

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33.



www.urch.org.uk

Walking towards Easter together

Lent resources and activities for students, seniors, households and families to offer hope in these challenging times

Order now on <http://bit.ly/towardseaster>

This intergenerational Lent resource is available now from the URC shop at a cost of £4.50 plus P&P (£4 plus P&P per pack if purchasing 15 or more).

Order now to avoid disappointment. Dispatch will be in early February.

If buying multiple copies, the packets will be unsealed to enable you to add any additional material before posting on.





www.urch.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@urch.org.uk to receive Zoom details



Pray4URC - a series of weekly prayer meetings on Facebook Live from 18 February

The GEAR team is hosting another short prayer series for four Thursdays leading up to Mission Council in March. A guest will introduce prayer needs in the URC family and then a panel will lead prayers for just 15 minutes while others can listen in & chip in with comments & prayers via the Comment facility. Rev Steve Faber, Moderator of West Midland Synod, will share in the first meeting.



All are welcome to tune in on the dedicated Facebook page which goes live at 8pm in readiness for the 8.15pm start. Please do join in each Thursday from 18 February - <https://www.facebook.com/Pray4URC>

Short prayer videos are also posted on the page each Thursday at 8.15pm.

For further information please contact GEAR's Prayer Secretary, Richard Turnbull - prayer@gear.org.uk



Synod Office: East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP
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BUILDING LIFE FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

A SERIES OF WEBINARS WITH CWM EUROPE



REVD. DR. PETER CRUCHLEY

'WHITENESS AND ANTIRACIST PRACTICE:
FROM TALK TO ACTION'
MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY (14:00-15:30)

Can whiteness and white privilege be dismantled?
Peter's presentation will aim to help participants move
from talk to action regarding more effective antiracist
practices in the church.

REVD. MELANIE SMITH, REVD. DR. AL BARRETT & DAVID JONATHAN

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON LIFE-
FLOURISHING ACTIVISM
MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY (14:00-15:30)

The panellists will be exploring 'what would life-
flourishing activism look like and mean'. This would
include new ways of grassroots activism towards
transformation. These three colleagues are involved in
local community advocacy in a variety of ways.



CAROL TROUPE

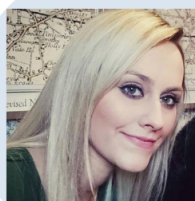
'LOOKING BACK: LOOKING FORWARD'
MONDAY 8TH MARCH (14:00-15:30)

Carol is a Research Associate on the CWM Legacies
of Slavery project and has been exploring LMS mission
magazine archives. She reflects on her journey so far,
and wonders what, if anything, can be drawn from
the archives to help the church reflect on issues of
mission, race and justice in the present day.

DR. EVE PARKER

WHAT WOULD A LIFE-FLOURISHING
CURRICULUM FOR THEOLOGICAL
EDUCATION LOOK LIKE?
MONDAY 22ND MARCH (14:00-15:30)

In her presentation, Eve will focus on case studies
from her ongoing research - addressing the barriers
to belonging in theological education, whilst
exploring the liberative potential of engaged and
transformative pedagogy and curriculum.



For each presentation, individual Zoom links will be provided. Please contact Sai & Michael at
cwm.europe@cwmission.org

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Are you an Elder, Church Secretary, Volunteer, Safe-
guarding Coordinator or Deputy, Youth Worker, Min-
ister, Lay Preacher or just wanting to learn more
about Safeguarding?

There is 2 hour training available online via Zoom:

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: [safeguard-
ing@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto: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.

KENT WORKPLACE MISSION

Vacancy for Team Support Co-ordinator

Kent Workplace Mission is an LEP, including two URC
Trustees, which provides chaplaincy to a wide variety of
workplaces across Kent and the London boroughs of
Bexley and Bromley. The Team Support Co-ordinator,
who supports both the Trustee body and over 30
chaplains, retires in May and an enthusiastic and
efficient successor is being sought.

This paid post is for 15 hours a week and currently
based near Maidstone. To obtain more details please
contact John Ellis, one of the URC Trustees:

01732 353914 or john.ellis@urc.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is 19 February.

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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.

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

YOUTH GET TOGETHER

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

Sunday 7th Feb - 6:00pm to 7.30pm

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to Opuene by 5 February.

A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website southernsynodurc.org.uk

Community-Led Recovery Programme

Community-Led Action grants between £2,000 and £9,000 and London Community Story grants between £500 and £1,500 to help London's diverse communities recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.

TO FIND OUT MORE: groundwork.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/london-grants/clr-grants



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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.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES

OPTION 1: MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE:

A nationally recognised & accredited course which we can offer FREE OF CHARGE for 12 people (usual cost £300pp). The course will take place over 4 sessions (on ZOOM) & will focus on Mental Health amongst young people. To register your interest, contact TOM:

cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

OPTION 2: EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES from a *Psychological, Sociological & Theological perspective*.

Four seminars led by Andy Twilley taking place from 13.30—16.00 on the following dates:

May 4, June 1, June 29, July 27

INTERESTED? Contact Andy to book your place.

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING WEBINAR



The URC are offering a Mental Health and Wellbeing Webinar which will build knowledge of common mental health concerns, develop skills to support people through crisis and recognise the importance of having self-care strategies in place.

Topics included:

- Recognising common mental health conditions.
- The impact of trauma on mental health and wellbeing.
 - Alcohol, drug, and behavioural addictions.
 - Recognising neglect and grooming behaviour.
 - Supporting people through crises.
- Self-Care: faith and spirituality, self-compassion, and psychological tools.

The webinar will be held online over of two afternoons to ensure there is enough time to cover the topics in sufficient detail and allowing time for participants to ask questions.

To book your place, email safeguarding@urc.org.uk including your name, Synod & role. Please ensure that you are able to attend both sessions.

Church in focus

WEST THAMESMEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

In a global pandemic when everyone's forced to be church without walls, West Thamesmead Community Church plant, would seem preadapted for this particular battle for survival of the fittest. Yes, we have no buildings to worry about, yes, it's easier now worshipping by Zoom, no church set up in school every week. We've started life groups and continued kids' groups through Zoom. However, youth ministry's more challenging. No longer able to meet in the manse, the teenagers are fed up with zoom and we're constantly having to rethink ways of engaging them. Supporting and reaching out to the local community without a base, is a greater challenge too. But the Nativity Glow trail was a real light in the darkness. Unable to hold our usual outdoor nativity, we adapted creating a Covid-secure version. Despite many challenges, including bursts of torrential rain, praise God, it was a great success; bringing desperately needed Christmas hope and sparkle, hours before Tier three descended, casting its shadow, over a beleaguered, lockdown London. Why not take a look? <https://youtu.be/R0S6yflEb0k>

Rev. Sally Willett