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Collectively known as MK Can, the church, alongside 250 organisations, joined Milton Keynes Food Bank’s effort in creating the longest line of food cans that they could. Surpassing their target, a 10km line of food cans was created which earned them a Guinness World Records title. [**Learn more about this amazing feat**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C57B8-1/c.aspx)**.** | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Leaders call for immediate ceasefire** |  |  | | --- | | A large city with a large plume of smoke  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly and the Revd Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator-Elect of the National Synod of Scotland, have joined Christian Aid and more than 20 church leaders and Christian organisations in calling for a ceasefire and for all governments with influence to bring an immediate end to the violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. [**Read the statement in full**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4C65-1/c.aspx) | | | |  | | --- | | **New safeguarding guidance** |  |  | | --- | | A blue circle with a logo and a symbol of a person  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Two hundred and seventy-five people attended the recent launch of Good Practice 6 (GP6), the URC’s guidance on arrangements and procedures to safeguard children, adults and those in greater need. A copy of the guidance is being sent to every church. Additional copies can be purchased from the URC Bookshop. [**Learn more about GP6**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C5A5P-1/c.aspx). | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Christmas service sheets, posters and giveaway booklets** | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A blue and white christmas card  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Christmas Giveaway Booklets**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4ZUI-1/c.aspx) - a beautifully designed 16 page A5 booklet to give away to explain the real meaning of Christmas. Available in packs of 25. £3.99 +p&p. | | | |  | | --- | | A white and blue card with blue text  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Rejoice & Sing at Christmas**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4ZUJ-1/c.aspx) – a large print A5 booklet with all of the carols from Rejoice & Sing and other popular carols and Christmas songs too. 99p +p&p. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A blue and white christmas card  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Christmas Posters And Service Sheets**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4ZWM-1/c.aspx) in A3, A4 and A5 sizes designed for you to add your  own text and to overprint using a photocopier or printer. A3 £1.99 for 10, A4 £1.99 for 25, A5 £1.99 for 25. | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A blue gift box with silver ribbon  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | NEW! [**Christmas Present Giveaway Leaflet**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C67MB-1/c.aspx) - printed on FSC certified paper and using eco glitter, this leaflet is meant to be given away at churches, posted through letterboxes, or given away at concerts, shopping centres, schools, care homes – wherever you tell others about the real meaning of Christmas. Each leaflet has a space on the back for details about your church. Available in packs of 10, 50 or 100. £1.50-£13.00 +p&p. | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Grant funds Mexican adventure** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | A Children’s and Youth Work (CYW) grant of £500 has helped a teenager participate on an animal conservation adventure in Mexico. Maya Withall, aged 17, who is a member of the URC Youth Executive representing Wessex Synod, and applied to CYW’s Carmichael Montgomery Fund for the grant. The money helped fund Maya’s trip to the Mexican rainforest. [**Learn all about Maya's trip**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C00OF-1/c.aspx). | | | |  | | --- | | **Church House holds charity Bake Off** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people standing around a table  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | A Bake-Off style competition and charity cake sale was held at United Reformed Church House this week. Alongside cakes made and donated by staff and sold, £120 was raised for First Step, a charity supporting families of babies and young children with special needs and/or disabilities. After a lot of tasting and voting, a Sweet Potato and Ginger cake, made by Carole Sired, was declared the deliciously worthy winner. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Submit your prayers for 2025 Prayer Handbook** |  |  | | --- | | A collage of images of wine and bread  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Your prayers for the 2025 Prayer Handbook, with its theme *Immersive Joy*, are now invited. As well as the usual Lectionary-based prayers, there are prayers for everyday and extraordinary use. You are invited to write as you would pray – no special words or format is needed – to allow us to consider sharing your prayers with others in the URC and beyond. Wherever you are, wherever you have been, whatever the journey which moves you to write, we would love to hear from you. [**Learn how to submit your prayers**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C5SP6-1/c.aspx). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Download or print News Update** |  |  | | --- | | A downloadable version of News Update, formatted for print, and for churches to copy and paste into church newsletters or magazines will be available within a week of this edition being published. Please check [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1BZYZE-1/c.aspx). | | | |  | | --- | | **Share your good news** |  |  | | --- | | If you have a good news story that can inspire, raise hope or show God's work in action then please let URC Communications know. We would love to help share your news across the denomination and in local news outlets. Email the team [**here**](mailto:pressoffice@urc.org.uk?subject=News%20to%20share) or call 07976 753 250 | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Presbyterian Church of Myanmar visit** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people standing together  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Pek Muan Cuang, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM), visited Church House last month to meet with members of the Mission Team and former General Secretary the Revd John Proctor. John filled the team in on the URC’s historical relationship with the PCM. Pek also shared how the PCM is continuing to support local villages and communities in a number of ways following the military coup three years ago and the devastating cyclone Mocha six months ago. | | | |  | | --- | | **New Ministers' Conference** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people standing on a staircase  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | This year, 19 new ministers were welcomed at Church House at the New Minister's Conference. Twelve have just entered their Education for Ministry Phase 2 and were ordained or commissioned since June 2023, and seven ministers who have come to serve the URC, in the past year, on Certificates of Eligibility or Limited Service. The day started with worship led by Chaplain, the Revd Samantha Sheehan, and went on to meet Church House staff and hear about the work of the different departments. The Revd Jenny Mills, Secretary for Education and Learning, said: "It is the first time that we have welcomed them all together and it was both a joyful and encouraging day." | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New intergenerational worship resources** |  |  | | --- | | "Regenerational" is a free, exciting, international, collaborative project which provides four outlines of worship designed to introduce and promote the principles of intergenerational ministry in your church. [**Learn more about and download the resources**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C5EDC-1/c.aspx). Printed copies can be ordered on a print-on-demand basis from the Children's and Youth Work Team at £10 per copy including  P&P. [**Email the team for your printed copy**](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk?subject=Printed%20REGENERATIONAL). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **This month in *Reform* magazine** |  |  | | --- | | A magazine cover with a colorful head and text  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | In this month’s edition of *Reform*, Stephen Tomkins speaks to Anthony Reddie, recently appointed Oxford University’s first ever Professor of Black Theology. They talk about whiteness, the Church’s role in empire-building, and the decision to roll out anti-racist training across the United Reformed Church – a process that Anthony will lead. In the face of the Israel-Hamas war, Stephen also makes space for reflection, and there’s a full report on the initial response of faith communities to the situation. Viv Henderson learns from Jesus’ role as a healer, and Barbara Bennett wonders about the difference between worship and performance. There’s a warning about ‘pressing record’ from preacher and comedian Paul Kerensa, and four writers make their case for a book of the Bible we should spend more time with. [***Subscribe to Reform***](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C0W85-1/c.aspx)digitally or in print, alternatively for a free sample copy, please [**email the team**](mailto:reform@urc.org.uk?subject=Free%20sample%20Reform%20copy). | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A blue background with white text  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Please order online using the URC Bookshop’s easy-to-use website [**www.urcshop.co.uk**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1BZYZF-1/c.aspx) or by calling 020 7916 8629. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A book cover with mountains and sun  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [***Pastoral Care In Practice – An Introduction And Guide***](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4Z5P-1/c.aspx), by Michael Hopkins is for anyone seeking an accessible introduction to Christian pastoral care. This short guide offers a practical introduction to caring for congregations and communities. £11.99 +p&p.  A wooden christmas ornament with a tag  Description automatically generated | | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | [**Olive Wood Hanging Nativity Scene**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4ZIU-1/c.aspx) - a beautiful and elegant hand-made hanging nativity scene is the perfect adornment for your Christmas Tree. Featuring Mary and Jospeh in the stable stood over the manger, the ornament is made from Olive wood and was hand crafted and fairly traded in Bethlehem. £5.99 +p&p. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of felt nativity crafts  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Get crafting at Christmas with this fun make-your-own Nativity scene craft kit**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4Z93-1/c.aspx). Pre-cut felt shapes to be sewn together with wool, included, and decorated, all decorations are also included, to make an angel, Mary and the Baby Jesus, Joseph, a shepherd, the three Wise Men, a donkey, a camel, the star and the stable. Scissors and stuffing are also included, along with a set of instructions. £7.99 +p&p. | | | |  | | --- | | A hand holding a group of cards  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Five sets of 45 lavishly illustrated and richly printed Bible verse cards**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4ZO3-1/c.aspx), or a complete set of 225 cards. The sets of use the themes of Unity, Trinity, Unique, Roots and Lovers & Fighters, each card is illustrated with the Bible verse on the reverse. All cards are in colour and printed on thick, hard wearing FSC Certified card and finished in soft-feel varnish. £26-£94.50 +p&p. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Synod news** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **National Synod of Wales** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | A white circle with blue text and brown leaf  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Congratulations to City URC in Cardiff, and Abergavenny URC which have both been awarded a Bronze Eco Church Award from A Rocha UK. [**Learn how your church can become an Eco Church in England and Wales**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C5DS9-1/c.aspx). [**Learn about Eco Congregation in Scotland**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C5DSA-1/c.aspx). | | | |  | | --- | | **National Synod of Scotland** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | A group of people in a room with presents  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Volunteers from Barrhead URC and Methodist friends filled 85 shoeboxes with gifts for Blythswood Care, a Christian organisation which is sending the boxes to people in Eastern Europe for Christmas. £100 was also donated towards donating the items. | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What's On** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Greenhouse Barnes** |  |  | | --- | | The Greenhouse at Barnes Close's Christmas celebration takes place on 1 December at 6.30pm and will be a bring-and-share eating event. It's 'Friends Winter Weekend' retreat takes place from 1-3 December. The event offers simple morning, midday and evening prayers, a Christmas celebration for its supporters, an outdoor nativity event, and a restful space. The Greenhouse is a place for rooted faith and flourishing communities. [**Learn more about The Greenhouse at Barnes Close and how to book**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1BZZ9G-1/c.aspx). | | | |  | | --- | | **Just Money Conference** |  |  | | --- | | Get your free tickets to the JustMoney Movement's conference and join its supporters and campaigners as they explore how money can build a fairer, greener future – focusing this year on the role of money in tackling poverty and exclusion. Dr Ash Barker, of Seedbeds, will be speaking alongside Churches Together General Secretary (CTE) and JustMoney Patron, Bishop Mike Royal. [**Book your ticket**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4B02-1/c.aspx). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Week of Prayer** |  |  | | --- | | The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18-25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time. The theme for 2024 is ‘You shall love the Lord your God… and your neighbour as yourself’ (Lk 10:27) in other words 'go and do likewise. Free resources are available to download. [**Find more information on the theme and access the resources**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4QL2-1/c.aspx). | | | |  | | --- | | **Joint Pfalz Advent service** |  |  | | --- | | This year's joint URC Advent service with partner churches in the Pfalz region of Germany will be based on the Advent prayers drawn up by the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz, along the theme of 'God’s hope for our future’. The service will be hosted by yoURChurch and will take place on Zoom at 6pm on 17 December. The joining details are: Meeting ID: 965 1457 5443 Passcode: YourChurch. [**Alternatively, join the Advent service here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C57B9-1/c.aspx). | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Social Justice** |  |  | | --- | | **URC joins Let's End Poverty campaign** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [A person wearing glasses and a scarf  Description automatically generated](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4CDS-1/c.aspx) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  | | |  |  | | --- | | The URC has joined Let’s End Poverty, a major new social movement launched to help bring an end to poverty experienced throughout the UK. We are calling for politicians to make the end of poverty part of their party policies and their manifestos for the next General Election. Let’s End Poverty brings together the voices of people experiencing poverty, faith groups, charities and other organisations determined to see change. The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, URC General Assembly Moderator, recorded a video reflection on why she is motivated to end poverty. Click the play icon above to watch, alternatively [**watch the video**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4CDT-1/c.aspx). [**Find out more about the movement and how you can get involved**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4CDU-1/c.aspx). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Cost-of-living crisis film series** |  |  | | --- | | Baptists Together and The Fuelcast have produced a new series through four short films designed to help churches think about and respond to the impact of the rising cost-of-living on our neighbourhoods and communities. The series has input Joint Public Issues Team as well as church and community leaders. [**Access the resource**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4CA2-1/c.aspx). | | | |  | | --- | | **URC's environmental policy** |  |  | | --- | | The URC General Assembly has committed to being Net Zero by 2030. Although a huge challenge, we can all work towards this goal. A short introductory video on the URC's environmental policy has been produced to help us do so. Watch the video here. Short introductory films have also been produced on Eco Church in England and Wales and Eco-Congregation in Scotland. [**Watch these films here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4CJR-1/c.aspx). | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Give people in your neighbourhood a warm welcome this winter** |  |  | | --- | | People in neighbourhoods around the UK are having to decide between eating or heating. Social isolation is a rising issue in our communities, and warm spaces can be a lifeline for individuals who can otherwise feel alone. Warm Welcome exists to help people connect with warm spaces across the country. If your church is already providing a free, regular opportunity for people to meet together, receive hospitality and keep warm, [**please register for free with Warm Welcome to make sure your event is ‘on the map’**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4QKY-1/c.aspx). This will make your space much easier for people to find. If you’ve never offered a warm space before, a range of suggestions, including how to apply for funding to run your space can be found. [**Visit the Warm Welcome website**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4CNP-1/c.aspx). | | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Recruitment** |  |  | | --- | | **URC vacancies and beyond** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Complaints Procedure Volunteers**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4AVW-1/c.aspx)  The URC’s Complaints Procedure requires people to fulfil the functions in stage one (the preliminary assessment phase) and stage three (the investigation phase) on behalf of the General Assembly. If you feel you have the gifts, graces, and skills, [**please email Adrian Bulley**](mailto:adrian.bulley@urc.org.uk?subject=Volunteers%3A%20Complaints%20Procedures).  [**Finance Officer – West Midlands Synod**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4ASJ-1/c.aspx)  Term: Full-time (some evening and weekend work is required)  Salary: Up to £50,000  Closing date: Monday 13 November  **Iona Community vacancies** The Iona Community has a number of vacancies at the Iona Welcome Centre, Camas Outdoor Activity Centre on the Isle of Mull and within its mainland team. [**Learn about all the opportunities**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1Z7IH-A5T6F4-1C4AYO-1/c.aspx) | | | | | |