



The **United Reformed Church**
National Synod of Wales

Yr **Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig**
Synod Cenedlaethol Cymru

Cyfarfod Synod y Gwanwyn
Spring Synod Meeting

Saturday 12th March 2022

[Join Zoom Meeting](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89337603641?pwd=VTlzU3FKMXJQcTM1ODBSMWWiMXdJdz09)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89337603641?pwd=VTlzU3FKMXJQcTM1ODBSMWWiMXdJdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 3760 3641

Passcode: 825262

Yr Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig Synod Cenedlaethol Cymru
The United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales

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Resolutions

The list of resolutions to be considered at this meeting can be found [Page 12](#)



1. Meeting Arrangements

SESSION 1

09:00 – 09:30

Gathering in breakout rooms for conversation

SESSION 2

09:30 – 11:00

Opening Worship and Commemorations
Minutes of Autumn 2021 Synod Meeting ([Autumn 2021](#))
Notices
Green Boxes
Children and Youth
Safeguarding
Local church story: ACRs online
Whole People of God – responses from churches

SESSION 3

11:15 – 12:45

Whole People of God – basis for future ministry conversations?
Breakout group discussion. ([resolution 3](#))

Please come ready to discuss

General Assembly Resolutions ([resolution 1 & 2](#))

Discipleship Development Fund

Budget 2022 – 2024 ([resolution 4](#))

Digital Resources for churches and individuals

Synod Structures resolutions ([resolution 5 & 6](#))

Reports to Synod

Closing worship

2. Synod (Officers') Team Meeting

FOR DECISION:

2.1 Resolutions from General Assembly

There were **two constitutional resolutions** which have been referred to Synods for consideration:

Resolution 39 concerns the **Ministerial Discipline and Incapacity process**. If ratified at this year's General Assembly, this brings into being changes to the Structure of the United Reformed Church which will allow for the newly adopted Disciplinary and Incapacity process to be initiated as of the close of next General Assembly. This has been written to ensure that the process can now be amended in the light of experience without the necessity for perpetual constitutional amendments to take up our time in future years. [[resolution 1](#)]

Resolution 44 introduces **new functions for all Councils of the Church, including Synods, regarding safeguarding** and ensures that our practice has a strong constitutional basis. [[resolution 2](#)]

Whilst it is not a requirement to discuss these, the link to the record of Assembly is below, if anyone has any reasons to object, then please email the Synod Clerk, helen.stenson.urcwales@urc.org.uk by the 5th March.

If as a Synod, it is felt that we have any objections to either resolution we will need to pass a resolution that they 'be not proceeded with'.

Link for the Record of Assembly: <https://bit.ly/3gvlvFW>

FOR NOTING:

2.2 General Assembly 2022

The following will represent the National Synod of Wales at General Assembly 2022 (Friday 8th to Monday 11th July):

Minister/CRCW

Jason Askew
David Dean
John Hayton
Stella Hayton
Martha McInnes
Adella Pritchard *
Simon Walkling *
Phil Wall

Elder/Lay Person

Chris Atherton
Judy Harris
Helen Stenson *
Nathanial Stinton †
Mathias Tchatchoua
Vacant †
Vacant
Vacant

To be confirmed

* Mission Council reps

† ≤25

2.3 **Representatives to the General Assembly**

There are vacancies for 3 or more lay representatives to the General Assembly. General Assembly will take place at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 from Friday 8th to Monday 11th July 2022. All the costs of attending are covered, including travel, accommodation and meals. A new leaflet – ‘They’ve asked me to be a Member of General Assembly’ – which gives an overview of the role and obligations of being a member, as well as the work of the General Assembly itself, can be viewed and downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2lkaqHe>. Please contact the [Synod Clerk](#) if you feel are being called to serve in this role

2.4 **Moderator of General Assembly 2023-2024**

No nominations were received by the deadline of 31st December 2021

FOR INFORMATION:

2.5 **Nominations**

The up to date (at the time of the compilation of these papers) report of Nominations is included at [Appendix A](#).

Resolution 1: General Assembly Resolution 39

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the General Assembly resolution concerning the changes to the structure relating to the Ministerial Discipline and Incapacity Process [Resolution 1](#)

Resolution 2: General Assembly Resolution 44

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the General Assembly resolution concerning the changes to the structure relating to Safeguarding [Resolution 2](#)

3. Synod Pastoral Committee

FOR DECISION:

3.1 **The Whole People of God**

The Autumn 2021 Synod Meeting referred the Proposal for the Provision of Ministry in the United Reformed Church, National Synod of Wales to the churches for discussion. Four responses were submitted by the deadline

Synod Pastoral Committee is aware that the Deployment Policy they are working with has not been reviewed since 2009. In 2013, it was agreed that the discussions about ministerial deployment should begin at the local church level. Synod Pastoral Committee ask this meeting to debate and consider whether the Whole People of God paper provides the basis for them to look at future ministry across the Synod.

[[resolution 3](#)]

FOR NOTING:

3.2 **Synod Digital Minister**

With the support of the committee, an application for a Special Category Minister for the Wales Synod initial enquiry stage was submitted to the Accreditation's Sub-Committee for consideration. The Synod has been invited to make formal application.

FOR INFORMATION:

3.3 **Church Closure**

Notice has been received that New Bethel URC, Mynyddislwyn closed effective 12th December 2021.

3.4 **Bridgend United Area**

Revd Professor Teddy Kalongo will be moving to Bristol. Revd Richard Gillion has been invited to serve in the area.

Resolution 3: Whole People of God

The National Synod of Wales adopts the Whole People Of God paper as a basis for the Synod deployment strategy [Resolution 3](#)

4. Mission and Discipleship Board

FOR NOTING:

4.1 **General Matters**

Since the last Synod meeting, Mission and Discipleship Board have met twice in November and January, we continue to meet via Zoom as this makes both economic and environmental sense.

It is hoped that as part of the Synod's commitment to environmental matters and also to mark the URC's Jubilee year that **Green Boxes** will be sent to all churches which will include activities, resources etc on the theme of the environment.

By the time Synod meets in March, **Youth Assembly** will have been held in person with Jo Harris being inducted as Moderator. Wales have also appointed a new Youth Rep, Nathaniel Stinton from the Bridgend United Area.

FOR INFORMATION:

4.2 **Mission Committee**

The Denominational Mission Committee met for two days over Zoom at the beginning of February. There were wide ranging discussions about Ecumenism; updating the URC Environmental Policy and how to embed the Resolutions passed at General Assembly 2021 on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories: [URC resolution](#)

We also continue to look at the Legacies of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: [Legacies of Slavery](#)

Following the retirement of the previous joint URC/Methodist Rural Officer, the Methodists have now decided to appoint their own full time Rural Officer. Mission Committee is looking at different ideas for supporting rural ministry across the URC, including helping Synods, using the Resource Centres for Learning and promoting the Arthur Rank Centre.

4.3 **Report on implementation of Synod Environmental Policy**

A full report can be found at [Appendix E](#)

5. Finance and Property Board/Trust Company

FOR DECISION:

5.1 2022/4 Budget

Synod General Fund Budget for period 2022 - 2024 is set out in [Appendix B](#).

FOR NOTING:

5.2 Ministers Summer School

FPB accepted the transfer of funds from the **Ministers Summer School account**, to be managed within the training budget.

Trinity URC/Methodist, Porthcawl, successfully applied to the Synod Streaming Fund.

5.3 Property

Flintshire County Council has served a Notice of Intent to obtain the land and buildings at the former **Hebron URC, Mostyn**, as per the terms of the Deed of Conveyance when the land was purchased.

A service of thanksgiving marking the closure of **New Bethel URC, Mynyddislwyn**, took place in December 2021. An asset transfer of the chapel building and graveyard to a local couple, who are community councillors, is in progress.

The sale of **Hill URC, Swansea**, was completed in November 2021.

The former **Christ Well URC manse** at 271 Pentregethin Road, Swansea, was sold in December 2021.

The sale of **Cefn-y-Bedd URC, Cilmerly**, was completed in January 2022.

The sale of **Horeb URC, Builth Wells**, is in progress.

The responsibility for managing repairs and maintenance of the **Moderator's manse** is being transferred to the Synod Property Officers, although costs will continue to be covered centrally.

FOR INFORMATION:

- 5.4 FPB supports the Special Category Minister (SCM) proposal for a Wales Digital Minister.
- 5.5 The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 will be implemented in July 2022, requiring new tenancy agreements with all tenants of Trust property. For the first time, Ministers and Church Related Community Workers will be considered tenants and will require an agreement. There are new requirements for property standards which the Trust will need to ensure are met.

Resolution 4

Synod Meeting receives the budget for 2022-2024 as summarised in [Appendix B](#).



**National Synod of Wales
Big Day Out 2022**

**URC at 50:
Celebrating the
Whole People of God**

**Saturday 25 June
Royal Welsh Showground
Llanelwedd, Builth Wells**

www.urcwales.org.uk/bigdayout2022

6. Structural Review

FOR DECISION:

6.1 **Structural change to the Wales Synod**

The United Reformed Church, National Synod of Wales, resolves to appoint the Synod Pastoral Committee to represent the Synod Meeting, between meetings. [[resolution 5](#)]

6.2 **Renaming of Synod Team**

Synod Meeting is asked to approve the renaming of what was formerly titled Officers Meeting within the Synod Structure to that of Wales Synod Team. Team members felt this better reflects the reality of the working relationships and moves away from the differentiation between Officers and Staff. [[resolution 6](#)]

FOR NOTING:

6.3 **The Manual**

The reorganisation of the Wales Synod Structure in 2018 did not explicitly appoint a group or committee to conduct the business of Synod between meetings.

Section 7 of the Manual states “A synod may constitute such committees and subcommittees as are required for the conduct of its business and may delegate to those committees or subcommittees such of its powers as it considers appropriate.”

The Wales Synod resolution is brought to rectify that omission and the proposal is that Synod Meeting delegates exceptional business between meetings to the Synod Pastoral Committee and that this clause is added to the Structures document accordingly.

Resolution 5

Synod Meeting appoints the Synod Pastoral Committee to conduct the business of Synod between meetings.

Resolution 6

Synod Meeting approves the change of name to Wales Synod Team meeting in the Synod Structure.

7. Constitutional Review

FOR INFORMATION:

- 7.1 A Constitutional Review took place on 17 February 2022. The Commission's Report is appended, for information only. [Appendix C](#)

Resolutions

Resolution 1: General Assembly Resolution 39

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the General Assembly resolution concerning the changes to the structure relating to the Ministerial Discipline and Incapacity Process

Resolution 2: General Assembly Resolution 44

The National Synod of Wales raises no objection to the General Assembly resolution concerning the changes to the structure relating to Safeguarding

Resolution 3: Whole People of God

The National Synod of Wales adopts the Whole People Of God paper as a basis for the Synod deployment strategy

Resolution 4: Budget 2022-2024

Synod Meeting receives the budget for 2022-2024 as summarised in [Appendix B](#).

Resolution 5: Wales Synod Structural Change

Synod Meeting appoints the Synod Pastoral Committee to conduct the business of Synod between meetings.

Resolution 6: Wales Synod Structural Change

Synod Meeting approves the change of name to Wales Synod Team meeting in the Synod Structure.

Appendix A: Nominations Report

Synod Team

Synod Moderator

Simon Walkling 2012 – 2024

Synod Clerk

Helen Stenson 2021 – 2022

Trust Company Secretary and Synod Treasurer

Chris Atherton 2006 –

Training and Development Officer

Jason Askew 2020 –

Children and Youth Development Officer (CYDO)

Judy Harris 2014 –

Safeguarding Officer

Diana Taylor 2021 –

Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Martin Spain 2021 –

Moderator's PA, Office Manager and Cashier

Megan Price 2021 –

Property Officer

Claire Boot 2019 –

Finance Assistant

Gaynor Morgan 2007 –

Administration Officer

Joel Sainsbury 2021 –

Chaplain to Synod Team

Stephen Best 2021 –

Synod Boards and Committees

The Synod Moderator and Synod Clerk are ex-officio members of all Boards and Committees

Synod Pastoral Committee

Representatives of Regional Pastoral Committees:

North Wales	Paul Robinson or Keith Harrison
East Wales	Branwen Rees
Cardiff and Penarth	Martha McInnes
Valleys and Vale	Phil Wall
Swansea	Verena Walder (pro tem)
Pembrokeshire	Stella Hayton
Mid Wales	Vacant
Bridgend United Area	Teddy Kalongo
Brecon Beacons	Julie Kirby

Northern College (co-opted) Graham Adams

Ex officio

Training and Development Officer

Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Finance and Property Board

Convener	Ian Lloyd-Parry	2008 – 2022
Secretary	Property Officer	
Members:	Sheila Jones	2018 – 2023
	Lyn Oelmann	2018 – 2021
	Graham Powell	2018 – 2023
	Alison Tansom	2021 – 2023

Ex officio

Trust Company Secretary and Synod Treasurer

Office Manager and Cashier

Property Officer

Mission and Discipleship Board

Convener	Branwen Rees	2021 – 2023
Members:	Julia Bartholomew	2021 – 2023
	Judith Dolben	2018 – 2023
	Sarah Edwards	2018 – 2021
	Martin Spain	2021 – 2023

Ex officio

Training and Development Officer
Children and Youth Development Officer
Representative to URC Mission Committee
Green Advocate

Synod Office Management Group

Synod Clerk (Convener)
Office Manager (Secretary)
Trust Company Secretary and Synod Treasurer

Line Managers' Meeting

Synod Clerk (Convener)
Together with those in the Synod with line management responsibilities for Synod Team members.

Wales District Council

Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (Convener)
Synod Clerk (Secretary)
Synod Moderator
Synod Treasurer
Together with others drawn together relevant to the location of the church being considered.

Safeguarding Reference Group

Safeguarding Officer (Convener)
Trust Secretary
Heather Salsbury

Other Appointments

To General Assembly Councils/Committees/Panels, etc.

Mission Council/ Assembly Executive	Synod Moderator Synod Clerk Adella Pritchard Vacancy	2021 – 2023
Nominations Committee	Synod Clerk	
Mission Committee	Branwen Rees	2018 – 2022
Listed Buildings Advisory Cttee	Property Officer	
Joint Panel (Disciplinary)	Martin Spain Linda Elliot	2010 – 2021 2014 – 2021

To other URC networks, etc.

Green Advocate	Eileen Newington	2020 – 2022
Rural Church Advocate	Ian Kirby	2018 – 2022
PLATO	Property Officer	
URC Youth Representative	<i>vacant</i>	
Pilots Officer	Children and Youth Development Officer	
Stepwise Co-ordinator	Training and Development Officer	

Synod Representatives to Joint Synod Panel (Ministerial Discipline)

Co-ordinator:	Synod Clerk
Members:	Pat Davies Allan Morgan Ian Lloyd Parry Judith Negus

URC (Wales) Trust Company Limited

Convener Ian Lloyd Parry

Company Secretary Chris Atherton

Assistant Secretary Property Officer

Trustees:

Trust Appointed:

Colin Grimes annual appointment

Ian Lloyd-Parry annual appointment

Synod Appointed:

Chris Byrne 2021 – 2023

Ian Kirby 2018 – 2023

Diane Moverley 2021 – 2023

Sandra Wallace 2017 – 2022

Alison Tansom 2020 – 2024

Synod Panel for Interviewing Ministerial Candidates

Co-ordinator: Training and Development Officer

Members:

Julie Kirby

Kathryn Price

Christine Roberts

Jill Shelton

Branwen Rees

Ecumenical Appointments Made by Synod

Christian Aid	Ceri George	2019 – 2021
Commission of Covenanting Churches	Synod Moderator Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Pat Davies	2018 – 2023
Commission of Covenanting Churches – Faith and Order Group	Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations	
Cytûn Trustee	Synod Moderator	
Cytûn Racial Justice Network	Racial Justice Advocate	
Cytûn Laser Group	Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations	
URC/PCW Liaison Group	Synod Moderator Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Lynda Bull Mike Dugdale Wendy Tansill Mathias Tchatchoua	2020 – 2022 2017 – 2022 2021 – 2023 2020 – 2022
URC/Methodist Liaison Group	Synod Moderator Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Noel Davies Colin Harrison Stella Hayton	2021 – 2023 2016 – 2021 2021 – 2023
Church in Wales Governing Body	Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations	
Covenanted Baptists	Officer for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations	

Appendix C: Report of Constitutional Review

The following people met by Zoom on the afternoon of 17.2.2022: Judith Dolben, Colin Harrison, Jill Shelton, Revd Martin Spain, Revd Phil Wall. The Commission members are active members of the United Reformed Church and the Wales Synod Meeting. The membership of the Commission represents 5 churches within the National Synod of Wales with no direct link with the respondents.

Helen Stenson, Wales Synod Clerk, was in attendance.

Two applicants, Revd Simon Walkling, Moderator of the National Synod of Wales, and Revd Branwen Rees, East Wales Regional minister, attended for part of the meeting to present their application and answer questions.

Although invited, no respondents attended the meeting. No apologies were received. The Commission reviewed the resolutions of the 2 January 2022 meeting held at Hanover URC:

1 'Membership Termination'

Hanover Church membership shall be terminated with immediate effect upon the member's continued absence at Sunday service for one year. Pursuant to the above resolution, the following church members' membership shall be terminated with immediate effect: Paula, Carol, Chris, Gil, and Gwladys.

The commission agreed, unanimously, that the Church resolution was unconstitutional:

The commission believed a church should meet in a way that at least met the guidance of the Charity Commission which this meeting failed to do.

There appears to be no Elders Meeting at Hanover URC. The commission felt that insufficient members were in attendance to make decisions regarding membership. Evidence suggests the members the church meeting wished to remove were active; attending mid-week worship with a URC minister, in Hanover URC building.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Hanover URC was closed for part of the year in question and their Risk Assessment to reopen is dated August 2021, ie 4 months prior. Some members may have been shielding during the pandemic or prevented from attending public worship for a variety of reasons which appear not to have been accounted for.

It was felt that inadequate notice was given of the meeting. The method of informing members, by social media, was inadequate for some of the members involved. No agenda for the meeting was provided. Members were not informed that their memberships would be reviewed at the meeting. It was agreed that the decisions, even if valid, could not apply retrospectively.

2 'Retirement Age'

A church member of Hanover church shall retire at age 80. Pursuant to the above resolution, the following church members shall retire from Hanover church membership with immediate effect: Chris, Gil, and Gwladys.

The commission agreed, unanimously, that it was improper to impose a retirement age for being a member of the body of Christ. The commission noted it is unlawful to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of age because age is a protected characteristic in the Equalities Act 2010.

The Commission reviewed the resolutions of the 9 January 2022 meeting held at Hanover URC:

3 'Disaffiliation'

Disaffiliation Hanover church will disaffiliate from URC Wales Synod.

The commission deems the resolution as unconstitutional on the Basis of Union of the URC.

The commission agreed that the resolution does not reflect the relationship between the councils of the United Reformed Church described in the Structure, nor the relationship between the local church and the councils of the Synod

The commission felt that church has not followed guidance about secession, if that was the aim. It was noted that membership involves the Statement of Nature, Faith and Order of the URC. The commission agreed that if the members removed from membership (1) were in attendance, this resolution would not have been brought. The commission deems this resolution null.

4 Validity of the meetings

The applicants ask the commission to consider whether there was an adequate proportion of the members present for a valid meeting.

The commission unanimously deems the meetings held at Hanover URC on 2 and 9 January 2022 null and void for the following reasons:

Inadequate notice was given of forthcoming meetings

Inadequate notice of the agenda was given

The meetings were inquorate

In summary, the Commission find in favour of the applicants and assert that resolutions 1,2 and 3 above are unconstitutional and invalid. The Commission also find that the calling of the church meeting to discuss important matters was not properly convened, legally constituted or properly held. Therefore, all decisions made at these meetings are null and void, which includes the decision to admit new members in this way.

Appendix D: Safeguarding report

Adults at Risk

Safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**

Both children and adults at risk of harm need safeguarding from abuse and neglect.

Adults at Risk

An "adult at risk" is a term used to describe a person who is an adult aged 18 years and over

AND

Has need for care and support due to illness, disability or mental health (whether or not local authority services are meeting those needs)

AND

Who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself or take steps to protect himself from significant harm or exploitation.

Adults may be at risk for a variety of reasons, and individuals often turn to the church when they are at their most vulnerable. We must all be aware of how we can support vulnerable people as individuals and as a group.

Who might abuse adults?

Abuse and neglect might be carried out by anyone in contact with adults, even by people employed to provide care.

There may be indicators that adults are experiencing harm from people within your organisation, such as volunteers, members of staff, or other members of the public.

Or they may be experiencing harm from those connected with their life outside your organisation, such as a carer or a spouse. This may include:

- Spouses, friends, family and neighbours
- People employed to provide care
- Paid staff or professionals
- Volunteers
- Strangers

The 'statutory duty to report'

If you know that, or have concerns or suspicions that a child or adult is suffering, has suffered or is likely to be at risk of abuse, it is your responsibility to ensure that the concerns are referred to social services or the police who have statutory duties and powers to make enquiries and intervene when necessary.

Links: [Safeguarding – URC Wales Synod](#)
 [Social care Wales \(safeguarding.wales\)](#)
 [Who Might Abuse Adults? - ACT \(anncrafttrust.org\)](#)

Appendix E: Environmental Policy Report

Report to Synod on the Current Implementation of the Synod Environmental Policy

1. Introduction

At the Synod meeting on 16th March 2021 it was agreed that the Synod Environmental Policy be adopted by the Synod. It is noted that at the previous Synod meeting held on the 17th October 2020, in response to a question regarding the monitoring and reporting of the aims of the policy, it was stated that the Mission and Discipleship Board would monitor the progress of implementation and provide Synod meeting with regular reports as to what had been achieved.

2. Shrinking our Carbon Footprint

We have begun the task of calculating and monitoring the Synod's carbon footprint. The total annual emissions for 2020 were 11.33 tCO₂. These are being offset with a donation to the Woodland Trust in the name of every church in the Synod, to create and protect native woodland. We will continue to calculate, monitor, and report our carbon footprint, in line with our pledge to achieve our aim of net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

The Synod has offered encouragement to local churches through a series of 6 on-line Zoom conferences looking at environmental issues concerning lifestyle, others, land, buildings, witness and worship.

These conferences were positively received and enabled networking for churches across the synod. We were also blessed by some excellent speakers including Caroline Pomeroy, Cynan Llwyd, Rosie James, Chris Atherton, Claire Boot, Rachel Mander and Jo Love. The

sessions can be viewed on-line at <https://www.urcwales.org.uk/eco-church/> or by scanning the QR code with your phone.



The August 2021 Synod Sunday service was given the focus of Eco Church, with on-line and off-line resources made available to encourage churches in their environmental mission.

The Synod website and the monthly e-newsletter have been regularly used to share news and events relating to the environment, for example, COP26, church gardens, Caring for God's Acre and A Rocha. See <https://www.urcwales.org.uk/eco-church/>



The Synod have helped churches to use the carbon footprint calculator found at www.360carbon.org to assess their own carbon footprint and ways to reduce it.

Currently in the Synod we have 6 Eco Churches with awards:

Barry Uniting Church	Bronze
Hope & Market Square, Merthyr Tydfil	Silver
St John's, Buckley	Bronze
Tyddyn Street, Mold	Bronze
Uniting Church, Sketty	Silver
Beulah, Cardiff	Silver

The synod has also recognised that all initiatives and developments, indeed all life, has an environmental impact and has started to ensure that this impact is considered alongside the life and mission of the synod, at all its boards and committees.

Synod has initiated a discussion at Assembly level regarding the provision of, and encouragement to use, more environmentally friendly transport for ministers, particularly as they are required to travel ever further distances in their ministry.

The continued use of on-line meetings has been agreed for many of its boards and committees. This will significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

The Synod is providing an Eco Box as part of our celebration of 50 years of the URC. It includes ideas for worship, reflection, prayer, crafts and action. This has been distributed to every church for use over the next 12 months and beyond. Please encourage your church to make use of the box. It is hoped that we can make the resource available on-line too, so check out <https://www.urcwailes.org.uk/eco-church/>



CULTIVATING A HEART FOR GOD'S CREATION

Our Synod Green Advocate is Eileen Newington greenadvocate.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

Digital Resources available from *devotions.urc.org.uk*

Daily Devotions Early every morning an email is sent out to over 4,000 people giving a reading, reflection and short prayer to help us as we focus on following Jesus in our everyday lives. This is also available as a recorded Podcast on all your favourite podcast providers and as a booklet ready to be printed by local churches for those who don't have access to the Internet.

Small Group Material

We are now turning some of the Daily Devotions series into discussion material for small groups. We will expand this over the next few months as the material is useful for mid-week groups and church awaydays.



Sunday Worship Each week we sent out an audio service to all those who receive the Devotions which is a useful addition to what we receive locally and a godsend for those who are not near a URC or who can't get to one. These are also sent out in advance to churches who wish to save them to memory pen or CD and give out locally as a way of caring for those who can't get along.

Pulpit Supply

The Daily Devotion services are now offered on Powerpoint for local churches to use as a form of pulpit supply. The preachers have videoed themselves and the script of the prayers is provided so churches can choose to either play the whole thing or mix and match with hymns played locally with an elder leading the prayers and simply using the video introduction, sermon and blessing. Again these are sent out ahead of time to allow local churches to see how best to use them.

Coming Soon Written resources to help local churches produce worship. Available from Pentecost.

Please contact Andy Braunston for more details or with other ideas of what other digital resources might help you locally. andy.braunston@urc.org.uk