

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9: 6*

## 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)



**FUNDED SPACES AVAILABLE  
CONTACT  
CYDO@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK**

## Online Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn to support young people

- Gain an in-depth understanding of mental health and factors that can affect wellbeing in the youth sector
- Develop practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Feel confident to step in, reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhance your interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening and learn to champion self-care

For more info and to book, contact:



Tom Hackett  
Children's & Youth Development  
Officer  
Email: [cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk)

Visit the MHFA England website at [mhfaengland.org](http://mhfaengland.org)  
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland

**Evening Course 18:30-21:30**

**Tues 8, Thurs 10**

**Tues 15, Thurs 17**

**February 2022**

<https://feb-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Morning Course 9:30-12:30**

**Mon 21, Weds 23**

**Mon 28, Weds 30**

**March 2022**

<https://march-mhfa.eventbrite.co.uk>



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

**Issue 106**

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## PRESIDING AT A FUNERAL

**8 February 2022**

**14.00 – 16.00**

**Geddes Place URC, Bexleyheath**

A training session to explore all aspects of conducting a funeral service, particularly designed for Elders or Lay Preachers who might be called upon to serve in this way. To express interest in attending, please contact Andy Twilley: [training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Equipping Small Group Leaders in your Church



### Refreshing Prayer & Worship in your group

This seminar explores imaginative ways to incorporate prayer and worship in your small groups. It is ideal for either new leaders or existing leaders, to get renewed, refreshed, and re-envisioned for leading a group.

**Led by Revd. Andy Twilley**

Training & Development Officer for Southern Synod

**Where:** St. Andrews, Cheam

**When:** Tuesday January 25

**Time:** 11.00 – 13.00

To find out more or to book a place please contact:

Nigel Dickinson: [nigel@33sandy.co.uk](mailto:nigel@33sandy.co.uk)



**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)



**Walking  
the Way**  
Living the life of Jesus today

## 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)



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## GROWING MISSIONAL DISCIPLES LICC LEARNING HUB 2022

Has your church considered the possibility of being one of the 10 churches forming the new Learning Hub which is starting on January 29th? It is a wonderful opportunity to go on a journey which will transform your church's view of being a community which embraces the concept of Walking the Way... living the life of Jesus today. It's not too late to register your church.

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more.

[ANDY TWILLEY](#)



## Church Leadership Programme

Transforming Leadership from the Inside Out

**Strengthening personal qualities, insights and skills  
for effective Christian leadership**

The Church Leadership Programme (CLP) is a comprehensive programme to refresh experienced lay and ordained leaders in authentic leadership, helping church leaders to develop external skills from their core sense of being.

To find out more:

<https://urc.org.uk/church-leadership-programme>

**PLEASE NOTE:** All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opuene](#) by **10 Dec.**  
A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website [southernsynodurc.org.uk](https://southernsynodurc.org.uk)

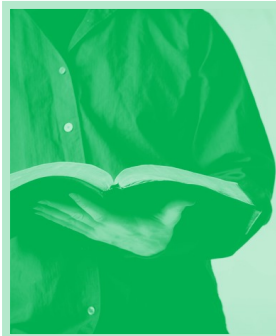


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## LAY PREACHING COURSE 2022

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

### CHRIST CHURCH, TONBRIDGE

### AND ST JOHNS HILL, SEVENOAKS

At Christ Church URC in Tonbridge we are learning to listen to God, be aware of what is happening in the community, and to change our plans when needed. Recently we celebrated a church member and her family as they prepared to go to serve in an orphanage in South Africa. Sadly flights have been delayed and the send off service we planned became more of a celebration of what God was doing in Ikhetelo and in the life of the family wanting to serve there.

At St Johns Hill URC in Sevenoaks, we have been exploring different aspects of pastoral care with Andy the Synod Training Officer. Although quite experienced in pastoral care, the fellowship are learning new ways to care for one another, considering both physical & spiritual needs. These recent months have been particularly challenging, & working together, we are helping each other.

*Rev. Angela Rigby*