



Children's and Youth Work

The United Reformed Church
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT



Welcome to the November 2021 update from your support team

In Children's and Youth Work:

finally back at Church House (mostly)



Dear friends,

The clocks have gone back and the weather is marking the turning of the seasons. COP26 is in progress; its success or failure will impact the children and young people we work with more than our generation. The church is entering a season of remembrance and anticipation in the build up to Christmas. The light will shine, and the darkness will not overcome it.

We are preparing to move into a new season as we look to develop URC Children as a strong umbrella to support all children's ministry across the URC alongside URC Youth – we plan to formally launch this at General Assembly 2022. We are also preparing ways for children and young people to be part of the URC's 50th anniversary – from the competition below to an all-age picture book, a drama about the House of Commons debate and our usual annual themed resource packed full of ideas. We are also looking to restructure the Church House team, appointing a new part-time administrative assistant (please share the advert below) and later a part-time programme support role to replace the Pilots-focused roles. Please pray for us as we discern the way ahead.

We pray that you are able to share the fun of advent and the joy of Christmas with the children and young people you serve (our Advent box might help!), and hold onto hope through all the continuing challenges. May God bless you,



Talking About...



A monthly opportunity to talk with others about how the Church can engage with issues relevant to children, young people and young adults – a space to explore ideas and questions. Subscribe to the URC Children's and Youth Office Eventbrite channel to get details of upcoming events.

Talking About monthly drop-in online session hosted by the URC CYDO+ team of regional CYW specialists and aims at bringing together volunteers and employed workers in Children's and Youth work to discuss some of the issues arising in their ministry.

Held on the last Thursday of each month, it lasts for one hour, and is free. November's session is on the theme of engaging young adults. Talking About... will not take place during December, so watch this space and our Facebook page for news about Talking About 2022

Talking About... Engaging Young Adults



Thursday, 25th November, 7-8pm
<https://bit.ly/3jyV80R>

Come and See !

Have you ordered your Advent Box yet?

Following the success of last year's Advent boxes, we have created a new box for 2022 packed with stories, prayers, challenges, games, recipes, and other activities to take you through the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Perfect for churches to purchase for the families they engage with. Available from <https://urcshop.co.uk/come-see-advent-kit/> at a cost of only £7 for a ready made pack and £5.50 for a self-assembly pack (plus postage and packing)



Additional resources, including a guide to help churches engage with the pack, are available on urc.org.uk/advent-come-see

Come work with us An opportunity has arisen for an **assistant** to support the Children's and Youth Work Office of the United Reformed Church. 14 hours per week, permanent contract.

In this role you will provide a comprehensive administrative service for the office as well as vital support to the Children's and Youth Work teams. This is a varied role requiring flexibility within a lively team. We can offer a friendly and flexible working environment; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home is possible. For more details see:

<https://urc.org.uk/vacancies/3956-administrative-assistant-6.html>



URC YOUTH LEADERS' GATHERING

The URC Youth leaders' Gathering will take place from 28 to 30 January 2022 at Whitemoor Lakes, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, and the event will run separately and alongside URC Youth Assembly 2022.

It's a gathering for all who work with young people aged 11 to 25 that are in any way connected with the URC (Volunteers and employed) in uniformed organisations, Pilots, youth groups or any other setting.

Join us for a weekend connecting with other youth leaders across the URC:

- Gather to share your situations, stories, needs, dreams and ideas
- Gather to receive inspiration and resources for your ministry
- Gather for a time of reflections and worship, encouragement and fellowship
- Gather for some 1 to 1 mentoring support
- Gather to discover what the URC and URC Youth offers you and your young people.

JUBILEE!

The event will be in the same place and at the same time as URC Youth Assembly (the event for young people connected to the URC from Y10/S6 to age 26 inclusive), offering a separate event for youth leaders.

This is a wonderful opportunity to have a taste of URC Youth Assembly or even to bring young people along. URC Youth Assembly early-bird discount will be extended to 1 January 2022 for young people booked with a leader who is attending URC Youth Leaders' Gathering.

Whitemoor Lakes is a youth work venue, so accommodation is in small shared dormitory-style rooms with a mixture of single beds and bunks. All meals and refreshments are included. We will be running a creche for children aged up to 5 years old. There will be a coach provided from Tamworth station for those coming by train.

Cost: £115 for the weekend, inclusive.

Bookings close on 1 January 2022

Booking forms available on the URC website: <https://urc.org.uk/.../3914-urc-youth-leaders-gathering.html>



Supersleuths Holiday Club Materials

URC Children's and Youth Work produced their first ever set of holiday club materials this year and we have been inundated with news of how successful they have been. Some of these stories are available on the Good News page of our website.

The materials, downloadable for free from urc.org.uk/holiday-club, include original songs, creative prayer, drama, activities, challenges and more. The materials are aimed at 5 to 11s but there are appendices to help adapt them for 11-14s, vintage holiday clubs and intergenerational events.

Following the success of Supersleuths, a new holiday club resource will be published for June 2022.



Children and Youth Friendly Church Scheme.

We are delighted to announce that the first Children and Youth Friendly Church plaque has been presented to Shire Green URC, the first of several

churches to have engaged with the new scheme which was launched last year.

Replacing the Child Friendly Church scheme, the new scheme is a more reflective and supported process and encourages all churches to consider their readiness, their welcome and their engagement with children and young people and their families. <https://bit.ly/CYFCscheme>



DO YOU KNOW A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON WHO IS PLAYING THEIR PART IN THE MISSION OF GOD IN THEIR CHURCH, THEIR COMMUNITY OR ON A WIDER SCALE?

Each month we continue to celebrate those children and young people who play their part in the mission of God with a certificate, a very special medal, and £100 to be spent on something of their choice that benefits children and young people in their church or community.

Recent recipients are seven-year-old Imogen Lydiatt for her faithfulness in prayer and worship and brothers Ethan (13) and Jasper (16) Peacock for their contribution to worship through their musical talents. Read more all our award recipients on our designated webpage <https://urc.org.uk/news-from-the-lundie-memorial-award>

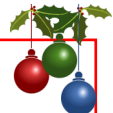


Nomination forms are available on our website and should be filled in and sent to your Children's and Youth Development Officer (CYDO) or equivalent for your synod. https://urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/documents/Finished_nomination_leaflet.pdf.

So start nominating those amazing children and young people and let's celebrate the things they are doing to put their faith into action. <https://urc.org.uk/events-and-opportunities/3244-lundie-memorial-award-nominate-a-child-or-young-person.html>.

Who will receive the next Lundie Memorial Award ?





URC CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH WORK ONLINE

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Website <https://urc.org.uk/our-work/children-and-youth.html>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCUhcQnrk2N78c89wM9Rhow>

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/URCCYWD/>



The brand new, more accessible, URC website is due to be launched towards the end of the year. All your usual CYW content will be there—news of Lundie awards and holiday clubs, resource books, Families on Faith Adventures @ home and other material. Watch this space for details



Jubilee, Youth Assembly 2022, is being held from 28 -30 January 2022 at Whitemoor Lakes in Alrewas, Staffordshire, a fantastic venue for which we have sole use.

Youth Assembly is a weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship including: Youth Decides - discussions; workshops and keynotes; worship; silent disco and more.

Age: Year 10 (England and Wales) or S3 (Scotland) to 26 years (inclusive) - *The age limit is extended for 2022 only due to the cancellation of YA 2021.*

A creche will be available for children between 0 and 5 years old.

Cost - Early Bird price until 11 November 2021 is £115, standard price from 12 November 2021 onwards is £145.

Bookings are now open on urc.org.uk/urcya and will close on 1 January 2022.

Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk for more details or to request a paper copy of the booking form.



November sees the Pilots organisation celebrating their 85th anniversary. The non-uniformed club for children was first created by the London Missionary Society to thank children for amazing fundraising to support their work, the name Pilots coming from the pilot boats which guided the missionary ships safely into port. Pilots groups are celebrating with special badges and bunting and have put together a video prayer which you can see on our YouTube channel's Pilots playlist: <https://youtu.be/A48DUL-JIzg>

Following the success of our Faith with Under Fives conference last year which was produced in collaboration with ROOTS for Churches, we are delighted to invite you to Living Faith with 5s - 11s, a free online conference over three separate evenings, designed for all those engaging with the primary age group.

Our Keynote speakers—Ruth White, Alison Hulse and Martin Adams - will explore the themes of living, loving and learning through all-age church, faith at home and children's groups and there will be opportunity to share your own ideas and experiences with others as well as gaining some very practical pointers from these experienced practitioners in their fields.

Sessions are for all those relating to, leading church for and working with 5-11s – parents and grandparents, children's workers and church leaders, volunteers of all ages, and can be booked through Eventbrite on <http://bit.ly/Living-faith>. Don't worry if you missed them—the content will be posted on our YouTube channel after the event.



URC at 50: Worship Resources Competition



To celebrate the United Reformed Church's 50th anniversary, songwriters, composers, rappers, poets, choirs and bands are invited to submit an entry into the URC at 50: Worship Resources Competition.

There are four categories in which you can enter:

- Traditional hymn/song
- Poem
- Contemporary hymn/song
- Rap.

Full details will be available on the URC website soon.

Judges will select a winner from each category. Winning entries will be performed at General Assembly 2022 and included in a digital version of the URC at 50 celebration resource pack for local churches. Closing date for entries: 8 April 2022.

To celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary, songwriters, composers, rappers, poets, choirs and bands are invited to submit an entry into the **URC at 50: Worship Resources Competition**.

There are four categories to enter: traditional hymn/song, poem, contemporary hymn/song, and rap.

Judges will select a winner from each category. The winning entries will be performed at General Assembly 2022 and included in a digital version of the URC at 50 celebration resource pack for local churches.

The closing date for submissions is 8 April 2022. Find all you need to know on <https://urc.org.uk/50>

The United Reformed Church Guide & Scout Fellowship (URCGSF) National Scout Active Support Unit are seeking a Volunteer Manager. **Responsible to:** Volunteer Head of Active Support and National Scout Active Support Commissioner **Outline:** To manage and support the URCSGF to ensure it runs effectively and develops in line with its aims and objectives:

- to support Guiding and Scouting in particular within the church
- to work with those responsible for children's and youth work within the church
- and to help with the spiritual development of the members of the two movements

Expressions of interest to children.youth@urc.org.uk

Closing date 15 November, 2021

For more information about URCSGF, please follow the link: <https://www.urcgsf.org.uk/welcome.htm>



The Impossible Promise is the Bible Society's new resource for Christmas. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/> Read/gift the booklet, watch the animated video, learn the Makaton signs and create an instant nativity, all based around this retelling of the Christmas story by Bob Hart-



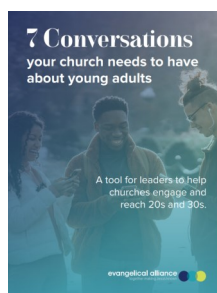
Don't forget—Families on Faith Adventures @ Home produced a video for **Christingle** last year. Find it here <https://youtu.be/p0XeT9Hb3J0> as we celebrate together. (You may also like to giggle at the outtakes selection from filming it https://youtu.be/AQtb6_CwZno)



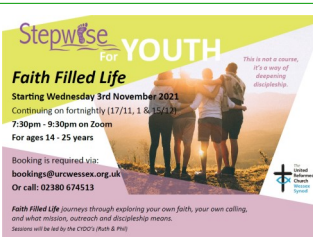
Also still available on YouTube is the telling of our Advent Box story, Colours of Christmas. <https://youtu.be/cVIDocXzpog> Do you still have your copy?

Three successful online workshops on **Hybrid Church** were recently offered by URC Training, a partnership between URC Children's and Youth Work and the URC Education and Learning teams. These workshops complement the workshops on effective communication run earlier in the year. Videos of all these events are available on the URC CYW YouTube channel in the URC Training playlist https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0dWr4cxnjTT80wSMVMCFCEZoXk8m_pT3. Don't forget that, if you complete this training and belong to a URC church, you may be able to get additional funding via the Carmichael Montgomery Fund to help put your learning into practice. Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk for more details.

<https://www.eauk.org/assets/files/downloads/7-conversations.pdf>



This resource from the Evangelical Alliance will help any church (not just those who consider themselves Evangelical) to consider how they might be more welcoming to 20s to 30s through offering seven conversations for the church leadership to consider. This is a really practical way to respond to the 20-40s report.



Wessex Synod are offering the Stepwise: Faith Filled Life discipleship course online for young people/young adults aged 14 to 25. Four fortnightly sessions starting Wed 3 November at 7.30pm.

Contact bookings@urcwessex.org.uk or call 02380 674513

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

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| 2, 4, 9 Nov 2021 | Living Faith with 5—11s (online conference) | |
| 11 Nov 2021 | Early Bird bookings for Youth Assembly close | |
| 25 November 2021 | Talking About..... Engaging Young Adults | |
| 25 December 2021 | CHRISTMAS DAY | |
| 1 Jan 2021 | Bookings for Youth Assembly close | |
| 28 - 30 Jan 2022 | Youth Assembly and Leaders' Gathering—JUBILEE | |
| February 2022 | All-church mailing including Jubilee all-age resource book from URC CYW | |



You can **contact us** by email on children.youth@urc.org.uk or phone on 020 7916 8683. Our website is <https://urc.org.uk/our-work/children-and-youth.html>, facebook <https://www.facebook.com/> Twitter [@URCCYW](https://twitter.com/URCCYW) or you can use good old snail mail.

AND FINALLY If you have received this as a paper copy or by a friend forwarding it to you and you would like to be added to our mailing list, please do sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycgnp0js>.

Our Data privacy note is here: https://www.urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/documents/CYW_Data_Privacy_Notice.pdf