



The
United
Reformed
Church

Children's and Youth Work

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



Welcome to the July 2024 update from your support team in Children's and Youth Work for the United Reformed Church.

Dear Friends,

Wimbledon has started, football continues, the Tour de France is hotting up, the Olympics are just around the corner, and cricket is being played on village greens. Summer is officially here – and not just a summer of sport but also one of Story, Story, Story. We hope you are enjoying our theme for the year. See below for the linked holiday club and Advent resource, as well as the URC Children's Workers Conference which will also explore story. As always, we are delighted to share the stories of the latest Lundie Awardees – and the Make Lunch success story from a local church.

We pray you find time for rest, relaxation and recovery over the summer as well as lots of fun and laughter with the children and young people you serve. May God's face shine upon us, even if the sun doesn't.

Sam Roberts



ADVENT RESOURCE 2024– Step into the Story



This year's Advent Packs from the URC Children's and Youth Work team invite people to 'step into the story' as we focus on Christmas as everyone's story with traditions, crafts and recipes from around the world to enrich the celebration.

The packs, designed for local URC churches to give to families they have connection with, come in A5 envelopes which are left unsealed for churches to add their own material and invitations. Packs contain an original story book, a book full of inspiring activities and an A3 sticker Advent calendar to engage with the Christmas story. There will be a separate A2 poster for churches to display and ideas for linking church activities to the packs.

Preorder from the URC bookshop <https://urcshop.co.uk/the-urc-2024-advent-packs-step-into-the-story/> **before 30 August** to ensure you are not disappointed. £3 (Plus P&P) for a single pack, £28 (Plus P&P) for 10 packs or £65 (Plus P&P) for 25 packs.

Email children.youth@urc.org.uk for more information or to find out how your URC church or LEP can apply for a grant towards these.

KNOW AND GROW - MAKATON COURSE FOR CHURCHES

As part of our drive to help churches become increasingly accessible and welcoming to all, URC Training is delighted to be able to offer subsidised access to the new KNOW AND GROW training, a Makaton course which focuses specifically on the signs you might use in worship and church-based groups. Makaton is a system of signing and using symbols to aid spoken and written communication.



Each course comprises two online sessions and you must be able to attend both. Sadly, due to limited spaces, we can offer this only to those associated with a URC church or LEP. The cost is just £18 to cover the printed manual which you will be able to keep.

Sessions are 9.30am-12.30pm on Friday 20 & 27 September, Saturday 21 & 28 September, Saturday 12 & 19 October.

Book now on: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/know-and-grow-makaton-course-tickets-895283676577>

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

We have been delighted to award Lundie medals to two more under-26s who are playing their part in the mission of God. The first went to 16 year old **Lily Wood** from South Western Synod. Lily volunteers weekly at Westfield Show Choir (a church-based community choir for children and young people from many different backgrounds, and with ADHD, autism, anxiety disorders etc), assists with fundraising and a holiday club for the choir, and organises the church Christingle service.



The second went to 17 year old **Faith Pepper** from Eastern Synod. Faith is described as an invaluable part of the Youth Work team and a keen evangelist, involved in the planning, leading and volunteering for a wide range of activities within the church family, including an SEND Messy Church, junior church and youth club. She also produces PowerPoint slides for all-age worship and mentors young people.



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/>

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK



This year the **Christian Resources Exhibition** is being held at the Marshall Arena at Milton Keynes and members of the URC Children's and Youth Work team will be helping out on the URC stand as usual. Sam Richards, Head of Children's and Youth Work, will also be giving a seminar on Youth Work in Private Dwellings on the Wednesday.

Once again we are able to provide vouchers to enable you to get in free of charge. Get your free ticket and visit the URC at Stand P10 at the Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE) 2024 taking place 9-10 October. <https://bit.ly/URCatCRE>

DO YOU HAVE UNIFORMED GROUPS CONNECTED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

A new small grant of £50 or £100 is now available from Children's and Youth Work/Discipleship Development Fund to support churches seeking to strengthen their relationship with a uniformed group (Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Guiding or Scouting). <https://bit.ly/CYWgrants>

This could be anything from provision of accommodation to funding a suitable event or activity. The church might host a sleepover event, donate resources or give URC Children and/or URC Youth cloth badges to the members; or the groups might organise a cleanup of the church gardens, redecoration of the space they use, joint eco project or other creative idea. This could be matched funding to a URC Guide & Scout Fellowship grant (www.urcgsf.org.uk) or a stand-alone grant.



SPARKS AND STORIES is this year's holiday club material from URC Children's and Youth Work. Tying in with the annual CYW theme of Story, Story, Story, the 2024 holiday club invites you to gather round the campfire, marshmallows on sticks and hot chocolate in hand, and share in the greatest story of all. <https://bit.ly/URC-holidayclub>



As usual, the resource is supported with appendices helping you adapt the material for younger children, young people, intergenerational groups and vintage holiday club. Also provided are videos of the dramas and stories along with all the paperwork you might need to run your holiday club.

Once again, grants of £50 or £100 will be available to support URC churches who choose to run a holiday club in 2024. <https://bit.ly/CYWgrants>

Free and subsidised training and opportunities from the URC for the URC

Have you booked yet for our first ever URC Children's Workers Together: The Conference ?

Running from 1 to 3 November at the beautiful Ripon College, Cuddesdon, this is an opportunity to be refreshed and encouraged in your ministry amongst children and families, whether you are an employed worker or volunteer.

Here are some highlights from the programme:

- * Friday : Welcome and worship, interactive getting to know you session, late -night programme and bedtime story
- * Saturday: Worship and Keynote, Workshops, exploring seasonal resources and ideas, focused groups, Family Film night experience, Bedtime story
- * Sunday: Keynote and small groups, Worship – Brick Church



The provisional workshops on offer are on child participation, intergenerational ministry, storytelling, and Music in ministry while the session on exploring seasonal resources and ideas offers a choice of seasons of life (eg transitions, baptisms and communion), Church in the seasons outside, seasons of the Christian calendar, and the difficult seasons (e.g. bereavement and loss, Mothers' Day etc).

There will be an exhibition of resources for you to explore and lots of opportunity to share ideas and network with others, together with chance to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Ripon College.

The cost of all this, including accommodation, meals and other refreshments, is £150 per person with some places available for day visitors. Don't forget to approach your church and your synod for financial support or grant funding.



Book now on bit.ly/URC-children-conference or use this QR code

Safeguarding Children and Young People in Churches

September 10th
1pm – 3.30pm
On Zoom

The United Reformed Church Safeguarding
www.urc.org.uk

A more in depth look at scenarios around Children's safeguarding.

Discussions around the challenges of safeguarding within the non-statutory sector.

An insight into grooming.

A look at the specific safeguarding concerns that could be raised within the church and how to respond to these.

Email Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk to Book.

On 10 September from 1pm to 3.30pm, the URC Safeguarding team will be offering a zoom workshop on the theme of safeguarding children and young people in churches.

It will provide a more in-depth look at scenarios around Children's safeguarding, discussions around the challenges of safeguarding within the non-statutory sector, an insight into grooming, and a look at the specific safeguarding concerns that could be raised within the church and how to respond to these. A valuable opportunity for anyone involved in children's and youth work, not just the safeguarding leads in your church and all it costs is a few hours of your time.

Contact Emma.pearce@urc.org.uk to book your place.



TALKING ABOUT

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, pauses now for the summer months.

Keep your eye on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-531991911127> and on our Facebook page for news of Talking About.... for the Autumn term.

URC CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK ONLINE

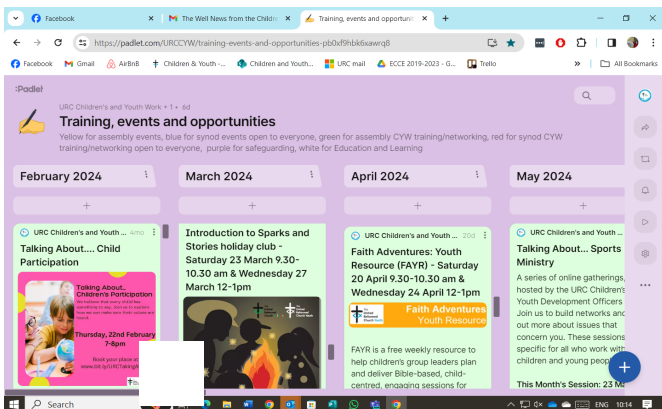
Facebook [https://bit.ly/URC CYW FACEBOOK](https://bit.ly/URC_CYW_FACEBOOK)

Website [https://bit.ly/CYW RESOURCES](https://bit.ly/CYW_RESOURCES)

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

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/URCCYWD/>

Keep in touch with
events, resources
and training



The Children's and Youth Work team across the Assembly and synods have launched a calendar where you can see all the URC events and training relevant to your ministry among children, young people, young adults and families, including those offered by Safeguarding and Education & Learning.

Take a look on <https://bit.ly/URCCYWcalendar>

Resources and events offered by other providers



Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) partners with several URC Churches through their Make Lunch programme, providing nutritious meals and fun activities for children and families struggling with food poverty in their local community. Read more about it on the URC website <https://urc.org.uk/transform-lives-for-good-by-making-lunch/>. Maybe this is something your church might consider.

Tune in to Parenting for Faith Facebook Live on Tuesday 16 July at 8pm for their online session **Different ways to engage kids and teens in.... THE BIBLE.** <https://www.facebook.com/parentingforfaithBRF>

parenting
for faith®

Care for the Family are offering three in-person parenting events in October entitled **A Mind Of Their Own**. These events will give parents, carers, and anyone working with young people, practical and preventative tools to understand pressures affecting mental health and help your children build strong emotional resilience and healthy mental wellbeing. See <https://bit.ly/P4F-mind> for more information and to book.



The **National Youth Ministry Weekend (NYMW)** is being held from 22 to 24 November 2024 in Birmingham. Go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/nymw/home> for more information, to see the programme and to book.

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

10-12 July 2024	What Do You Think (preparation for youth reps to General Assembly)
12-15 July 2024	General Assembly of the United Reformed Church
30 August 2024	Last date for pre-order of Advent Packs—Step into the Story
Summer 2024	Sparks and Stories Holiday Club available online
10 September 2024	Safeguarding Children and Young People in Churches
20/27, 21/28 September	Know and Grow-Makaton for Churches
9-10 October 2024	Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE) at Milton Keynes
12/19 October 2024	Know and Grow-Makaton for Churches

Next Bi-Monthly Update : early September 2024

Please note: If you no longer wish to subscribe to the bimonthly newsletter from URC Children's and Youth Work, please email children.youth@urc.org.uk to request that your name is removed from our mailing list.

You can **contact us** by email on children.youth@urc.org.uk or phone on 020 7916 8683. Our website is <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people>, Facebook [bit.ly/URC CYW FACEBOOK](https://bit.ly/URC_CYW_FACEBOOK) or you can use good old snail mail.

AND FINALLY If you have received this as a paper copy or by a friend forwarding it to you and you would like to be added to our mailing list, please do sign up here: bit.ly/URCCYWbimonthly Our Data privacy note is here: <https://urc.org.uk/privacy-policy/>