

## Children's and Youth Work Committee Report to Synod Together

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

### Committee Membership:

There have been no recent changes to the committee so there are currently 8 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.

We are still looking at getting more involvement from young people in the Synod.

### From The CYDO

#### Southern Synod Children & Youth Update

#### Youth Assembly 2026

URC Youth Assembly 2026 took place over the weekend of 27th Feb – 1st March, at Kings Park Northampton. The theme for the event was "Wise Words into Wiser Actions." 8 young people attended from Southern Synod. We will be holding a post assembly event in April for participants from Southern & Thames North, this will be an opportunity for participants to reconnect and evaluate the event.

(Hopefully there will be a verbal report at Synod Together)

#### Mental Health First Aid Training

During Jan/Feb Tom Hackett successfully completed MHFA England Instructor Extension training, enabling him to deliver the main Mental Health First Aid Course, in addition to the current Youth MHFA course. This training will be rolled out during 2026, with fully funded spaces offered to Southern Synod participants. The expanded offering will enable wider engagement with MHFA, in response to General Assembly resolution encouraging all churches to have a trained Mental Health First Aider. New course dates will be advertised via the Synod newsletter.

#### Youth Residential – May 29-31st

The joint Southern & Thames North Youth Residential will take place from 29-31 May at Whitemoor Lakes Staffordshire. The weekend is open to secondary school young people aged 11-16 years. The leadership team will be coordinated by Tom Hackett and Lorraine Downer (Synod CYDO's) alongside a volunteer team from both Synods. Bookings via [www.bit.ly/residential2026](http://www.bit.ly/residential2026)

#### Creative Week Residential – October Half Term

We are holding a joint synod (Southern & Thames North) creative week residential event during October half term. The event will run from Mon 26th – Fri 30th October, with a showcase performance taking on the final afternoon on Friday 30th October. The residential will take place at Kench Hill, Tenterden in Kent, with the final showcase at Lumen, London. The event is for secondary school young people aged 11-16 years. The planning team are working on plans for the event, and further details will be shared via the synod newsletter.

#### Children's Ministry Essentials Training – Monthly online training throughout 2026

CME is a newly developed course aimed at anyone involved in engagement with children in local church contexts. It is designed to deepen your understanding, increase your confidence and develop your skills. The CYDO+ team are piloting the course, with sessions taking place online on Saturday mornings (10am-12noon) throughout 2026. Upcoming sessions – 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 Sept, 3 Oct  
 Email [children.youth@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urcsouthern.org.uk) to register.  
 There is no charge for participants linked with a URC or Local Ecumenical Partnership.

### **Youthscape Essentials – All-Round Youth Work Training**

Join members of the CYDO+ team of the United Reformed Church for Youthscape Essentials — an engaging and practical training course for anyone involved in youth work or thinking about getting started. This course helps you grow in confidence, understanding and skill to support young people in your context.

Through the course you'll explore insights into youth culture, develop core youth work skills, and reflect on your own leadership and faith — all rooted in Scripture and shaped by current research. The flexible format means some sessions will be in person (Saturday 16th May and Saturday 27th June in London) and others online, with options to choose evenings or mornings to suit your schedule. Whether you're new to volunteering or want a refreshed foundation for your ministry, this course will equip you to work with young people more confidently and intentionally.

Click [www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register](http://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse/register) to book and use Course Code 2365449.

### **Talking About... Monthly Online Discussion Sessions**



**TALKING ABOUT... 2026**

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18	LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 25	THE FAMILY FILM CLUB RESOURCE
MONDAY APRIL 20	INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
THURSDAY 28 MAY	TALKING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM
THURSDAY JUNE 18	BAPTISM & DEDICATION
TUESDAY JULY 21	CONNECTING WITH UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21	MAKING THE MOST OF THE ADVENT RESOURCE
MONDAY OCTOBER 19	HOW TO DISAGREE WELL
TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER	CHRISTIANITY AND MENTAL HEALTH
FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: <a href="http://WWW.BIT.LY/T4lkingAbout">WWW.BIT.LY/T4lkingAbout</a>	

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>

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**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

The dates for the next few meetings are still to be finalised as it is hoped at least a couple of young people who attended Youth Assembly will join the committee and a 'Doodle poll' will be used to determine the best dates.

Graham Purdye  
Convenor - Children and Youth Work Committee