



# Yorkshire Synod

## Briefing

### Number 161



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

## Synod Specials

Before my next Briefing (due out on 23<sup>rd</sup> October) Synod will be preparing itself for a series of gatherings which encompasses all that Synod represents; from welcoming new ministers, to formal meetings to new experiences.

This coming Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Synod will be joining the Sheffield Partnership in welcoming Revd Johnny O'Hanlon at his induction service at Central URC. The invitation is here for you all to come along to welcome Johnny into his new role and to join with the Sheffield fellowship in celebrating their witness in that part of the Synod, and I hope to be able to see as many of you as possible at Central URC as we mark this special moment.





**The United Reformed Church in Sheffield**  
are pleased to invite you to  
**The Induction of Rev'd Johnny O'Hanlon**  
as minister in the Sheffield Team Pastorate  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 2pm**  
**Central URC**  
**60 Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 2JB**  
Refreshments will be served after the service.



If you wish to join us in person, please RSVP by email to [urcsheffield@gmail.com](mailto:urcsheffield@gmail.com)  
The service will be streamed online, details can be found here <https://sheffieldurc.org.uk/event/induction-service-2/>  
Central URC is a short walk from Sheffield Railway Station.  
Please note there is no parking at the church.  
Local arrangements for parking will be circulated in advance of the service.

Following on from that is the more formal side of Synod as we gather for a two part Autumnal Synod meeting. In these meetings we will listen for God's guidance as we decide on Synod's path over the next few years. First of all is the finance part of our agenda on the evening of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October where budgets and financial policies will take shape. Although seemingly a dry subject, this part of Synod's work is central to how we may become a more effective missional Synod, and which links in seamlessly with the agenda set out for the full day's Synod meeting at St Andrew's URC in Roundhay on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Here we will be engaging collaboratively on the missional, justice and youth engagement aspect of our Synod's life.



**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.

All ages welcome | Sign up for workshops on the day

As I mentioned last time 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.

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**If you have any news of welcoming people into Church, stories of celebration and hope or even notices of future events, please let me know by dropping me a line at [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) and I'll showcase it in the next edition, due out on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025.**

Thank you

*Tim Crossley*



**Inviting**



# **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](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)**





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



# It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes  
to support people living with cancer.

**Place:** Idle Upper Chapel URC  
**Date:** Saturday 11th October 2025  
**Time:** 10am to 1pm  
**Contact:** Idle United Reformed Church  
Westfield Lane, Idle, BD10 8PY  
idleurc@outlook.com



Refreshments, Stalls, Tombola, Games

No admission charge - Donations Welcome

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC19933\_InvitePoster





**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage**  
**Saturday 11 October 2025**  
**Starting at 9:30 am**

Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield



**Gather:** From 9:00am, St Cuthbert's Church, Barnsley Road (opposite the Northern General Hospital) for a 9:30am start.

**Visit:** St Cuthbert's Church, Wincobank Wood, Upper Wincobank Undenominational Chapel and Firth Park Methodist Church, with stops at relevant locations to pray for education, healthcare and the environment.

**Meet:** People tackling local social challenges.

**Length:** 2.5 miles

**End:** 2:30pm.

**Hear about local issues and responses to them as we walk and pray together**

**Join us and learn about:**

- The challenges faced by this diverse and multicultural area.
- The Fir Vale Food Bank at St Cuthbert's, offering help to all in need throughout the year without the need for an official referral.
- Wincobank Undenominational Chapel, founded in 1841 by Mary Ann Rawson, the famous anti slavery campaigner.
- The work of Firth Park Methodist Church, with its 'Food for Thought' lunch, community and Warm Space facilities and Sam's Space soft play facilities

**Practicalities**

- This year's Pilgrimage involves some upward gradients of around 4% over distances of around just one mile, so please think carefully about your fitness to tackle these gradients.
- St Cuthbert's is best reached by public transport.
- A number of buses serve the Northern General Hospital, including the 29 between Fir Vale and High Green, 47/48 between Shire Green and Herdings, 75/76 between Low Edges and Meadowhall and the 88 between Bents Green and Ecclesfield, which all stop on Barnsley Road, opposite the church.
- The Pilgrimage ends at Firth Park, which is also served by a number of buses, including the 75/76 and the 88, mentioned above and the 18 between Heeley and Hillsborough.
- Parking is limited close to the start of the Pilgrimage and participants would have to walk or get a bus back to the Northern General Hospital to pick up their cars.
- Please follow stewards' advice, particularly at road crossings.
- Walkers take part at their own risk, please wear suitable footwear and bring a waterproof. Anyone under 18 must walk with a responsible adult.
- The event is not suitable for dogs as we enter premises.
- We will stop for lunch at Firth Park Methodist Church. Please bring your own packed lunch.
- Some locations we visit have toilet facilities.

**Come and be open and be challenged and changed by what you see and hear.**

For more information or to register to attend, contact Briony Broome: [briony.broome@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:briony.broome@hotmail.co.uk)  
 07801 532 954

## 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.

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

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

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.

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

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.



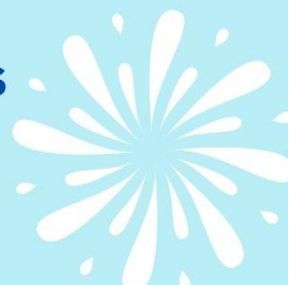
# **"ALL THINGS NEW" COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**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)**





# 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**October** 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



*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

Networking  
Vision  
Workshops  
Worship  
Resources

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/>

## Saltaire URC to Host "THE BIG SING"

The <https://shipleychristianstogether.org.uk/> group are presenting **THE BIG SING** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October and Saltaire URC is the venue. It is an afternoon and evening of free music, starting at 12 noon cumulating with **THE BIG SING** at 7pm when classic hymns with a Bradford connection will be sung.

All are welcome to join the celebration throughout the day – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October – as part of the 2025 Bradford City of Culture, or more importantly as a Christian with an opportunity to share your faith in music.

SHIPLEY CHRISTIANS  
TOGETHER PRESENT

**THE BIG  
SING**

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> October

Free music throughout the  
afternoon from 12noon  
Join the Big Sing at 7pm.  
classic hymns with a Bradford  
connection

Saltaire United Reformed Church  
Victoria Rd, Bradford BD18 3LF  
[shipleychristianstogether.org.uk](https://shipleychristianstogether.org.uk)



Shipley  
Christians  
Together





SKIPTON QUAKERS with GRASSINGTON and DISTRICT PEACE GROUP  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Lecture

## All Of God's Children

by Rabbi Douglas Charing, "The Peace Rabbi"

*Rabbi Charing is deeply committed to peace and interfaith dialogue and co-operation, and wishes to speak out about the state of Israel's actions against its Palestinian population.*

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 7.30pm**  
**Skipton Girls High School BD23 1QL**



ENTRY FREE.  
Refreshments served  
after the talk with a  
chance for discussion.

Donations welcome.

## A Ceilidh with Sean Gallagher and the Sheeptown Irregulars

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025 @ 7.00pm**

St Andrews Church Hall, Newmarket Street, Skipton



An exhilarating evening of ceilidh music and dancing  
with all steps explained by the band's caller.

**Donations on the door, to include pie and pea supper**  
(please book in advance if vegetarian, gluten free or  
vegan needed)

Bookings/Enquiries [charles\\_snaygill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charles_snaygill@yahoo.co.uk)

All money raised will go Skipton Refugee Support Group

## COME DINE WITH PALESTINE

**MAP**  
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

6.00pm to 8.00pm

Enjoy a  
beautifully  
cooked  
Palestinian meal



At: St Andrews Church  
Hall, Newmarket St,  
Skipton, BD23 2JE

Booking essential please book  
by emailing:

[touredrive432@btinternet.com](mailto:touredrive432@btinternet.com)

All proceeds to Medical Aid for  
Palestine.

Pay on night by cash or card  
reader.

Annie Nelligan  
from Three  
Peaks Palestine  
will be speaking  
about what is  
happening  
locally.





## Are you interested in joining our team of trustees?

The Congregational & General Charitable Trust currently has 3 volunteer vacancies on our board of trustees and would love to hear from you if you feel you could add value to our aims and objectives.

Meeting 4 x per annum in Leeds (March, June, September and December), we ensure that the trust is run effectively as well as reviewing and determining grant applications to support Christian faith churches, particularly URC and Congregational, in their congregational development. All grant applications received during each quarter are distributed amongst the trustees prior to each meeting to review and recommend appropriate action to guide and support the final collective decision making process during the meetings. We are particularly keen to hear from you if you have a financial and/or business background. For more information or how to apply please email us at [admin@candgtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@candgtrust.org.uk)

## Do you need financial support for your church building project or significant repairs?



### *The Congregational & General Charitable Trust may be able to help*

The C&G Trust is an independent grant-making charity which aims to support churches, particularly those of the United Reformed and Congregational denominations, in the provision and repair of suitable buildings. They make grants towards the overall care, upkeep and extension of churches and also offer grant funding toward the capital cost of church community projects.

The trust began as the charitable arm of the Congregational & General Insurance Company but became a separate charity and now is completely independent of the insurance company and distributes grants from the investment of the proceeds of the sale of that company in 2016.

### ***What grants are available?***

The level of grants available to churches range from £1,000 to a maximum of £25,000. Grants are usually capped at 25% of the total project cost. Grants are awarded for church or related community capital projects involving building work, repairs, improvements or extensions. Any project costing less than £1m in total will be considered. Consideration will also be given to smaller clearly defined and discrete project phases. There are a few exclusions including organ or bell restoration, stand-alone environmental projects such as solar panels or heat source pumps, manse works, conservation/restoration of works of art, graveyard or garden maintenance, parking provision and the running costs of the church.

### ***How do I apply?***

Applications should be made in advance of starting any work (apart from obtaining professional design and project planning advice) and be submitted when planning has proceeded to the point where clear details of the planned works and their expected cost can be provided.

Applications are considered quarterly (March, June, September and December of each calendar year) The upcoming application date for each quarter is published on the website at <https://www.candgtrust.org.uk/how-to-apply-funding-church-projects/> with further details and an application form available to download. The website also has a useful Q & A section as well as a sample completed application form for you to view. If you are unable to find all the answers to your questions, please contact us at [admin@candgtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@candgtrust.org.uk).

Applications must be supported by copies of your church accounts and documentation supporting the estimated cost of the project, such as Contractor quotes. There is an expectation that the church will contribute, so far as it is practicable, to the project from its own funds and from local fundraising.

***The charity exists to help churches like yours – so please do not hesitate to apply if you feel we can be of help.***



# 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.

# circularmonday

**Put the date in your diary – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

Rod Morrison, of the **Synod's Eco Group** asks "Do you remember the old days, when your mum darned your socks, or put patches on the elbows of your school blazer? When you took your shoes to the cobblers to be re-heeled, or unravelled that now-too-small jumper to knit a new one in a bigger size? It was repair, reuse, share, and upcycle – practices that we need to return to as we face the consequences of global warming; practices which we now call "circular consumption" - keeping resources in use and preventing waste. That's what **"Circular Monday"** is all about. Forget Black Friday, and celebrate **Circular Monday** instead, when we focus on keeping resources in use and preventing waste. Of course, we should be keeping resources in use and preventing waste all the time. But Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November is when there is a main event to promote "circular consumption".

## **So why not join the Main Event for this year – on Circular Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

It's just one hour – with big impact. It's online, and showcases how circular solutions are reshaping the world. Expect inspiration, global perspectives, and engaging voices leading the way towards a more sustainable future. If you want to take part, simply post a photo of yourself or your group on social media with #CircularMonday, showing something linked to reuse, repair, or renting.

For more information use this link : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/circularmonday-2025-official-main-event-tickets-1607228065409?aff=oddtcreator>

## **But "Circular Monday" is more than just one day in a year.**

Circular Monday began in 2017 in Malmö, Sweden, as a counter-movement to Black Friday. It is now an on-line campaigning community which highlights and celebrates businesses, organisations, and individuals that keep resources in use and prevent waste, making it easier for people everywhere to choose circular solutions. (see [www.circularmonday.com](http://www.circularmonday.com) )

The Circular Monday community aims to promote circular consumption by:

- Hosting an annual global action day (the main event - Circular Monday - the Monday before Black Friday)
- Building the world's largest database of circular businesses and changemakers
- Inspiring people to repair, reuse, rent, share, and upcycle instead of buying new.

At their main event, always the Monday before Black Friday, the year's campaign results are revealed. The goal is to make circular solutions visible, accessible, and the new normal.

As a guide, the Circular Monday community use the 12R strategies, including: Refuse, Reduce, Rethink, Redesign, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, Recycle, Re-earth, and (as a last resort) Recover. Recycling is considered baseline, not leadership so we encourage higher-value practices like reuse, repair, and redesign.

Anyone can join the Circular Monday community, both online and through local in-person activities or digital events. You can explore the Circular Monday database of circular businesses, or join as a volunteer. For ideas, check out @circularmonday on Instagram.

## **Why not join the online community yourself and start to consume circular – or at least think about which of the 12 Rs you can put into practice?**

And an after-thought : If you want to calculate your carbon footprint so that you can monitor your progress towards zero carbon, go to <https://climate-calculator.climatehero.org/?source=MicrosoftKeywords&msclkid=e14c76185f8b1f0a5a4c1ec4154a8c61> It takes just 5 minutes!



# Building



## Important information from the Synod Safeguarding Team



Due to changes in the insurance industry, insurers are now adding a new safeguarding endorsement for churches to complete when their insurance is due for renewal. What this means is that insurance companies will now place conditions on all policies, that these conditions must be adhered to for the policies to be valid.

What this means is that you will need to answer yes to the following questions –

- Have you a complete and comprehensive written safeguarding policy that is reviewed at least annually?
- Do you have a church safeguarding coordinator for your church?
- Do you as a church, provide safeguarding training to everyone who needs it due to their role within the church?
- Do you know how to respond to a safeguarding incident, know who to report it to and how to deal with it correctly?
- Has everyone who needs them, due to their role, had the correct level of DBS checks and has this been completed in the past three years?
- Have you and do you have a system to securely retain records of any abuse allegations and the action you took in relation to these allegations?

*You would also need to make the insurance company aware if there have been any allegations of abuse which have been reported at your church.*

The above relates to anybody involved in the church who works unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults or has unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. This means that everybody who falls under the guidance of Good Practice 6, which includes Elders etc need to make sure everything is up to date and in order, to be able to confirm this with the insurance company when the renewal is submitted.

If the answer is no, or the disclosure is incorrectly completed, insurance may be withheld or be made void in any claims. If this is the case and a claim is made it will be made against the church itself and the Trustees.

Many of you may already be able to answer yes to all the questions posed.

However, many of you may not be able to answer yes to all the questions and this is where action needs to be taken at the church.

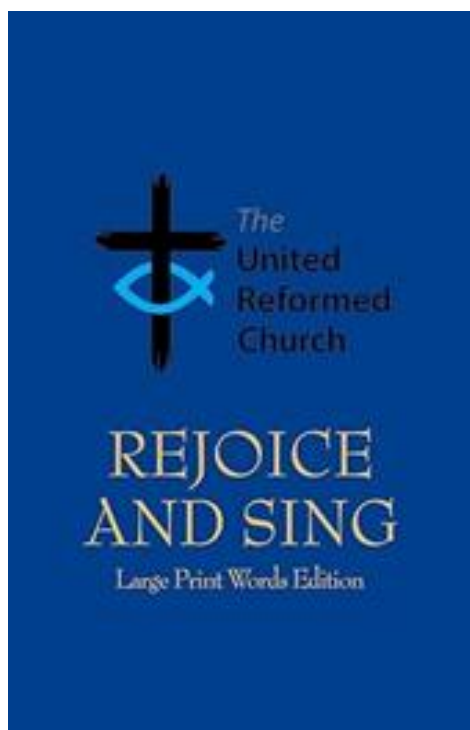
The Elders/Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the church is a safe place for everyone and therefore responsible for making sure that you can answer all the questions posed by an insurance company to provide insurance cover for the church and everyone who attends.

If you need help making sure your church can answer yes to all the questions you will be asked please contact the Synod Safeguarding Team by email (click [here](#)) and we will assist you in making sure your church can be insured correctly.

**The Safeguarding team 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.



## WANTED

The Synod Clerk has been contacted by the good folk at Bingley URC. They are in need of some large print Rejoice and Sing hymn books. At the moment they are saving up to repair their roof and rather than having to buy new, are asking that if any churches in the Synod have any spare they could pass them on.

If there are any, please contact the Clerk at the Synod office via [clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk) so that a transfer can be arranged.

## Saltaire Arts

The last two weekends of September saw Saltaire URC host the Bingley Arts Group as part of the Saltaire Festival. The church was open throughout and was able to offer another local group the space and facilities to showcase both the talented artists exhibiting and the church's care and love for the community in which it sits.







# The Bridge Church

WELCOMING ALL IN FAITH AND LOVE

The Bridge Church, The United Reformed Church in Otley, Bridge St., Otley, West Yorks, LS21 1RW

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

*A three year post to develop both church-based and community work with children and families.*

- Full time (37.5 hours per week) Fixed Term Contract
- £27,711 - £30,060 (depending on experience)

*The Bridge Church is a United Reformed Church accredited Children and Youth Friendly Church, and has extensive children's work*

*We are seeking an enthusiastic worker, who will work with our volunteers to develop and expand this work further and make links with local schools and community groups.*

An information pack, together with application form can be downloaded from the church website – [www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk](http://www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk)

Completed application forms must be returned to our Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Colin Whitaker at [colin@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:colin@otleybridgechurch.org.uk) by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Interviews, for those shortlisted, will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



## Somebody is missing Is it you?

Synod is looking for volunteers to fill several posts across it's committees.  
Please contact the Synod Moderator or Clerk if you, or someone you know, would like more information on how to help.

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

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

## And Finally

### SPACE welcomes a new Minister



The SPACE group of churches (Longcauseway Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and Norristhorpe) warmly welcomed Rev Samantha Sheehan, her family and friends, as well as members of Synod, local clergy, and the Mayor of Kirklees at her induction service on 30th August. The celebratory service was followed by afternoon tea, lovingly provided and prepared by members of all three churches.

When asked, Samantha said, "It was a wonderful service, with an inspirational charge from Revd Jenny Mills to both myself and the churches - *God has called us to be disciples.*

*To follow Jesus, to walk in his footsteps and to find ways to share the love of God with those alongside whom we live, work and have our being here in our locality and as widely as possible. Remember throughout it all, you are not alone - you have fellow travellers in your churches, the Synod and the wider denomination and you have the love of God that is within, before, behind, beside and with you always;* and to help us remember she gifted a mini Jesus to carry with us. It was a wonderful time of blessing for us all and I hope the start of a strong foundation as we grow together as minister and churches seeking God in all we do."



<https://spaceurc.org.uk/>

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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 and into 2026, 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](#).