

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new format bi-monthly e-newsletter. We are trialling have a Word version to make it easier for people to copy and paste material into their own newsletters and communications. Do let us know if this is helpful! There is also a PDF version. We are also working on more streamlined communications from the whole Faith in Action team (our new department) so the timing will alter a little to fit this new pattern.



Having said all that hopefully you will find the usual mixture of information about training, resources and inspiring stories to resource you in your work with children and young people.

My personal news is that I will be moving on at the end of March, after eight and a half years. Please pray for the process of recruiting my successor to take the work forward in the next season. The job details can be found here: <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

Blessings,



Sam Richards, Head of Children's, Youth and Intergenerational Discipleship

URC Youth Assembly 2026 and URC Youth Leaders Gathering 27 February – 1 March 2026

URC YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2026

LAST CHANCE!

WISE WORDS

WISER ACTIONS

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

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

Youth decides

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

URC YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2026

27 February – 1 March 2026

Highgate House, Northampton

Keynote: Rev Dr. Ash Barker

£210

Wise Words - Wiser Actions

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.

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>

**BOOKINGS CLOSE
ON SUNDAY 25
JANUARY 2026 !!!!!**

URC Youth Leaders Gathering

Keynote: Rev Dr. Ash Barker

£210

27 February – 1 March 2026

Highgate House, Northampton

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 wiser 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>

[www.linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly](http://linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly)

<http://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering>

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.



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.

BOOK NOW

www.linktr.ee/1T4event

Leaders are welcome to accompany young people that they bring to 1T4
contact children.youth@urc.org.uk for information

Talking About



ABC's of LGBTQ+ inclusive language

A place to start learning about the LGBTQ+ Community

With space for asking of questions about how

to support Children & Young people

Wednesday 18th Feb 7-8pm

<https://bit.ly/T4lkingAbout>





Parade service guidance

We have worked with the URC Guide and Scout Fellowship to produce helpful guidance for churches considering offering a parade service for uniformed groups connected to the church or meeting at their premises. It takes you through the planning process with understanding of the needs of the uniformed groups and how to welcome and involve the children and young people within them. See: [Family-friendly church - United Reformed Church](#)

We are also offering small grants of £50 or £100 to enable churches to build their connections with uniformed groups: [Children & Youth work grants - United Reformed Church](#)



A conference with *a theology of hope*

Saturday 18th April 2026
£30 for day conference in Bath.

Betsy de Thierry MBE

More information:



[Trauma Informed Churches National Conference — Trauma Informed Churches](#)



Practical 'How To' Films for everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and/or young families!

Over thirty bite-sized films are now available from Church of England to support anyone involved in ministry with children, young people, and their families (CYPF). These short videos tackle real-life questions like "How do I start a conversation with a child?" and "How can I support young people's wellbeing?"

Each film is packed with practical tips, creative ideas, and Biblical wisdom. Whether you're a church leader, volunteer, or simply curious to learn more, you'll find valuable insights to help strengthen and grow your CYPF ministry. [Find all of the videos here](#)

An article by Dr Sarah Holmes & Dr Sam Richards has been published in Journal of Values and Beliefs: [Do they have the support they need? Illuminating the experiences and perspectives of Christian youth, children and family workers in the UK](#)





Limitless Festival is a vibrant summer gathering for young people, featuring dynamic ministry and a packed programme of activities, sports, events, seminars, workshops, and late night venues.

Are you 11 or over and under 18, involved in the United Reformed Church and interested in going to this great event?

For more details contact:

Rev Andrew Willetts mdoandrew@urcwestmidlands.org.uk 07828195831 or
Rev Sally Willetts mdosally@urcwestmidlands.org.uk 07828110639

As God breaks out in our lives, we breakout into the world! So what does it look like to represent Jesus through mission, justice, social action and evangelism?

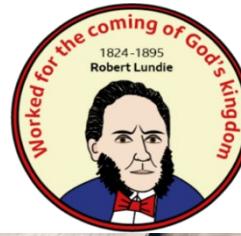
We book as a group; our group information can be found here:



LUNDIE MEMORIAL AWARD CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND YOUTH PEOPLE



January's Lundie Award was given to a very courageous member of URC Children. Seven-year-old Francesca Miller donated 20" of her hair to be used to create wigs for others who have lost their hair due to Cancer treatment. Francesca has also fundraised and managed to send £800 along with her hair to the Little Princess Charity. Well done Francesca – what a selfless and act that will benefit others immensely.



INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

To reflect our ongoing focus on becoming more intergenerational we now have a webpage dedicated to this on the URC website: [Children's, youth and intergenerational - United Reformed Church](#)



Free webinar Thursday 29 January 2026 **7.30-9pm**
Intergenerational small groups with special guests
Gail Adcock and Melanie Cave.

[Book here](#)

Online conference 24 February 2026 7-10pm

\$49 individual or \$39 student, \$99 for church/ministry group

Keynote Josh Packard: What if the most important skill for the future of the church is not better programming, clearer theology or stronger leadership, but deeper listening?

Seminars with Tammy Preston, Dave Csinos, Drew Smith, Melanie Cave, Lynette Hoffman, Dawson Murray, Stephanie Frizt, Paula Montes-Roldan.

<https://www.intergenerateconference.com/intergenerate-online-gatherings-registration/global-conference-feb-26>



LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

29 January 2026	Intergenerational small groups webinar
18 February 2026	Trauma informed church day conference
18 February 2026	Talking about.... LGBTQ+ inclusive language
27 February to 1 March 2026	YOUTH ASSEMBLY
27 February to 1 March 2026	Youth Leaders' Gathering
2 to 4 May 2026	1T4 youth weekend (for ages 11 to 14)
5 to 9 August 2026	Limitless festival

Next Bi-Monthly Update: March 2026