



## **Children's and Youth Work Committee** **Report to Synod, October 2025**

Submitted by Graham Purdy



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

### **Members**

#### **Membership:**

There have been no recent changes to the committee so there are currently 8 active members. Tom is valiantly covering the minute taking for which we are very grateful, but if anyone knows somebody in their church that may be willing to take on this role, please let me know. We are still looking at getting more involvement from young people in the Synod.

### **From the CYDO – Tom Hackett**

#### **Talking About...**

Talking About is a monthly 1 hour session exploring a theme for all children and youth workers and its FREE. Here's what is planned for this year. They are always insightful and often inspiring.

One Hour, Online Sessions including Presentation, Discussion And Q & A  
28 OCTOBER: Brain Development

27 NOVEMBER: Residential / Overnight Stays

All 7-8pm

Register Now at [www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](http://www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout) to receive the Zoom link and secure your spot.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ESSENTIALS TRAINING**

<https://youtu.be/IHGCz8QakFA>

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 10 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! 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 or discounted access to this course. Contact [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) to register your interest. (Other denominations may be making similar offers for those not involved in the URC!)

### **Advent Unpacked!**

Unpack some Christmas traditions and the Christmas story one day at a time. This alternative Advent calendar is a beautiful box of postcard-sized cards — one for each day in Advent. Alternating images of things associated with Christmas and characters from the Christmas story, there are 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. Advent Unpacked! is a gift for local URC churches to give to families, produced by the URC Children's and Youth Work and Communications teams. Pre-order at £2.75-£3 per pack (plus P&P) by 1 September to avoid disappointment. Grants available for free packs (just pay P&P) – contact [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) for details.  
<https://urcshop.co.uk/2025-urc-advent-kit> preord

### **Advent resources for churches**

Thinking of planning an under 5s toddler praise, a youth service, a café church or outdoor worship? Or would like to but not been sure how to approach this? Then this resource is for you, its full of tips, suggestions, activities and so much more. These new resources to aid your advent planning are now on the website.

### **Youth Assembly 2026 – February 27-1 March, Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton**

A weekend for all young people in school year 10 (age 14/15) up to age 25 years associated with the URC. Fully funded spaces available for participants from Southern Synod. Contact [cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk) for more info.

### **Youth Worker Project**

No new applications received since previous meeting.

Here is a brief summary of the project. Aimed to find a way of practically supporting youth work in local churches. Project aims to support churches in identifying young people from community to take on part time work within the local church. Idea came from fact that there are many young people on periphery of church who are sometimes forgotten and disengaged. This has been applied at Tolworth URC with employment of part time Youth Worker and has been successful. The technique helps to identify, support and nurture young people within the community. Tom has seen a growth in the youth workers confidence at Tolworth URC between visits.

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>

### **Upcoming Events**

URC Children's Worker Conference – November 28-30, Highgate House Conference Centre, Northampton

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Join 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 the main speaker. Book your place by emailing [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) – full weekend places cost £210 (funding available through Synod or Pilots)

Worship, workshops, keynotes, networking, resources, making, exploring, laughing

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

tbc (via 'Zoom')