

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1: 5*



**Reigate Park Church**  
Park Lane East, Reigate RH2 8BD

**An Introduction to Wellbeing and Mental Health  
in Children & Young People**



Tuesday 23 November, Park Room  
7.30pm, to include refreshments  
led by Ella Sowton

*Ella works for the YMCA and is heavily involved in their Waves Project*


For further details contact Pat Denchfield, [pat.denchfield@reigateparkchurch.org](mailto:pat.denchfield@reigateparkchurch.org)

**THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING – ALL WELCOME!**






## From the URC Bookshop Come & See – Advent Kit



The 2021 Advent Box for churches to send out to families is called **Come & See**.

Like last year's kit, it is filled with activities: a weekly 'envelope' full of games, things to do, items to explore, things to think about and things to pray about; a jam-packed A4 activity book; a series of stained glass Christmas designs to colour in; a series of acetates with a viewer that can be made from the cardboard box; a countdown to Christmas spiral with stickers; sheets of paper and card for the crafts, gold and silver stars, and resources for churches to use.

There are two options – a DIY kit which you can make up yourself or with a group of volunteers at your church, which will allow you to add additional items, or a kit that's been made up.

For free resources to download and use with this kit, visit [www.urc.org.uk/advent-come-see](http://www.urc.org.uk/advent-come-see)

**£5.50 – £7.00 including VAT + p&p**  
**[www.urcshop.co.uk](http://www.urcshop.co.uk)**  
or call 020 7916 8629



## Westminster College Cambridge

A resource centre for learning

**Creating New Christian Communities**  
(TMM1397)

A 3-day course for those interested in  
Pioneering and Fresh Expressions of ministry  
**In person and online**

Pre-course preparation via Moodle (Virtual Learning Environment). Classes at Westminster and on Zoom.

This course will enable you to:

- Explore biblical resources and relevant theological themes for the practice of church planting
- Deepen your understanding of what 'church' means today in different traditions and what it has meant in the past
- Discuss what it means to create and sustain new expressions of church
- Reflect critically and theologically on contemporary examples of new Christian communities

**Dates:**  
Mon 6th Dec 9am—  
Weds 8th Dec 1pm

**Course cost:** £105 (URC), £155 (non-URC)  
(Bursaries available)

**Accommodation and meals for 3 days:** £170 (URC), £246 (non-URC)  
(other meal / pricing options available)

For more information and a booking form please contact the Tutorial Office  
01223 330632  
[admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk)









**PLEASE NOTE**

All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opuene](mailto:Opuene) by **26 November**.  
A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website  
[southernsynodurc.org.uk](http://southernsynodurc.org.uk)

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## CHILDREN & YOUTH WORK... IN MY CHURCH?

Working with children and young people in our churches has always been a challenge. Increasingly churches employ youth workers to address the gaps. But many cannot. We are always looking for new ways to provide help and to support children on their life journey and encourage self-exploration in matters of faith. Synod children's & youth committee is exploring a possible solution to providing youth work in your church using a tried and tested model that is less expensive than employing a youth worker as well as providing an opportunity for a young person or student. What do you think?



If you have one or more young person/s looking for part time employment...

If you as a church would like to consider how such a scheme could benefit you...

If you have a young person interested in working in your own church community...

**If you would like to hear more contact [cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk) or call 07455 840 676**

## ANNUAL CHURCH RETURNS (ACR)

*- an important change to note for Church Secretaries*

This year, the URC plans to introduce online Annual Church Returns. Churches will be able to submit their statistics and updated information by entering this directly onto the user-friendly URC Church Update portal – this will be open to receive updated ACR data from churches during January and February 2022. The information supplied will be sent electronically to Church House and this will be shared with the Synod. We will be contacting you again with further information about the portal and you will receive your individual login and password in due course. Please do contact us with any questions.

[office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk)

## URC Youth Leaders' Gathering JUBILEE!

The URC Youth Leaders' Gathering will take place from 28-30 January 2022 at **Whitemoor Lakes**.

It's a gathering for all who work with young people aged 11-25 that are in any way connected with the URC (volunteers and employed) in uniformed organisations, Pilots, youth groups or any other setting.

Join us for a weekend connecting with other youth leaders across the URC:

- gather to share your situations, stories, needs, dreams and ideas.
- gather to receive inspiration and resources for your ministry.
- gather for a time of reflection and worship, encouragement and fellowship.
- gather for some 1-2-1 mentoring support.
- gather to discover what the URC and URC Youth offers you and your young people.

This event will be in the same place, at the same time as **URC Youth Assembly**. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a taste of URC Youth Assembly, or even to bring young people along!

[urc.org.uk/events-and-opportunities](http://urc.org.uk/events-and-opportunities)



### JUBILEE!

**28-30 January '22**

**Whitemoor Lakes, Alpewas, Staffs**

CELEBRATE THE PAST  
CELEBRATE THE NOW  
CELEBRATE THE FUTURE

**BOOK IN BEFORE 1 JANUARY 2022 AT**  
[www.urc.org.uk/urcya](http://www.urc.org.uk/urcya)

Contact the Children's & Youth Work Office if you would prefer a printed booking form.

Post: Children's & Youth Work Office,  
United Reformed Church,  
46 Tavistock Place,  
London WC1H 9RT  
Tel: 020 7916 8683  
Email: [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk)

**A WEEKEND OF FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP INCLUDING:**

- YOUTH DECIDES — DISCUSSIONS
- WORKSHOPS AND KEYNOTES
- WORSHIP
- SILENT DISCO

**COST ON OR BEFORE 11 NOVEMBER: £115**  
**COST FROM 12 NOVEMBER: £145**

**AGE: YEAR 10 STUDENTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND 13 STUDENTS IN SCOTLAND UP TO 26 YEARS (INCLUSIVE)**

Age limit extended for 2022 only due to cancellation of YA2021.  
Creche available for children 0-5 years old.

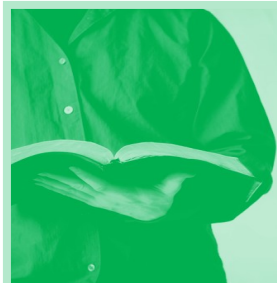
**FUNDED SPACES AVAILABLE**  
**CONTACT**  
**[CYDO@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK](mailto:CYDO@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK)**



**Synod Office:** East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP  
Tel: 020 8688 3730 [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk)

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## LAY PREACHING COURSE 2022

This 8 session course will  
commence on January 27th.

The sessions will take place at 4 weekly intervals  
and there are 2 time slots to choose from:

Either: 2 — 4.30 or 6.30 — 9.00

Is God Calling YOU or someone you know  
to be trained as a Lay Preacher?

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or  
to register your interest.

[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)



## The Significance of Worship in a Changing World

A 24 hour conference to explore how worship might need to be  
developed in the post-covid world of the mid 21<sup>st</sup> century, and  
reflecting on the findings of the British Ritual Innovation Under  
Covid-19 Research project.

Sessions will include:

Eco-worship, Creation and Climate Change  
Intergenerational worship  
Worship in the Post-Covid context

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (lunchtime to lunchtime)

**Venue:** Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton

**Cost:** £80 full board, if booked before 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
£90 full board, if booked after 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The conference is organised by the *Theology of Worship Group*, an informal  
group of mainly ministers and lay preachers of the United Reformed Church who  
meet quarterly, on-line, to explore issues relating to worship. The meetings are  
open to all.

Further details to follow soon, but register your interest now at:  
[john@spiritualseekers.co.uk](mailto:john@spiritualseekers.co.uk)

Church in  focus

**COBHAM UNITED CHURCH**

Cobham United Church became an LEP in 2018, bringing together the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church. One of the key contributors to such a decision was engaging with the LMMR. It started us off on a journey, invigorating our sense of mission and vision, also resulting in a move towards a £1.7 million refurbishment and consideration given to investing in the people we need to ensure the vision is realised. As we begin to 'restart' some of the things once left 'paused,' I feel a renewed sense of God's purposes for the church, I feel a sense of excitement and anticipation. A hope of new life, engaging in new ventures, and a future bringing to birth something precious."

*Rev. Kim Plumpton*



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