

The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Children's and Youth Work

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

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

Dear Friends,

I pray you are enjoying the summer and the opportunity to take a break from the routine as well as enjoy special events and activities with children and young people.

We are very excited that two small groups of young people from the URC are heading to France this summer – one joining Le Grand Kiff as guests of Elgise Protestante Unie de France, and one on pilgrimage to Taizé. Please pray for them and their leaders.

It is not too late to join the volunteer team running the youth venues at Greenbelt – see below for details! Our lovely Advent Unpacked! gift for churches to use to build links with families can be pre-ordered up to 1 September – please get your orders in NOW! Grants are available for free packs to support churches in their work with families this Christmas. In addition, the team are working hard on wider resources to help your church celebrate through Advent – these will be available soon. Yes – it's almost time to start thinking about Christmas.... Blessings,

Sam Roberts



Unpack some Christmas traditions and the Christmas story one day at a time.

This alternative Advent calendar is a beautiful box of postcard-sized cards — one for each day in Advent. Alternating images of things associated with Christmas and characters from the Christmas story, there are fun facts and activity ideas on the reverse. Designed to be reusable, displayed like bunting or in other ways, the box includes a DIY nativity set.

Advent Unpacked! is a gift for local URC churches to give to families, produced by the URC Children's and Youth Work and Communications teams.

Pre-order at **£2.75-£3 per pack (plus P&P)**

by 1 September to avoid disappointment.

Grants available for free packs (just pay P&P)

– contact children.youth@urc.org.uk

for details.

<https://urcshop.co.uk/2025-urc-advent-kit-preorder/>

Advent resources for churches



Thinking of planning an under 5s toddler praise, a youth service, a café church or outdoor worship? Or would like to but not been sure how to approach this? Then this resource is for you, its full of tips, suggestions, activities and so much more. These new resources to aid your advent planning will be made available on the website as of Oct 1st.



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



The United Reformed Church Youth

THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD

CREATIVE WEEK

TUES 5TH – SAT 9TH AUGUST 2025
LUMEN, LONDON – WC1H 9RS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL (AGE 11–16)

CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF CREATIVE STREAMS INCLUDING
DRAMA, MUSIC, CREATIVE WRITING
MOVEMENT & DANCE, STAGE CRAFT

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.BIT.LY/CW-REGISTRATION

COME AND WATCH OUR SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE ON
SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST AT 4PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

TALKING ABOUT

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, continues on 22 July 2025 when the theme will be **rest and self-care** for practitioners. There will be a break over August, starting again with a session on **Advent** on 25 September 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->

Creative Week is coming! Running from Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th August 2025 at Lumen, London (WC1H 9RS), this exciting event is designed for young people aged 11–16 who are in secondary school. Participants can choose from a variety of creative streams—drama, music, creative writing, movement and dance, or stage craft—and spend the week developing their talents in a fun and supportive environment. The week concludes with a special showcase performance on Saturday 9th August at 4 PM, open to all. Don't miss out—register online now at www.bit.ly/cw-registration

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.

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!

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 to register your interest. (Other denominations may be making similar offers for those not involved in the URC!)



URC Children's Workers Together: THE CONFERENCE 28-30 November 2025!



Exploring how we work with Children together



By popular demand we are moving to
Highgate House Conference Centre in Northampton
for a sumptuous weekend of learning together.

The theme is participation and the wonderful
Peter Privett of Godly Play
and Child Theology Movement
(co-author of Through the
Eyes of a Child) will be our main speaker



Book your place today by emailing
children.youthurc.org.uk - full weekend
Places cost £210 (funding available through Synods or
Pilots).

workshops, worship, keynotes, networking, resources,
making, exploring, laughing

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

Go with Greta and #Connect2 – new resource on Ukraine for children and young people

This July, every church will receive a copy of Go with Greta and #Connect2 Transcarpathia (region of Ukraine), the latest in our series of resources created with Commitment for Life to help children, young people and adults to become more involved in mission, global development and social justice.

The series includes Zimbabwe, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Nicaragua. All are available to download here:

bit.ly/GowithGRETA

or printed copies can be ordered for free
from commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

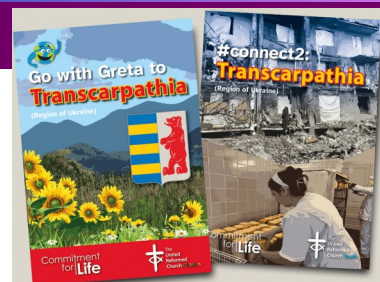
Each resource has two elements aimed at different age groups:

Go with Greta – 5 sessions for children aged between 5 and 10

#Connect 2 – 5 sessions for young people aged 11 to 14

You will find an accompanying video on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/Greta_Connect_YouTube

There is also an intergenerational celebration resource for use with all ages.



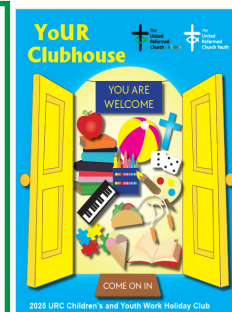
<https://bit.ly/uKRAINE> The URC has launched
an appeal in support of Ukrainian refugees and
Internally Displaced Persons located to the west
of Ukraine in Transcarpathia

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

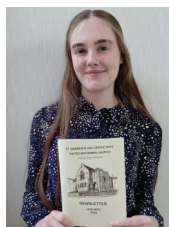
Based on the 'All Are Welcome' theme, it explores five New Testament stories
through song and story, craft and discussion, eating, praying and playing together. As
always, it will include appendices to help you adapt the materials for under fives, 11
to 14s, vintage holiday clubs or for an intergenerational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

Grants available to support your holiday club: bit.ly/HOLCLUBgrants



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 turned 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 7 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/](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

Instagram: <https://bit.ly/URCInstagram>

Website https://bit.ly/CYW_RESOURCES

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

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

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

NEW

Join the Facebook community for Faith Adventures on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB to share ideas and hear news of our Faith Adventures resources

Resources and events offered by other providers

Youth Mental Health First Aid® training for people living, working and volunteering with young people age 8-18.

Delivered over 4 separate online sessions.

Session 1: Monday 22nd September 2025 - 09:30 - 13:00

Session 2: Wednesday 24th September 2025 - 09:30 - 13:00

Session 3: Monday 29th September 2025 - 09:30 - 13:00

Session 4: Wednesday 1st October 2025 - 09:30 - 13:00

The course is open to participants associated with local URCs and LEPs linked to the URC. Spaces are offered at a subsidised rate of £38.79 per person. **Southern Synod**

Participants - Fully funded spaces are available for participants associated with local churches within URC Southern Synod.





Contact
children.youth@urc.org.uk
for more information

Artistry . Activism . Belief

Thu 21 – Sun 24 August 2025
Boughton House, nr Kettering

Are you aged 18+?
Do you enjoy supporting 12-17year olds?
Have you experience, gifts and skills to share?
Then volunteer on the URC run Youth Engagement Team.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM



Supporting, developing and nurturing disciples of Jesus

Scan the QR code to book



Intergenerational Faith Formation

workshop series: 15-17 August 2025
with guest speaker: Professor Dave Csinos



hosted by: **Livingston United Parish Church**

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

Next Bi-Monthly Update : early September 2025

Le Grand Kiff - French youth camp - 24 - 30 July

Taizé Pilgrimage - 10 - 17 August

Greenbelt - 21 - 25 August

Deadline to pre-order for Advent Resource 2025 is 1 September 2025

Youth mental health first aid - 22/24/29 September and 1 October

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 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/>