



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 151



10th April 2025

Easter Greetings from all at Yorkshire Synod

Although Easter is over a week away I hope that all our thoughts are now on preparing how we mark this most important date in our Christian year. I have been able to highlight some of the events happening in the churches of the Synod, but I'm sure that there are more events which I haven't been told about which would be great to hear about when I send out the first Briefing after Easter Sunday.



In the last Briefing I mentioned that it is all change in the Synod office in Morley. Rachel Crawshaw has now had a couple of weeks in her new role of Trust Officer. Rachel is no stranger to us; she has been a member of the Synod team for a number of years as our Finance Officer, but the moving from one desk to another means that there is a bit of fluctuation as Rachel gets to know the ropes and we continue in our recruitment of a new Finance Assistant. I hope you will bear with us for a little while yet, but rest assured that we will always be there to help in answering any query in a timely manner.

Not only that, but we are still looking for a Communications and Digital lead to help us to be more proactive in the way in which we communicate; the advert is in this Briefing and on the website, and the deadline for applications is 9.00am on 22nd April.

I make no apologies for showcasing the **BIG DAY OUT** which is happening on Saturday 17th May at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The advert is repeated once more and I am taking this opportunity to ask that if churches are organising coaches to bring folk to the **BIG DAY OUT** then they take the opportunity to apply for funding to offset those transport costs. If you would like to apply please visit the Synod website at <https://urcyorkshire.org.uk/big-day-out-in-2025/> and download the Transport Grant Form that should now be there and send it to clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk.

Please let me know what you all did over Easter, be it Good Friday vigils, sunrise services on Easter Day or any other activity related to the season and I'll highlight it in next issue which is due out on 1st May, just in time for the May Day Bank Holiday. 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 1st May 2025.

Thank you

Tim Crossley

Loving



BIG DAY OUT 2025: Tickets Now on Sale



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.



WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Are you under 26?
Are you interested in leading services in your church?
Are you keen to develop your preaching skills?

Then this **free** training day is for you!

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE | 10AM-4PM

**LUTHER KING HOUSE BRIGHTON GROVE,
MANCHESTER M14 5JP**



contact cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk to
book your place



For more information and the relevant consent forms, please contact Meghan Tillbrook at
megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk or via the Synod Office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk

Inviting



Stations of the Cross

Contemporary Art Exhibition

By local artist Stephen Walker retired URC Accredited Lay Preacher and Elder. Stephen painted the stages during the covid pandemic to complement the writings of the late URC Minister Rev. Michael Wear.

The paintings and meditations will be on display over the Easter Season

The church will be open on

Saturday 12th & 19th of April

10:30-2:30 pm

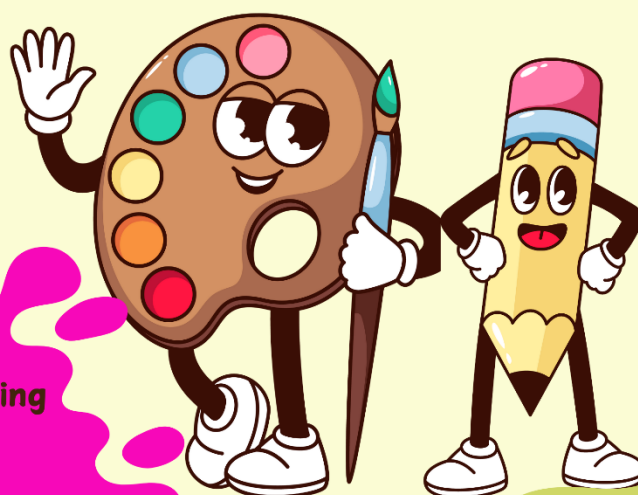
Knottingley URC

***@ The Salvation Army Weeland
Road, Knottingley WF11 8BE***

Free admission and refreshments available



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 one has happened – a successful day at Holme URC, but if you missed it there are three others over the spring and summer.

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

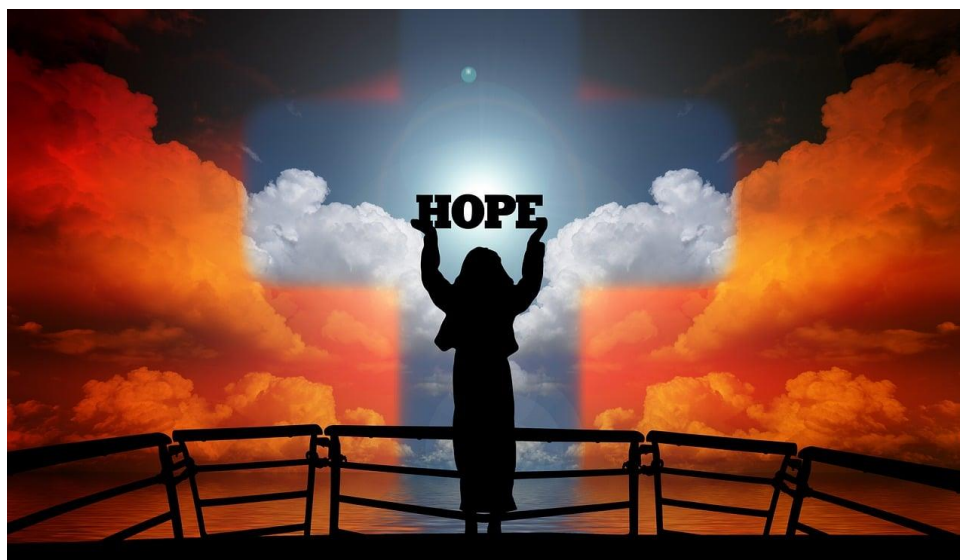
Lay Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Weekend

"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



Recently Rev Jamie Kissack met up with Mr Neil Irving, who has recently spent 3 months in the West Bank serving with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Neil would be very happy to visit churches and talk about his experiences there and how churches can help advocate for an end to the military occupation.



Eyewitness stories from Israel and Palestine

- What is daily life under occupation really like?
- What can be done to promote a just peace in Israeli-occupied Palestine?

www.eyewitnessblogs.com. The programme was established following an appeal from church leaders in Jerusalem for an international presence, accompanying local people and communities, offering protective presence and witnessing their daily struggles and hopes.

He was based in the Jordan Valley and witnessed many violations of human rights. His blogs www.eyewitnessblogs.com/i-am-frightened-and-have-to-treat-the-flags-like-i-treat-my-own-children and www.eyewitnessblogs.com/education-under-attack describe examples of harassment designed to intimidate and force innocent people to flee their homes.

Neil is seeking opportunities to talk to churches and groups about daily life for Palestinians living under military occupation in the West Bank and to tell the stories of some of the people he met. For further information email him at neilirving2024@outlook.com.

Sharing



What's missing?



Is it YOU?

Easter services at Saltaire United Reformed Church

13 April	Palm Sunday	10.30am
18 April	Good Friday Morning	10.30am
20 April	Easter Sunday inc. Communion	10.30am

If you are unable to make any of these services, then we meet each Sunday at 10.30am

A warm welcome awaits YOU

Visitor Opening

The church will open for visitors on Sunday afternoons between April and October when there may be a chance for you to sit and listen to the organ being played.

Additional opening times during events in the village.

Come and try our café on the 1st Sunday of each month April to October



12 noon to 4pm

Additional opening during events in the village.

Looking for a room to hire?

Come along and see what we can offer.

We look forward to seeing you!

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-XDqis>, and 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=oddttdtcreator>

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=oddttdtcreator>

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=oddttdtcreator>

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



YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY ENABLER

To serve 4 churches in the Bradford
Group of the United Reformed
Church in Yorkshire :

- 4 YEARS FULL-TIME ●
- UP TO £30,095K ●

CLOSING DATE:
02/05/2025



For more information:



MEGAN TILLBROOK
07522 220 213

Application Pack Available:

office@urcyorkshire.org.uk



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

Friday 11th April 2025 – 10am – Intermediate training

Monday 28th April 2025 – 7pm – Advanced training

Wednesday 7th May 2025 – 2pm – Refresher training

Thursday 5th June 2025 – 7pm – Refresher training



The House of Good: Local

Capture and showcase the social and economic value your church brings to its community using our free online tool in under 30 minutes.

Take me to the calculator or follow this link:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/houseofgood-local>

Our Property Officer, Jane Bunyan, has asked that churches make use of this digital tool from the National Churches Trust. By using this tool, you can highlight the crucial role your church plays in supporting local people as well as strengthening your case for fundraising, the motivation volunteers, and be able to contribute to the future planning of your church's mission.

The calculator works out the social, economic and wellbeing value of your church by using information taken from nine questions about activities at your building. Once you have the data, you should be able to complete The House of Good: Local calculator in under 30 minutes.

If you have any questions or need any help with the calculator, get in touch with us at houseofgood@nationalchurchestrust.org



And Finally

The LAMPS Collective presents

THE PASSION by the Riding Lights Theatre Company

7.30pm Fri 11th April

The Friargate Theatre

York

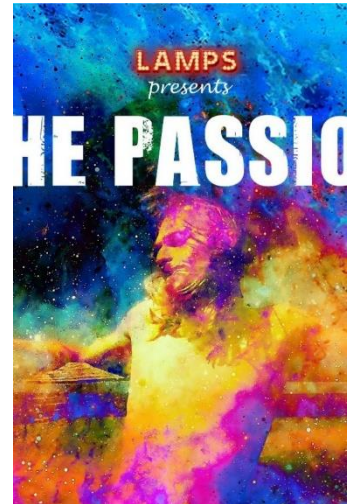
YO1 9SL

Tickets £15.00

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

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](#).