

Welcome to September's newsletter.

This is my first newsletter as Head of Children, Youth and Intergenerational Discipleship, and what a privilege it is to begin by sharing just some of the exciting opportunities, events and resources coming our way in the months ahead.

One of my greatest joys so far has been connecting with our Synod Children and Youth Leads. Time and again, I have been inspired by their creativity, dedication and deep commitment to children, young people and families across the URC. Their passion reminds me that, even in challenging times, God is at work.

I am noticing that across the denomination, faithful people are investing in the next generation, creating spaces where disciples of all ages can grow, belong and thrive together. Thank you for all you do. Your ministry matters, your partnership is valued, and I am excited about what we can achieve together.

Many blessings

Jo



Christmas is fast approaching - the bookshop is now taking orders for the Advent resource. This year's resource will comprise of an Advent calendar, little characters to colour in, cut out and stand up inside the calendar to create your own nativity. There are suggested activities and questions to help explore Jesus birth aswell

as an accompanying humorous story book – They should have used a camel. bit.ly/Advent2026



Exciting news – the Youth Mod blog has gone live!

Keep up to date on all goings on youth related around the URC.
Save this link to ensure you don't miss any monthly updates.

bit.ly/ModBlogURC

And here is a direct link to Kacie and Alex's first post: <https://urc.org.uk/overwhelming-welcome-for-mods-on-tour/>

LUNDIE MEMORIAL AWARD CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



10-year-old Rosie Stone, who was June's Lundie awardee, was nominated due to her passion about serving God in her local church. She is always lending her talents to services where she's invited to read Bible stories or give announcements.

Rosie's idea was to walk 10km in pyjamas to raise funds for OneByOne. <https://onebyone.org/our-story/>

The plan was to walk twice around Rother Valley Country park at 5km each circular walk. With help from Church members Rosie worked on an advertising poster, she worked hard raising sponsorship for the 10km walk, taking ownership of the event and because of her, to date, £2500 has been raised for OneByOne. Well done Rosie - an inspiration to us all.

Perhaps there is someone in your church who is 25 years or younger who you would like to nominate for this award? Only 30 awards remain

so be quick! Details can be found here: bit.ly/URCLundie



*****Children and Youth workers conference*****

We're planning a national weekend for children, youth and intergenerational workers in the United Reformed Church on **1-3 October 2027**.

We want it to be a weekend that equips, encourages and inspires those involved in ministry with children, young people and families.



Your feedback will help shape the location, programme and priorities for the weekend. Thank you for helping us make it the best it can be.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdL_oPRj20Ob249aKiKAJ9r1d4Q+V8Ai81UNNc9dGNW+mrQDA/viewform

NEW FREE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

Children's Ministry Essentials 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.

Please watch the video trailer! <https://youtu.be/IHGCz8QakFA>

Join an online learning group facilitated by our wonderful CYDO+ team. If you are engaging in ministry with children, families or intergenerationally within a URC church or Local Ecumenical Partnership, we are offering free places (normally £80-£100 person). Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk to register your interest and for more details.



TALKING ABOUT... 2026

- WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18 LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
- WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 THE FAMILY FILM CLUB RESOURCE
- MONDAY APRIL 20 INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
- THURSDAY 28 MAY TALKING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
- THURSDAY JUNE 18 BAPTISM & DEDICATION
- TUESDAY JULY 21 CONNECTING WITH UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS
- MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21 **CANCELLED**
- MONDAY OCTOBER 19 HOW TO DISAGREE WELL
- TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER CHRISTIANITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
WWW.BIT.LY/TalkingAbout

Did you know that most of the talking about sessions can be found on our YouTube channel:
<https://bit.ly/YTplaylistURC>

Help Shape Future Resources

What's working well? What's missing? Your experience can help shape resources for children, youth and intergenerational ministry across the URC.

Scan the QR code and complete the survey by 2nd November 2026 and help us create resources that truly meet the needs of our churches:

URC Children's, Youth and Intergenerational Resources Survey – Fill in form



 **intergenerate UKI**

ADDRESSING INTERGEN SAFEGUARDING ANXIETIES


Sam Richards

Wednesday 14 October 2026
7:30-9:00 pm on Zoom
Free
Register on Eventbrite


Justin Humphreys

SAVE THE DATE



URC - Godly Play Core Training Course

16-18 October 2026

East Midlands Synod Office,
Sherwood, Nottingham
Training facilitated by Richard
Knott & Alison Summerskill

Led by two experienced trainers, this course is a mixture of trainer-led sessions and opportunities for coached participant storytelling. We work to model a Godly Play environment, with the opportunity to use and see a comprehensive set of resources. Each day focuses on a different kind of Godly Play presentation (sacred stories, parables and liturgical action/church practice) to help you begin to understand how different genres of Christian language support spiritual exploration.

Workshops in this core training also cover:

- The Spirituality of Childhood
- Setting up a Godly Play environment
- Your particular context, concerns and questions.



"The Godly Play training gave me the time to explore more deeply this brilliant approach, and it was really accessible"

"Since going on the Godly Play training course, I have used forms of Godly Play frequently in our weekly worship and children's groups. I would highly recommend." (The Revd Ruth Maxey)



This three-day course is hosted in partnership with the East Midlands Synod and held at the Synod Office in Nottingham.

The cost is £50 to anyone connected with a URC congregation including Local Ecumenical Partnerships which reflects a subsidy from the URC Children, Youth and Intergenerational department and includes all course materials, meals, and refreshments.

Places are available to others a cost of £315, financial support may be available through your own church or denomination.

If you would like information about overnight accommodation nearby, please get in touch. For more information or to book your place please email 'trainingpa@urc5.org.uk'.

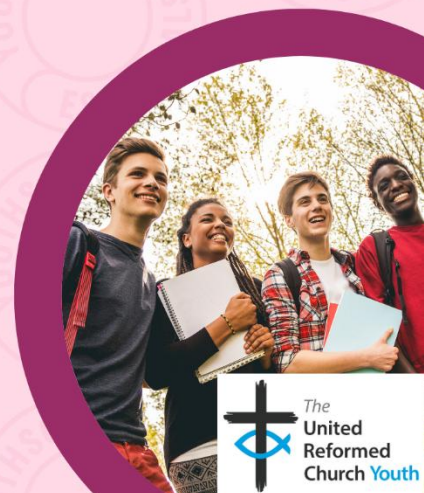
Youthscape Essentials Deep Dive

Worship in Youth Ministry

Join us in this one off session as we explore Why do we sing? How do we involve young people in worship? How do we create spaces for them to meet God?



Tuesday 22 September
7pm to 9pm
<https://shorturl.at/Mp26u>



LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

21 September	Talking About...making the most of the advent resource
22 September	Youthscape deep dive
14 October	Intergenerate UK webinar
16-18 October	Godly Play training
19 October	Talking About.....how to disagree well

Next Bi-Monthly Update: November 2026



NEW TERM Prayer

A prayer for children, young people and the leaders

FOR CHILDREN



Dear God,
Thank You for a new term and new beginnings.
Help the children to learn, grow and be the best they can be.
Help the children to be curious, to ask questions and try new things.
Help the children to be kind in their words and actions, to make good choices and to be good friends.
Amen.



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Dear God,
Thank You for this new term and the opportunities ahead.
Help the young people to discover their purpose, to stay focused and not give up when things get hard.
Help the young people to be surrounded by friends who encourage and support them.
Help the young people to grow in wisdom, strength and confidence, and to put their trust in You.
Amen.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

FOR LEADERS



Dear God,
Thank You for calling the leaders to lead and serve.
Help the leaders to give wisdom, patience and a servant's heart.
Help the leaders to make good decisions, to create safe and welcoming spaces where children and young people can grow in faith and flourish.
Help the leaders to lead with joy, compassion and integrity each day.
Amen.



Lord, bless the children, young people and leaders this term. Guide them, protect them and help them to shine Your light in all they do. Amen.