

Dear Friends,

Welcome to July’s bi-monthly. This edition is crammed full of events and opportunities – not to be missed.

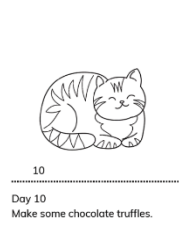


We welcome Dr Jo Griffiths who will head Children’s, Youth and Intergenerational Discipleship as of 1 July . Jo brings with her a wealth of experience, skills and passion. We look forward to what the future holds. You can find out more about Jo here:

<https://urc.org.uk/new-head-of-children-youth-and-intergenerational-discipleship-appointed/>



Although it is only July the bookshop will soon be taking orders for the Advent resource. This year’s resource will comprise of an Advent calendar which gets added to each day and which has suggested daily activities and an accompanying story booklet.



Please do keep an eye on emails, the website and social media for updates on how to order.

Blessings,

Sharon Lloyd, Programme Officer (Children’s, Youth and Intergenerational Discipleship)



TALKING ABOUT...

2026

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18	LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 25	THE FAMILY FILM CLUB RESOURCE
MONDAY APRIL 20	INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
THURSDAY 28 MAY	TALKING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
THURSDAY JUNE 18	BAPTISM & DEDICATION
TUESDAY JULY 21	CONNECTING WITH UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21	MAKING THE MOST OF THE ADVENT RESOURCE
MONDAY OCTOBER 19	HOW TO DISAGREE WELL
TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER	CHRISTIANITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
WWW.BIT.LY/TalkingAbout

Did you know that most of the talking about sessions can be found on our YouTube channel:
<https://bit.ly/YTplaylistURC>

LUNDIE MEMORIAL AWARD CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND YOUTH PEOPLE



16-year-old Olivia Stokes-Roberts, who was April's Lundie awardee, was nominated due to her willingness to read in church, participate in the planning for services and a holiday club and recently gained her Master Mariners Award making her a member of the Pilots leadership team. Hornsea URC very much value her insights and discussions on the dynamics of the group. plans for an alternative style of worship. Let's congratulate Olivia for gaining the Lundie Award and pray that she continues to grow in discipleship in the Kingdom of God.



Nine-year-old Alice Coleyshaw was awarded the Lundie certificate in May. Alice participated in a sleepover raising money for a charity supporting the homeless. She also dedicates her time to the tech at church, helping to clear away refreshments after the service and even stepped in as a shepherd for last year's junior church and youth fellowship service. Alice is an asset to Broadway URC. Perhaps there is someone in your church who is 25 years or younger who you would like to nominate for this award? Details can be found here: <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/family-friendly-church/lundie-memorial-awards/>



The Children and Youth Development Officers and equivalent are exploring the URC membership model to understand how well it serves children and young people today. Your feedback will help us assess whether the current approach is fit for purpose and identify opportunities to better support belonging, participation, and discipleship for younger generations. Please share your thoughts, experience and understanding of the current URC membership model in this short survey. There are two separate surveys, one for young people and one for other.

This is the link for young people:

<https://forms.gle/z6Qc4mswcyYaA8Jb9>

This is the link for other:

<https://forms.gle/TuYRSdPgKC3zRUKo8>

Children and Youth Programme Enabling Group **CYPEG**

(formerly Children and Youth Work Committee) are seeking a convenor to hold and oversee the four yearly meetings and one 24-hour session as well as a children's advocate to represent the voices of children. - get in touch if this is you.



Volunteer Opportunity: Convenor for Children and Youth Programme Enabling Group (CYPEG)

Are you passionate about ensuring the voices of children are heard? Are you skilled in facilitating discussion? We are looking for the right person to convene the new children's and youth programme enabling group.

You would have current experience in convening/ chairing meetings. Have experience in facilitating discussions and building consensus, have a commitment to inclusivity and diversity and are committed to creating space and opportunity for the voices of children and young people to be heard in the church.

- This is a volunteer role.
- Involves attending meetings in person and online
- The key focus of the C&Y PEG is to ensure resourcing and equipping events and opportunities to support and enable local church children's, youth, family and intergenerational ministry
- All expenses are covered
- Link for person specification (*link to go here*)

Please contact children.youth@urc.org.uk to share expressions of interest and to request an application form

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Wednesday 29 July 2026



Volunteer Opportunity: Children's advocate for Children and Youth Programme Enabling Group (CYPEG)

Are you passionate about ensuring the voices of children are heard? We are looking for two people to sit on the new children's and youth programme enabling group as children's advocates.

You would have current experience of volunteering or working with children in the United Reformed Church. Be able to consult creatively with children to ensure their voices are heard, have a commitment to inclusivity and diversity and have an awareness of safeguarding.

- This is a volunteer role.
- Involves attending meetings in person and online
- The main aim is to champion the voice and needs of children as a programme of resources, training, events and opportunities to support local churches in their work with children and young people is comprised
- All expenses are covered
- Link for person specification [Role Description Template for Member of Committee](#)

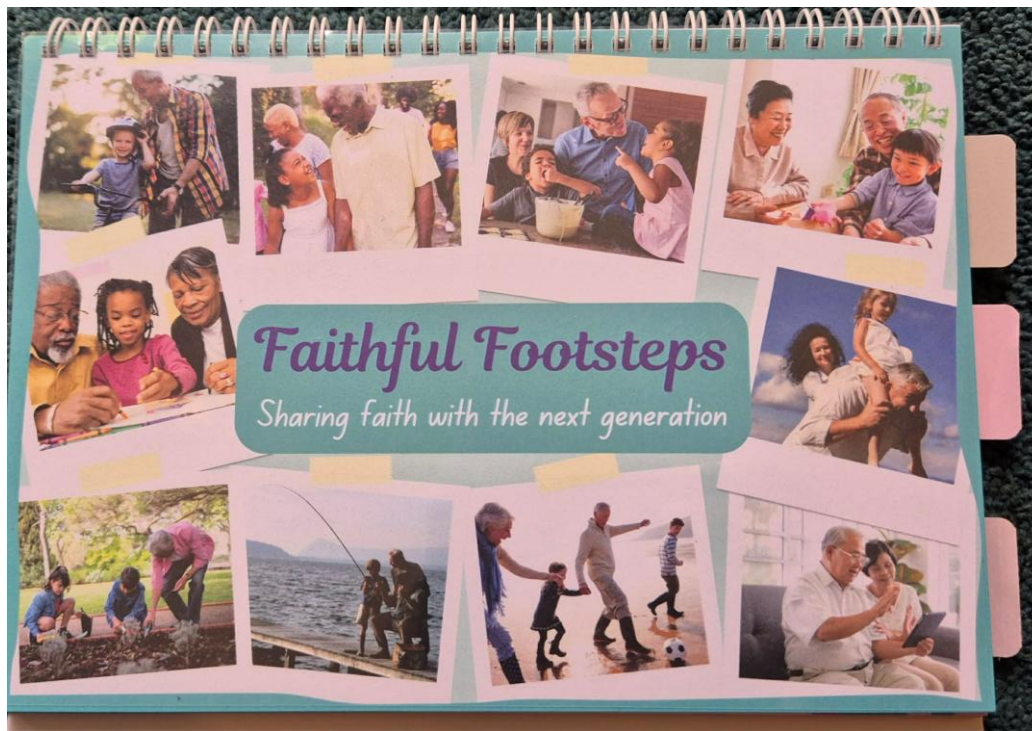
Please contact children.youth@urc.org.uk to share expressions of interest and to request an application form

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Wednesday 3 June 2026

We are delighted with the positive response to the URC Conversation Starter Coasters initiative. We have distributed 78,000 coasters so far! If you would like more, please contact us.

We would like to collect some stories and evidence of how they have been used by local churches and in other ways to help us evaluate the initiative. Please can you send a short report and if possible, any photos with permission to share them through URC Communications to children.youth@urc.org.uk by the end of July 2026.





Faithful Footsteps

Welcome to Faithful Footsteps, a series designed to support grandparents in exploring faith in creative, age-appropriate, and engaging ways with their grandchildren. These resources will help you walk alongside children as they take their own faithful footsteps.

Each pack is divided by age group (0-5 years, 5-11 years, and 11-14 years), recognising that children engage with Scripture and faith at different developmental stages. Every activity, story, and prayer has been thoughtfully chosen to help them connect with God, understand biblical truths and reflect on how faith is lived out in everyday life.

A new resource compiled by several of the CYDO+ team. This can soon be found on the website as a digital download. If you would like a physical copy then get in touch with either your synod, or CYDO+ or Sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

CONNECTED Christian Grandparents conference in the UK...Saturday 3rd October...The day will encourage, equip and inspire all who come - grandparents, grandparent figures or churches who want to learn more about how to better support grandparents in their churches. Special price if you book by 1 September. **at Venture Conferencing (formerly MKCC), Milton Keynes, MK6 2TG.**



URC - Godly Play Core Training Course

16-18 October 2026

East Midlands Synod Office,
Sherwood, Nottingham

Training facilitated by Richard
Knott & Alison Summerskill

Led by two experienced trainers, this course is a mixture of trainer-led sessions and opportunities for coached participant storytelling. We work to model a Godly Play environment, with the opportunity to use and see a comprehensive set of resources. Each day focuses on a different kind of Godly Play presentation (sacred stories, parables and liturgical action/church practice) to help you begin to understand how different genres of Christian language support spiritual exploration.

Workshops in this core training also cover:

- The Spirituality of Childhood
- Setting up a Godly Play environment
- Your particular context, concerns and questions.



"The Godly Play training gave me the time to explore more deeply this brilliant approach, and it was really accessible"

"Since going on the Godly Play training course, I have used forms of Godly Play frequently in our weekly worship and children's groups. I would highly recommend." (The Revd Ruth Maxey)



This three-day course is hosted in partnership with the East Midlands Synod and held at the Synod Office in Nottingham.

The cost is £50 to anyone connected with a URC congregation including Local Ecumenical Partnerships which reflects a subsidy from the URC Children, Youth and Intergenerational department and includes all course materials, meals, and refreshments.

Places are available to others a cost of £315, financial support may be available through your own church or denomination.

If you would like information about overnight accommodation nearby, please get in touch. For more information or to book your place please email 'trainingpa@urc5.org.uk'.

NEW FREE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

Saturday mornings 10am – 12noon - 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.



LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

21 June 2026	Talking About.....connecting with uniformed organisations
11 September 2026	Ministry Essentials
3 October 2026	Ministry Essentials
1 October 2026	Connected Grandparents conference
16-18 October	Godly Play training

Next Bi-Monthly Update: September 2026



**A PRAYER FOR
LAY MINISTRY**

God our Father,
we offer our lives to do your work
in your Church and in the world.
Help us by your Holy Spirit
to hear more clearly your call
to deeper commitment to your service,
and give us grace to respond with gladness;
for the glory of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sourced from The Church of England.