



Children's and Youth Work

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



Welcome to the November 2025 update from your support team in
Children's, Youth and Intergenerational Work for the United Reformed Church.

Dear Friends,

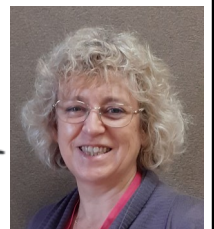
This is our last bi-monthly of 2025. Following a restructure of the staff team and a more integrated approach to communication from new Faith in Action team in which we now sit, this may be our last newsletter in this format—so enjoy!

It is not too late to join the online learning group working through Children's Ministry Essentials - see below. We are still looking for a volunteer Children's Advocate to ensure the voice of children is heard in our new committee overseeing children's and youth work (see <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/> if this could be you!).

We hope those of you who ordered Advent Unpacked to give to families are as delighted as we are with the quality of this resource—please do share any feedback as we have to make tough decisions about what work to cut going forwards with our smaller staff team.

Praying for a deep encounter with Emmanuel, God with us, for you and all those you work with this Advent and Christmas.

Sam Riches



NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ESSENTIALS TRAINING

<https://youtu.be/IHGCz8QakFA>

Join the URC Children's Ministry Essentials pilot course, hosted by our wonderful CYDO+ team! This new course developed by the Children's Ministry Network is designed for anyone working with children in local churches and consists of 10 modules covering a wealth of topics including child development and spirituality, pastoral care, leadership and teamwork and the role of play. It is designed to deepen your understanding, increase your confidence and develop your skills. Monthly sessions online Saturday 10am-12 noon starting 13 December 2025, then throughout 2026.



Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk to register for your free place if you are engaging in ministry with children, families or intergenerationally within a URC church or Local Ecumenical Partnership (normally £80).



**Faith
Adventures
through
Advent:**
sessions for
under 12s:
[bit.ly/
FACT_resource](https://bit.ly/FACT_resource)
sessions for
age 11+:
[bit.ly/
URCYouthFA](https://bit.ly/URCYouthFA)

Children's, Youth and Intergenerational Resources for Advent

Whether you are involved with junior church, Messy Church, community events or intergenerational worship these resources should help support and guide your Advent celebrations.

Under fives's praise service: A pick and mix selection of songs, stories, prayers, crafts and more to help shape an under five's praise service.

Youth service: A range of tools and suggestions to help plan and run an Advent youth service. Order of service template included.

Advent trail and outdoor worship ideas: This resource would work well whether you have a large grassy area, a small tarmacked space or an indoor space.

Café church: A ready made café church service with songs, activities, creative response, discussion and prayer.

Make your own nativity set: 11 illustrations to print out on card, cut out and colour to build your own nativity set.

<https://urc.org.uk/adventpack2025>



URC Youth Leaders Gathering

£210



27 February -
1 March 2026



Highgate House,
Northampton

Keynote: Rev Dr. Ash Barker

Join together with others involved in youth work for a weekend of encouragement, reflection, challenge and sharing ideas.

On Saturday we will be joined by Ash Barker as we consider the theme being followed by URC Youth Assembly.

Wise Words - Wiser Actions

We will explore together how we can be wise in all we do with young people as we seek to grow disciples in God's kingdom.

A programme that allows time for worship, space to reflect, relate and relax. Share joys and sorrows with others as we learn together in community.

If you are working with young people aged 11-25 in any context, this is the weekend that you deserve!

REGISTER NOW

<http://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering>



Ash Barker is a Shalom Activist and Pioneering Minister with over 35 years of experience unlocking potential in urban communities. Born and raised in Melbourne, Australia, he spent 12 years serving in Bangkok's largest slum before relocating to inner-city Birmingham, UK, in 2014.

Alongside his wife Anji, Ash lives in community at Newbigin House in Winson Green and ministers with Lodge Road Community Church (URC).

With a vision for every neighbourhood to flourish in God's love and shalom, Ash's work through Seedbeds grows local leaders and communities into fullness of life.

Ash remains committed to investing in local leaders and communities, passionately advocating for shalom, justice, and grassroots transformation.



If you are bringing young people to Youth Assembly why not enjoy a weekend of refreshment for youth workers in the luxury environment of Highgate House, just down the road from Kings Park?

If you are not bringing young people to Youth Assembly, you are just as welcome!

Speak to your Synod CYDO about grants to support the cost of attending

1T4 YOUTH EVENT

WHITEMOOR LAKES, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 8QT
SAT 2 - MON 4 MAY 2026

A weekend for 11-14s including outdoor activities, discussion, games & worship. Exploring how we can live out our faith at school, church and in our communities.



COST
£125



1 Timothy 4:12 - Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

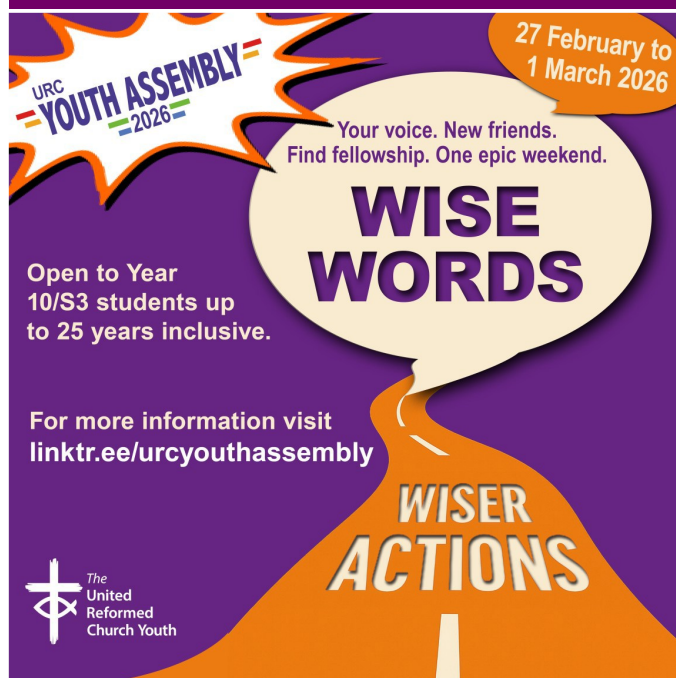
For more information for leaders please contact
children.youth@urc.org.uk.

BOOK NOW

www.linktr.ee/1T4event



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK



URC YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2026

27 February to 1 March 2026

Your voice. New friends.
Find fellowship. One epic weekend.

WISE WORDS

Open to Year 10/S3 students up to 25 years inclusive.

For more information visit linktr.ee/urcyouthassembly

WISER ACTIONS

The United Reformed Church Youth

URC Youth Assembly 2026 27 February – 1 March

Bookings are now open:

<https://linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly>

Great venue with twin rooms and good food! Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton, NN3 6LL

A weekend full of worship, workshops, entertainment and time to breathe.

Youth decides: What matters to you? Dive into real talk, make change happen, and engage with the wider church.

£125 early bird until 7 December 2025

then **£155** until 25 January 2026.



Aged between 20 and 40?
Then you're invited to the URC's second 20's–40's gathering.

Taking place on Saturday 13 December 2025 from 9am–6pm at Westminster College in Cambridge. The free event offers a day of faith, friendship, food and fresh perspectives. The programme includes fresh insights on Paul in the Bible study, reflect on what it means to be part of the URC, social time to connect with friends old and new, and worship to close the day. Why not make a weekend of it? Arrive on Friday 12 December for free accommodation at the college, with an optional evening meal at 6pm.

20s - 40s GATHERING

Interested in a day of faith, friendship, food and fresh perspectives? At the 20s - 40s gathering you'll be able to engage in Bible study and discover fresh insights on Paul, reflect on what it means to be part of the URC, have social time to connect with friends, and worship to close the day.

INFORMATION



13 Dec



9am-6pm



Westminster College

Sign up now!



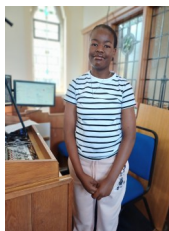
Register here

<https://shorturl.at/Fqipk>



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS MAKING THE HEADLINES IN THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

13 year old Tinashe who applies herself with diligence and enthusiasm has worked hard to learn how to use the projection and sound systems and to live stream the Sunday service. Tinashe's energy and accuracy for her very significant contribution to the weekly worship and is a real blessing to her Church.



Lydia, who is 23, has volunteered as part of the Engine (youth venue) team at Greenbelt for the four years that the URC has been running it. She has contributed immensely to the setting up and running of the place. Lydia spent time talking to the 12–17s who use the space helping to ensure it is welcoming and safe. She has a gentle way of coming along side those who are struggling and feeling anxious.



Do you know anyone 25 or under who is playing their part in the mission of God and deserves recognition?

Why not nominate them for the Lundie Memorial Award?

Find out more about the Lundie Memorial Award and Children and Youth Friendly Church scheme on

<https://urc.org.uk/your-church/family-friendly-church/>

URC CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK ONLINE

Facebook https://bit.ly/URC_CYW_FACEBOOK

Instagram: <https://bit.ly/URCInstagram>

Website https://bit.ly/CYW_RESOURCES

YouTube <https://bit.ly/URCCYW-youtube>

Online Calendar <https://bit.ly/URCCYWcalendar>

Join the Facebook
community for Faith
Adventures on
https://bit.ly/FACT_FB
to share ideas and hear
latest news



intergenerate UKI

A network for those in the UK and Ireland
engaged in Intergenerational Church .

29 January 2026 7.30-9pm

FREE webinar

[Information & Registration](#)

Intergenerational small groups with special guests Gail Adcock and Melanie Cave

ACT IT OUT!

Are you under 26?
Are you interested in using drama and dance in worship?
Do you want more confidence to share
your faith with your friends?

Then this **free** training day is for you!

SATURDAY 29TH NOV | 10AM-4PM
**LUTHER KING HOUSE BRIGHTON GROVE,
MANCHESTER M14 5JP**

contact megancyp@urcyorkshire.org.uk to book.
Transport Provided

The United Reformed Church West Midlands Synod

U26 PREACHING TRAINING

SATURDAY 13TH DEC 10:30am - 3:30pm

WYLDE GREEN URC

To register interest please email
cydo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Refreshments provided

Please bring lunch

@URC_WEST_MIDS_YOUTH

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

29 November 2025 **Under 26s Act It Out** , Manchester

28-30 November 2025 **Children's Workers Together Conference**, Northampton

12-13 December 2025 **20s-40s Gathering** , Cambridge

13 December 2025 **Under 26s Preaching Training**, Birmingham

27 February—1 March 2026 **URC Youth Assembly** , Northampton

27 February—1 March 2026 **Youth Leaders Gathering**, Northampton

2-4 May 2026 **1T4 11-14s Youth Event**, Lichfield

Next bi-monthly newsletter January 2026

Please note: If you wish to contact us, receive this bimonthly newsletter directly or no longer wish to subscribe please email children.youth@urc.org.uk or phone on 020 7916 8683. Our Data privacy note is here: <https://urc.org.uk/privacy-policy/>