



Children's and Youth Work

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



Welcome to the January 2022 update from your support team in Children's and Youth Work for the United Reformed Church.

Happy New Year !

Dear friends,

Here we are at the start of the URC's jubilee year! If, like me, you struggle a bit with new year's resolutions I would recommend <https://urc.org.uk/begin-anew-this-new-years-day/> and the encouragement to think about how we might begin anew together as Christ's church at the start of this year.

We want everyone to have an opportunity to be part of the URC's jubilee - please see below for some suggestions about how all ages might contribute and engage in different ways across the year.

Youth Assembly, with their theme of commemorate the past, celebrate the present and create the future, is due to take place 28-30 January at Whitemoor Lakes - please pray for all the young people, young adults and leaders due to gather there. It is so hard to plan in these uncertain times, yet URC Youth have a real need to meet together, encourage one another and find their voice across a range of issues - not to mention elect a new team to represent them across the year. Pray that we would be able to do that safely, as we pray for the safe resumption of children's and youth work across our local churches. As part of that we have new guidance for local church activities taking place in private dwellings which you can find here [link to safeguarding page hopefully!!].

Happy new year - may 2022 truly be a year of faith, hope and love.



Programme Assistant Children's and Youth Work

Permanent contract, 21 hours per week

Salary: £16,334

Are you passionate about building a Church which caters effectively for children and young people? Are you a team player committed to working with others to develop resources and programmes for children and young people?

An opportunity has arisen for a new role to support the Children's and Youth Work Office of the United Reformed Church.

In this role you will contribute to projects, programmes and resources for local churches as well as support the Children's and Youth Work team in maintaining communication and a strong web presence. This is a varied role requiring flexibility within a lively team.

You will be an experienced and creative children's and youth worker with excellent communication skills.

You will need to be able to work with a diverse group of colleagues and volunteers. You will ensure that the various events, publications, online materials, and opportunities offered for children, young people, their families and workers, are delivered to a high standard.

We can offer a friendly and flexible working environment; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home is possible.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

T: 020 7691 9871

E: recruitment@urc.org.uk

W: [www.urc.org.uk/vacancies](https://urc.org.uk/vacancies)

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 4 February 2022 Interview date: Tuesday 15 February 2022

This post requires a satisfactory enhanced DBS certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service

TEAM NEWS

It is with great sadness that the team says goodbye to our good friend Triin Kubar who has provided good company and excellent administrative support for the team and for Pilots for nearly three years. Triin has returned, with her family, to live in Estonia although she has continued "working from home" to tide us over until a new admin assistant was in place.

Now is the time to announce the arrival of our new Administrative Assistant.

Tricia Harding joined the team on 4 January and, while she will have a great act to follow, we know already that she will prove a real asset to the team. Welcome, Tricia!



We are recruiting for a new member for our team, a Programme Assistant for Children's and Youth Work to contribute to projects, programme and resources for local churches and to our communication and web presence. It is a role requiring teamwork, flexibility, experience within the CYW age range, and excellent communication skills. If you're interested in finding out more or applying to join our team for 21 hours per week, you can find out more on <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/> or <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/programme-assistant-childrens-youth-work/> or email recruitments@urc.org.uk. Closing date for applications 12 noon, Friday 4 February



Free tickets are now available for the United Reformed Church (URC's) 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving taking place 2.30pm on 1 October 2022, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the United Reformed Church took place in 1972.

You can join us earlier in the day at United Reformed Church House at 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT for an Open Church House event, packed full of jubilee related talks and activities, as well as to meet the team that work at the office.

There is a downloadable guided Walk to Westminster for those wishing to stretch their legs and see something of London before gathering for the service that starts at 2.30pm.

The intergenerational thanksgiving service is free and open to all in the URC. To ensure adequate provision is made, tickets for under 5s, 5-11s, 11-18s, and wheelchair users are available.

Book your tickets for the service and Open Church House through the Eventbrite booking system here: bit.ly/urc50



To celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary, songwriters, composers, rappers, poets, choirs and bands are invited to submit an entry into the

URC at 50: Worship Resources Competition.

There are four categories to enter: traditional hymn/song, poem, contemporary hymn/song, and rap. Judges will select a winner from each category.

The closing date for submissions is 8 April 2022. Find all you need to know on <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/>

Although not everyone will be able to attend the service in October, we invite everyone across the URC to send in a postcard which we'll use in photos on the screen as the service unfolds. The postcards themselves will also be displayed in the worship space.

We invite you to get a blank postcard and, on one side, write whatever you feel comfortable to share of your name, age and location (including which URC you are connected to). On the other side, as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate. You could draw, write something, quote a suitable Bible passage, etc. Why not invite others connected to your congregation and/or enjoying your building to do the same?

Please send completed cards to Sam Richards, Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT by Monday 1 August 2022.

Early March is the time we send out our all-church mailing so if you belong to a United Reformed Church, this is the time to be watching out for a big envelope landing in the hands of your children's and youth work nominated person or your church secretary. You may need to be proactive in seeking it out! It includes various goodies, most particularly the Youth Assembly RoundUp magazine and the new all-age resource booklet, Jubilee.

Jubilee is packed with ideas and suggestions for all ages to engage with the Children's and Youth Work theme for the year. There are pages for parents and babies right through to young adults and beyond, puzzle pages, prayers, intergenerational service outlines, outdoor worship ideas, ideas to make the theme accessible for additional needs, and much much more.



The United Reformed Church has created a special intergenerational book to help celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary.

Celebrate Together is a lively, colourful picture book designed for families to share together, and is being made available free of charge for all members of, and those connected to, the URC.

The story, written by the URC's Head of Children's and Youth Work, Sam Richards, and Ruth White, one of the Children's and Youth Development Officers for the Wessex Synod, and illustrated by Mark Beech, tells the story of the URC and church life through a big party, with things to find out and questions to ponder.

Each page has a flap revealing more about the URC, which came into being on 5 October 1972, with insights into the life and work of the URC today.

The book is available for free, enabling local churches to give copies to every member and to everyone associated with the life of the church. Copies can be ordered from mid January through the URC Bookshop, for just a postage and packaging charge. An all-age service outline and prayer stations linked to the book will also be available early in the new year on the URC website, www.urc.org.uk/50.

Every church will receive a copy in the resource pack for local churches to kickstart the Jubilee year in January. The pack will include many other exciting resources, including a quiz and drama script, and service outline and worship suggestions.



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

URC HOLIDAY CLUB NEWS

Following the success of Supersleuths, the URC's first ever holiday club materials, we are able to confirm that the team are already rolling up their sleeves and starting to plan the next one.



Entitled "Timetravellers", it will pick up on the theme of Jubilee which is the Children's and Youth Work theme for 2022 and take children and volunteers on a whirlwind journey across the centuries in their time machine.

As previously, it will include filmed dramas, original music, and appendices to enable you to adapt the material for 11 to 14s, vintage holiday clubs or an intergenerational setting. It could be used for the usual style of holiday club, for a special weekend event, for a children's group from week to week—the possibilities are endless. Make a note to watch out for it appearing on our website in May 2022 to give plenty of time for planning. Supersleuths will remain there for you to use too.

MESSY CHURCH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 May 2022, The Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire

With Dr Paula Gooder as keynote speaker, the theme is Making a Difference, discovering how Messy Churches focused on the kingdom of heaven can make a creative difference to our planet, to our local communities, to our churches, as well as to us ourselves!



Your conference ticket includes:

- top-quality theological input from one of the UK's leading theologians, Dr Paula Gooder
- three workshop sessions covering a range of themes
- two Messy Church sessions to enjoy hands-on learning in the company of like-minded friends, young and old
- worship led by the inspirational Fischy Music
- all meals and en-suite accommodation

Tickets £335, with a discount for 16-18 year olds.

Book now on <https://bit.ly/MessyConf>

Why not approach your synod for £200 towards cost of this through the discipleship development fund. <https://urc.org.uk/education-learning/discipleship-development/discipleship-development-fund/>



Wed 1st – Sat 4th June 2022 @ Stathern Lodge, Leicestershire

Crossfire Camp is an exciting event for young people aged 12+.

We meet together each year to explore more about faith in Jesus Christ through teaching, small groups, worship and a whole range of fun activities.

Join us in 2022 for a great time of fun, meeting new people and exploring the gospel.



Crossfire is a GEAR event brought to you in conjunction with URC Youth



Book Online for Only £30 (£40 after 30th March)

Camping Tent hire from £5

www.crossfire.org.uk



DO YOU KNOW A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON WHO IS PLAYING THEIR PART IN THE MISSION OF GOD IN THEIR CHURCH, THEIR COMMUNITY OR ON A WIDER SCALE?

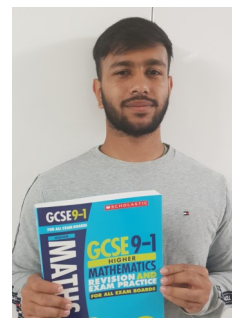
Each month we continue to celebrate some of the many children and young people who play their part in the mission of God. They receive a certificate, a very special medal, and £100 to be spent on something of their choice that benefits children and young people in their church or community.

Recent recipients are four-year-old Eveline Robinson for her service to God in her local church, and 18 year old Ethan Rashid who has been using his skills and talents in mathematics to help others who find the subject challenging.

Nomination forms are available on our website and should be sent to your Children's and Youth Development Officer (CYDO) or equivalent for your synod. The awards are made by region, with each synod having four opportunities per year to put nominations forward. Details are available on this page: <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/lundie-memorial-awards/> where you can also find a downloadable nomination form.

So start nominating those amazing children and young people and let's celebrate the things they are doing to put their faith into action.

Who will receive the next Lundie Memorial Award ?





Jubilee, Youth Assembly 2022, is being held from 28 -30 January 2022 at Whitemoor Lakes in Alrewas, Staffordshire, with an event for youth leaders running in parallel.

Please pray for all those involved in the weekend in any way, that they might be enriched and encouraged by their time together. And watch this space, the URC website and the all-church mailing for news of this exciting event.

Talking about...Feelings

27th January 2022 7-8pm

Emotional literacy is the ability to recognise and express our emotions and feelings using speech and other forms of communication. It is an important skill for people of all ages to develop. How can we help our children/young people develop theirs?

In this session we will hear from two experienced practitioners in church based ministry and join in this important conversation.

Get your free ticket from
<https://bit.ly/3ddD0yu>



Talking About Is a monthly online drop-in hosted by the URC regional CYW specialists. It is a space for all involved in children's and youth work to network and talk together on a relevant theme.

This free session is held on the last Thursday of each month.

This month's topic is talking about feelings - suitable for those engaging with children and young people of all ages.



Living Faith with 5s - 11s was a free online conference sponsored by ROOTS for Church and URC Children. If you missed it and are keen to find out more about 5-11s faith at home, in worship and in church-based groups, you can catch up with the videos on <https://bit.ly/Youtube-living-faith>

Meet up and share ideas on hybrid worship, children's work, outreach etc.

Following our successful training sessions, Education and Learning and Learning and Children's and Youth Work invite you to meet together on Thursday 23 February at 7.30pm in what we hope will become a regular gathering. Meeting ID 841 2792 2403 Passcode 244431.

Email jenny. Mills@urc.org.uk for more information.



URC CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK ONLINE

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Website <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCUhcQnrk2N78c89wM9Rhow>

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/URCCYWD/>



The swish new URC website is now live. Why not use the link to the left and explore our pages and the new site ?

LOOKING AHEAD - for your diaries or your prayers

27 January 2022	Talking About..... Feelings (Emotional Literacy)
28 - 30 January 2022	Youth Assembly and Leaders' Gathering—JUBILEE
23 February 2022	Hybrid Church online gathering
4 February 2022	Talking About.... (Re)Starting from Scratch
March 2022 from URC CYW	All-church mailing including Jubilee all-age resource book
24 March 2022	Talking About..... Engaging with the Education Sector
1 to 4 June 2022	Crossfire Youth Camp
1 October 2022	50th Anniversary service and Church House open day



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 <https://www.facebook.com/URCCYWD/> Twitter [@URCCYWD](https://twitter.com/URCCYWD) 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: <https://tinyurl.com/ycgnpojs>.

Our Data privacy note is here: https://www.urc.org.uk/images/Children-and-youth/documents/CYW_Data_Privacy_Notice.pdf