

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." **Isaiah 41: 13**

May the Lord bless & protect you through 2021



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

CALLED TO PREACH?

Is God calling you, or someone in your church to train as a Lay Preacher? The 2021 course commences February 9th. Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to book your place.



training@urcsouthern.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE

All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to

Opuene by **22 January**.

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

www.southernsynodurc.org.uk

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SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Are you an Elder, Church Secretary, Volunteer, Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy, Youth Worker, Minister, Lay Preacher or just wanting to learn more about Safeguarding?

There is 2 hour training available online via Zoom:

Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7pm (BASIC)

Friday 5th February 2021 at 6pm (INTERMEDIATE)*

Monday 15th February 2021 at 10am (BASIC)

Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7pm (BASIC)

Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 12pm (BASIC)

Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 6.30pm (INTERMEDIATE)*

*Attendance at the Intermediate training requires completion of the BASIC course first.

Please email me at: safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk with your name, role, Church and requested date.

If there are specific topics which you would like to learn about or bespoke training desired in your Church, please state these in your email.

Belinda Nielsen - Synod Safeguarding Officer.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY LECTURE

The 2020 Lecture (*delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic*) will take place at 5:30 pm on Thursday 28th January 2021. Professor Jane Shaw, Principal of Harris Manchester College and Professor of the History of Religion at the University of Oxford will speak on the subject, Nonconformists and the Modern Revival of Mysticism. The early twentieth century saw a revival of interest in mysticism, and an accompanying growth in retreats and prayer groups. While Anglicans and Roman Catholics initially sparked the revival, nonconformists – especially women – contributed to it in significant ways.

Some wrote influential books, others edited modern editions of the medieval mystics, yet others helped lead retreats and prayer meetings, and a handful engaged in a rigorous form of the mystic and ascetic life themselves. In addition, many nonconformists were shaped by this renewal of mysticism (notably the leading Congregationalist of the day, R. J. Campbell), and made it a part of their theology and daily life. This lecture will consider the impact of nonconformists on the revival of mysticism, and the impact of the revival on key nonconformists. The lecture will be delivered via Zoom and is free of charge. To obtain the Zoom link and password please contact the Secretary of the Friends of the Congregational Library, Patricia Judd at admin@pondsquarechapel.org.uk

www.conglib.ac.uk

JUST TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

How fast was the ostrich running when it hit the tree?



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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.

URC Youth 2021 (dis)ASSEMBLED

JOIN US!

FREE ONLINE EVENTS

FUN, FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

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/disASSEMBLED>

Follow URC Youth on Facebook or Instagram for news of events in 2021

URCYouth @URC_Youth #URCYA21

HEROES VILLAINS

Logos for various partner organizations including the United Reformed Church, Scouts, and others.

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CHARITY REGISTRATION

Following a recent consultation, the relevant government department (DCMS) has announced that it intends to lay a Statutory Instrument before parliament in early 2021 which if passed will extend the current exception for churches with annual income below £100k by another ten years. They say that this will give currently excepted charities time to prepare for registration and allow the Charity Commission as much time as possible to register all excepted organisations in a coordinated way.

We understand that DCMS and the Charity Commission are working on a plan to phase more organisations onto the register in a manageable way over the extension period and plan to share further details in early 2021. Any churches who have annual income above £100k and have not yet registered should still do so and I can provide them with a step to step guide on request.

For more information, please contact: Catherine Kingdom; Synod Finance Officer & Trust Secretary
financeandtrust@urcsouthern.org.uk



What is God
asking of
YOU?



Ministry Enquirers' Event
to help you think about God's call to Worship Leading, Lay Preaching,
Ministry with children and young people, the Ministry of Word and
Sacraments or Church Related Community Work.

Enquirers' Event Saturday 27th February 2021
10am - 3pm online
Register with ministries@urc.org.uk
to receive Zoom details

Church in  focus

KENT WORKPLACE MISSION: The Church at Work

Most Local Ecumenical Partnerships in Southern Synod are based around a congregation. An exception is Kent Workplace Mission, which includes two Synod representatives amongst its Trustees. KWM is grateful to the gathered Church for prayer and financial support but it works mainly through the dispersed Church. Christians from traditional and newer denominations serve as trained Chaplains in dozens of workplaces around Kent and south-east London. The largest operation is at the enormous Bluewater Shopping Centre, where a half-time paid Chaplain is supported by seven volunteer Chaplains. Some Chaplains work at industrial sites, others in local authority offices. The Chaplains at the Port of Dover have to negotiate extreme political sensitivities over migrants. Wherever they serve, the Chaplains visit by invitation in the name of Christ. They offer support for individuals at work on a confidential personal basis, as well as offering a prophetic challenge when appropriate to the employing organisations.

John G Ellis
KWM Synod Trustee



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