

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"I will lie down & sleep in peace, for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Psalm 4: 8

A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER

Online presentations, ideas and discussion about how to celebrate the birth of Christ with children, young people and families in a reimagined and COVID secure way

Thursday 12th November 2020
10-12noon

Book at
www.separtnership.org.uk/boost



BOOST

ONLINE ROCKET FUEL FOR
CHILDREN'S, YOUTH & FAMILIES'
WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS,
VOLUNTEERS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Armchair Mission

A ZOOM meeting on 24th November 2020 at 10.30am

Is it possible to 'do mission' with the present limitations the pandemic has created? A time to explore and discuss ways of reaching out during restrictions.

We will be looking at the acronym 'ACORN' developed by Michael Harvey (founder of the National Weekend of Invitation) as well as sharing stories of growth and health in these challenging times.

To register your interest please email |

missionofficer@urcsouthern.org.uk

PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE

COMING SOON: an opportunity to participate in this 2 session course online.

Delegates need to be recommended by their Church. Interested in attending?

Please contact Andy Twilley:

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



Communion

Safeguarding for Trustees of Faith-based Organisations: Free online training

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), as part of the Safeguarding Training Fund in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the National Lottery Community Fund, are pleased to invite you to our online training webinar on safeguarding responsibilities for trustees in faith-based organisations.

This **90-minute training opportunity** will equip you with an understanding of the importance of safeguarding, trustee responsibilities in the governance of safeguarding and offer the chance to reflect on the effectiveness of your current systems and structures. There will also be an opportunity to raise questions for further discussion.

Register for the either the **30 November** or **14 December** session.

[Learn more and register now - Safeguarding for trustees webinar](#)



A FREE conference for all those engaging with under-fives in faith settings running over three consecutive evenings.

Book via Eventbrite: bit.ly/faith-with-under-5s

7pm to 8.45pm Tuesday 24th November - Faith with under 5s in wider mixed-age groups

Keynote: Becky May with discussion and small group time

7pm to 8.45pm Wednesday 25th November - Faith with under 5s in church worship (creche and pew)

Keynote: Gill Ambrose with discussion and small group time

7pm to 8.45pm Thursday 26th November - Faith with under 5s in toddler groups

Keynote: Alison Hulse with discussion and small group time



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Issue 81

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TRUSTEES' WEEK

The Charity Commission have launched 5 new 5-minute guides covering a 'core syllabus' of basics that trustees need to know.

They explain the basics of:

- * [financial oversight](#)
- * [achieving a charity's purposes](#)
- * [good decision making](#)
- * [addressing conflicts of interest](#)
- * [what to file with the Commission and what support is available](#)

These guides aim to act as a 'go-to' for simple and clear advice for all Elders.

Click the links to access them or go to the

[MAIN WEB PAGE](#)

Premier Digital Awards & Conference let's reimagine church together

Saturday 14th November

This is a critical time for the church. To be accessible and relevant in the 'new normal' churches must learn to seamlessly bridge both physical meetings and online participation.

It is vital that we make a success of this new 'hybrid' approach to church life.

For 14 years, the *Premier Digital Awards and Conference* has been leading the way in equipping the Christian community for online ministry. This year, make sure you don't miss out, and gain:

- **New ideas** that you can use in your church, charity or project.
- **Understand** how to make online and offline hybrid church work in your context.
- **Learn** new skills that will help you grow.
- **Explore** the theology of digital and wrestle with the big questions.
- **Meet** new people, build relationships and learn from one another.

Join us online for over 30 amazing talks, from wherever you are in the world! For more info –

<https://www.premierdigital.info/conference>

URC Safeguarding Symposium 2020

The webpages for on-line symposium launching the safeguarding strategic plan are ready to share and disseminate with synods and local churches, here a reflection on the event and a link to visual minutes and further resources <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3632-urc-launch-safeguarding-strategic-plan.html>

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this event.

PLEASE NOTE: all items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opune](#) by 20 November & a copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website www.southernsynodurc.org.uk

CALLED TO PREACH?

The Lay Preachers training course has now run for 3 years with over 50 delegates enjoying an exciting and inspiring journey.

The next course will start January 2021.

Do you know anyone who might be interested?

Please contact me to find out more: [Andy Twilley](#)



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EXPLORE YOUR CALL

November 18

19.00 – 20.30

An evening on ZOOM to find out what it means to become a...

**Minister of Word & Sacrament
Church Related Community Worker
Local Church Leader
Lay Preacher**

With input from a range of speakers, this will be an exciting opportunity to hear insights from those who are engaged in these ministries, to ask your questions, and most importantly, to
"Explore YOUR call".

To find out more, or to book a place,
contact Andy Twilley
training@urcsouthern.org.uk

EXPLORE YOUR CALL

How might God be calling you to serve?

This event is to help you understand different roles in the life of Church which God might be calling you to. Have your questions answered and discover how to pursue what God is saying to you.

SPEAKERS

Bridget Banks
Angela Rigby
Jo Patterson
Ted Bellingham
Pam Tolhurst
Mark Minott
Sue Knight
Bill Bowman
Hosted by: Andy Twilley



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Hastings church forced to close has given big donations to good causes

Andrew Hemsley
hastings.observance@jplmedia.co.uk

A Hastings Church which had to close due to lack of support has made substantial donations to local good causes including the Foodbank.

Church secretary and elder Helen Bird said: "St Mark's United Reformed Church in Hughenden Place, Hastings, sadly had to close at the beginning of August, but out of that sadness has come happiness for neighbouring churches and charities in the form of substantial donations which have been especially welcome in this very difficult year when all are suffering from lack of income."

Hastings Foodbank, 'Dragonflies' at the Fellowship of St Nicholas, St Michael's Hospice and Demelza Hospice Care for Children have each received £25,000.

Helen said: "I, and my friends within the church family, were extremely sad that we had to take the



Helen Bird (front) with representatives from St Michael's Hospice, the Food Bank, Dragonflies at FSN and Demelza Children's Hospice

decision to close our spiritual home from lack of support.

"However, we wish to record our grateful thanks for the church members' generosity throughout the years and because of the

financial care taken by our church treasurers, we have been able to help local and village churches and local charities with generous donations".

The benefitting churches

are Clive Vale United Reformed, St Luke's United Reformed, Bexhill United Reformed, Sedlescombe United Reformed, Ashburnham Chapel, 'His Place' Community Church,

and Calvary Chapel.

Pictured with Helen are Perdita Chamberlain (St Michael's Hospice), Jon Wales (Hastings Food Bank), Angie Jakeman (Dragonflies) and Jenna Heritage (Demelza).

Church in focus LINDFIELD URC

Life in lockdown – Part 2! Lindfield URC is situated in the middle of the High Street in Lindfield.

Although recently, it hasn't been. The building has still been there, but the church has been spread far and wide. Exciting isn't it? A glimpse of church without a building? Maybe for some, but probably not for others! We, at Lindfield, have been streaming live Sunday morning services on Facebook with the ability for those without social media to call in on their phone and listen to the service. We have been able to enjoy 'coffee' time after the service using the amazing technology that it available to us!

And let's thank God for technology! I have been able to stay connected with the young people, seeing them 'face to face' on a screen. And as we now move into a second lockdown, I am even more grateful for this ability to stay in touch!

It is so difficult to look ahead and see where to go next in this time of uncertainty, but we can trust that God will bring us through!

Danny Goodall
Lindfield URC Youth Pastor



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Issue 81