



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Children's and Youth Work

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



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

Dear Friends,

September - start of Meteorological Autumn, the new academic year (full of change for so many children and young people), and the Season of Creation when the natural cycle of the year reminds us to treasure the wonderful world God created and to honour our role as stewards of God's goodness within it. The world is turning - and we pray for a turning towards the coming upside down kingdom when the least and smallest will be the greatest.

September - last chance to register for the Children's Workers conference, first chance to book places at Youth Assembly (see attached), great opportunity to develop some new skills through the Know and Grow Makaton course specially designed for churches!

Enjoy the various updates and opportunities below, and look out for the mailing coming to all URC churches with safeguarding information and a poster to celebrate 50 Lundie Awards!

Sam Richards



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 9.30-12.30 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>

The chance to pre-order your Advent packs has now passed but if you missed your chance, there may be a few extras available in October—watch the URC bookshop for information. Meanwhile, the Faith Adventures series for December follows a parallel path, and if you look on our website you will see a range of ideas, suggestions and resources for linking to the Advent Pack themes in church. On our YouTube channel you will find a video version of the book "Step into the Story" from this year's Advent Pack as well as the four mini-books from the previous Advent Pack.



INTERGENERATE UK—a network for those in the UK engaged in Intergenerational Church—has now been launched, thanks in no small part to our own Dr Sam Richards in collaboration with an ecumenical team. Their website [Intergenerate.org](https://www.intergenerate.org) is now live and includes various items of interest, including news of a series of

webinars with guest speakers.

The first webinar is planned for 8 October from 7.30-9.00pm and looks at the theme of music in Intergenerational Church with special guests Stephen Fischbacher (Fischy Music) and Sam Hargreaves (Engage Worship). Further webinars in February and June 2025 will focus on preaching and on leadership—watch this space for further details. Booking for the first webinar is now open on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intergenerate-uk-webinar-tickets-996255064717> or bookable through the Intergenerate website.



There will also be opportunity to network and connect with like-minded people on the intergenerational journey on Saturday 23 November at 5pm at the National Youth Ministry Weekend and also at the Hand in Hand Conference in February 2026.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YET FOR OUR FIRST 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. Although bookings have now closed there may be a few extra places available for latecomers. Email children.youth@urc.org.uk to check.



URC Children's Workers Together
THE CONFERENCE
Exploring how we work with children together

Inspirational speakers
Variety of workshops
Wide range of resources
Networking opportunities
Worship together

Ripon College,
Cuddesdon OX44 9EX
Cost £150 per person
Bookings open from
Friday 1 to Sunday 3
November 2024 1 May 2024
Book on bit.ly/URC-children-conference

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

11-year-old William Eneso of Thames North Synod was nominated for the Lundie Memorial Award for his witness to others, his determination to help bridge the generational gaps in his church, and his strong faith.



Kingston URC is the most recent recipient of the Children and Youth Friendly Church plaque and certificate, having worked through the reflective process looking at how they welcome, support and hear the voices of children and young people and their families. They were described as a welcoming community, where all ages are able to fully participate and have opportunities to build a relationship with God and grow in faith



Meanwhile in Yorkshire, 14-year-old Imogen Illingworth has served refreshments at church since the end of Covid and helps engage and encourage a much younger church member. Like William, Imogen shares her faith with others and brings friends to church with her when she can.



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/>

During the first week of October, the URC Children's and Youth Work team will be boycotting their beds for one night in support of the **Action for Children Boycott Your Beds** campaign.

The campaign aims to raise awareness and donations for the work of Action for Children in securing a safe and happy childhood for all children and young people and their families. You can find out more about the campaign and the work of Action for Children here: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/boycott-your-bed/>.



If you would like to support our fundraising efforts, please do visit our fundraising page on <http://tiny.cc/CYW-A4C>



Stand P10

Come and meet us at
CRE 24 - Milton Keynes
Marshall Arena
9-10 October 2024

Click here for your FREE ticket

CRE CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION

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 at 12.30 pm in Room 2, Balcony

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>

Are you or your church involved with or interested in the Scout and Guide movements? Would you like to know more about the United Reformed Church Guide and Scout Fellowship (URCGSF) and what it can offer you ?

The first part of the next URCSGF will be an open meeting, held via Googlemeet on Saturday 2 November. The meeting will be opened at midday and everyone interested in considering how churches may interact with scouting and guiding organisations who meet on their premises and the mission opportunities that they present or who wants suggestions for activities based on scouting/guiding values is most welcome to join us.



The Googlemeet reference will be put on the home page of the Fellowship's website a few days before 2 November. <https://www.urgsf.org.uk>.

And don't forget that the URC Children's and Youth Work small grants fund also includes a special grant for churches seeking to increase their engagement with uniformed groups—<https://bit.ly/CYWgrants>

Talking About...Disability
can we ensure that what we of genuinely accessible for all?



Join us as we explore this issue with members of Roofbreaker team from ThroughTheRoof.org with a special emphasis intergenerational work

Thursday, September 26th 7-8pm
your free place at www.bit.ly/URCTalk

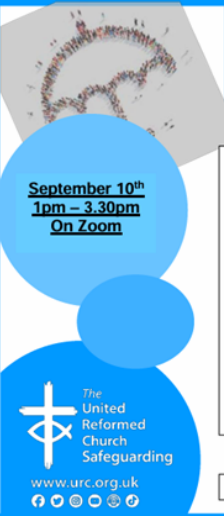
TALKING ABOUT ...

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, continues on 26 September 2024 when the theme will be exploring disability, particularly in the context of intergenerational worship, with guest speakers from 'Through The Roof'. Then on 24 October the theme will be Talking About... LGBTQ+. Sign up now on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-53199191127>

FAITH ADVENTURES: YOUTH RESOURCE

Following the success of Faith Adventures: Children Together and in response to feedback from groups catering for a mixed age range or with young people's groups, we now produce Faith Adventures: Youth Resource. This is a supplementary free Bible-based resource which extends the Faith Adventures materials to make it more appropriate for the 11-14 age range.

With this in mind, we have updated the bifold leaflet that we sent to all churches to reflect the addition of new materials. Find it on our webpage or in the all-church mailing which will be sent out to all URC CYW church contacts this month.



Safe guarding Children and Young People in Churches

September 10th
1pm – 3.30pm
On Zoom

The United Reformed Church Safeguarding
www.urg.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 safe-guarding team will be offering a zoom workshop on the theme of safe guarding 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 safe-guarding 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 safe guarding leads in your church and all it costs is a few hours of your time. [Email emma.pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:emma.pearce@urc.org.uk)

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/>

Our online calendar of training and events <https://bit.ly/URCCYWcalendar>

Resources and events offered by other providers



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.

Parenting for Faith offers regular Facebook Live sessions with Rachel Turner and on Thursday 17 September you can join her at 8pm as she talks about **Different ways to engage kids and teens in...Halloween** <https://www.facebook.com/parentingforfaithBRF/>

National Day of Prayer for Schools 27 September 2024 Join Pray for Schools, Youthscape, PAIS, Prayer Spaces in Schools, Scripture Union, Youth for Christ, and many others in one of two 30-minute online events as we Pray for Schools on Friday 27 September at 7am or 1pm. Pray for Schools aims to mobilise Christians to support their school communities through prayer. Find out more or register to join together in prayer for our school communities on <https://paimovement.com/ndopfs/>

JOIN THE CONVERSATION 4 – International Intergen Collective Free online event 16 October 8-9.30pm : Deepening the conversation and developing practice in intergenerational ministry

Speakers to include:

Dr. Joe Azzopardi, Director of Intergenerational Solutions.

Theresa Cho, <https://theresaecho.com/>

John Nebare, a Seventh Day Adventist pastor from Papua New Guinea.

Join the Conversation 4 Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/join-the-conversation-4-tickets-927207270907>

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

10 September 2024	Safeguarding Children and Young People in Churches
20/27, 21/28 September	Know and Grow—Makaton for Churches
26 September 2024	Talking About.....
9-10 October 2024	Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE) at Milton Keynes
12/19 October 2024	Know and Grow-Makaton for Churches
16 October 2024	Join the Conversation 4
1-3 November 2024	URC Children's Workers Together: THE CONFERENCE

Next Bi-Monthly Update : early November 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/>