

The induction of the **Revd Yohan Song** to the Bristol Korean Church, the newest church in the URC, and the Gale Project took place on Saturday 28th October.



The service was led by Revd Sue Cossey and Revd Stephen Newell, Synod Pastoral Advisors for Bristol area, representing the South Western Synod. Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary for Ministries, was also in attendance.



The service was also broadcast in Korea, from where Revd Juyong Kim sent his greetings.



A discipleship development programme for everyone

Roy Lowes, Synod Stepwise Advocate writes:

I am planning to facilitate the Stepwise Stream called **Faith Filled Life** using Zoom, in the first half of 2024 and this message is to invite anyone who might like to be part of the group, to contact me to register their interest.

Anyone contacting me will not be committing themselves to anything and I'm more than happy for people to get in touch if they simply want to know more. Even if it is as basic as to ask, 'What's Stepwise?!' although as title above suggests, it's to equip us to be better followers of Christ.

As to what it involves, each of the eight Sessions of **Faith Filled Life** involves an online group meeting which I will facilitate. I will also oversee and support the group in between these meetings, which will include one to one, using resources that are available on the United Reformed Church's Learning Hub. The dates and frequency of the meetings and therefore the length of the whole Stream will be determined by the group, and we will not go any faster than the group wishes. We will also have the Zoom meetings at a time convenient to all.

If you are interested but worried (or even terrified!) about how the online part works, or not confident in using a computer, or even don't know what Zoom is, do still have a conversation with me!

If you are interested in doing Stepwise but want a group that meets face to face then please let me know. We can then explore whether that is possible in your area. One such group is planned in Bristol in the New Year.

So if you want to register interest or have questions, please, do contact me.

roy.avril@btinternet.com or telephone 07712 654968.



Online Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn to support young people

- Gain an in-depth understanding of mental health and factors that can affect wellbeing in the youth sector
- Develop practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Feel confident to step in, reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhance your interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:



Visit the MHFA England website at mhfaengland.org
Follow us on social media @MHFAEngland

Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

December 2023
Evenings 18:30-21:30
4 online sessions
Mon 4, Weds 6
Mon 11, Weds 13

Register at:
www.bit.ly/mhfa-dec23



ONLINE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA®) COURSE

Online Youth Mental Health First Aid training for people living, working and volunteering with young people age 8 - 18.

Develop the skills and confidence to spot the signs of mental health issues in a young person, offer first aid and guide them towards the support they need.

Session 1: Monday 4th December - 18:30 - 21:30
Session 2: Wednesday 6th December - 18:30 - 21:30
Session 3: Monday 11th December - 18:30 - 21:30
Session 4: Wednesday 13th December - 18:30 - 21:30
Participants must attend all 4 sessions of the course.

Register at: www.bit.ly/mhfa-dec23

RAAC in URC church buildings

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) is a reinforced version of autoclaved aerated concrete, commonly used in roofing and wall construction. It gained popularity in the mid-1950s – 1990s as a cheaper and more lightweight alternative to conventional reinforced concrete. It is a 'bubbly' form of concrete predominantly found as precast panels in roofs, flat roofs, and occasionally in floors and walls (cladding). It has a bubbly appearance on the inside and looks a little bit like an Aero chocolate bar and unlike traditional concrete it does not contain aggregate and thus has a smooth appearance on the outside.

Further details available on the website - [click here](#)

Diane C. Phillips, Property & Trust Officer, URC (SW Synod) Inc. Email: property@urcsouthwest.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Dates for future training with the URC:

[National Safeguarding Training 2024 \(urc.org.uk\)](https://www.urc.org.uk)

Foundation training is now available on the following link:

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24>

If you have any problems with this please try:

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/> and look for the safeguarding training module that you should be able to click on without an account.

Please complete this in your own time, individually or in groups.

However, every person that attends needs to complete the form at the end to get a certificate to prove their participation.

Intermediate dates will be available soon for 2024. These will be a mixture of zoom and face to face.

Please contact me if you would like to host a Face-to-face session.

For details of who needs what training please refer to this document:

[Paper T5 - SAG - Safeguarding Training Framework \(urc.org.uk\)](https://www.urc.org.uk)

[Safeguarding Sunday | Thirtyone:eight \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](https://thirtyoneeight.org/)

GP6 is now ready to use on the website: [Safeguarding good practice - United Reformed Church](https://www.urc.org.uk)

Hard copies will be sent out during November.

Emails are being sent out regularly to Church Safeguarding Coordinators. Please make sure that the database is up to date with the current details, so that they can receive any new information.

Best wishes

Claire Partridge

Synod Safeguarding Officer

South Western Synod

The United Reformed Church

18 Paul Street

Taunton

01823 275470

07875454064

My normal working days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Wednesday mornings.





Holy Spirit Unplugged

The Holy Spirit Unplugged conference takes place in Prague and is focussed on healing and deliverance ministry. This event is a partnership between several agencies, and we have been invited to provide some of the key teaching and leadership for it.

Hilary Clark will be helping to lead the conference, and Pauline Eyles will be a keynote speaker. Nicola and James Nicholson will be manning our display stand alongside Matt Ferguson (he is also playing in the worship group). Terry Belman is going along to help provide intercessory prayer cover, and Brian Sedgwick is part of the prayer ministry team.

The venue can hold up to 500 people, and the event builds on the success of healing conferences that have been taking place there over many years. This is a significant opportunity to raise the profile of Dunamis in that nation and will, hopefully, draw more people to participate in the upcoming Ignite! events next year. This is an English-language event, and we have a good range of fresh bilingual publicity material to distribute.

Catholic Charismatic Leaders

On the same weekend around 60 leaders of CHARIS (the Catholic Charismatic renewal Service) are meeting at a conference in Želiv and Paul Stokes has been invited to be the keynote speaker on the Saturday, teaching about the "Armour of God." Pauline and Terry will switch to this event for the Sunday when Pauline will teach about "Obedience to the Holy Spirit," while Paul travels to the Community of the Cross in the USA to lead a Dunamis Teacher Training event that starts on Monday!

We have enjoyed growing relationships with charismatic Catholics over recent years, and the venue for the latest Ignite! event was the Catholic convent in Prague. Pavla Petrášková, who heads up CHARIS in the Czech Republic has participated in several Dunamis events and has been helping with our publicity. We are amazed at how the Lord has been opening up this most unexpected connection, not just in the Czech Republic but also in the UK, and we watch with anticipation to see where this might lead us.

To make it easier for you to pray, stay connected with other intercessors, and send the team discernment, we have asked Jenny Stacey to be our Offsite Lead Intercessor. Thank you Jenny for taking up this vital role!

Jenny will set up a WhatsApp group for communication between our offsite intercessors.

If you'd like to be added to this WhatsApp group, either:

send Jenny a WhatsApp message on [07939 823207](tel:07939823207)

or

[click here to email Jenny \(jennyf.stacey@gmail.com\)](mailto:jennyf.stacey@gmail.com)



Dear Friends,

We are excited to inform you that we are looking to appoint a new Director here at The Ammerdown Centre.

"Fifty years ago, Ammerdown was founded by Lord Hylton and members of the local community as a place of Hospitality, Peace and Reconciliation. The Centre is a Christian foundation, which has charity status offering a programme of spiritual, wellbeing, interfaith and creative courses, as well as offering hospitality to external groups. Social Justice, including climate change, welcoming refugees, and racial justice, is a significant thread of our charitable work. The Centre is located in beautiful, peaceful surroundings where many find solace, as well as the opportunity to meet people of difference. Others have been invigorated and challenged through their visits to Ammerdown, where seeds of hope have been planted.

Over the last few years, Ammerdown, like many organisations in the hospitality sector, has been challenged by COVID19 and the cost of living crisis. These challenges may be with us for sometime. However they are not insurmountable with innovation and creativity. We welcome discussions with people who wish to engage with us as we discern how the original vision might live in contemporary society.

Ammerdown has much to offer locally, nationally and internationally, to individuals and to groups. Over the years, it has been a beacon of hope for many.

We are now looking to recruit a Director for Ammerdown with leadership skills and a passion for the vision and mission of Ammerdown. We are very happy to welcome you to visit the Centre to see our work in action. Contact christine.clinch@ammerdown.org to organise this.

If you would like to explore applying for the post of Director please feel free to contact me for a discussion via stuartjohnburgess0@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Stuart Burgess CBE
Chair of the Trustees The Ammerdown Centre



Ammerdown this festive season

Lunchtime Christmas Meals from Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th December. Gather for our Candlelit Christmas Carol Service at 12 noon or enjoy a drink in the bar. Food will be served at 1pm.

And new for 2023

Evening Christmas Meals on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December. Gather for our Candlelit Christmas Carol Service at 6pm or enjoy a drink in the bar. Food served at 7pm.

Two Courses £26.95 OR Three Courses £32.95

Prices the same as 2022!

Table wine available to pre-order. Book for your group or family and friends.

Call us on 01761 433709 or email bookings@ammerdown.org

RURAL ADVOCATES

This is an invitation to an online gathering of URC Rural Advocates on Zoom on the 6th December at 2.00pm - 3.00pm. The idea of the initial get-together is to talk about how such a gathering might look in the future. As you are aware, there is already an ecumenical gathering based at the Arthur Rank Centre, which some of this group find helpful, and after the last meeting a few people agreed that a URC specific one might be useful. I am thinking of this as an ideal place for sharing stories and ideas, for mutual support and perhaps occasionally including a speaker on a relevant topic.

Please pass this onto anyone who may be interested and do let me know if you are able to join on the 6th December, and we'll send out the Zoom link.

*Linda Rayner
United Reformed Church
Coordinator for fresh expressions
07944 806077*

CRE, 8 - 9th November, Cranmore Park, Solihull - please share

Earlier this year, the Christian Resources Exhibition was unable to take place because of the Eurovision Song Contest. However, the 2023 show is taking place at Cranmore Park, Solihull, B90 4LE and the URC is one of 170 exhibitors at the show on November 8-9.

To get a free ticket to the exhibition, please use this link <https://eventdata.uk/Comp/CREMidlands2023.aspx?TrackingCode=URC>

Please share this link with anyone involved in Christian work and ministry.

The exhibition also includes a lively talks programme, with dozens of talks by national experts, including Sam Richards, offering practical advice on a range of subjects – from fundraising to faith-sharing, holiday clubs to homelessness.

See the full programme here: [Talks programme](#)

With warmest wishes and thanks,

Andy

*Andy Jackson
Head of Communications, The United Reformed Church
020 7691 9865 | 07976 848062 | Out of hours media: 07976 753950*



The United Reformed Church's 2023 Advent resource for families, God in the Ordinary, is available for pre-ordering.

The focus this year is on helping people find God in their daily lives as well as in the Christmas story. Each pack will contain:

- A giant poster with a 'countdown to Christmas', featuring lots of suggestions for things to do, QR codes to the Faith Adventures: Children Together take-home postcards with the Bible story, prayer and activity for the four weeks of Advent
- Four mini-books (which look like presents) with ribbon to hang them up as decorations – each telling part of the Christmas story with playful photo illustrations and a simple prayer
- Four stained-glass windows to colour (linked to the four books)

The Children's and Youth Work Team will produce suggestions for how churches can use the pack for outreach and with their congregations. For more information on this, please email the team at childrens.youth@urc.org.uk

The slightly subsidised packs are priced as affordable as possible at:

£3 for a single pack + p&p

£28 for a pack of 10 (£2.80 each) +p&p

£65 for a pack of 25 (£2.60 each) +p&p

The packs should be available for despatch from 1 November.

The team will also be offering grants to cover the cost of the pack for churches needing help, meaning just the cost of postage and packaging will need to be paid. Churches can apply via a simple application form. Please email the team at children.youth@urc.org.uk to submit your pre-order or to apply for the grant.



Spring 2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage

Revd. Paul Snell, County Ecumenical Officer for Devon and a URC Minister, and his wife Linda, are leading another pilgrimage to the Holy Land Israel/Palestine from **3rd – 11th April 2024**, and invite you to join them.

This trip will include all the major biblical sites associated with the ministry of Jesus including a visit to the Dead Sea, Ein Gedi the Jesus Trail, Jaffa (Joppa), Mount Carmel and a special sound and light show at Beth Shean. A good standard hotel accommodation - 1 night in Bethlehem followed by 4 nights in East Jerusalem and 3 nights in Tiberias overlooking the Sea of Galilee. There will be time for quiet reflection and we will share the experience of fellowship with other pilgrims as we travel in our own coach accompanied by our own local guide. The cost based on half board and 2 people sharing is £2281 which includes flights from Heathrow.

All the details are on our website at www.thesnells.org.uk or call Paul on 07735 603553.

Printed brochures are also available.



The vision for **Shine Your Light** is that the whole church across the family of nations stand united to share the Gospel to the whole of society this Christmas.

We are running with the narrative and visuals where every local church and believer acts as a Light that shines to brighten up the whole land like a Christmas tree. The nationwide campaign will run on the weekend of **Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December**, but with an emphasis in communications messaging on the Saturday.

The domain for the campaign is www.shineyourlight.org.uk with a social media campaign to run alongside it. Denominations and partners are able to share resources via our digital resources section for use by local churches.

To link the national and local church together, we will create a map highlighting all the events we know that are taking place over the weekend, with appropriate signposting. There will be a number of things which churches can order, including candles, a bespoke booklet and sound files with the music.

We will be sharing this idea of a United Christmas campaign with Christian and Secular Broadcasters. There will be 3 videos which form the basis for the campaign; an invitation video for use in churches, an invitation to wider society released in November and a video bringing both audiences together in December.

The campaign will be launched in October, via social media, a focus on the NDOPW weekly Prayer Meeting and also media engagement.



Books, resources and gifts from The United Reformed Church

Please go to the website to see all that is available: <https://urcshop.co.uk/>

