

Heroes and Villains



The
United
Reformed
Church Youth

URC Youth Round Up 2021



After a year we will never forget, we enter 2021 with a bang, introducing Youth (dis) ASSEMBLED, our first virtual URC Youth event. However, we must not forget the hard work that the Youth Executive has put in this past year, attending quarterly weekend-long Zoom meetings and task group meetings. We've learnt first-hand about the importance of working together and taking the time to rest when it's needed.

Throughout the year, the Youth Executive has been hit with difficult decisions, such as cancelling Youth Assembly. In addition to this, both Reuben and I had to make the decision about elections and whether they could still go ahead (without a physical gathering) and if we should carry on in our current roles for a further year. After some extensive soul-searching and discussions, we decided the best thing to do was to continue in our roles as Moderator and Moderator-Elect until 2022, and resume elections at Youth Assembly 2022. We are proposing a one-off extension to the age limit of one year to ensure no one misses an opportunity as a result of the extraordinary times we are going through.

This past year has been difficult for everyone, but I pray that we can enter 2021 with hope in our hearts as we look forward to the events throughout this year, and that the voice of URC Youth may continue to be heard, despite not meeting physically this year.

Jo Harris, Youth Assembly Moderator-Elect

URC Youth re-ASSEMBLED 2021

Each month throughout 2021, there will be a different theme or topic that URC Youth will concentrate on:

- February – activism and advocacy
- March – Israel and Palestine: the conflict in the Holy Land
- April – vocation: unearthing your inner superhero
- May – hostile environments
- June – Pride month
- July – world church
- August – community
- September – environment
- October – anti-racism
- November – mental health
- December – faith, hope and joy.

For each month there will be a range of social media posts, Dialogues and Zoom events, as well as practical ways that you can make a difference from the comfort of your own home. Do keep an eye out on our social media channels, or speak to your Synod Youth Representative / CYDO+ to find out more.

We really hope that anyone between the ages of 14 to 25 with links to the URC will be able to engage with this content.

Save the date for Youth Assembly – 28 to 30 January 2022 – when we hope and pray we can gather together at Whitemoor Lakes for a weekend of faith, fun and fellowship.

Reuben Watt, Youth Assembly Moderator

URC Youth
re-ASSEMBLED
2021

Youth (dis)ASSEMBLED went by with a blink of an eye, but it was oh so fun. We were firstly joined on Saturday by the hilarious Paul Kerensa, who is a comedian and co-writer of Not Going Out, and Miranda. We were introduced to what he called Kerensaoke, in this funny take on karaoke. He demonstrated to us how you can use numerous different popular songs and combine them nursery rhymes to create a comedic mashup of a popular melody and the traditional nursery rhyme. He also showed us how to make our own Bond theme, using the very on trend toilet roll and something red, placing up to your camera and voila, you become part of the introduction to a Bond film!

After his set, we then dispersed into breakout rooms. These were categorised by Synods and ecumenical guests. We were lucky enough to be joined by representatives from the Methodist Church, Church of Scotland, Quaker and Congregational Federation and global attendees from Germany and the USA.

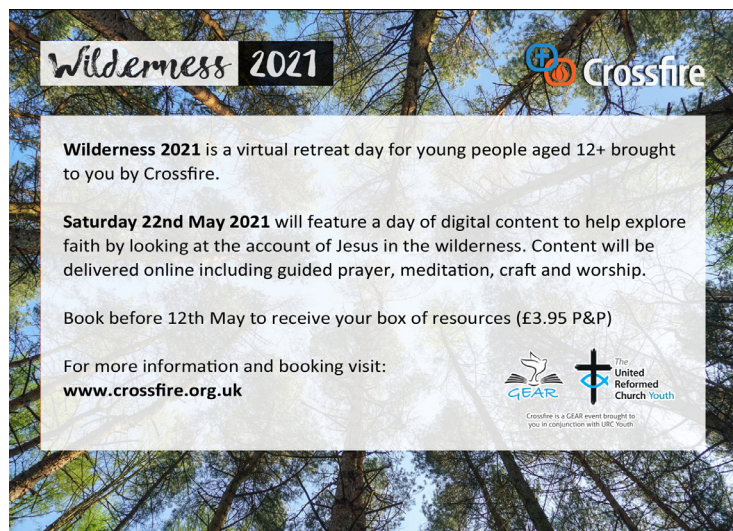
Quickly following on from these breakout rooms, we were introduced to comedy folk band, Folk On. We very quickly discovered how funny and loveable the members of the band were as they explained to us hand dances for some of the songs and told us the about the details of why lead singer, Derek Tinkleberry, was sat in the loo (that's where he received the best WiFi signal). They played six songs, on various different themes. A reoccurring theme seemed to be the milkman, which brought many smiles so the sea of Zoom windows.


After this, we went into breakout rooms for under 18s and over 18s. The over 18s breakout room was split into two further rooms named 'up north' and 'down south', which as you can imagine led to the classic question – where does the north of the UK begin?

On Sunday, we joined together in worship, led by Ali Grey (Chaplin to Youth Executive for 2020), members of the Youth Executive and the Methodist Youth President, Phoebe Parkin. We heard a reflection from Joe Amoah on the theme Heroes and Villains. Joe spoke about what makes a hero and a villain and how it's much more that what meets the eye. Music was performed, led and edited by members of URC Youth and we came together to pray for the incoming Youth Executive, and for those in need during this global pandemic. The service was livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. If you didn't catch it, please watch it!

To close the evening, we enjoyed creative discussion and prayer focussed breakout rooms, as well as room for a chit-chat. It was a great way to reflect on the service, and to come together as young people to discuss what was on our minds and socialise. To round up, Youth (dis) ASSEMBLED was a massive success and I look forward to what 2021 has in store.

Jo Harris, Youth Assembly Moderator-Elect





Wilderness 2021 

Wilderness 2021 is a virtual retreat day for young people aged 12+ brought to you by Crossfire.

Saturday 22nd May 2021 will feature a day of digital content to help explore faith by looking at the account of Jesus in the wilderness. Content will be delivered online including guided prayer, meditation, craft and worship.

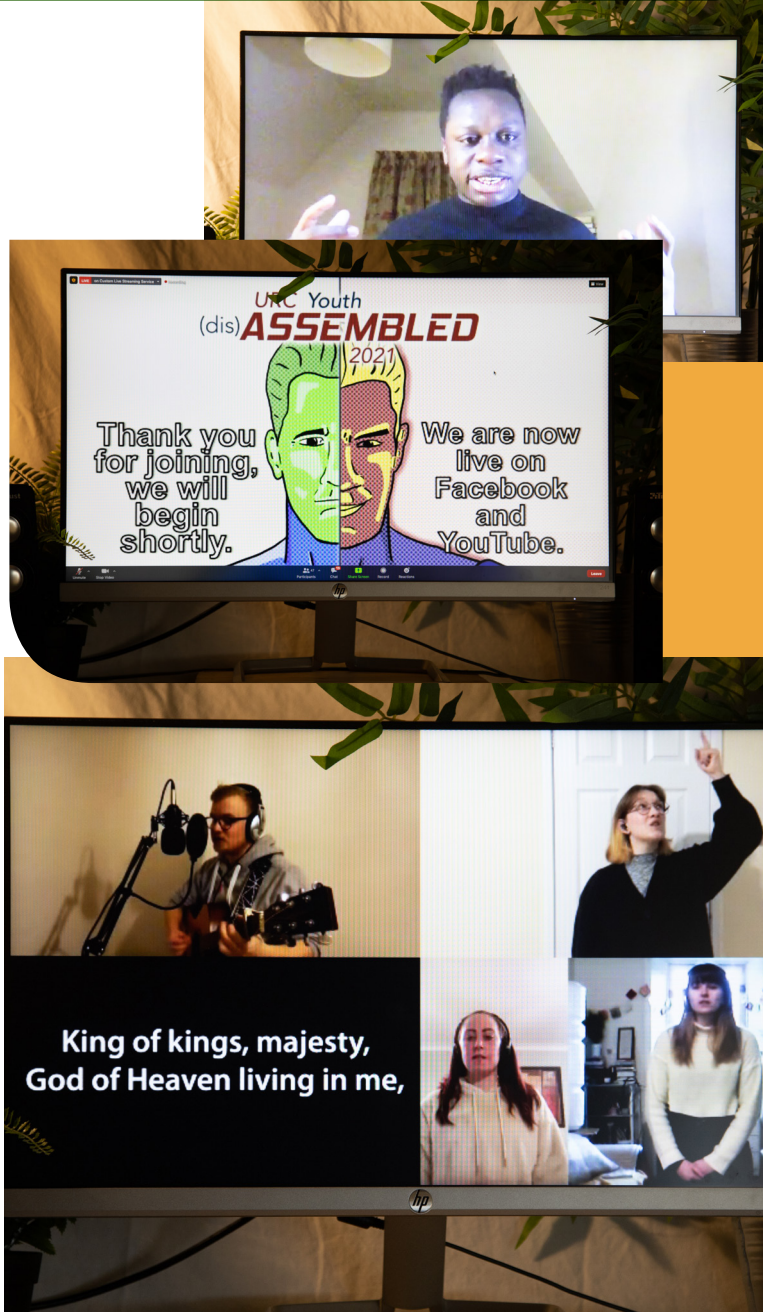
Book before 12th May to receive your box of resources (£3.95 P&P)

For more information and booking visit:
www.crossfire.org.uk

Crossfire is a GEAR event brought to you in conjunction with URC Youth

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URC Youth Executive Report on 2020

URC Youth had a good presence at the General Assembly and the last two Mission Councils. Our motion declaring the Climate Emergency passed en bloc at GA and we've commented on and strengthened other motions at Mission Council, including scrutinising the safeguarding training, extending the reach of considerations of black voices in the URC, and considering the necessity of single use plastics in our congregations. We were however, much less enthusiastic about having to go into breakout rooms to discuss pensions in the last MC.

GA and MC is such a great way for us to have our voices heard (I'm sure sometimes I speak too much), but remember we can influence these bodies by the motions we pass at our Youth Assembly. If anyone also ever has any questions about the proceedings of any MC, or wants the papers, don't hesitate to ask.

Additionally, regarding our letter to Churches Together in England about the Fourth Presidency issue, a consultation group has been set up with five Trustees (Victoria included) and the General Secretary of CTE to begin facilitating conversations to find a better solution. The Methodist Church at its national Conference also publicly voiced their support for our motion, with the new incoming President of the Free Churches Group also being very passionate about this issue.

I just also wanted to flag up the work URC Youth also did around the Black Lives Matter campaign – writing a statement and being active on social media. I'd like to use this opportunity to say a massive thank you to our Communications person, Jess England, who has done an incredible job and will sadly leave us in March to finally get on with her Masters!

Victoria Turner, General Assembly and Mission Council Representative



See more

See the URC Youth YouTube playlist here: bit.ly/URCYouthVideos

Climate Emergency Resolution



Church Support for Students Resolution



International Youth Day 2020 – service by URC Youth



Youth (dis)ASSEMBLED worship – 31 January 2021



The United Reformed Church Youth
Trialogue

Live discussion
3 voices - 3 perspectives

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Lundie Memorial Award

Last year's Youth Assembly witnessed the presentation of the very first Lundie Memorial Award to Keiran Ineson of Yorkshire Synod. A year later, we are delighted to announce the recipient for February who will be well known to many in URC Youth and beyond: Katie Henderson.

The award is made to someone aged under-26 who is playing their part in the mission of God in some small way – from delivering flowers to the isolated to helping with the tech for online worship, from raising money for a good cause to being a young carer. These are the superheroes of the URC and often go unrecognised.

Our latest superhero does not wear a mask and a cape, she's more usually to be found in a nurse's uniform working on the adult ICU wards where she has volunteered since the start of the pandemic, having previously being employed on Great Ormond Street Children's Cardiac ICU wards.

She has been a member of Pilots from a very early age and is the immediate past Youth Moderator, a role which she shared. She took part in the URC Israel / Palestine trip in 2019 and, after a trip to Dominican Republic with Compassion UK / Free Churches Group in 2018, was moved to support six-year-old Nashla through Compassion UK's sponsorship programme.

Katie has a strong faith and truly does walk the walk. She is a well deserving recipient of the award of £100 (to spend to benefit children and young people) and a chocolate medal.



Our latest superhero does not wear a mask and a cape, she's more usually to be found in a nurse's uniform working on the adult ICU wards ...

URC Youth Executive 2021

Moderator: **Reuben Watt**,
urcyamoderator@urc.org.uk

Moderator-Elect: **Jo Harris**,
urcyamodelect@urc.org.uk

Mission Council and General Assembly Representative: **Victoria Turner**

Northern Synod: **Dylan Hall**

North Western Synod: **In vacancy ***

Mersey Synod: **Emily Dudley**

Yorkshire Synod: **Kai Weynberg**

East Midlands Synod: **Ella Lemon**

West Midlands Synod: **Esme Ramsden**

Eastern Synod: **Helen Glasse**

South Western Synod: **In vacancy ***

Wessex Synod: **In vacancy ***

Thames North Synod: **Philippa Osei**

Southern Synod: **In vacancy ***

Synod of Wales: **In vacancy ***

Synod of Scotland: **Morven Sanderson and Beth McDonald**

Pilots Representative: **Megan Westgarth**

Equalities and Diversity Representative: **Alanna Hurman**

Supported by:

YA Clerk: **Nick Booth**

Chaplain: **Alison Gray**

CYDO+ Trainer: **Tom Hackett**

Head of Children's and Youth Work: **Sam Richards**

* Applicants for these posts are welcomed from anyone aged 16-25 connected to a church in the Synod or living, studying or working in the Synod, or with other links. Please contact children.youth@urc.org.uk

2022 Youth Assembly
28 to 30 January at Whitemoor Lakes



www.urc.org.uk/youth
Search for URC Youth on Facebook,
Twitter and Instagram