



The
United
Reformed
Church

Children's and Youth Work

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



Welcome to the September 2025 update from your support team in Children's, Youth and Intergenerational Discipleship for the United Reformed Church.

Dear friends,

It is all change at the start of the school year for many of our children and young people—I am sure you are busy supporting them through their new challenges and opportunities. It is also the start of a new season for us as a team, following the review of staffing at the Offices of General Assembly. We are now part of a much bigger team covering justice, lay learning, evangelism, ecumenism, intercultural and global church as well as our particular focus on children, young people and intergenerational discipleship. This brings new challenges as we adjust to being a smaller team, and new opportunities to work collaboratively across different areas of church life. Pray for us as we pray for you in our shared task of enabling children and young people to play their part in the mission of God.

Sam Riches



Children's, Youth and Intergenerational Resources for Advent

Whether you are involved with junior church, messy church, community events or intergenerational worship these resources should help support and guide your advent celebrations.

Under fives's praise service: A pick and mix selection of songs, stories, prayers, crafts and more to help shape an under five's praise service.

Youth service: A range of tools and suggestions to help plan and run an advent youth service. Order of service template included.

Advent trail and outdoor worship ideas: This resource would work well whether you have a large grassy area, a small tarmacked space or an indoor space.

Café church: A ready made café church service with songs, activities, creative response, discussion and prayer.

Make your own nativity set: 11 illustrations to print out on card, cut out and colour to build your own nativity set.

<https://urc.org.uk/advent2025>

ALL AVAILABLE FROM 1 OCTOBER 2025 ONWARDS ONLINE



Faith Adventures through Advent: Faith Adventures for Children Together (FACT) is a free weekly resource to support children's groups in planning and delivering Bible-based sessions for under 12s: bit.ly/FACT_resource. Faith Adventures - Youth Resource (FAYR) is a free weekly resource to support leaders in planning and delivering Bible-based sessions for age 11+: bit.ly/URCYouthFA. Available from 1 October 2025.

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

NEW FREE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING Saturday mornings 10am – 12noon

8 November & 13 December 2025; 10 January, 14 February, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 September and 3 October 2026.

Children's Ministry Essentials 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! <https://youtu.be/IHGCz8QakFA>

Join an online learning group facilitated by our wonderful CYDO+ team. If you are engaging in ministry with children, families or intergenerationally within a URC church or Local Ecumenical Partnership, we are offering free places (normally £80-£100 person). Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk to register your interest and for more details.



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.youth@urc.org.uk – full weekend
Places cost £210 (funding available through Synods or
Pilots).

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

TALKING ABOUT...

An opportunity for all those who work with children and young people to
gather and discuss relevant topics.
One hour, online gatherings including presentation, discussion and Q&A

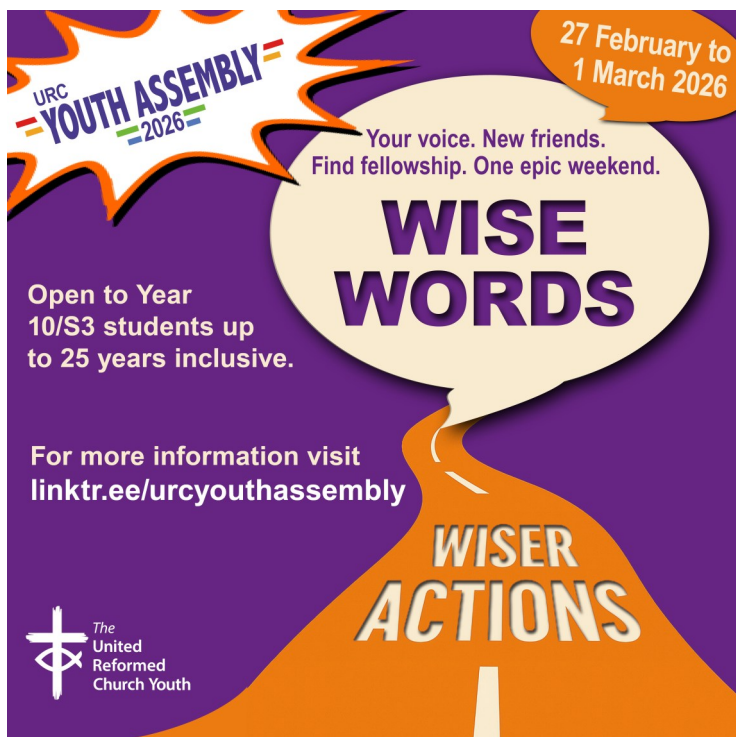


New link to book your
place:
<https://bit.ly/T4lkingAbout>



Thursdays 7 – 8pm
25 September
Advent
28 October
Brain development
27 November
Residential/
overnight stays





URC Youth Assembly 2026 27 February – 1 March

Bookings are now open: <https://linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly> or contact children.youth@urc.org.uk

Great venue with twin rooms and good food!
Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton, NN3 6LL

A weekend full of worship, workshops, entertainment and time to breathe.

Youth decides: What matters to you? Dive into real talk, make change happen, and engage with the wider church.

£125 early bird until 7 Dec.

£155 from 8 Dec until 25 Jan 2026.



Here's a taste of Youth Assembly 2025— see the video:

www.bit.ly/3TkqSfn

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

Three worthy Lundie award winners, each recognised for rather different but equally valuable contributions to the life of the Church.

12 year old Abbie's gentle warmth and positive energy helps encourage those she supports within the children and youth work. 19 year old Dan utilises his love of and skill of organ playing across two different churches. 14 year old James supports the Messy Church team, junior church team and along with his Grandad, helps facilitate the technology on a Sunday morning. Congratulations to them all!



Le Grand Kiff

Three URC Youth members joined more than 700 young people at Le Grand Kiff, a youth camp run by the United Protestant Church of France.

Alongside friends from Normandy, Korede Kassim (Wales), Laurel Banks (East Midlands) and Elliot Winterbottom (West Midlands) spent four days worshipping, debating, playing games and exploring the theme "Respire, Espere" (Breathe, Hope) with young people from across Europe and beyond. The youngsters were supported by Jamie Laird (Wessex Synod), Helen Everard (Minister Fleet URC) and Helen Laird (CYDO West Midlands).

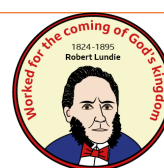


Do you know anyone 25 or under who is playing their part in the mission of God and deserves recognition?

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

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>

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



URC Conversation Starter Coasters—available from your synod

Every church will have received 10 coasters in the recent mailing from us . We would love to know how you make use of them! Please send pictures and stories to children.youth@urc.org.uk

Resources and events offered by other providers

7 October 2025 7.30-9pm FREE webinar

Intergenerational spaces: beyond Sundays with special guests Jen Robertson and Wendy Watkins

[Information & Registration](#)



intergenerate UK!

A network for those in the UK and Ireland engaged in Intergenerational Church

JOIN THE CONVERSATION 6

Thursday 16 October 2025 6-7.30pm

Free webinar hosted by International Intergen Collective

[JTC 6 Information & Registration](#)

With Peter Levenstrong, founder of Living Stories Sermons and TBC.

Join the live conversation—this will not be recorded!



international perspectives on intergenerational ministry

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

Advent Unpacked orders arrive late October 2025

Next Bi-Monthly Update : early November 2025

Talking about: Advent—25 September/ Brain Development—8 October

Intergenerate UK! Beyond Sundays—7 October

Join the conversation 6—16 October

Children's Ministry Essentials session one — 7 November

Children's Workers Conference— 28— 30 November

Youth Assembly—27 February—1 March 2026

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/>