



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Children's and Youth Work

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



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

Dear friends,

Building relationships is the heart of children's and youth work as together we learn how to love God and our neighbours as ourselves. We are delighted to offer new small grants to help churches build connections with uniformed groups (see below). We encourage you to build relationships with others working with children and young people at one of the conferences or online events listed below. And we commend ways to keep children and young people safe as they relate in person and in the online world.

We pray you will be filled afresh this Pentecost and overflow with the fruits of the Spirit as you minister among children and young people.

Sam Roberts



DO YOU HAVE UNIFORMED GROUPS CONNECTED WITH YOUR CHURCH? A new small grant of £50 or £100 is now available from Children's and Youth Work/Discipleship Development Fund to support churches seeking to strengthen their relationship with a uniformed group (Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Guiding or Scouting). <https://bit.ly/CYWgrants>

This could be anything from provision of accommodation to funding a suitable event or activity. The church might host a sleepover event, donate resources or give URC Children and/or URC Youth cloth badges to the members; or the groups might organise a cleanup of the church gardens, redecoration of the space they use, joint eco project or other creative idea. This could be matched funding to a URC Guide & Scout Fellowship grant (www.urcgsf.org.uk) or a stand-alone grant.



Bookings opened for our Children's Workers Conference on 1 May. A mix of retreat, networking, worship, and training with chance to explore resources from various providers, it should be a revitalising and enriching event - and fun too! We would love to see you there!

The conference is being held at Ripon College, Cuddesdon near Oxford from 1 to 3 November this year at a cost of just £150 per person. Initially two places are allocated per synod for residential bookings on a first-come, first-served basis until 1 June. A waiting list will be kept and used to fill any places not yet taken. Bookings for day visitors will be £35 per day, with the option of adding evening meal and activities on Saturday evening for an extra £17. The booking form can be found on <https://bit.ly.URC-children-conference>. Any questions? Email lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk

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

Friday 1 to Sunday 3
November 2024

Bookings open from
1 May 2024



Book on bit.ly/URC-children-conference

Don't forget you can talk to your church or synod about support with funding and Pilots leaders are funded directly by the Pilots organisation.

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

Disappointingly, no nominations for the Lundie Memorial award were submitted for March or April this year. It is difficult to imagine that, out of all the children and young people aged 0 to 25, there are so few recognised as playing their part in the mission of God. Please do remember that individuals can be nominated for all sorts of reasons via the link below and think about the children and young people associated with your church who deserve this recognition of the things they do.

Groups are not eligible for this scheme, but synods have a group achievement certificate which can be awarded locally to groups.



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/>

Congratulations to the two most recent congregations to receive their Children and Youth Friendly Church plaques. St Andrews URC in Chesterfield <https://urc.org.uk/around-the-urc-in-seven-days-26-february-3-march-2024/>



shared the amazing work they are doing re-establishing links with the local primary school, while Westbury Gardens URC in Blackburn talked about their community links and the active participation of children and young people in their decision-making processes.



A local Brownie pack has recently helped volunteers plant 30 tree saplings at Hayward's URC graveyard near Halifax.

Six members of the 7th Gloucester Boys Brigade (BB) and Girls Association based at Christchurch, Abbeydale have enjoyed a fun weekend away thanks to a URC grant which enabled them to attend a Youth for Christ event.



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE:

Remember that the new policy, procedures and guidelines for safeguarding within the United Reformed Church are now available in the form of **Good Practice 6—Safeguarding for everyone**. <https://urc.org.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-good-practice/>. Among the advice it includes is a useful checklist to help you know which of your volunteers needs an enhanced DBS check.

Is the Activity?

- Teaching, training, instructing or caring for children.
- Supervising children.
- Providing advice/guidance on well-being to children.
- Driving a vehicle **only for children**.
- Moderating a chat room for children
- Personal care: assistance with washing and dressing, eating, drinking and toileting or teaching someone to do one of these tasks (*This does not include family or personal arrangements*)

Is the Period Condition met?*

- Once a week or more
- 4 or more days in a 30-day period
- Overnight between 2am - 6am

*Please note: People who work with children infrequently, but who would be in regulated activity (new or old definition) if it were done frequently, are now eligible for an Enhanced check without the children's barred list check. n.b. for personal care these conditions do not apply.

If the work is supervised at all times, or does not meet any of the criteria above, a DBS check is not necessary. If you can answer yes to any of the first section AND any of the second, then the volunteer or employed worker needs a DBS certificate which is ENHANCED and checks the CHILDREN'S BARRED LIST.



ADVANCE WARNING: The 2024 Advent Resource from the URC will be available to pre-order through July and August, for delivery late October/early November. Further details including contents and price will be released in the next bi-monthly newsletter and on Facebook so start thinking about how you might use this resource and to whom you might want to give a copy. Remember that grant funding may well be available to URC churches who need support with financing this.

The Children's Prayer Prompt cards for 4-8s and 8-12s are proving very popular with leaders of children's groups of all types. Thanks to colleagues at the Welsh Sunday Schools Council, the cards are now available as downloads in Welsh. <https://bit.ly/Child-prayer-cards>



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/>

Faith Adventures Facebook group

https://bit.ly/FACT_FB

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



New from URC
Children's and
Youth Work

The Children's and Youth Work team across the Assembly and synods have launched a new calendar where you can see all the URC events and training relevant to your ministry among children, young people, young adults and families, including those offered by Safeguarding and Education & Learning.

Take a look on <https://bit.ly/URCCYWcalendar>

Free online opportunities to explore the new resources from the URC to support your engagement with children and young people.

Take an hour on a Saturday morning (9.30-10.30am) or Wednesday lunchtime (12-1pm) to refuel and refocus your ministry. Make yourself a cuppa and settle down to meet the creators, ask questions, explore how things might work in your setting and chat with others doing similar work.

Pioneering new ways of being church

Wednesday 8 May 12-1pm & Saturday 11 May 9.30-10.30am

Where Are The Young People?

Saturday 18 May 9.30-10.30am & Wednesday 22 May 12-1pm

Prayer Prompts for Children:

Saturday 8 June 9.30-10.30am & Wednesday 12 June 12-1pm

For more information or to register, go to: <https://bit.ly/find-out-sessions>



TALKING ABOUT



This monthly online gathering, run by our team of CYW professionals around the synods, continues on 23 May 2024 when the theme will be Uniformed Organisations—a timely opportunity to think about how you might make good use of the new small grant for fostering relations with these groups. It will be followed by Talking About... Sports Ministry on 27 June 2024, which will be the last one for this academic year. Sign up now on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-531991911127>

WE ARE HIRING

URC YOUTH INTERN: COMMUNICATIONS

- AGED 17-25, AT LEAST NATIONAL FIVES & HIGHERS / GCSE LEVEL STANDARD, WITH EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNICATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND WIDER CHANNELS.
- HOMEBASED
- 12-MONTH FIXED-TERM CONTRACT, 8-30 HOURS PER MONTH
- SALARY: LIVING WAGE RATE
- CLOSING DATE FOR CVS: 12 NOON, TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024
- INTERVIEW DATE: FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024
- THIS POST REQUIRES A SATISFACTORY ENHANCED CERTIFICATE FROM THE DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE

The United Reformed Church Youth

APPLY NOW
More information
[URC Youth Intern job description](#)

Send your CV and covering letter recruitment@urc.org.uk

URC Youth and the Children's and Youth Work office are looking to recruit a new URC Youth Intern: Communications on a 12 month fixed-term contract of 8-30 hours per month.

For details go to <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/youth-intern-communications/> and to apply send a CV and covering letter to recruitment@urc.org.uk.

Please note that this position is only open to those aged 17 to 25 with qualifications to at least national fives and higher/GCSE level standard and experience in communication through social media and wider channels.

Resources and events offered by other providers

GODLY PLAY CONFERENCE

St Mary De Crypt Church,
Gloucester

Enrichments and evening social
event: Friday 28 June

Full Conference: Saturday 29

June <https://www.godlyplay.uk/>



**YOUR FAITH
YOUR ONLINE WORLD**

<https://cym.thinkific.com/courses/your-faith-your-online-world>

YOUR FAITH, YOUR ONLINE WORLD is a multi-denominational project, aimed to support young people across the U.K.

This is a guidance pack tailored for UK Church youth leaders, to help you lead great sessions. The aim is to empower you to facilitate meaningful discussions within your group, guiding individuals to explore the essence of faith while navigating the complexities of the online world.

This project has been created with a team of Safeguarding professionals from the Methodist Church, The Baptist Union, The Moravian Church, and The Quakers of Great Britain.

ECCE is an international gathering of like-minded people who come together every three years for an in-person conference and hold an online gathering annually in the intervening years. Join colleagues from across Europe who engage in and support children's ministry in schools and churches.



European Conference on
Christian Education
Online Gathering
Join us on 22 May 2024
5pm UK, 6pm Central Europe, 7pm Eastern Europe

The free online gathering takes place on 22 May at 5pm and will include worship, networking opportunities, and our own Judy Harris as keynote speaker on the topic of creating space for children to play and be creative. Book on https://bit.ly/online_ECCE

JOIN THE CONVERSATION 3 -

WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 21:00 - 22:30

You are warmly invited to join the International Intergen Collective for a time of stimulating conversation. There will be very short presentations on aspects of intergenerational ministry from leaders in the field to stimulate us and space to discover

what you think we should be talking about. Register for free now on

[bitly/j-t-conversation3](https://bit.ly/j-t-conversation3)



LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

Mid January 2024	Sparks and Stories Holiday Club available online
1 May 2024	Bookings open for Children's Workers Together: The Conference
8 May 2024 12-1pm	Find out about... Pioneering new ways of being church
11 May 2024 9.30-10.30am	Find out about... Pioneering new ways of being church
18 May 2024 12-1pm	Find out about... Where are the Young People?
22 May 2024 9.30-10.30am	Find out about... Where are the Young People?
22 May 2024 5pm	European Conference on Christian Education (ECCE) online
8 June 2024 9.30-10.30am	Find out about... Prayer Prompts for Children
12 June 2024 12-1pm	Find out about... Prayer Prompts for Children

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://www.facebook.com/URCCYW) 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/>