



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## Children's and Youth Work

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



Welcome to the March 2025 update from your support team in Children's and Youth Work for the United Reformed Church.

Dear friends,

Our big news is that Lorraine is taking early retirement from the end of March! We will be losing an immensely valued colleague and I am sure you will want to join me and the team in wishing her a well deserved rest as she plans to relocate and re-engage with local church ministry. Lorraine has been instrumental in the development of many of our wonderful resources over the past seven years—including editing this bimonthly. She will be sorely missed.

We are about to enter the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter—a time for us all to reflect on what we are being called to put down and give up so that we can embrace the fullness of new life offered to us through Jesus. Please pray for us as we pray for you during this time of change.

*Sam Roberts*



### NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ESSENTIALS TRAINING

<https://youtu.be/IHGCz8QakFA>

Children's Ministry Essentials is the new course developed by the Children's Ministry Network (updating Core Skills for Children's Ministry). The course 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! (See link above)

The course can be accessed online at your own pace, or you can join a group learning together facilitated by our wonderful CYDO+ team. Each module normally costs just £10 and the whole course £80, but if you are engaging in ministry with children, families or intergenerationally within a URC church or Local Ecumenical Partnership, we will be offering free or discounted access to this course. Contact [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) to register your interest. (Other denominations may be making similar offers for those not involved in the URC!)



### JUST IN ! - NEW URC CHILDREN TOGETHER DRAWSTRING BAGS

Encourage your under 12s to take pride in being part of URC Children by gifting them one of our new URC Children bags. At just £3.25 plus p&p, they are made of recycled material and emblazoned with the Children Together badge. Or why not buy one of our cloth badges at £1 each? [Visit https://bit.ly/URCCYWmerch](https://bit.ly/URCCYWmerch)



### PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL AT YOUTH ASSEMBLY FROM 7 TO 9 MARCH

Please hold in your prayers all the young people attending, especially the Youth Exec and Youth Assembly Moderator and Mod Elect. We pray that it will be a fun and invigorating weekend which will strengthen faith and friendships and during which wise, spirit-led decisions will be made on behalf of the young people and young adults of the URC. We pray too for the discernment process for those responding to a call to stand for election at the event.

At the same time the conference for URC Youth Leaders will be taking place in Northampton.



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

### 1T4 YOUTH WEEKEND

1T4 is a new residential event for 11 to 14 year olds offered by URC Youth and the URC Children's and Youth Work team.

Dates: 2 to 4 May 2025

Venue: Whitemoor Lakes Activity Centre, Alrewas, Staffordshire

Cost: £120 per person

Booking form is available at <https://linktr.ee/1T4event>

**1T4 YOUTH EVENT**  
**WHITEMOOR LAKES, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 8QT**  
**2 - 4 MAY 2025**  
 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.

**COST £120**

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](http://www.linktr.ee/1T4event)

The United Reformed Church Youth

**UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025**  
 Make your booking by emailing: [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event
14 January, 2025 1:30pm	Domestic abuse
23 January 7:00pm	Supporting survivors
4 February 7:00pm	Modern slavery
13 February 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees
4 March 7:00pm	Substance abuse
18 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers
27 March 7:00pm	Adult safeguarding
24 April 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse
13 May 7:00pm	Online safety

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub [bit.ly/3Txdm4](http://bit.ly/3Txdm4)

The United Reformed Church Safeguarding  
[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DATES FOR 2025

- 4 March **Substance Abuse** 7pm - 9pm
- 18 March **Refugees and Asylum Seekers** 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- 27 March **Adult Safeguarding** 7pm - 9pm
- 24 April **Spiritual Abuse** 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- 13 May **Online Safety** 7pm - 9pm

Email [Emma.pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.pearce@urc.org.uk) to register interest and to book.

### URC Children's Workers Together: THE CONFERENCE— **SAVE THE DATE !**

Keep your eyes on Facebook and Padlet for news of our next Children's Workers' conference but for now put 28—30 November 2025 in your diaries. We have booked the fabulous Ripon College near Oxford again as our venue and will share more news as soon as we have it! Watch this space.

### TALKING ABOUT ....

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, continues on 25 March 2025 when the theme will be Toddlers, followed by a session on Digital Safeguarding on 24 April 2025. Both sessions run from 7pm to 8pm and include presentations, discussion and a chance for Q&A.

Sign up now on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-531991911127>

### TALKING ABOUT...

ONE HOUR, ONLINE SESSIONS INCLUDING PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND Q&A

- 27 FEB: HOLIDAY CLUBS
  - 25 MARCH: TODDLERS
  - 24 APRIL: DIGITAL SAFEGUARDING
  - 29 MAY: HOUSE BASED YOUTH WORK
  - 26 JUNE: THE REALITIES OF PORN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
  - 22 JULY: REST AND SELF-CARE FOR PRACTITIONERS
  - 25 SEPTEMBER: ADVENT
  - 28 OCTOBER: BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
  - 27 NOVEMBER: RESIDENTIAL / OVERNIGHT STAYS
- ALL 7-8PM.

**YOUTHSCAPE ESSENTIALS** increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today.

**You are invited to Youthscape Essentials, all round training for every volunteer youth leader.**

We are going to learn and pray in a community with a shared heart and hope for young people and for God.



Each of the 10 sessions includes:

- 1 insight into youth culture to explore
- 1 practical skill to try out together
- 1 area of Christian character to reflect on

We always start with the voice of a young person through a special recorded video, and we close by being sent out in hopeful prayer.


Whether you have been involved in youth ministry for years or you are thinking of getting involved, Youthscape Essentials is the place for you.

Running online, monthly, from Tuesday 25th February to Monday 24th November 7pm to 9pm. For a list of dates please contact [cp@youthscape.org.uk](mailto:cp@youthscape.org.uk). To book go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> or use the QR code and enter course code 1245085.

The ten sessions cover 30 topics, each with insights into young people, skills for youth work, and developing character. It makes no assumptions about your experience, age or background. It's accessible to those starting out as volunteers, but deep enough to stretch those who have been working alongside young people for longer. Each session is standalone, but we would like you to join in with as many sessions as you can. For more information on the course see <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse> and to book your place go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> and enter the course code 1245085. Join us from 7-9 pm on 25 February, 24 March, 28 April, 27 May, 23 June, 28 July, 26 August, 22 September, 27 October, and 24 November.

**RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK**



**2025 URC Children's and Youth Work Holiday Club**

**THE CLUBHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB 2025—NEW FREE RESOURCE**

The next Holiday Club from the URC Children's and Youth Work team is now online on [bit.ly/URC-holidayclub](http://bit.ly/URC-holidayclub)

Based on the 'All Are Welcome' theme, it will explore five New Testament stories through song and story, craft and discussion, eating, praying and playing together. As always, it will include appendices to help you adapt the materials for under fives, 11 to 14s, vintage holiday clubs or for an intergenerational event. It includes two new original songs by Roo Stewart and videos of all the dramas and story telling.

Grants for holiday clubs available: [urc.org.uk/grants-funding-opportunities](http://urc.org.uk/grants-funding-opportunities)


**RESOURCES COMING SOON !**

**COMING SOON TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU — 'ALL ARE WELCOME' THEMED RESOURCE**

The All-Church mailing will be arriving a little later this year and will include our new-style all age resource book, All Are Welcome. You will also find it online towards the end of April. With something for everyone, a special focus on 14—25 and intergenerational, and a free sampler for our free weekly Faith Adventures material for 0-14s, we hope you will find it useful.

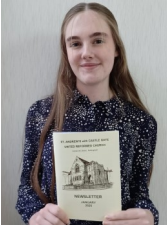
Also in the All-Church mailing you will find our new leaflet giving ideas for creating a “welcome bag” for children and others visiting your church.

**ADVENT RESOURCE 2025** Yes, we are already planning the next URC Advent Resource ready for Advent 2025. We have been in consultation with children's and youth workers around the country and have decided this year to produce a quality gift to give to families and a free, downloadable resource book for churches to supplement the material in Faith Adventures. More details will be available in our next bimonthly, but this is advance warning the pre-ordering will be from early July to 5 September via the URC bookshop to allow us to print the exact quantity needed.



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

A slightly unusual reason for someone to be nominated for a Lundie Award, but no less valuable a contribution. Throughout Covid 14-year-old Zoe Logan of East Midlands Synod started regularly contributing jokes to her church's weekly e-letter and has since contributed to do so, bringing a welcome smile to members of the congregation. She also her jokes into a booklet which she sold to raise money for Comic Relief. Zoe clearly takes her joking very seriously—described as “a small but significant service, and by far not the only thing she does for the church”.




22-year-old Jamie Laird of High Cross church took advantage of a CYW grant to volunteer with Travelteer for seven weeks in Sri Lanka. He was involved in conservation work as well as teaching English in a local school, Read more about his adventures on <https://urc.org.uk/high-cross-church-member-embarks-on-a-sri-lankan-wildlife-adventure/>



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/>





## 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/>

Online Calendar <https://bit.ly/URCCYWcalendar>

Join the Facebook community for Faith Adventures on [https://bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](https://bit.ly/FACT_FB) to share ideas and hear news of our Faith Adventures resources

## Resources and events offered by other providers

As part of a funding award from DCMS, The Boys' Brigade currently have grants available for churches who are interested in partnering to set up new Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association groups or Spaces discipleship groups. Grants of £1,500 are available to cover uniform, equipment and subscriptions for new BB groups and grants of £900 are available for equipment, event attendance and subscriptions for Spaces groups. Funding is currently available until the end of March 2025. You can find out more about the BB and Spaces via the following links:

<https://boys-brigade.org.uk/discover/> <https://spaceshub.org/discover/>

If you would like further information or want to arrange a Discovery meeting to discuss this opportunity, please contact [ministry@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:ministry@boys-brigade.org.uk)



### TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH FOR CYM, PARENTING FOR FAITH, WESTHILL, AND LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

Your views and thoughts are sought for research into **racial diversity** in children's and youth ministry <https://dsi34kj98os.typeform.com/to/JeP6alVm?typeform-source=cym.ac.uk>

<https://dsi34kj98os.typeform.com/to/Zt2xlQVO>

Stories, tips and encouraging quotes from or about **Christian grandparenting** are also needed: <https://dsi34kj98os.typeform.com/to/Zt2xlQVO>



### STOP MOTION ANIMATION: MAKING THE BIBLE BRICK BY BRICK

Gochatter studios plan to excite a new generation with the story of Jesus, from Genesis to Revelation, through engaging LEGO animations. Contact them to be a part of their next video.

Visit <https://gochatterstudios.org> or email [info@gochatterstudios.org](mailto:info@gochatterstudios.org) for more information



## LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

7 to 9 March 2025

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

7 to 9 March 2025

Youth Leaders' Gathering

25 March 2025

Talking About..... Toddlers

24 April 2025

Talking About.... Digital Safeguarding

2 to 4 May 2025

1T4 youth weekend (for ages 11 to 14)

1 July to 8 September 2025

Pre-order for Advent Resource 2025

**Next Bi-Monthly Update : early May 2025**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://bit.ly/URCCYWbimonthly) Our Data privacy note is here: <https://urc.org.uk/privacy-policy/>