



Children's and Youth Work

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

Welcome to the May 2025 update from your Children's and Youth Work support team

Dear friends,

The sunshine is tempting us to spend more time out of doors with children and young people (which they love!). Recent research suggested young people are warming towards faith and leading a quiet revival in the UK, reading the Bible and turning up at church. See page 4 for details and suggestions for how we might ensure a warm welcome. Our theme for the year appropriately is All Are Welcome (see page 3 for linked resources), warmed up for us beautifully at Youth Assembly in March—find the video and RoundUp here: <https://bit.ly/Youth-Assembly>. We are delighted that bookings are now open for the second Children's Workers Together conference (see page 2) and our new lovely Advent resource will be available to preorder later this month!

Blessings on your ministry with children and young people,

Sam Riches



RESOURCES - COMING SOON!!!

ADVENT 2025 Resource - a gift for churches to give to families

URC Children's and Youth Work team are producing a beautiful box of postcard sized cards—one for each day in Advent. On alternate days there are things associated with Christmas and characters from the Christmas story with fun facts and activity ideas on the reverse. Designed to be reusable, displayed like bunting or in other ways, the box includes a DIY nativity set.

Pre-order at £4.25-£4.50 per pack (plus P&P) by 1 September to avoid disappointment from the URC bookshop: orders open 19 May <https://urcshop.co.uk>. Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk for a grant towards the cost.



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 ten 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?si=VOA5jrXC98i3te2B>

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 places**. Contact children.youth@urc.org.uk to register your interest. (Other denominations may be making similar offers for those not involved in the URC!)

Children's
Ministry
Essentials



Children's Ministry Network
A network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

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

URC Children's Workers Together: THE CONFERENCE 28-30 November 2025!

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, learning, sharing

TALKING ABOUT

This monthly online gathering, run by our team of children's and youth work professionals around the synods, continues on 29 May 2025 when the theme will be Digital Safeguarding followed by a session on the realities of porn and young people on 26 June 2025.

Both sessions run from 7pm to 8pm and include presentations, discussion and a chance for Q&A.

Sign up now on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-about-tickets-531991911127>

TALKING ABOUT...
ONE HOUR, ONLINE SESSIONS INCLUDING PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND Q&A

27 FEB: HOLIDAY CLUBS
25 MARCH: TODDLERS
24 APRIL: HOUSE BASED YOUTH WORK
29 MAY: THE REALITIES OF PORN & YOUNG PEOPLE
26 JUNE: SCREEN SAFETY: CLICKS & CONSEQUENCES
22 JULY: REST & SELF-CARE FOR PRACTITIONERS
25 SEPTEMBER: ADVENT
28 OCTOBER: BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
27 NOVEMBER: RESIDENTIAL / OVERNIGHT STAYS
ALL 7-8PM.

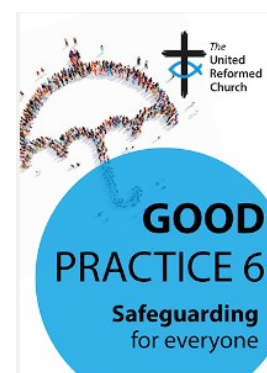
The United Reformed Church Youth

URC Safeguarding is offering two hour Zoom courses open to everyone in the following specialist areas:

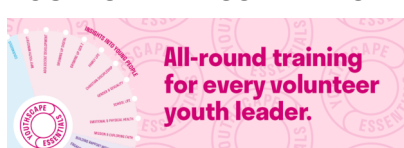
- 13 May 7:00pm **Online Safety**
- 03 June 1:30pm **Domestic Abuse**
- 12 June 10:30pm **Supporting Survivors**
- 02 July 1:00pm **Modern Slavery**
- 10 July 10:30pm **Elders as Trustees**
- 21 July 1:00pm **Substance Abuse**
- 09 September 7:30pm **Refugees and Asylum seekers**
- 09 October 1:30pm **Spiritual Abuse**

To book, please contact Emma.pearce@urc.org.uk stating your name/role/church/course preferences.

For Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced safeguarding training, contact your synod safeguarding team



YOUTHSCAPE ESSENTIALS increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today.



The ten sessions cover 30 topics, each with insights into young people, skills for youth work, and developing character. 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. 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. Join us from 7-9 pm on 27 May, 23 June, 28 July, 26 August, 22 September, 27 October, and 24 November 2025.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

Out now: an interview with intergenerate champion Dr Sam Richard's about taking your church on the intergen journey. Please check it out and share:



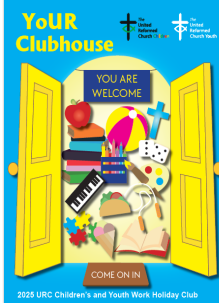
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70qjo9iu_9Q

Audio: <https://rootsforchurches.podbean.com/>

'ALL ARE WELCOME' THEMED RESOURCE

Churches would have by now received our recent mailing with our new-style all age resource book, All Are Welcome, which you can also find [online](#). It has something for everyone, with a special focus on 14—25 and intergenerational. We hope you will find it useful.

You will also see in the mailing our new leaflet giving ideas for creating a "welcome bag" for children and others visiting your church.



THE CLUBHOUSE FREE HOLIDAY CLUB RESOURCE 2025

The next Holiday Club from the URC Children's and Youth Work team is now online 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. It includes two new original songs by Roo Stewart and videos of all the dramas and story telling.

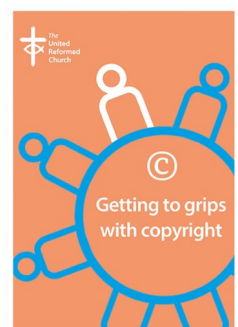
Grants for holiday clubs available: urc.org.uk/grants-funding-opportunities

Updated copyright booklet available to download

Copyright is complicated! The URC Communications Team has update its booklet, which, whilst not claiming to be a definitive guide, will help you navigate your way through the potential minefield of copyright law and how it affects churches.

This booklet sets out to do two things: to take you through some of these licences and agencies, explaining how and when each should be used; and to look at a variety of common copyright scenarios that churches may find themselves in – such as using sheet music, showing TV programmes or photocopying from magazines.

Read and download the booklet: <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-guides/getting-to-grips-with-copyright/>



Church House have produced two sets of prayer prompt cards, one set for 4 to 8 years and another for 8 to 12 years, these bright and engaging cards help nurture a life of prayer in

children and young people. You can request a pack by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or find them as digital downloads 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/>

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

Resources and events offered by other providers



intergenerate UK

The Intergenerate UK network supports the development of intergenerational ministry across churches through network gatherings across the year, a core group of [champions](#) and task groups for particular projects. They have a website: <https://intergenerateuk.org/> where you can sign up for emails.

The next webinar will be held on 24 June 2025 at 7.30pm and is on Intergenerational Leadership with Darren Philip and Tammy Preston. Sign up [here](#).

The two previous webinars have proved very popular and you can watch the recordings of these here:

- Music in IG worship: https://bit.ly/Intergen_music
- Intergenerational Preaching: https://bit.ly/Intergen_preach

Join the WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Db7NBWJZRla2MlnkqsbATh>



New research from The Bible Society says young people are leading a rise in church attendance: [The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads rise in church attendance](#).

Scripture Union have produced top tips for being ready to welcome any child or young person who might turn up at your church: [Top-Tips-For-Welcoming-Gen-Alpha-&-Gen-Z-Seekers-At-Your-Church.pdf](#)



Scouting and Girlguiding

Everyone interested in considering how churches may interact with Scouting/Girlguiding organisations who meet on their premises and the mission opportunities that they present or who wants suggestions for activities based on Scouting values is most welcome to join URC Guide and Scout Fellowship Open Meeting **7.30 pm Wednesday 8 October**. Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gss-xdwh-hra>



LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

24 June 2025	Intergen UK—Intergenerational Leadership
19 May to 1 September 2025	Pre-order for Advent Resource 2025
8 October	URC Guide & Scout Fellowship open meeting
28-30 November 2025	URC Children's Workers Together Conference, Highgate House
27 February-1 March 2026	Youth Assembly, Kings Park Northampton
27 February-1 March 2026	URC Youth Leaders Gathering, Highgate House
Next Bi-Monthly Update : July 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 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/>