

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! “

2 Corinthians 9:15



*On behalf of all Synod staff, we wish you
a very happy Christmas, praying that
you will know the joy, hope and peace of
Christ as you experience the wonder of
His love.*

sweetclipart.com

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MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

One of the consequences of Covid 19 has been a marked increase in the number of people experiencing mental health challenges. Increasing our understanding, as well as learning how to respond appropriately is something we can all do.

THREE OPPORTUNITIES

OPTION 1: On January 7, starting at 18.30, Belinda Nielson (Safeguarding Officer) will be running a seminar looking at Mental Health and the implications for Safeguarding. There will be a specific focus on "Abuse, neglect and mental capacity". To register, contact BELINDA:

safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk

OPTION 2: MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE: a nationally recognised and accredited course which we are able to offer FREE OF CHARGE for 12 people (usual cost £300pp). The course will take place over 4 sessions (on ZOOM) and will focus on Mental Health amongst young people.

To register your interest, contact TOM:

cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

OPTION 3: In 2021 Andy Twilley will be running a series of 4 seminars exploring Mental Health issues from a Psychological, Sociological and Theological perspective.

INTERESTED? Contact Andy and he will keep you informed as dates and times are planned.

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



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](#)

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



Southern Synod Youth Representative



- Represent young people within Southern Synod.
- Talk and listen to others, to share their needs.
- Become a member of URC Youth Executive, helping to plan Youth Assembly.
- Represent young people in the URC across the UK.
- Help make the URC accessible to all.

Could this be you?

Know a young person you might be interested?

Contact Tom Hackett - cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk for further info and application details

Jan 2021-2023 term of office, must be aged 16-25 years for duration of office. Applications close Mon 11th Jan.

Synod Office: East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP

Tel: 020 8688 3730 office@urcsouthern.org.uk



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WORDS OF WAITING

Advent Reflections
for 11 to 14 year olds

Based on The Bible Project Advent Word Studies



A weekly resource for eleven to fourteen year olds to use either alone or in a small group to reflect on the four words of Advent. This resource has been compiled by the CYDO+ team to accompany the Bible Project's Advent Words series on YouTube.

Download a free copy now
<https://bit.ly/words-of-waiting>

YOUTH GET TOGETHER

Online gathering for young people aged 13-25
from Thames North & Southern Synods

Sunday 10th Jan - 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Meet other young people for an evening of
worship and fun.

Book Via Eventbrite - bit.ly/youth-get-together

URC Youth 2021 (dis)ASSEMBLED

TOGETHER IN SPIRIT
IF NOT IN BODY

FUN WITH 'FOLK ON'
SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2021
8-9.30PM

WORSHIP
SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2021
8-8.45PM
(STAY FOR PRAYER, DISCUSSION
OR CHAT UNTIL 9.30PM)

OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
AGE 14 TO 25 WITH A
CONNECTION TO THE URC

BOOK HERE:
<https://bit.ly/djsASSEMBLED>

JOIN US!
FREE ONLINE EVENTS
FUN, FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Follow URC Youth on Facebook or Instagram for news of events in 2021
URCYouth @URC_Youth #URCYA21

HEROES & VILLAINS



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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](https://www.faradayinstitute.org.uk/churchleadersworkshop)



PLEASE NOTE

All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opuene](mailto:opuene@southernurc.org.uk) by **8 January**.

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

www.southernurc.org.uk

Church in focus

Christ Church Chichester (Methodist & URC)
& Pagham URC

As the 'nearly new' Minister of Word and Sacrament for the Chichester Pastorate of Christ Church (Methodist and URC) and Pagham URC, my ministry here began under the difficult circumstances of life under Covid restrictions and lockdowns. Trying to get to know people whilst wearing face masks or through online conversations in a Zoom meeting is not ideal – but it has not ceased to amaze me how adaptable folks can be when the church building closes! The usual church groups and programmes have had to stop or adapt, but the hope is that with a New Year new hope will bring a new focus on being church in the community in new ways. 2021 will begin under the shadow of 2020 as we continue to be disciples in a Covid world, but we follow the light of the Christ Child as he continues to show us how to minister His grace & love.

Rev'd Helen Higgin-Botham



The
United
Reformed
Church

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Issue 83