

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"We do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen."

2 Cor 4: 16—18

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

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

PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE

Two sessions:

January 5 and 19
10.30 – 12.30

We anticipate the sessions will take place at Burgess Hill URC unless legislation prevents this, in which case we will go ahead using ZOOM.

Please contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to register:

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



EXPLORE
YOUR CALL

SO ENCOURAGING!

At the event we ran on November 18th we had 17 people attend, each sensing that God is calling them to serve in some way, and determined to discern the *specific* call on their life. As I looked at the screen, I didn't just see an array of faces: I saw such amazing potential of people who can truly make a difference.

Without doubt God has plans and purposes for each of their lives and wants to specifically use them in the work of His Church. I feel a genuine sense of excitement and expectancy as I anticipate the Lord guiding them forward, inspiring them to seek His will then obediently serve.

Andy Twilley

CUPS, CHAIRS & so much more. FREE for Collection

Gomshall URC has sadly now closed, but its contents are up for grabs. Free to a good Church / Home there are a wide variety of items you are welcome to collect.

By appointment only, contact Colin to arrange a time & date.

property@urcsouthern.org.uk

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.



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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](#)



JUDGES IN JUDGES

S	H	L	K	P	I	B	H	I	R
A	A	W	E	B	D	A	U	A	A
M	C	M	Z	I	R	U	B	T	G
U	E	A	S	O	N	I	H	A	M
E	N	L	B	O	M	H	L	E	A
L	G	E	O	E	N	O	T	O	H
I	D	Y	L	N	T	Z	P	O	S
W	J	E	G	I	D	E	O	N	B
S	C	H	A	H	T	H	P	E	J
H	N	O	D	B	A	J	A	I	R

WORDSEARCH: Can you find the 12 Judges from the book of Judges, & which is the "extra" one & why is he not one of the 12?

Answers to Andy: training@urcsouthern.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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LOCAL CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER!

Eastwick Road Church in Bookham is joining with Fetcham and Gt Bookham Parish Churches, Bookham Baptist Church and RC churches in Effingham and Fetcham in a 'Christmas in a bag project' taking the Christmas message to those outside or on the fringes of Church life.

It had started with a comment at the Ministers' Fraternal by Steve Elmes, lead minister at Bookham Baptist that a 'Christmas in a Box' was being delivered in some parts of the country.

Because of the uncertainty of Christmas services in our churches, this was a way of taking Christmas to people in their homes.

There are two boxes, one for families with activities for children and some sweet treats, and another for older people, with quizzes, mini Christmas puddings and brownies. Some of the food items have been sourced locally to support local traders and charities.

All the boxes will have word games, hot chocolate sachets, coffee sachets, and booklets giving the Good News of Christmas, with details of possible Christmas services. Nearly 500 will be distributed, following the Covid guidelines, to many different groups.

For over 10 years Churches Together with the local traders had organised a Late Night Shopping evening, together with stalls in Baptist Church and a display of Christmas trees decorated by many local organisations in St Nicolas Parish Church. It had been decided at the end of last year that this format was ending, so this initiative has been an opportunity to show to our local community God's love and bring some 'Comfort and Joy' in what has been a difficult year.

Sue Ferguson – Church Secretary Eastwick Road Church



PLEASE NOTE

All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opune](mailto:Opune@urcsouthern.org.uk) by 4 December.

A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website

www.southernsynodurc.org.uk



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Faith & Science in the Local Church

A Workshop for Christian Leaders

Friday 8th - Saturday 9th January 2021

Online Zoom meeting with breakout rooms

Join us for this interactive two-day workshop designed for lay and ordained Christian leaders. The workshop will cover contemporary topics in the dialogue between Science and the Christian Faith, including Artificial Intelligence, Bioethics, Creation Care, and Response to Disasters.

Participants will be equipped to engage with scientific issues in the day-to-day life of their ministry context. Open to all church leaders – no scientific background required.

Cost: £50 (£30 for those in ministry training)

Details and registration: faraday.institute/churchleadersworkshop



Church in focus

ECUMENICAL OFFICER: REV. PAUL DEAN

As Synod ecumenical officer and as a URC minister based in Ashford where I work collaboratively with Methodists, I find the two parts of my work complement each other. I try to assist the Moderator in her ecumenical role, and I am available to ministers, churches and Synod Areas where help is required on ecumenical matters. Like other officers of the Synod, I try to share ideas and good practice that I have learnt from other parts of the South East including London. If you are from Sussex, I am currently trying to build ecumenical links there and would value your help, as CTE have made me their contact person for Sussex. I am now on the Assembly Accreditations Sub-Committee and interested in learning more about CRCW and Special Category Ministry. If you need to contact me my email address is ecumenical@urcsouthern.org.uk.

Rev. Paul Dean
Southern Synod Ecumenical Officer
Minister: United Church, Ashford



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