

Celebrate Together

SLIDE 1: URC 50th anniversary logo – faith hope love since 1972

SLIDE2: Celebrate together! (front cover of book) and invitation:

you are invited to join our celebration

point to different people of different ages and say 'you are invited... and you... and you'

SLIDE 3: 2022 is the URC's Jubilee Year – it will be 50 years old.
You are invited to our Jubilee party. Join the fun and find out more about the URC.
Let's share our stories and celebrate together.

SLIDE 4: [getting ready for a party]

We're going to have the best party -
there's still so much to be done.
Excitement is building, will we be ready
for our special guests to come?

Balloons of all shapes and colours,
bunting and ribbons and more.
A chair and a place for everyone,
and a party sign hung on the door.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- What's the best party you've ever been to and why?
- How could we get this church / room / space ready for a party?
- How do we show we welcome people to this group / church?

SLIDE 5 [everyone arriving for the party]

We've sent out the invitations -
we want everyone to be here.
Some have travelled for miles and miles,
others already live near.

Here's grandpa and nana and cousins.
Here's aunties and uncles and friends.
Here's mum and dad with the new baby.
The list of names never ends!

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- Who would you most like to invite to a party? (anyone from history/fictional/famous)
- Have you ever not been invited to a party? How does that feel?
- Who might be missing from this group / church? How could we invite them?

SLIDE 6 [people greeting each other]

Everyone's dressed for a party
with sparkles and colours galore.
We hug and we smile as we greet all our guests
as they skip, walk and wheel through the door.

We place our gifts on the table,
and find a place to sit down.
It's so good to be all together again
to share the best party in town.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- What do you like to wear to a party?
- What is the best gift to take to a party?
- What gifts and talents do you have to offer this group / church?

SLIDE 7: [table with party food – everyone bringing something to share]

Look, here is a very large table
overflowing with yum-scrummy treats.
What will you try and what will you choose
from these favourite drinks and eats?

A great feast of recipes old and new -
dishes to help celebrate -
right in the middle, a huge special cake.
Everyone piles high their plate!

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- What is your favourite party food or drink?
- How do we share food and drink here together and with others?

SLIDE 8: [everyone doing their party turns and playing games]

Great Auntie plays the piano,
Dad will sing given a chance.
Slow and fast tunes, songs of all types,
Everyone - come join the dance.

Pin the tail and pass the parcel,
party fun for all the years.
Juggling and poems, flips and tricks, -
everyone claps and cheers.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- What do you like to do at a party?
- How do we celebrate and have fun together in this group / church?



SLIDE 9: [sharing a toast]

Someone is tapping their glass with a spoon
and the room settles down with a hush.
There are toasts and we all shout 'hip, hip, hooray!'
and thank those who don't like a fuss.

Not everyone likes to hear speeches -
look, someone has fallen asleep.
Some gather closer to listen,
some to the garden will creep.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- What do we all listen to together here?
- What do we all cheer together here?
- Who are the people you would like to thank, and why?
- Who here has something important to say?

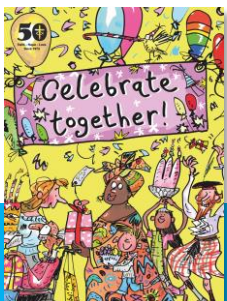
SLIDE 10: [people sharing stories and photos]

We love all being together
with so many stories to share.
All that has happened since last time we met -
listening to show that we care.

We share our photos and giggle,
and talk about 'back in the day'.
We laugh and we cry and remember.
The children have made up a play.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- Have you shared a photo or story already today?
- Who listens to you? Who do you listen to?
- What stories about this group / church do we like to tell?
- What new stories might we make together?



SLIDE 11: [someone reading the Jubilee story from the Bible]

Let me tell you of a great celebration -
every fifty years a JUBILEE!

Debts are forgiven, homes are returned,
prisoners and slaves are set free.

Let's join in the jubilation:
shouts of joy and trumpet blast.

The land and the people can rest
for God's justice and mercy will last.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- Did you know Jubilee is from the Bible – what do you like best about it?
- What wrongs would you want to put right in this Jubilee year?
- What is this group / church doing to celebrate the URC's Jubilee?

SLIDE 12: [people getting ready to leave]

Soon the party is over -
but nobody's ready to go.
We beg for one more party game
but the answer is definitely 'No!'

Nobody leaves empty handed,
there's gift bags for me and for you.
It comes with a slice of the fabulous cake,
and other surprises too.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- How do you feel when it's time to leave a party?
- What is the best thing you have had in a goodie bag?
- What do you take away from this group / church?

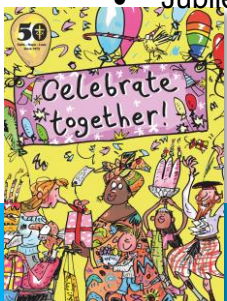
SLIDE 13: [clearing up]

There's one last job to be sorted -
it's time to tidy away:
wash up and recycle the rubbish,
saving bits for the next special day.

We all help out with the clearing.
You never know quite what you'll find.
It all tells a story of those who were here,
and the things that they left behind.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- Which do you prefer – setting up or clearing away?
- Have you ever left something behind?
- Jubilee is a moment to 're-set' things –
what should we stop,
what should we make better,
and what should we start doing?



SLIDE 14: [everyone waving goodbye]

Now the party is over -
it's been such a fabulous day!
We're tired, and happy, our tummies are full,
but it's time to be on our way.

We leave with lots of new memories.
We'll be talking about it for days.
We look forward to when we can gather again
and celebrate in old and new ways.

[ask one or more of these questions – encourage people of all ages to share their answers]

- Do you find it hard to say goodbye?
- What celebrations have you missed over the past few years?
- What celebrations are you looking forward to?
- How can this group / church share faith, hope and love with others?

