



Yorkshire Synod

Briefing

Number 180



3rd September 2026

Autumn Invitations

Firstly I'd like to apologise for not getting the 13th August edition of the Briefing published. Unfortunately I had a period off work which then led straight into my own summer holiday, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Synod staff team for covering while I was away during August. I hope you can join me in saying thank you to them and how much we appreciate what the team do for all of us in Yorkshire Synod.

It's a relatively short Briefing this time, mainly as we are still savoring a very busy and hopefully relaxing summer. As you will have seen there have been quite a few events over the last couple of months around the Synod and I know that a few folk from the Synod's Wilderness team attended the recent Greenbelt Festival at Boughton Hall in Northamptonshire. You can find out more by visiting the Wilderness Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1FAi9PV8Gs/>.

Although reports of the activities over the summer haven't been coming in too quickly, there are still plenty of things to do this coming September. The invitations keep coming in so please take a look and see if you can join in. Even Synod is quite busy over the next couple of months. Not only do we have the Autumn Synod meetings on the evening of Thursday 8th October on the Zoom conferencing platform and on Saturday 10th October at Moldgreen URC in Huddersfield, but we have a couple of new faces joining the ministerial team. On 26th September Ed Lyne will be ordained and inducted into the Leeds partnership at Wigton Moor URC and then on 3rd October Revd Simon Helme will be inducted into Christchurch Ilkley. I'm sure that you will offer a warm Yorkshire welcome to Ed and Simon as they begin their time in God's Own Country.



So, if you have any news of welcoming people into Church, stories of celebration and mission, 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 the website only on 17th September 2026.

Tim Crossley
Yorkshire Synod Clerk

Building



Exciting Roles for URC Youth Members!!!!!!

We seem to love committees in the URC and committees in the URC always love it when URC Youth help them in their selected areas through youth representation on that the committee!! There are three Youth Rep roles which need to be filled and they are explicitly for under 26s. In no particular order, the first is on the Business Committee, which primarily shapes the future of the URC. Second is on the Church Life Fund Committee which will determine the direction of the upcoming Church Life Fund. Thirdly on the Nominations Committee, whose role is to ensure that the voices on the URC's committees are representative of the whole denomination.

Find out more on urc.org.uk/jobs/ or email Victoria Blunt, Convenor of Nominations Committee at victoria.blunt@urc.org.uk

Business Committee Youth Rep

- * Help shape the future of the URC
- * Seeking a dedicated young person under the age of 26
- The Business Committee sets the agenda for the big meetings of the URC
- Work in the committee to make sure the big meetings run smoothly
- You will: influence key decisions, develop leadership skills and bring a unique perspective
- Increase your communication skills, expand your network, and help represent the next generation of URC leaders
- The Committee help plan, organise, and sometimes make decisions on behalf of General Assembly
- Email samantha.bircham@urc.org.uk to request an application form

Church Life Fund Committee

- * Current member of URC Youth
- Basic knowledge of URC governance structures and ethos
- A heart for joining in with where God is at work in the world and growing the church
- A willingness to advocate for change, and the work of the Church Life Fund
- Work collaboratively with a diverse range of people
- Interest in the work of governance bodies and a willingness to contribute to governance decisions
- A commitment to equality, inclusivity, and diversity
- Experience serving on a URC Youth, Assembly, synod, or local church committee

Nominations Committee Youth Rep

- * Passionate about making sure young voices shape the future of the URC!
- * Under 26 Years old
- Help oversee how volunteers are recruited for General Assembly Committees
- Represent URC Youth nationally
- Learn about URC governance structures and how the Nominations Committee works.
- For queries, please contact victoria.blunt@urc.org.uk
- Help build a more diverse, exciting and forward-looking church
- Part of a team shaping Church's future direction.
- Bring the perspective, energy, and experience of URC Youth
- Encourage young adults to get involved in shaping the Church

Inviting



Level 1 Award in Awareness of First Aid for Mental Health

Half-day course designed to equip learners with the knowledge and skills to recognize and support individuals experiencing mental health issues.

Thursday 10th September 10.00am-2.30pm

Yorkshire Synod Office

Somerset House

Paul's St, Leeds LS27 9EP ·

Participants will learn to:

- Recognize Mental Health Conditions: Understand common mental health issues and their signs, enabling early identification and support.
- Start Supportive Conversations: Gain confidence in initiating conversations with individuals who may be struggling with their mental health.
- Signpost to Professional Help: Learn how to guide individuals towards appropriate professional support services.
- Manage Stress: Develop skills to recognize and manage stress, both personally and in others.

To Book please complete this form [Mental Health First Aid Training Booking Form – Fill in form](#)



To book, please click here [Mental Health First Aid Training Booking Form](#) or contact Carrie Solomon at carriesolomon.yorkshire@urc.org.uk



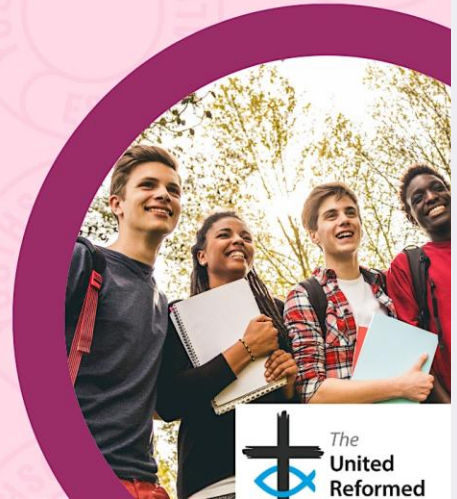
Youthscape Essentials Deep Dive

Worship in Youth Ministry

Join us in this one off session as we explore
Why do we sing? How do we involve young
people in worship? How do we create spaces
for them to meet God?



Tuesday 22 September
7pm to 9pm



[Youthscape Deep Dive - Worship](#)

Tuesday, 22 September 2026 from 19:00 to 21:00 (United Kingdom Time)

Get my tickets

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/youthscape-deep-dive-worship-tickets-1997696258285?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=follow_notification&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite





The Bridge Church in Otley is inviting you to attend a local screening of the **People's Emergency Briefing** film on the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate on Tuesday 22nd September 2026.

There is no need to pre-book as the film will be shown in the sanctuary of the Bridge Church where there is plenty of room.

The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature.

It presents a calm, evidence-based overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the science says about risks and responses.

The initiative is explicitly non-partisan and supported by a wide range of organisations, including the Church of England, National Trust, WWF, the Royal Meteorological Society and many others. Faith communities have long traditions of stewardship, care for the vulnerable, and intergenerational responsibility. We believe this is an important moment for thoughtful, compassionate local dialogue. Following the 50-minute film, we will host a structured discussion about what this means for our community.



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Otley Bridge Church



Film screening followed by discussion

Tuesday 22nd September 2026

Bridge Street Entrance

The Bridge Church, Bridge Street
Otley, LS21 1RW.

Doors at 6:30pm Film at 7:00pm

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www.nebriefing.org

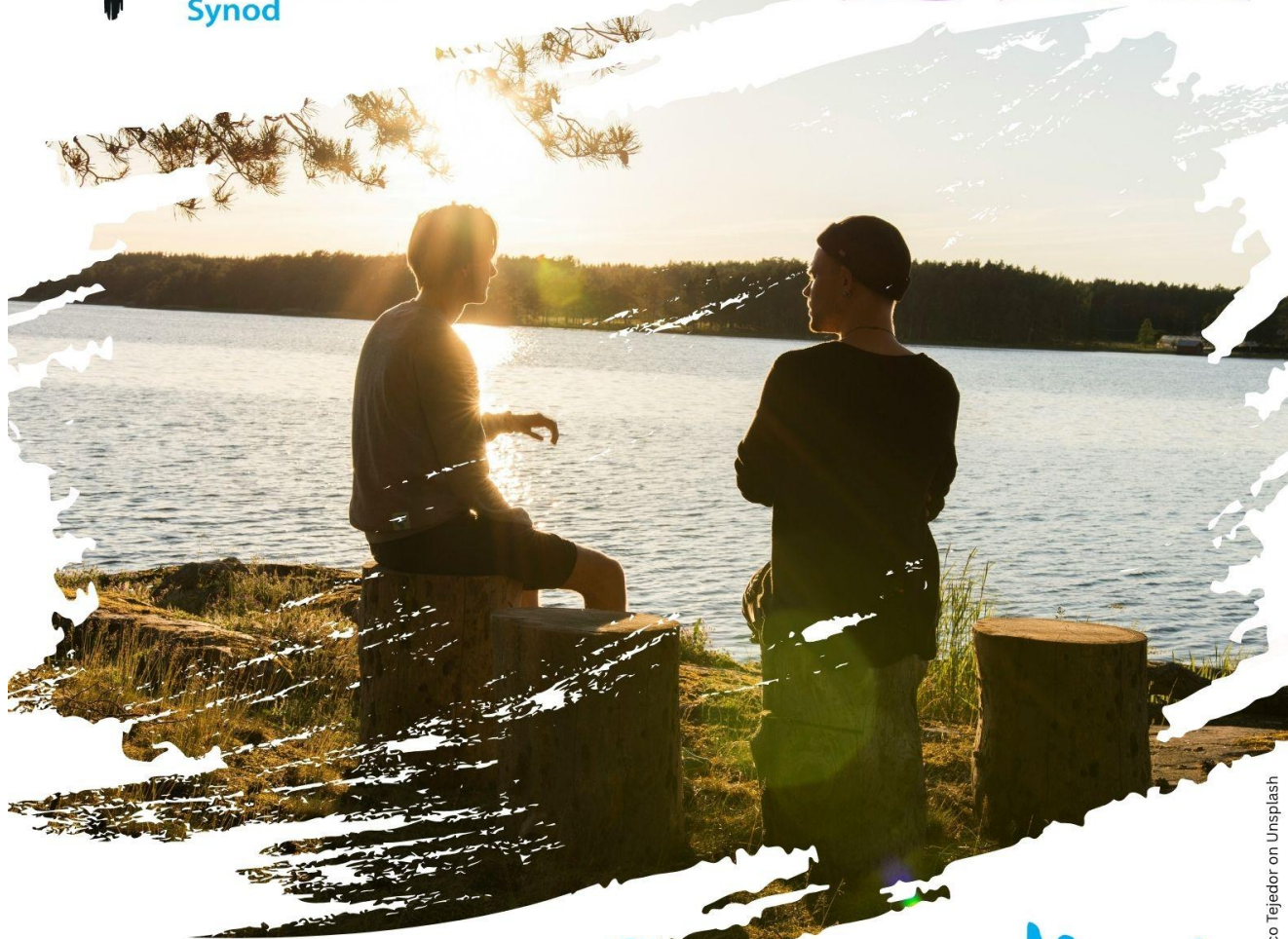


Photo by Aarón Blanco Tejedor on Unsplash

Faith Filled Conversations

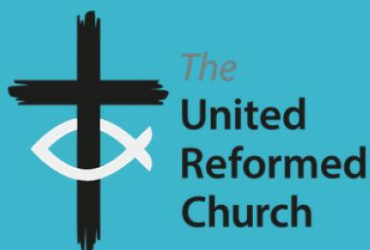
from 28 September

- **explore** God's presence in everyday encounters
- feel better equipped to **share** your faith journey

Join **Tom Donoghue** (Mission Development Officer)
and **Derek Graham** (Training & Development Officer)
on **Zoom** for six friendly Monday evening sessions:
28 September, 12 October, 26 October, 9 November,
30 November and 7 December 2026.

To find out more and to register,
email training@urc5.org.uk





The United Reformed Church Leading Your Church Into Growth Conference

Highgate House, Northampton
23rd - 25th November

Contact Jon Steel
tme@urcyorkshire.org.uk

£180 per delegate including
materials & accommodation.
Contact your Synod for funding options.



In Person Safeguarding Training Autumn 2026

Friday 18th September 10.00am-12.30pm

Foundation and Intermediate Combined Training

Emmanuel Church

Forest School Room Thorpe Drive, Waterthorpe S20 7JU

Thursday 24th September 12.30-3.00pm

Foundation and Intermediate Combined Training

Norrsithorpe URC

Norristhorpe Ln, Liversedge WF15 7AR

Thursday 24th September 7.00pm-9.00pm

Foundation and Intermediate Combined Training

Zion URC, Cottingham

201 Hallgate, Cottingham HU16 4BB

Wednesday 30th September 6.30pm-8.00pm

Intermediate Training

Stag Community Church

Wickersley Rd, Rotherham S60 4JN

Thursday 1st October 9.30am-2.30pm

Advanced Training

Sheffield Central URC

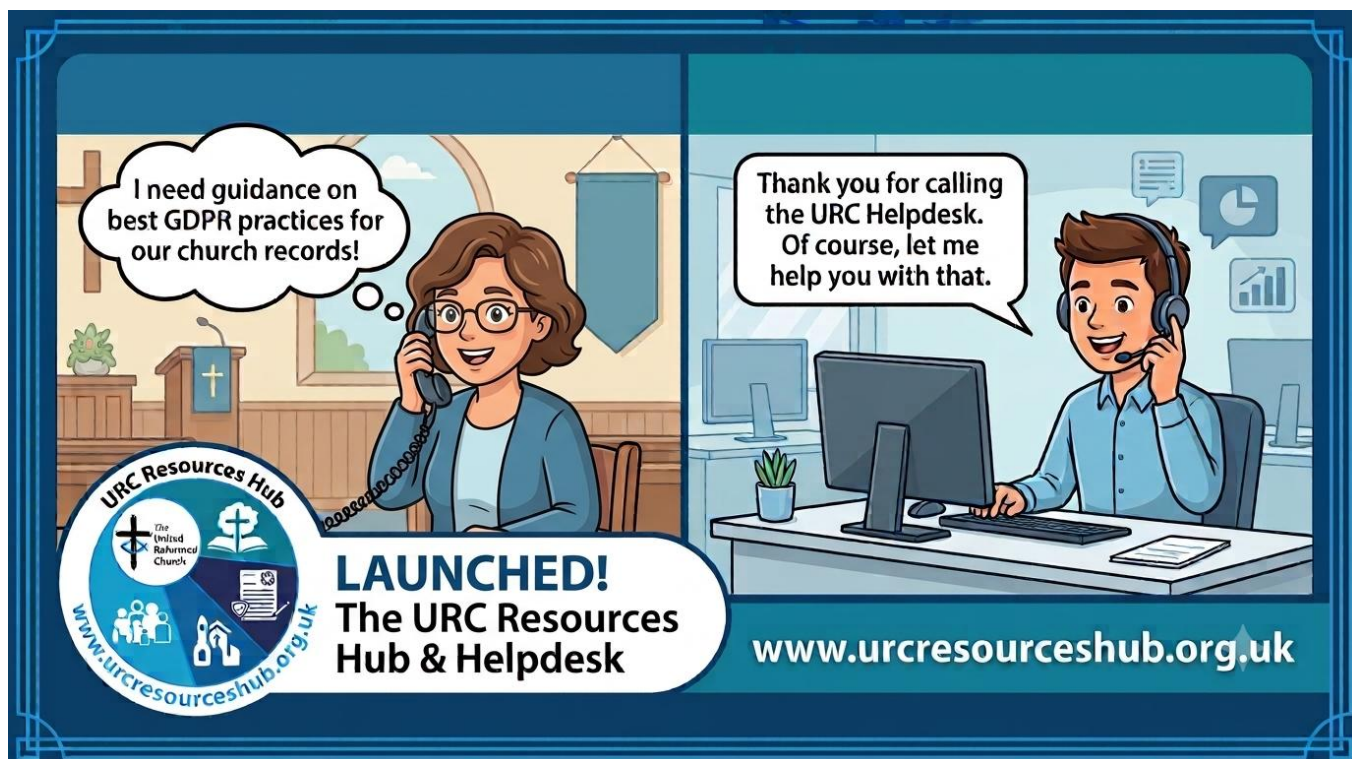
Norfolk St, Sheffield S1 2JB

Please email safeguarding.1and4@urc.org.uk for details of how to sign up for these important courses.

Sharing



Yes, It's Here: The URC's Resources Hub



One of the first roll outs from the Church Life Review is this brand new Resources Hub for all our churches and volunteers to use. There are two ways into it, through the URC website, or directly using this link: <https://urcresourceshub.org.uk/>. Please take a bit of time to have a look, and if you have any feedback or any suggestions for what you may want it to hold, please contact me at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and I'll pass on your feedback.

There will be more resources being uploaded to the resource over the next few months. The next tranche will be documents covering governance and finance, so keep an eye out on announcements here, in the URC's regular News Update circulars and in Reformed magazine.

It's not too late to ask that the team behind the hub add items which you may want. If you know of any resources which you feel may benefit all our churches, drop the Clerk a line at clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk and he'll contact the team putting the Resource Hub together.

Loving



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

Leeds URC Partnership Prayers

Thursday, 3rd September, 7:30pm.
A short time to pray together by
reading the Bible and sharing the
joys and challenges in our lives,
churches, communities and world.

On Zoom:

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

!!! WANTED !!!



**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.

 The
United
Reformed
Church
Yorkshire

clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk moderator@urcyorkshire.org.uk

The Synod is looking for people
to join some of our key groups,
especially in the Property, the
Financial Resources and
Children and Young People's
committees. These bodies guide
the direction of Synod and
without them Synod would find
it hard to function. If you are
able to take up a call to help
Synod out, please contact the
Synod Clerk at
clerk@urcyorkshire.org.uk for
more information.

Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development Small Grant Fund 2026

The Synod is pleased to let you all know that it has received confirmation that it has a pot of £4000 to grant to those wishing to apply to the Yorkshire Synod Discipleship Development 2026. Currently we have been able to grant about half of what has been allocated to us, and we would love to be able to offer grants to enable us to use all of what Yorkshire Synod has received.

1. Who is eligible to apply? Committed members or adherents, including children and young people, of a congregation within the United Reformed Church who are exercising, or want to exercise, a form of lay ministry or community service whether expressed within or beyond their local church. The DDF is not open to Ministers of Word and Sacraments and CRCWs, as there are other designated funds available for those groups.
2. How much is available? Up to £300 per applicant per calendar year, although the Synod may agree to more than this according to the local context and circumstances. **Currently we have funding available for 4 more grants this calendar year.**
3. What can this money be used for? The purposes for which the funding is provided are defined by creativity and vocation, in line with the URC's discipleship development strategy. Be bold, take risks. The funding exists to help you to follow Jesus. You might be helped in this by courses (at any level) at any of the URC Resource Centres for Learning or from other learning providers, or you may have ideas on resourcing discipleship development in other people. You may need funds to cover the costs of travel, materials or books. All you have to do is make a case to your local church meeting and submit the application form to the Synod Convenor of Ministries for consideration and, if appropriate, authorisation.
4. How are applications made? Having gained your church meeting's endorsement, applications are to be made on the designated form, well before the spending is due to start. Backdated applications will not normally be accepted. Application forms are obtainable from the Synod Convenor of Ministries via the Synod Office at office@urcyorkshire.org.uk and should be sent back for authorisation before being passed to the synod finance office.
5. How are grants paid? Grants authorised by the Convenor of Synod Ministries are paid by a Synod finance officer by reimbursement to you when you have given proof of what you've spent. Contact your Synod Convenor of Ministries for discussion if you need something funded directly on your behalf, rather than waiting for re-imburement.

If anyone wants to discuss an application before submitting it please contact the Convenor of the Yorkshire Ministries Committee, Kath Lonsdale at kath.lonsdale@outlook.com (please note the new e-mail address).

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.

Partnering



NEWS FROM THE DENOMINATION

The URC's News Update is a regular 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/>.

And Finally Adam crosses over to The Crossing



News has reached Synod Towers that one of our home-grown ministers, Revd Adam Woodhouse (whose Christian roots are firmly enshrined in South Bradford) has again crossed the Synod boundary, this time into East Midlands. Representatives from Holme and Westfield Wyke URC's went to Adam's recent induction into The Crossing Church (URC/Methodist) in Worksop, Nottinghamshire to support him. Adam had been the youth worker at Westfield and Holme before being called to stipendiary ministry and both churches have continued to regularly pray for

him and support his ministry journey. Greeting Adam are on the right Revd Geoffrey Clarke, the East Midlands Moderator and on the left Revd Vicky Atkins, District Chair Sheffield Methodist District.

If you have a good news story from your part of the Synod or something that you feel reflects the work of Synod and which inspires others as we move into 2026, 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](#).