



## **Children's and Youth Work Committee** **Report to Synod, October 2021**

Submitted by Graham Purdy



*The good leave an inheritance to their **children's children**... Proverbs 13:22a*

**Membership:** There have been a couple of recent changes to the committee and there are currently 6 active members. We have had a couple of members 'stand down' from the committee - Reuben Watts through leaving the synod and Danny Goodall who is no longer the Youth Pastor at Lindfield United Reformed Church. I would like to thank them for all they have contributed not just to this committee but to Children & Youth Work generally in the Synod. The secretary's post is still vacant, so, if anyone knows somebody in their church that may be willing to take on this role, please let me know. Many thanks to Tom who is still valiantly fulfilling this role.

### **Recent Events – From CYDO – Tom Hackett:**

#### **Godly Play Training Sessions**

Following the successful taster session in June, a 3 session follow up course was held during July.

This "Introduction to Godly Play Course" was attended by 8 participants. Positive feedback was received from those who attended.

The donation of £150 agreed at previous meeting has been sent to Godly Play UK in response for them offering this training.

Richard Knott, West Midlands CYDO also offered his time to run this course. I have agreed to deliver an online Youth MHFA for West Midlands Synod in return.

#### **Synod Lay Preacher Training**

I completed the Synod Lay Preaching Course in 2020. Following a delay due to COVID-19 I completed my assessed service at Goring URC in July and I am now a Synod Recognised Lay Preacher.

In 2020 we began to explore the possibility for a "Synod Youth Lay Preacher Course." This was put on hold due to lockdown. After discussion with Andy Twilley, we have now agreed to encourage young people to attend the Synod course, rather than producing a separate stand-alone version. This has been publicised in the Synod Newsletter.

#### **General Assembly Fringe Event**

The Children's & Youth Work Team held an online event in July called "Let's Celebrate" which celebrated all the work with children and young people over the past year. A recording of this event is available to watch on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/jm9O7yABPSI>

#### **URC Youth re-ASSEMBLED**

A reminder of URC Youth re-ASSEMBLED. Each month throughout 2021 there will be a range of social media posts, [Triologue broadcasts](#) and Zoom events, as well as suggestions of practical ways for young people to take action. Each month there will be a different theme aimed at the 14 to 25 age range.

October - Anti-Racism

November - Mental Health

December - Faith, Hope, Joy

January - Jubilee

Content will be shared via the URC Youth Social Media accounts

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/URCYouth/>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/urcyouth/>

### **Youth Get Together**

A face to face event will be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the O2 London. This will be a joint event with Thames North Synod. We will gather at 2pm for an activity (possibly bowling) and food. The event is open to young people aged 15-25 years.

### **Youth Assembly**

Bookings are now open for URC Youth Assembly 2022. It will take place from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Whitmoore Lakes. Bookings can be made online via this link - <https://urc.org.uk/urcya>  
Spaces for participants from Southern Synod to be funded from Synod Children & Youth Work Budget.

For the latest news and resources for your Children's & Youth Work, please follow this link.

<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

### **Youth Worker Project**

An email has been sent out to churches from Synod Office outlining scheme and asking to expressions of interest from churches looking to employ sessional worker, or young people interested in sessional work.

Advert has been included in Synod Mission & Vision Newsletter and shared on social media.

2 expressions of interest have been received from young people so far. A proforma has been created to record personal info and number of hours requested.

There has not currently been a large response from local churches. Tom will continue to promote the scheme when visiting local churches and we will also look to highlight at Synod area meetings.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

24<sup>th</sup> November

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

( via 'Zoom' – March meeting may be a Hybrid)