



## Children's and Youth Work

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



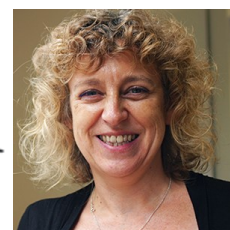
Welcome to the September 2021 update from your support team in Children's and Youth Work: normally found at URC Church House but currently still on Zoom!

Dear Friends,

Here we go again – start of the new academic year. For so many of our children and young people this means starting a new class, nursery, school, college or university with all the unknowns and challenges that brings. Many churches are looking to restart, or launch, groups for children, young people and families. Yet I sense many of us are not feeling the usual benefit of a summer break, even if we have been fortunate enough to have one. This year there has been little slowing of pace, no reducing of background anxiety about how Covid might impact life, and not much sunshine. After so long working from home many now feel they live at work! Switching off, drawing breath, relaxing and refocussing seem to be getting more and more difficult. Yet somehow we need to find the energy for all that lies ahead...

My prayer is that you will be filled with the renewing and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit, able to offer yourself in grace, rather than from guilt, and be met with the mutual blessing of spending time with children, young people and families together growing in love for God and each other.

Be gentle with yourself as you find your way forward into the next season.



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.

Session 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>



### VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY—TALKING ABOUT.....



The URC synod-level Children's and Youth Work professionals (known as the CYDO+ team) are offering an online monthly drop-in for Children's and Youth Work volunteers. It will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month and will last about one hour, with a short piece of input and opportunity to chat in groups engaging in similar ministries. It is a chance to build networks and to discuss those issues which affect everyone.

The first session was held on 29 July 2021 and considered the implications of starting groups up again, this month's session will be on 23 September and the topic will be reconnecting with families.

Book in on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-reconnecting-with-families-with-children-tickets-168231082697>



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

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](http://urc.org.uk/urcya) and will close on 1 January 2022 so get your name down now to benefit from the Early Bird price.

## 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.

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

[https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/257506/Home/Resources/Local\\_Ecumenism/A\\_New\\_Framework/A\\_New\\_Framework.aspx](https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/257506/Home/Resources/Local_Ecumenism/A_New_Framework/A_New_Framework.aspx)

Churches Together in England have produced a framework designed to help churches find the best way to work together ecumenically. Lots of the examples are children's and youth work – showing how you often don't need to create a new structure/organisation to work together effectively. The URC's Philip Brooks has contributed to this and URC Comms did the design work.



## 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?

We continue to celebrate those children and young people who play their part in the mission of God and are delighted to be able to award just some of them 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 Alex Malcolm and Alice Robson,

both aged 8, and brothers Andrew and Daniel Shaw, aged 13 and 15. Read more about why they were nominated on our designated webpage <https://urc.org.uk/news-from-the-lundie-memorial-award>

You can nominate a child or young person up to and including the age of 25 by submitting a completed nomination form to the 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](https://urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/documents/Finished_nomination_leaflet.pdf). Each month one of the nominations will be selected by our panel to receive the full award, with certificates going to all those nominated. You can see some of the awards presented this year on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/u4MoZ0Jymzw>

We need your help to recognise all the amazing things children and young people are doing in their own quiet way to put their faith into action, so look around and see who you can nominate to receive the next Lundie Award.

<https://urc.org.uk/events-and-opportunities/3244-lundie-memorial-award-nominate-a-child-or-young-person.html>.



## URC CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK ONLINE

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

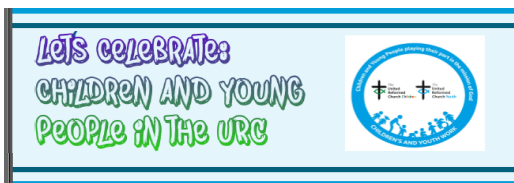
**Website** <https://urc.org.uk/our-work/children-and-youth.html>

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

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 May 2022, The Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire—Messy Church international conference with Dr Paula Gooder as keynote speaker, takes the environmental theme of Making a Difference <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/event/messy-church-international-conference-2022>

Care for the Family are offering a series of seminars entitled "Boundary lines" and "A Mind of their Own" on several dates throughout October and November. See their events page for details: <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online-2>



Did you miss **Let's Celebrate: Children and Young People in the URC?** This General Assembly fringe event was held on Zoom and open to all as we showcased some of the work of Children's and Youth work over the last year, explained the resolutions we brought to General Assembly, and shared some of our exciting news about the year to come.

The event was recorded and is now available on YouTube, with some of the sections also available as individual videos—e.g. news of our first Children and Youth Friendly Church Scheme plaques being awarded and news from the Lundie award. <https://youtu.be/jm9O7yABPSI>



### **Children and Youth with Education and Learning offer practical suggestions for Hybrid Church (where we combine worship in person and online).**

Following the success of our online training sessions on video editing, social media and sharing stories, we are back with our next offering: practical ideas for enhancing worship for all.

#### **Hybrid Church for all:**

#### **leading multi-sensory worship; the practicalities of hybrid church; hybrid church in action**

Thursdays 30 September, 14 October and 21 October 7.30-8.45pm.

We are delighted once again to be able to offer grants of up to £200 from the Carmichael Montgomerie Bursary. These grants will be open to all URC members who attend, to help put learning into action.

More information is now available on <https://hybrid-church-workshops.eventbrite.co.uk> where you can also book your free tickets.

### **\*Towards Appreciating Neurodiversity in the URC\***



If you identify as neurodiverse and are involved with the URC, you are warmly invited to this event.

On 27 September, URC Children and Youth are hosting a discussion on 'Towards Appreciating Neurodiversity in the URC'.

This will be an initial gathering of neurodiverse adults and young people associated with the URC to explore how we might celebrate neurodiversity.

We will be sharing stories and experiences, as well as hopes and dreams for how the URC might be more inclusive and support a celebration of neurodiversity.

This event will use mixed verbal, text, and image based communication. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/towards-appreciating-neurodiversity-in-the-urc-tickets-164992177043>

### **It's never too early to start thinking about ADVENT !**

Last year we produced an Advent Box for churches to send out to families. It was filled with activities and prayers, a story book "Colours of Christmas" and resources for churches to link to. Stocks ran out very quickly and many churches were disappointed.

We have decided to produce a similar box this year, on the theme "Come and See", which we hope will prove just as popular. Watch out for details on how you can pre-order your boxes, including details of an option to receive bulk materials as a flat-pack to assemble yourselves at reduced cost—thus enabling you to include anything your church may decide to add to the box.



Visit the URC Shop from mid-September to pre-order your boxes and to find out more about what will be in this year's Advent Box.

**Come and See !** <https://urcshop.co.uk/>



**B Bible Society**

**NEW GOOD NEWS BIBLE FOR FAMILIES**

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST**

*The Bible Society, in partnership with Youth for Christ, is producing a new version of the Good News Bible designed especially to be intergenerational and accessible to families worshipping together. It will be supported with online video and other resources. Sample copies are available from the Bible Society in an A3 format which everyone can gather around to read together and with questions and activities and doodling pages to engage all ages. Keep an eye on their webpage for more information as it arrives.*

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/landing/family-bible/>



On Saturday 25 September, all those with an interest in ministry with under fives through toddler groups are invited to join in the Playtime National Conference online. Packed with speakers and workshops, this is always a popular and informative event which will motivate, inspire and equip you. Tickets are just £10 each and you can find out more information on <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/faith-in-the-family/playtime/playtime-national-conference-2021>

Sign up for **NYA (National Youth Agency) events** for the coming month <https://nya.org.uk/skills/live-programmes/nya-events>

**Thursday 9 September 2021**, online event  
National Youth Agency Supper Break: rape culture  
An in-depth session focused on a youth work response to the sexualisation of young people in schools, higher and further education.

**Tuesday 14 September 2021**, online event  
National Youth Agency Tea Break: sexual health  
Exploring the role of youth work in promoting sexual health education that is meaningful, relevant and fun to engage with.

*“The best part of being a mentor is the connections you make with your matched young person. I remember the first time mine asked me for advice – it was unexpected and heartwarming.”* Bernice, Young Person’s Mentor, London

Action for Children are seeking people who can offer 2 years of monthly support (minimum) to guide, listen to and befriend a young person in care.

Independent visitors connect with these young people to become a positive role model in their life. As an Action for Children Independent Visitor, you can be there for that young person, introduce new activities, and spend quality time together.

Volunteering is open to everyone, from all backgrounds. There’s no upper age limit, though you’ll need to be at least 14 to apply (16 or 18 for some roles). You can volunteer if you’re an asylum seeker and volunteering won’t affect any benefits you get. <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/volunteer-with-us>

**LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers**

- 30 Sept 2021            URC Training: Hybrid Church
- 14 Oct 2021            URC Training: Hybrid Church
- 21 Oct 2021            URC Training: Hybrid Church
- 2, 4, 9 Nov 2021        Living Faith with 5—11s (online conference)
- 11 Nov 2021            Early Bird bookings for Youth Assembly close
- 1 Jan 2021              Bookings for Youth Assembly close
- 28 - 30 Jan 2022        Youth Assembly

**Next Bi-Monthly Update : early November 2021**



You can **contact us** by email on [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto: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/ycgnpojs>.

Our Data privacy note is here: [https://www.urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/documents/CYW\\_Data\\_Privacy\\_Notice.pdf](https://www.urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/documents/CYW_Data_Privacy_Notice.pdf)