

The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## Children's and Youth Work

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



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

Dear Friends,

Here's your final update for 2024 from all the team at Children's and Youth - a little later than usual following the amazing first URC Children's Workers' Conference. If you weren't there you really missed out!! We very much hope to make this a regular offering so hopefully next time you can join the merry throng. The Youth Leaders Gathering in March is now open for bookings - see below.

Like us, I expect you are at full stretch as you gear up for Advent and Christmas, so my prayer for you is to be renewed as you step into the Story with children and young people.

And may I be the first to wish you happy Christmas!

*Sam Roberts*



**PLEASE SHARE WITH ANY YOUNG ADULTS:** We are wanting to hear about the **experience of 18-25s** moving away from home in relation to keeping any connection with church (or not). If this applies to you, please complete this short questionnaire – we really want your **honest answers** so we can help local churches think about how to better support young adults. Please also share this link with any URC friends with experiences to share: <https://bit.ly/Q18-25>

### FREE ADVENT RESOURCES FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Sales of this year's Advent pack, Step into the Story, have gone really well and they have all been dispatched, with our prayers. But the team have also produced a host of free resources on the theme, most of which can be used regardless of whether or not your church have purchased the packs. For those who have, they can also provide a way of linking what you do in church to what families may be doing at home.

This bank of resources including videos of the story, colouring and puzzle pages, recipes, suggestions for intergenerational worship, photobooth props and much more. Find it on <https://bit.ly/URC-Advent24>

Step into the Story invites everyone to recognise that they too are part of God's big story; Jesus came for each individual person, no matter when or where they were born or lived, no matter who they are. The Nativity Story is a story about many different nationalities and ethnicities and all around the world, the birth of Jesus is recognised and celebrated by people of all ages. So let's step into God's story together as we celebrate God stepping into ours.



### YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2025—BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

A fun weekend to have your say, make friends and find fellowship, Youth Assembly will run from 7 to 9 March 2025 at Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton. It is open to Year 10/S3 students up to 25 years inclusive and costs £120 early bird until 1 December 2024, £150 from 2 December to 2 February 2025 when bookings close.

**Book now to take advantage of the Early Bird price!** (Support with finances may be available from your church, synod or from the Discipleship Development Fund). Find the booking details on <https://linktr.ee/urcyouthassembly>

## 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>

Timothy 4:12  
 Don't let anyone look  
**DOWN** on you  
 because you are young, **BUT SET AN EXAMPLE**  
 for believers in **SPEECH**,  
 in **Conduct**, in **love**, in  
**FAITH** and in **PURITY**



### 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](https://bit.ly/3Txdm4)



### IMPORTANT: CHANGES TO SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DATES FOR 2024

- Monday 11 November **Spiritual Abuse** 7.00pm-9.00pm
- Tuesday 19 November **Online Safety** 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Wednesday 4 December **DDC Verifier training and Safer Recruitment** 10.00am-12.00pm

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

Dates for 2025 training are unchanged

### TALKING ABOUT ....

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, continues on 28 November 2024 when the theme will be Advent. Join some of the writers of this year's Advent Pack to discuss engaging children and young people in the Advent season. Sign up now on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-531991911127>

Talking About...Unpacking Advent With Children  
 Exploring the meanings behind the season

Thursday, 28th November, 7-8pm  
 Book your place at [www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](https://www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout)



**URC YOUTH LEADERS' GATHERING 2025:** Gathering for a time of learning together, supporting one another and sharing ideas.

Taking place from 7 to 9 March 2025 at Highgate House, Northamptonshire, this is an opportunity for Youth Leaders to gather together during the Youth Assembly weekend at an all-inclusive cost of £150. (Support with funding may be available from your synod or the Discipleship Development Fund)

To book, visit [linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering](https://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering)

## 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

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

16-year-old Charlotte Samson is a real blessing to her church in Mersey Synod and a well deserving recipient of the Lundie Memorial Award. She helps to lead worship as well as representing the young people in her church, and she also is a reliable young leader at the Wednesday Club for 7 to 11 year olds.



Meanwhile 12-year-old Lucy Hancock of Eastern Synod has been instrumental in helping the local scout group get grant funding for a rebuild and extension for their headquarters. She organised and participated in the filming of a video to support their grant application.

The summer saw 14 12-17-year-olds who meet at Abingdon Avenue URC, along with their leaders, spend a day at Rock UK's Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire, a 122-acre instructed activity site of woodland, a river and lake for water sports. The event was made possible by a grant from the Discipleship Development Fund via URC Children's and Youth Work.



Congratulations to Herringthorpe URC which has gained a Children and Youth Friendly Church award. Megan Tillbrook, Yorkshire Synod CYDO+, who supported the church through the process said: "It was a joy to see, and hear, that many of the young people at the youth club had grown through the kids club, and that some were familiar to me through their attendance over the years at synod youth events.

This speaks to the sense of belonging, acceptance and inclusivity that the children and youth team at Herringthorpe URC work hard to foster."



Three young people from West Midlands Synod were baptised at Dursley Tabernacle last month. You can watch the service on <https://youtu.be/JziBxivloE0?>

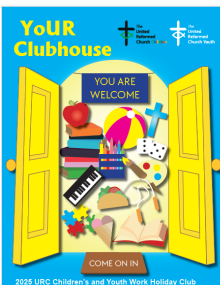


Do you know anyone 25 or under who is playing their part in the mission of God and deserves recognition?

### 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/>

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



### THE CLUBHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

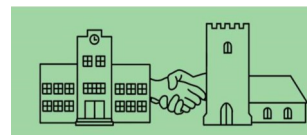
The next Holiday Club from the URC Children's and Youth Work team will be released by the end of January 2025 on [bit.ly/URC-holidayclub](https://bit.ly/URC-holidayclub)

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.

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

### SCHOOLS VISITS RESOURCE How can your church build relationship with local schools through hospitality?

This new, free resource has been compiled by the Children's Ministry Network and ROOTS for Churches, with input from the URC Children's and Youth Work team. It looks at reasons for hosting a school visit, how to host them well, how to build further relations with the school and with children and families, and has suggestions for other activities and themed visits that your church might offer your local schools.



Find it on the ROOTS, CMN or URC websites or go to [bit.ly/CMN-School-Visits](https://bit.ly/CMN-School-Visits)

## Resources and events offered by other providers

For the 11–17-year-olds in your church or outreach orbit, poet and author Dai Woolridge has created the *Six Beats One Story* youth resource.



Over eight sessions, young people are encouraged to get creative as they read the Bible, engage with God's word, respond through written word, performance or conversation, and share their discoveries with others.

In 2022, Dai Woolridge wrote a book called *Six Beats, One Story*. This book splits the big story of the Bible into six digestible chunks: Origins, Exodus, Exile, Messiah, Spirit and Home. It takes the reader on a journey through the themes, characters and stories in each chunk, and links everything to the big, overarching story of the Bible. All this in prose and rhyme. This beautifully unique way of traversing the Bible has now been adapted into a free, online youth resource.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/six-beats-one-story-youth-resource/>



### JUNCTION 25:

**Calling all 18 to 25 year olds from Christian denominations**

A subsidised event for young adults will be held at the Kingswood Centre, Doncaster from 31 January to 2 February 2025, a time to discuss, worship, chill and laugh together. Subsidised tickets : Only £10 (includes all meals and accommodation) if you book before 15 December, £25 after that <https://bit.ly/junction25event>

<https://wonderfulme.org.uk/freebies/> The Wonderful Me website uses the latest research and understanding into brain development to ensure that our approach to children and young people in churches and schools enables every child to feel welcomed, to be included and to flourish in the knowledge that they are each wonderfully made by a loving God. Follow the link to some excellent free resources.

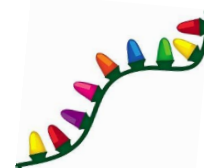
**ADVENT RESOURCES** Max7 has been exploring AI in Children's/Youth Ministry and they sent a link to some interesting Advent/Christmas resources they have produced. <https://www.max7.org/en/library/Christmas> , Of particular interest may be the intergenerational prayer stations they have created using AI. Meanwhile, from Australia, the NEW 2024 Intergen Advent Resources are now available. They include multiple ideas for each week that can be used in the gathered church, small group and outreach settings. <https://intergen.org.au/product-category/advent/>. This may also be of interest <https://intergen.org.au/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/JOINresources> Recruiting volunteers for children's and youth work is a perennial problem for all denominations. Follow the link to find some excellent resources from the Church of England aimed at tackling this issue and running a successful recruitment campaign in your church or community.

## LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

5,6,11 and 19 November 2024	Safeguarding training on specific themes
28 November 2024	Talking About..... Advent
4 December 2024	Safeguarding training for DDC verifiers and safer recruitment
Mid January 2025	THE CLUBHOUSE Holiday Club available online
31 Jan to 2 Feb 2025	Junction 25 (for ages 18 to 25)
7 to 9 March 2025	YOUTH ASSEMBLY
7 to 9 March 2025	Youth Leaders' Gathering
2 to 4 May 2025	1T4 youth weekend (for ages 11 to 14)

**Next Bi-Monthly Update : early January 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://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](https://bit.ly/URCCYWbimonthly) Our Data privacy note is here: <https://urc.org.uk/privacy-policy/>