



Children's and Youth Work Committee **Report to Synod, March 2022**

Submitted by Graham Purdye



*The good leave an inheritance to their **children's children**...*

Proverbs 13:22a

Membership: We were delighted to welcome Rev Dr JunSoo Park from St Andrew's Balham and Tooting URC to join the committee at our last meeting and there are currently 6 active members.

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.

Synod Youth Assembly 2022.

8 young people from Southern Synod attended URC Youth Assembly at the end of January. The weekend included worship, issue based workshops and business sessions during which participants were able to bring forward their own resolutions. A range of issues were discussed, including resolutions relating to banning of LGBT conversation therapy and reaffirmation of URC Youth's commitment to tackling stigma relating to mental ill health. A summary of the resolutions is included in attached "Youth Assembly Round Up" report. 2 leaders attended the youth leader gathering which took place over the same weekend and at the same venue as URC Youth Assembly.

New Synod Youth Representative – We would like to welcome Heather Moore from Emmanuel West Wickham URC into the role of Synod Youth Representative. Heather will represent the voices of Young people within the Synod, and will attend URC Youth Executive meeting on behalf of the Synod. We wish Heather luck in her new role.

Recent Events etc. – From CYDO – Tom Hackett:

Youth Executive Weekend (3rd-5th December 2021)

I attended URC Youth Executive Weekend over the first weekend of December as CYDO+ support. The executive members were working on plans for youth assembly. I offered training on the URC Youth Assembly Standing Orders. This was my final meeting as CYDO+ support, having supported youth executive over the previous 3 years.

Eating Disorders Training

I attended an online information event about a new "Youth Track" training scheme being offered by the organisation Taste Life. This is a 3 session resource for use in secondary schools and youth groups. <https://www.tastelifeuk.org/youth-track/>
I am currently having follow up conversations with the organisation to explore if we could offer this training within Synod. This may be a suitable follow up for those who have attended the MHFA course and wish to explore eating disorders in more depth.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training - Training continues to be offered online with 2 courses running during Feb/March at full capacity. Fully funded spaces are offered for participants from Southern Synod. Further dates will be announced via the Synod Mission & Vision Newsletter. The course equips you with the knowle

Inclusive practice: providing pastoral support for LGBT+ young people - We have arranged a free online training session which will be delivered by the organisation Frontier Youth Trust. Tuesday 29th March, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Book a free space via Eventbrite. <https://bit.ly/inclusive-practice>

Lundie Memorial Award - Congratulations to Imogen Lydiatt who is a recent recipient of the URC Lundee Award. The award certificate and medal was presented to Imogen during worship at Broadway United Church Eastbourne 16th January. Imogen received the award for her active and committed involvement in her local church community. Every recipient receives £100 to be spent on children and youth work in the local church or community & Imogen has decided to donate the money to her local Brownie group and they plan to purchase resources including new Children's Bibles. Award nomination forms are available on URC website <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-global/lundie-memorial-awards/>

Jubilee resources - A new resource book for all ages and stages to engage with the theme of Jubilee will be released in March. A free copy will be sent to all churches as part of March mailing from Children and Youth Team. (Pack will be mailed to your local church designated children/youth contact or to church secretary.)

Celebrate Together Booklet - This new booklet is an intergenerational resource produced to celebrate the URCs 50th anniversary. Free copies will be available at Synod Together and can also be ordered from the URC shop. <https://urcshop.co.uk/celebrate-together-a-free-book-for-everyone/>

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 - Update

2 churches and 3 young people have expressed an interest.

The young people have been sent an initial expression of interest form and one paper has been returned by young person from Tooting URC. Tom is currently following up with the young person and minister to discuss further.

Tom will also be contacting area leaders to find out dates of upcoming meetings and request time on agenda to discuss the project.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

16th March 2022

22nd June 2022

(Via 'Zoom')