



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 159

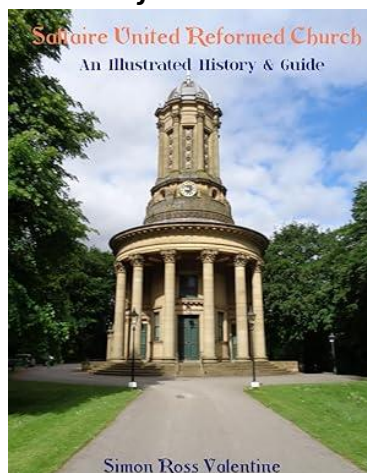
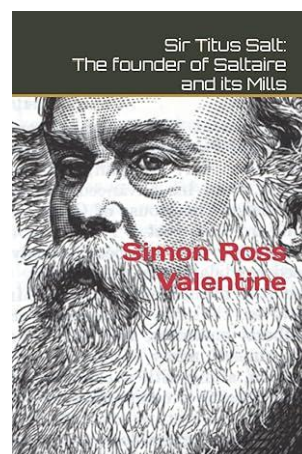


**4<sup>th</sup> September**

## FESTIVAL SEASON

I'm sure that many of you will know folk in your churches who attended the recent Greenbelt Festival or even have seen the reports of the URC website at <https://urc.org.uk/hope-thrives-at-the-2025-greenbelt-festival/> and <https://urc.org.uk/hospitality-hope-and-community-shine-through-at-greenbelt/>, but we have one of our churches being central to another festival this month. From Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September through to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September Saltaire URC will be at the heart of the annual Saltaire Festival <https://saltairefestival.co.uk/>. The church is delighted to welcome back Aire Valley Arts for their exhibition throughout the duration of the **Saltaire Festival** and it is anticipated that the exhibition will be open daily from 10am to 4pm, except both Sundays, when it will open at 12 noon, following worship. The downstairs church café will be open both weekends, 10am to 4pm, and you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Not only that, the church is benefitting from a simple request to take some internal photographs of our church. Back in 2024, Dr. Simon Ross Valentine visited the church to take photographs for a book he was writing on the churches of Bradford. During a conversation with one of the Elders it emerged that Simon is also a Methodist Lay Preacher. Not one to miss an opportunity, he was invited to lead worship — an invitation he gladly accepted, and he has since returned to lead services on several occasions. At the time of his first visit to lead worship, Simon brought along some copies of a book he had already written and published, titled **Sir Titus Salt: Founder of Saltaire and its Mills**. Keen to support the church, Simon keeps



them supplied with copies of this book and kindly donates all proceeds from the books they sell towards the maintenance of the church. This book can be purchased from the church or Amazon, priced at £4.99.

The story didn't end there! Earlier this year, Simon kindly offered to write and publish a guidebook at no cost to the church. The church gratefully accepted, and ***Saltaire United Reformed Church: An Illustrated History & Guide*** (A4 size, with colour photographs) is now available from the church, Waterstones, or via Amazon, priced at £8.99.

The church is deeply grateful to Simon for his generosity, encouragement, and ongoing support of our church.

**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 Wednesday 17th September 2025.**

Thank you

*Tim Crossley*

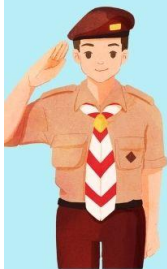
# Inviting



**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## **"ALL THINGS NEW" COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**11AM-2PM  
SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER  
STAINBECK CHURCH, LS7 2PP**



**Come along and meet all our wonderful  
community groups**

**Activities and crafts**

**Refreshments: drinks and cakes**

**Thanking our grant funders**

**[www.stainbeckurc.org.uk](http://www.stainbeckurc.org.uk)**



**Due to essential car park resurfacing and repairs, Stainbeck's community groups'/thanking grant funders' event has been moved from 13<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 18 October.**

# Bolton Villas to Celebrate 125 Years



2025 is a very big year for Bolton Villas Family Church, as it's their 125th Anniversary year having been set-up in 1900 (see <https://boltonvillasfamily.church/> for a brief potted history of the church). They are delighted to announce details of how they will be celebrating this momentous occasion over their anniversary weekend which is Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September.

Kingdom Wrestling returns on Saturday 13th September and will see the main hall transformed into a wrestling arena as they welcome back Gareth Angel and other stars from Kingdom Wrestling for an epic night out for the whole family. Tickets available at <https://www.skiddle.com/.../Kingdom-Wrestling.../41004595/>. Following the Sunday morning worship service on 14th September, they will be transforming yet again for a Victorian Afternoon Tea, running from 2-4pm. The cost for this event is just £5 per head. Tickets for this event can be purchased from Refreshed, their cafe and charity shop during opening hours or by e-mailing [info@bvurc.org.uk](mailto:info@bvurc.org.uk)

Bolton Villas Family Church will then be rounding off a full weekend of activities with a Festival of Praise worship evening, which will run from 6-8pm to which everyone is welcome (**tickets are not needed**).

Everyone is welcome, so please make an effort to join Bolton Villas in making this weekend a really special one.



**Bolton Villas Family Church**

**Celebrates 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Community Breakfast** 9.30 to 11.30am  
Join us for our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month breakfast for some food and drink and a chance to browse our charity shop.

**Kingdom Wrestling Takeover Bradford** 6.00 to 9.00pm  
Featuring Gareth Angel and other stars from Kingdom Wrestling for an epic night out for the whole family. Tickets available at: <https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Bradford/Bolton-Villas-Family-Church/Kingdom-Wrestling-Takeover-Bradford/41004595/>

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Morning Worship Service** 10.30 to 11.45am  
Join us for our Sunday morning time of worship, prayer & teaching which also includes separate activities for children of all ages.

**Victorian Afternoon Tea** 2.00 to 4.00pm  
Come and enjoy this special event and sample a special Victorian Afternoon Tea for just £5 per head.

**Festival of Praise** 6.00 to 8.00pm  
As we round off a full weekend of activities come and join us for a praise and worship evening as we sing songs old and new. We will have special guests providing the music and a guest speaker.

**125 years of serving our local community**

Livingstone Road, Wrose, Bradford, BD2 1PZ  
[info@bvurc.org.uk](mailto:info@bvurc.org.uk) | 01274 449606  
[www.boltonvillasfamily.church](http://www.boltonvillasfamily.church)



# Christian Aid 80th Anniversary Evensong

Sheffield cathedral are dedicating an evensong service to celebrating the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid, with thanks giving for their work, impact and supporters.

When: 21 September 2025, 4pm - 5pm

Where: Sheffield Cathedral, Church St, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield S1 1HA

RSVP: [jandatrezise@virginmedia.com](mailto:jandatrezise@virginmedia.com) for refreshments by 12/09/25



Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid 4/8/2025 - 17:15:09.

## Online Quiet Day: Playing with God

27 September 2025 10:30am to 4:00pm

Venue: Online, Ticket: Free

Led by **Leslie Bailey** -(opening prayers),  
**Mark Argent** and **Ann Barton**, and **Jane Weedon** (closing prayers).



The day draws its theme from part of the gospel for 27 September, which records Jesus predicting his death (again) and saying to the disciples: “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.”

For some that carries an invitation to come to God “like a child” — which could be heard as “praying with one’s inner child”. For others that can feel like a more difficult space — particularly if there are uncomfortable memories or associations to childhood.

In biblical times those words could have been heard quite differently — perhaps as a challenge to the idea that power gets someone closer to God (or God is on the side of the powerful).

The invitation of the day is to spend some time in prayer away from our screens, and in discussion with others, to attend to what God may be saying to us.

The [readings for the day](#) are Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 24:1-10 and Luke 9:43b-48. For this quiet day we’ll focus on the gospel:

*43b And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marvelling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, 44 “Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” 45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. 46 An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. 47 Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. 48 Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.”*

Book by clicking on this link: [https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp\\_event/quiet-day-4/](https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-4/)

# Talking About...Advent

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm

on Zoom



**JOIN THE ADVENTURE AND  
DISCOVER HOW TO SPRINKLE  
SOME OF THE URC'S 2025  
ADVENT PACK MAGIC INTO  
YOUR WORLD... ALONGSIDE  
THE DREAM TEAM WHO  
CREATED IT!**

**book your place at  
[www.bit.ly/T4lkingAbout](http://www.bit.ly/T4lkingAbout)**

You may have heard that the 2025 Advent Pack from the **URC's Children and Youth Work Team** is an alternative Advent calendar, a beautiful box of postcard-sized cards — one for each day in Advent — and that the final call for orders has gone out. Alternating images of things associated with Christmas and characters from the Christmas story, there are fun facts and activity ideas on the reverse.

Designed to be reusable, displayed like bunting or in other ways, the box even includes a DIY nativity set. You may have heard that **Advent Unpacked!** is a gift for local URC churches to give to families, produced by the URC Children's and Youth Work and Communications teams.

You may have heard that the price has been reduced (and, if you didn't, get in touch with your CYDO+!)

And you may have pre-ordered your Advent Packs at <https://urcshop.co.uk/2025-urc-advent-kit-preorder/> Brilliant!

## **Now what to do with them?**

This session is an opportunity to meet with some of the writers of this year's material, find out how "they" think the packs could be used in different contexts and with different groups.

Come with your questions — and your ideas — and get prepared to share the joy and excitement of

**Advent this year. Talking About...Advent**

**September 25th, 7-8pm, on Zoom**

**Book your place: [www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](http://www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout)**





# Christian Aid 80th Anniversary Service

Headingley St Columba URC, Saturday 27 September

Please join us at Headingley St Columba URC, for a special service to mark the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid. Giving thanks for their work tackling poverty and injustice, it's impact through the years, as well as the faithfulness of supporters.



Service at 2.30pm  
Refreshments afterwards

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid.

© Christian Aid 25/7/2025 - 18:43:40 Photos: Christian Aid

Responding to...

Questions

Against

Racism

**How can we work towards racial justice in our churches?**

A space to ask the questions you've always wanted to about faith and racial justice, and have the hard, ongoing conversations we need to make real change.

Join Leeds Church Institute and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland for an evening of community and conversation with a panel including members from the Churches Against Racism Group

6-9pm Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
**Community Wellbeing Hub**  
Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 3EZ

Sign up  
here for  
your free  
ticket





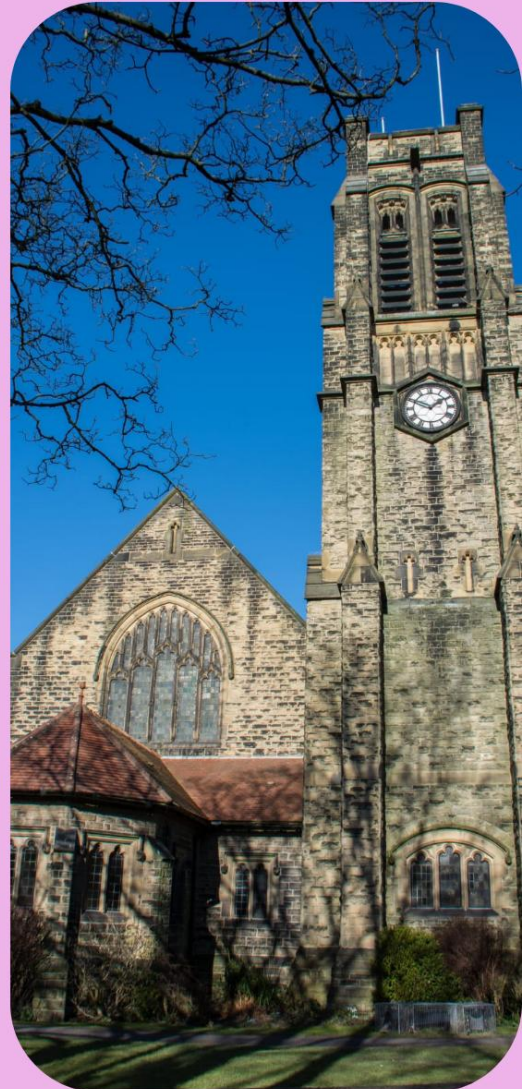


# JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

**Clocktower Community Café  
Fundraising Event**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER  
10AM -1PM**

This is your opportunity to support Leeds Mind whilst enjoying time with friends. Refreshments will include teacakes, cakes and bacon rolls.



**ALL PROFITS DONATED TO LEEDS MIND**

**Shaftesbury Avenue, Leeds, LS8 1DS**  
**[www.standrews.cc](http://www.standrews.cc)**





Leeds Trinity  
University



Leeds  
Church  
Institute

with  
  
transformations  
LEEDS



# Interculturalism, Faith, and Racial Justice

Learning to help our City thrive



Learn how interculturalism, with its emphasis on understanding and interaction between people of different ethnicities, cultures and traditions, can help us to challenge racism and discrimination in our city.

6-9pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
**Community Wellbeing Hub**  
Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 3EZ

Sign up  
here for  
your free  
ticket →





# Ministry Enquirers

Learn what God might be asking  
of you

**4 October**  
**9.30am-12.30pm**  
**on Zoom**

Join us in thinking about God's  
call to: **Stepwise, Worship**  
**Leading, Lay Preaching, Lay**  
**Pioneering, Ministry with children**  
**and young people, the Ministry of**  
**Word and Sacraments or Church**  
**Related Community Work.**

**Email us for joining details:**  
**ministries@urc.org.uk**





# YORKSHIRE SYNOD GATHERING

Join us as we gather to worship, learn, and reflect.



**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm on zoom**

Looking at the synod budget



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**10.15 - 4pm, St Andrew's URC,  
Roundhay, Shaftsbury Avenue,  
LS8 1DS**

Be inspired and equipped for mission, justice, and  
youth engagement in our churches and communities.



JPIT



Tracey Winfrow



Frontier Youth Trust

All ages welcome | Sign up for workshops on the day

This Autumn's Synod has a different feel about it as we are doing it in two parts. On the evening of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October we will be discussing the financial aspect of Synod life via Zoom, then on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at St Andrew's, Roundhay we look at the missional, justice and youth engagement aspect of our Synod's life.

There are three workshops available and we invite Synod Representatives to join two of them during the day. They are:

## **Exploring Life, Love and Faith with Gen Z – Matthew Willmott, Frontier Youth Trust**

Each generation understands the world slightly differently than the one before. How are Gen Z understanding life stages and in particular, what it means to be in a relationship? How can the church support, challenge and walk alongside young people as they make their way in the world? This is just the starting point of a conversation that we need to be open to having.

## **Discipleship in Divided Times - Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)**

How might Christians engage in a political and social mainstream that is shifting into more populist and openly far-right views and expression? How can our conversations with friends and family reflect a sensitivity to these influences, build trust across difference yet challenge extreme-right policies that undermine democracy and Christian values? The Joint Public Issues Team will lead a workshop highlighting current trends in society, the impact these have on the most vulnerable, and how Christians can engage effectively in changing times.

## The Gift of Presence: How children and young people can transform church life – Tony Harris and Tracey Winfrow

What difference does it make when children and young people are truly part of the life of the church—not just present, but participating, shaping, and belonging? This workshop invites you to explore how the presence of young people can breathe new life, perspective, and purpose into your church community. Through stories, reflection, and discussion, we'll uncover the theological, relational, and missional impact of engaging younger generations. Whether your church is growing with young people or longing for their return, this session will challenge and encourage you to see them not as the church of tomorrow, but as vital members of the church today.

Everyone will be able to attend 2 of the 3 on offer and choices can be made on the day, but we hope that by providing this information in advance, churches and synod representatives can share, discuss and consider their options. Those who are not synod representatives, but with an interest in the topics may also wish to attend. Everyone is welcome to come along and there will be creche facilities (unsupervised, in the main meeting hall) for babies and small children.

## YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2026

URC YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2026

Open to Year 10/S3 students up to 25 years inclusive

Your voice. New friends.  
Find fellowship. One epic weekend.

# WISE WORDS

Here's a taste of Youth Assembly 2025  
[www.bit.ly/3TkqSfn](http://www.bit.ly/3TkqSfn)

£25pp before 01 Dec  
£50pp 01 Dec - 01 Feb

# WISER ACTIONS

The United Reformed Church Youth

Transport available from Yorkshire Synod office in Morley.

27 February to 1 March 2026  
Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton NN3 6LL

Your voice. New friends.  
Find fellowship. One epic weekend.

# WISE WORDS

The United Reformed Church Youth

Worship – Inspiring Bible studies, prayer zones, powerful music, and outdoor worship and communion

Youth Decides – What matters to you? Dive into real talk, make change happen, and engage with the wider church.

Workshops – Level up your skills, challenge your thinking, and go deep on this year's theme – all in creative, hands-on sessions.

Entertainment – From campfires and karaoke to crafts and games – there's always something going down!

Contact Megan Tillbrook  
[megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk)

Bookings have opened for next year's URC Youth Assembly which will be happening between 27<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Visit [www.bit.ly/3TkqSfn](http://www.bit.ly/3TkqSfn) for more details or contact Megan at the Synod Office at [megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk). Megan will also be at the Synod meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October, so if you get chance, have a word with her there.



# Presidency at the Sacrament of Holy Communion



**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 10am-1.30pm**  
**West Park URC, West Park, Harrogate, HG1 1BL**

**Rev Jamie Kissack, Yorkshire Synod Moderator and Mrs Val Morrison, will be leading this event to reflect together on our practices of presiding at Holy Communion.**

- All are welcome who preside at Holy Communion (lay and ordained) or anyone who is interested in finding out more
- Arrivals and tea/coffee from 10am – the session will begin at 10.30am
- Please bring a packed lunch and again drinks will be provided
- To attend this event, please book your place by contacting the Synod Office asap at [office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or 0113 289 8490

If you have any questions or you would like to book, please contact the Synod Office ([office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk) or [moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:moderatorpa@urcyorkshire.org.uk)) to inform us, who will be coming from your church, so we can advise West Park URC of numbers expected.

# Loving



## Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development Small Grant Fund 2025

The Ministries Committee have so far approved 21 applications to this fund since 2022 and we encourage all lay church members to consider applying in 2025. Please use the new application form available through the Synod Office as the amount which you can ask for resources or has increased to up to £300. This fund exists to help you on your Christian journey including the costs of attending a course or to offset the costs of buying resources for personal development or sharing with others. If anyone wants to discuss an application before submitting it 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 in our churches to apply for so please discuss with your young people as well as adults.**

## LEEDS PARTNERSHIP PRAYERS

Let's Pray  
**Together**  
As the Leeds URC  
Partnership  
First Thursday of the month  
7:30pm on Zoom  
Meeting ID: 7019277749  
The United Reformed Church

Although this is primarily aimed at those of us who are linked with the churches of the Leeds URC Partnership, this invitation is open to everyone from around the Synod and beyond.

It will be happening on the first Thursday of the month on Zoom at 7:30pm. The next one will be tonight, **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** and the link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7019277749>

There will be a time to pray together, a time to share in reading the Bible and a time to share the joys and challenges in our lives, churches, communities and world.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



# Partnering



## Disability Awareness Sunday

Janet Eardley, the Mission Programmes Manager for Through the Roof, a charity partner of the UFC has been in touch about **Disability Awareness Sunday**, which this year is on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Through the Roof are offering a short video of disabled Christian author Emily Owen that can be played in churches, and Emily has also written the materials for use in services too on the theme of 'Made in the image of God'. All the resources are free and include suggested hymns and songs, prayers, etc, as well as Emily's video and ideas for the talk. The material, though made for **Disability Awareness Sunday**, can be used on any Sunday: the important thing is to spread the message of welcome and inclusion for disabled people in our churches. Here's the link for people to request the pack:

[Disability Awareness Sunday - Through the Roof](https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/) or  
<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>

**joined up**  
**York**

An annual conference  
for schools,  
childrens, families &  
youth, chaplaincy,  
layworkers &  
volunteers.

Haxby & Wiggington Methodist Church  
**SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER**  
9.30am til 4.00pm

Our keynote:  
Victoria Beech,  
GodVenture.

Early bird tickets £12 ea.  
(booked before 20th July)  
Book 4 get 1 free!

For more information and to get your Early Bird tickets follow this link

<https://joinedupconferencecom.wordpress.com/york/>

# Sharing



## NEWS FROM THE DENOMINATION

The URC's News Update is a monthly e-newsletter that keeps you informed about the latest news and events.

To receive this popular newsletter, please visit the <https://urc.org.uk/news-updates-sign-up-form/> page on the URC website and follow the links. If you just want to dip in and catch up on what is going on, that's fine and you can read and print recent editions of our e-newsletter by visiting the [URC News Update](https://urc.org.uk/urc-news-update/) page at <https://urc.org.uk/urc-news-update/>.

## Church Action on Poverty Sunday

**On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, give, act and pray with others – together we can end UK poverty.**

- Use the powerful 'Dreams and Realities' portrait exhibition to challenge and inspire your congregation
- Use our free worship resources to **reflect and pray** for change.
- **Celebrate** what your church is already doing – and **explore** how you could do more in partnership with Church Action on Poverty.
- **Raise funds** to support people working together to reclaim dignity, agency and power across the UK.

*If you took part in Church Action on Poverty Sunday in March, this is a great chance to celebrate the commitments you've made to tackle poverty locally. Please do join in again!*

**Please send me a resource pack for Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 19 October 2025**

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church or group: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ prayer cards and donation envelopes.

- ☐ I enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make cheques payable to Church Action on Poverty)
- ☐ I am a UK tax-payer and would like Church Action on Poverty to treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

**Return this form to Freepost RTTY-JGEE-JEZ,  
Church Action on Poverty, 28 Sandpiper Court, Water's Edge  
Business Park, Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ**  
**Or register and download resources now at  
[www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday)**



Church Action on Poverty Sunday  
Registered charity no 1079986.  
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, no 3780243.

**Church Action  
on Poverty  
Sunday**

**Sharing  
Our Dreams  
19 October 2025**



**It's a conscious effort  
I'm making each day  
to do something that  
makes me feel  
happy, and confident  
and positive**

**Give, Act and Pray with us.  
Together we can share dreams  
of a better world –  
and challenge the reality of poverty**

The next Poverty Sunday has been brought forward to **Sunday 19 October 2025** to tie in with Challenge Poverty Week. The theme is *Sharing Our Dreams* and it is a conscious effort to share dreams of a better world. If you or your church feel called to this work, please contact the Church Action on Poverty team at <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/> where you will be able to

- Use the powerful 'Dreams and Realities' portrait exhibition to challenge and inspire your congregation
- Use our free worship resources to reflect and pray for change.
- Celebrate what your church is already doing – and explore how you could do more in partnership with Church Action on Poverty.
- Raise funds to support people working together to reclaim dignity, agency and power across the UK.



# Building



## 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.

## FIRE SAFETY

Jane Bunyan, our Synod Property Officer [property@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:property@urcyorkshire.org.uk) has asked that I remind churches that fire regulations for small non-domestic premises have changed in light of the Grenfell Tower Enquiry outcomes. The advice Synod is giving is that all churches should make themselves aware of the new regulations and advice updated in 2024 at [Making your small non-domestic premises safe from fire - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-your-small-non-domestic-premises-safe-from-fire) or <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-your-small-non-domestic-premises-safe-from-fire> but if you would like a pdf copy then please email Jane at the above e-mail address.



### YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY ENABLER

To serve as part of the Sheffield  
Ministry team for the United  
Reformed Church in Yorkshire :

- 4 YEARS ●
- 28 HOURS PER WEEK ●
- UP TO £30,095K PRO RATA ●



**CLOSING DATE:**  
**25/08/2025**

For more information:



MEGAN TILLBROOK  
07522 220 213

Application Pack Available:

[office@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:office@urcyorkshire.org.uk)





*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Do you have a heart for  
discipleship and mission?**

**Do you want to make a difference  
in the life of the wider URC and  
beyond**

**If so, become a member of the  
new Faith in Action committee**

**We are looking for people with  
an interest in our three focus areas:**

- **Children and Youth /  
Intergenerational Mission**
- **Evangelism and Ecumenism**
- **Education / Lay Learning**



**[www.urc.org.uk/jobs](http://www.urc.org.uk/jobs)**



## Advert for Assessment Board Convener



### Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Do you have a passion for discerning what God is saying about Call and vocation? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for a Convener for the Assessment Board to replace its current convener who will complete their term at the July 2026 General Assembly. The convener will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church, and of the training programmes for the formation of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments (MWS) and Church Related Community Work (CRCW). Training will be provided, particularly in a period of 'shadowing' the current convener in the run-up to July 2026.

The Assessment Board plays a vital role in the discernment, assessment and selection of students for training for MWS and CRCW. Its assessors are drawn from ministers and lay members of the URC.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please click the link for the full role description <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Role-Description-for-Convener-of-the-Assessment-Board.pdf> and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

Closing date: 8<sup>th</sup> September



## Advert for members of the Accreditations Sub-Committee

Do you have a passion to support people who release the church in its local community to flourish in faith, hope and love? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

Ministries Committee is looking for a member for its Accreditations sub-committee to replace a member who has moved into another role. The member will need to have working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church.

The Accreditations sub-committee plays a vital role in supporting and creating new opportunities in shaping posts to be recognised as Church Related Community Work projects or Pioneering posts including current Special Category ministries, in approving certificates for ministers from partner churches both at home and abroad to serve with us, and in analysing trends in the Rolls of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers, Elders, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers.

Please click the link for the full role description <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Role-Description-for-member-of-the-Accreditations-sub-committee.pdf> and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

Closing date: 8<sup>th</sup> September.

## Advert for Ministries Committee Convener



### Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Does developing the strategy and supporting the work of the Ministries Committee excite you? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for a Convener to replace its current convener who will complete their term at the July 2026 General Assembly. The convener will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church and support of their training programmes.

The ministries committee carries the General Assembly responsibility and care for the formally accredited ministries of the United Reformed Church namely the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work, Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching, Locally Recognised Worship Leading, Assembly Accredited Pioneering both lay and special category.

This responsibility includes all lifelong learning for these accredited ministries including funding and other educational elements.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please click the link for the full role description <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Role-Description-for-Convener-of-Ministries-Committee.pdf> and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

Closing date: 8<sup>th</sup> September

## Advert for Ministries Committee members



### Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Does developing the strategy and supporting the work of the Ministries Committee excite you? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for two lay members to be part of its new committee agreed at General Assembly 2025. Member will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church and support of their training programmes.

The Ministries Committee carries the General Assembly responsibility and care for the formally accredited ministries of the United Reformed Church namely the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work, Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching, Locally Recognised Worship Leading, Assembly Accredited Pioneering both lay and special category.

This responsibility includes all lifelong learning for these accredited ministries including funding and other educational elements.

We are looking for lay members with expertise in education particularly adult, higher, or theological education who can bring a critical and constructive voice to group discussions.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please click the link for the full role description <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Role-Description-for-member-of-Ministries.pdf> and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

Closing date: 8<sup>th</sup> September

**To see more available roles in the denomination, please visit**  
**<https://urc.org.uk/jobs/#urcvol>**

## And Finally

# Messy Mondays and New Places for New People in Beverley

One of the joys about being Synod Clerk is that I get to see so much good work being done through our churches, from the Pennines to the North Sea, from the Dales to the seven hills of Sheffield. One example of a project being part funded by the Synod Mission Fund is the Messy Monday project at Toll Gavel church in Beverley.



Messy Mondays is a weekly playgroup run in term time for babies and pre-school children. It is an outreach group supported by Church volunteers and staff for the benefit of the community. It is well established having been running for 40 plus years. The aim of the group is to connect local families to the Church, by providing an inviting playgroup in the Church building. Their welcoming group gives families a sense of belonging and connection with Church

as they enjoy the play group facilities and supportive relationships with the play group staff and volunteers.

Toll Gavel Church also runs New Places for New People, which happens in parallel with Messy Mondays and they successfully appointed a Pioneer Pastor in August 2025. The vision to form a new worshipping community is being developed with a focus on young families within the Beverley & Hull Mission Area, evolving from a strong base of parents, carers, and families involved in thriving toddler and youth groups across four local churches. The shape and structure of this new Christian community are intentionally being kept flexible, allowing the community and a future pioneer lay pastor to co-create its direction. Their current children and family worker and playworker welcome children and caregivers to this new missional initiative.



There is even a video on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M6wJk8\\_l6Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M6wJk8_l6Y), so if you want to see whether you can follow Toll Gavel's example, have a look and contact us at Synod to see what support we can give you as well.

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**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](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](#).