

Happy
New Year!



The
United
Reformed
Church

Children's and Youth Work

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



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

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you are refreshed and refocused following the Christmas festivities and raring to go. If your church used our Advent resource, we would love to hear your feedback as we will be planning this year's resource very soon (!) – please email children.youth@urc.org.uk

We have new training opportunities for children's ministry and youth ministry, another opportunity to learn Makaton for churches, residentials for 11-14s, 18-25s and of course Youth Assembly – so why not browse and find the perfect opportunity for you and some of the children and young people you work with to grow and flourish in 2025.

Blessings,

Sam Roberts



YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2025—LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

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 £150, though financial support may be available through your church, synod or the Discipleship Development Fund grants. Bookings close on 2

February 2025. Find details of how to book on <https://linktr.ee/urcyouthassembly>

YOUTHSCAPE ESSENTIALS Youthscape Essentials increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today. It's ten sessions covering 30 topics. The topics are divided into Insights into Young People, Skills for Youth Work and Developing Character. You'll listen to young people, learn from professionals, participate in practical exercises and take time to deepen your own faith. It makes no assumptions about your experience, age or background. It's accessible to those starting out as volunteers, but deep enough to stretch those who have been working alongside young people for longer. Join members of the Five-Northerly-Synods Children and Youth Team online as we reflect and learn together through 2025. Each session is standalone, but we would like you to join in with as many sessions as you can. For more information on the course see <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse> and to book your place go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> and enter the course code 1245085. Dates: 25 February, 24 March, 28 April, 27 May, 23 June, 28 July, 26 August, 22 September, 27 October, and 24 November. Time: 7pm-9pm.

You are invited to Youthscape Essentials, all round training for every volunteer youth leader.

We are going to learn and pray in a community with a shared heart and hope for young people and for God.

Each of the 10 sessions includes:

- 1 hour of youth culture discussion
- 1 hour of practical skills for youth work
- 1 hour of discipleship practice in a small group

We always start with the voice of a young person through a special testimonial and prayer to help us start our session together.

Whether you have been involved in youth ministry for years or you are thinking of getting involved, Youthscape Essentials is the place for you!

Running online, monthly, from Tuesday 25th February to Sunday 24th November from 7pm to 9pm. To book your place go to <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register> and enter the course code 1245085.

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 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/>

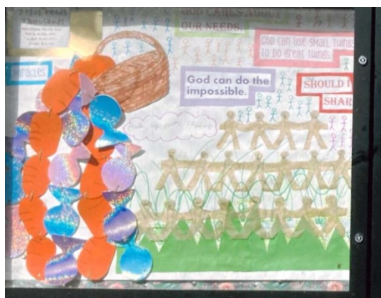
Online Calendar <https://bit.ly/URCCYWcalendar>

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

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

November's Lundie Award was given to a talented and creative member of URC Children. Eight-year-old Poppy Taylor uses her skills to design and make amazing displays for her church noticeboard. She participates fully in the life of the church, where she is the only child attending.

Congratulations to Poppy on receiving the award and to the church for recognising and using her talents to such great effect.



14-year-old Joe Wood was the recipient of the award in December after being nominated by his church Children's and Families worker. Joe is a young leader at the church Kids' Club and Kids' Church, particularly using his technology skills as well as helping out generally. He is a great evangelist within his youth group and at the synod residential, sharing his faith and the gospel with his peers, and plans to do his work experience within the church. What an example of discipleship and a worthy recipient of the Lundie Memorial Award.



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 WORKERS TOGETHER: THE CONFERENCE This, our first ever Children's Workers' conference, was held at the beginning of November in Ripon College near Oxford and was heralded as a resounding success. Children's workers, both volunteers and employed, came from all over the country to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, equipping, worship and encouragement, sharing their joys and concerns and discovering mutual support. Members of the CYW team were there to offer workshops, worship, resources, and a family film night, complete with competition to make a junk-modelling house fly! There was a unanimous request for another event next year and the team are keen to try to make this happen, so watch this space!



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK



THE CLUBHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

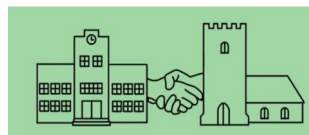
The next Holiday Club from the URC Children's and Youth Work team will be released by the end of January 2025 on bit.ly/URC-holidayclub

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

SCHOOLS VISITS: 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

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

1T4 YOUTH WEEKEND—BOOKINGS OPEN

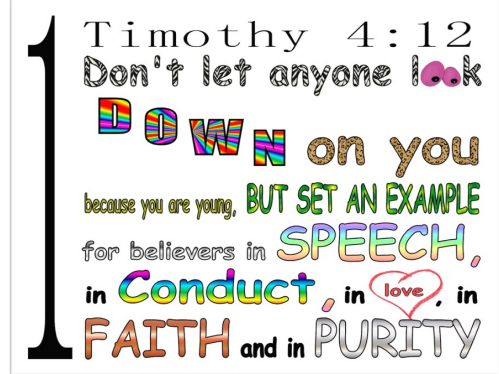
1T4 is a new residential event for **11 to 14 year olds** offered by URC Youth and the URC Children's and Youth Work team.

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>



KNOW AND GROW - MAKATON COURSE FOR CHURCHES

URC Training is delighted to be able to offer subsidised access to the new KNOW AND GROW training, a Makaton course which focuses specifically on the signs you might use in worship and church-based groups. Makaton is a system of signing and using symbols to aid spoken and written communication.

Each course comprises two online sessions: 9.30am -12.30pm on Saturday 15 & 22 February 2025 and you must be able to attend both. Sadly, due to limited spaces, we can offer this only to those associated with a URC church or LEP. The cost is just £18 to cover the printed manual which you will be able to keep.



Book now on: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/know-and-grow-makaton-course-tickets-895283676577>

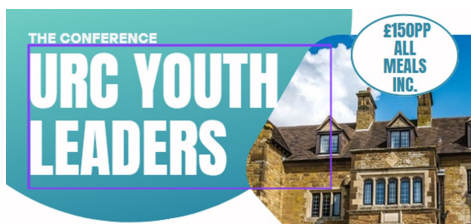
TALKING ABOUT

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, continues on 23 January 2025 from 7pm when the theme will be Artificial Intelligence. Join a practitioner already using AI with his youth group and Leo who is currently finding out more about the perils and benefits of AI through Max7's AI Academy. Sign up now on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-531991911127> February's Talking About will be on 27 February and will be on the theme of toddlers.



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, Northants, 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) For details on how to book, visit linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DATES FOR 2025

- 14 January **Domestic Abuse** 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- 23 January **Supporting Survivors** 7pm - 9pm
- 4 February **Modern Slavery** 7pm - 9pm
- 13 February **Elders as Trustees** 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- 4 March **Substance abuse** 7pm - 9pm
- 18 March **Refugees and asylum seekers** 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Email Emma.pearce@urc.org.uk to register interest and to book.

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>

Resources and events offered by other providers



18-25 YEAR OLDS
JUNCTION '25
Kingswood Centre, Doncaster: 31 Jan - 2 Feb 2025
CONNECT | EXPLORE | WORSHIP | RELAX
churches together

JUNCTION 25: Calling all 18 to 25 year olds
A subsidised ecumenical event for young adults from all denominations will be held at the Kingswood Centre, Doncaster from 31 January to 2 February 2025. It's a time to discuss, worship, chill and laugh together. Subsidised tickets : Only £25 (includes all meals and accommodation) <https://bit.ly/junction25event> **Bookings close 8 January 2025.**



intergenerate UK
Tue 25 Feb 2025
7.30-9pm
Zoom
PREACHING IN INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH
With special guests
Dave Csinos Rachel Turner Mary Hawes
www.intergenerateuk.org

Intergenerate UK - **Preaching in Intergenerational Church** with special guests Dave Csinos, Rachel Turner and Mary Hawes. A free webinar for anyone interested in developing preaching in ways that engage all ages and enable the generations to grow in faith together.

Listen to three experts share key insights and share with others about your context and challenges. **Intergenerate UK** is a network for those in the UK engaged in Intergenerational Church – come and join us!

<https://intergenerateuk.org> or <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intergenerate-uk-webinar-tickets-1079242837379>

As part of a funding award from DCMS, The Boys' Brigade currently have grants available for churches who are interested in partnering to set up new Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association groups or Spaces discipleship groups. Grants of £1,500 are available to cover uniform, equipment and subscriptions for new BB groups and grants of £900 are available for equipment, event attendance and subscriptions for Spaces groups. Funding is currently available until the end of March 2025. You can find out more about the BB and Spaces via the following links:

<https://boys-brigade.org.uk/discover/>
<https://spaceshub.org/discover/>

If you would like further information or want to arrange a Discovery meeting to discuss this opportunity, please contact ministry@boys-brigade.org.uk



TAKING THE PULSE RESEARCH The Institute for Children, Youth and Mission has published the results of their recent survey, capturing the views and experiences of over 2000: church leaders; Christian parents and grandparents; youth, children's and family paid *and* voluntary workers; chaplains; and children and young people themselves. They are now offering a series of specialist webinars based on the outcomes. Find out more here: <https://cym.ac.uk/research/taking-the-pulse-survey>

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

Mid January 2025	THE CLUBHOUSE Holiday Club available online
23 January 2025	Talking about..... Artificial Intelligence
31 Jan to 2 Feb 2025	Junction 25 (for ages 18 to 25)
25 February 2025	Intergenerate UK—Preaching in Intergenerational Church
27 February 2025	Talking about.... Toddlers
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 March 2025

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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/>