries or a request to discuss the post by phone, can be made to Rev Ian Lucaft, minister for both churches, by email: ianlucaft@btinternet.com

Stainbeck United Reformed Church and West Park United Reformed Church Leeds

are looking for an Administrator

We wish to jointly appoint an administrator to join our team of volunteers and ministers in maintaining our current programme of activities and further developing our mission to our local communities

The administrator will primarily support our churches in relation to room bookings, compliance requirements and supplies replenishment

This role will suit a proactive person with excellent administrative, computer and communication skills and willing to work on their own initiative

We are seeking a self-employed person

Pay will be at a weekly rate of £240

(Based on £16/hour for an average 15 hour week)

This package is negotiable for the right person

Closing date for applications 31st March 2025 with interviews held week beginning 7th April

To express an interest or for more information please contact Revd Angela Hughes:

☎ 07752 904317

✉ angela.hughes1@icloud.com

transforming conflict • embracing difference

place for hope



As part of the ongoing strategy and development of the **Place for Hope** and **United Reformed Church** partnership which was begun at the URC's Assembly Executive meeting back in February 2024 (<https://urc.org.uk/your-church/place-for-hope-partnership/>), **Place for Hope** are conducting a needs assessment to better understand what is needed to help us reach their goals of creating transformation within our United Reformed churches and equipping our communities to navigate change, difference, and conflict well.

This form, the link to which is below, gives you an opportunity for your voice and opinion to be heard, and to shape the future of the project. All the responses will be used to help form an accurate and deeper understanding of conflict within the URC, and will be used to shape the ongoing development of the project. This will help ensure that the programme we are building meets the needs of the wider community and that the roll out is sustainable.

Please follow this link to fill in the form <https://forms.gle/1zgeykMcpxm7QSiZ9>

The form is a mixture of multiple choice and longer form questions and should take between 15-30 minutes to complete, depending on how detailed the answers you give are! All your responses will be anonymous. Please send this onto anyone you feel may be interested in having a say - I would love as many people as possible to contribute.

If you have any questions, please contact the programme lead, Martha Hunt , on martha.hunt@placeforhope.org.uk.

Delegated Hiring Authority

This is a brief note of advice to all you Church secretaries out there. Some time ago, in 2017, the Yorkshire Congregational Union (Inc) were advised that legally they are responsible for any hiring of church premises to third parties. Accordingly, churches were invited to accept delegated authority from the Trust for temporary, occasional or intermittent third party hiring.

For those who accepted, this means that the authority for hiring your premises has been delegated to your Elders, and the YCU requires a six-monthly return of hirings (to June 30th and December 31st each year).

We are quite short on returns at present, so if your church has not already completed its return, I hope that it can be completed and returned to us at the earliest convenience. If you require a reminder of how to do it and the forms that are used, please contact our Trust officer at

trust@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Building



Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

The General Assembly has recommended that URC members and groups widen/deepen their understanding of some of the fundamental issues as to why the conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory seems so intractable.

The Interfaith Enabling Group together with Commitment for Life are hosting a series of online events, continuing with:

IOPT IN FOCUS
THE URC ONLINE SERIES

UNPACKING THE ISSUES
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

SAVE THE DATE!
WED
30 APR '25
2PM UK TIME

SESSION 2 OF 4
EXPLORING APARTHEID & THE OCCUPATION
FROM NAKBA TO THE PRESENT
CHARLOTTE MARSHALL
SABEEL-KAIROS UK

FOR THE ZOOM LINK
COMMITMENTFORLIFE@URC.ORG.UK

IOPT IN FOCUS
THE URC ONLINE SERIES

SAVE THE DATE!
18TH JUNE '25
2PM GMT

SESSION 3 OF 4
ANTISEMITISM
A PRESENT-DAY PREJUDICE
+ A WORKSHOP & DISCUSSION
WITH
REV DR NATHAN EDDY
THE COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS & JEWS

FOR ZOOM LINK
COMMITMENTFORLIFE@URC.ORG.UK

30 April - EXPLORING APARTHEID & THE OCCUPATION with Charlotte Marshall, Director, Sabeel Kairos UK
and

18 June - ANTISEMITISM with Nathan Eddy, Co-Director, Council of Christians and Jews

For more information and a link to the webinars please contact
commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk.

Revd Dr Kevin Snyman

Programme Officer, Global Justice, Partnerships, & Inter Faith Relations

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.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING COURSES

The following Safeguarding Training courses are now available for 2025.

All these courses are to be held via zoom and to book a place please contact Paula Kitson – paulakitson.1and4@urc.org.uk

Wednesday 19th March 2025 - 10am – Refresher training

Friday 11th April 2025 – 10am – Intermediate training

Monday 28th April – 7.00pm – Advanced training

Wednesday 7th May 2025 – 2pm – Refresher training

Thursday 5th June 2025 – 7pm – Refresher training



Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS): important deadline

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance has just issued the following e-mail which we thought worth passing on:

“As you know, from 1 April 2025 there is a cap on VAT refunds under the LPWGS. The cap will limit a place of worship to a total VAT refund of £25k in the year (i.e. equivalent to a spend including VAT of £125k)

We have just heard that VAT claims need to be in by 31st March 2025 latest if they are to be treated under the current rules - that is, without a cap applying.

If the claim is received on or after 1 April then the cap will apply even if the expenditure was incurred before that date.

*So if you think the cap may apply to you, **you should claim for as much as possible on or before 31 March**. If the cap definitely won't apply to you, then there is no rush.”*

For more information please contact our Property Officer, Jane, an e-mail at property@urcyorkshire.org.uk

And Finally

The LAMPS Collective presents

THE PASSION by the Riding Lights Theatre Company

7.30pm Fri 10th April

The Friargate Theatre

York

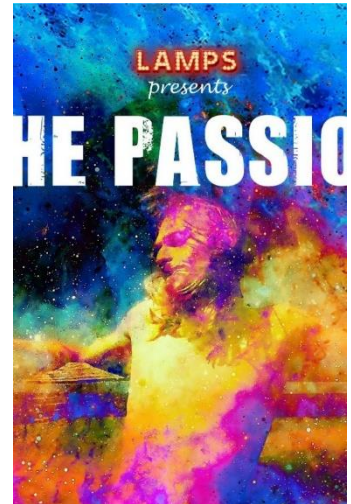
YO1 9SL

Tickets £15.00

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ridinglights/the-passion/e-ddrojy>

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in this moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter events. Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, The Passion leads us through the events of Holy Week to the cross and beyond.

Find out more here <https://lampscollective.com/the-passion/>



If you have a good news story from your part of the Synod or something that you feel would enhance the work of Synod in 2025, 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](#), 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](#).