

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."* Habakkuk 1: 5

**Stepwise**  
For **YOUTH**

**Faith Filled Life**

Starting January 2022  
90 minutes on Zoom  
For ages 14 - 25 years

Booking is required via:  
[bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk)  
Or call: 02380 674513

*This is not a course,  
it's a way of  
deepening  
discipleship.*

The United Reformed Church  
Wessex Synod

**Faith Filled Life** stream journeys through exploring your own faith, your own calling, and what mission, outreach and discipleship means. Sessions will be led by Wessex Synod CYDO's

**CONGRATULATION!**

Pam Tolhurst, Local Church Leader at Gillingham URC has been awarded a British Empire Medal in the 2022 New Year's Honours List for 'services to the community in Gillingham, Kent'

In her own words, Pam says: "I do what I do in response to God's call to live out my Christian faith in prayer and action."



**Talking about...Feelings**

27th January 2022 7-8pm

Emotional literacy is the ability to recognise and express our emotions and feelings using speech and other forms of communication. It is an important skill for people of all ages to develop. How can we help our children/young people develop theirs?

In this session we will hear from two experienced practitioners in church based ministry and join in this important conversation.

Get your free ticket from  
<https://bit.ly/3ddDOyu>

The United Reformed Church

**Meet up and share ideas on hybrid: worship, children's work, outreach...**

Meeting ID: 841 2792 2403  
Passcode: 244431

**Wednesday 23rd February 7.30pm**

Following our successful training sessions, Education & Learning and Children & Youth invite you to meet together. We hope this will become a regular gathering.

**50** The United Reformed Church  
Faith - Hope - Love - Since 1972

Email: [jenny.mills@urc.org.uk](mailto:jenny.mills@urc.org.uk) for more information.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opuene](mailto:Opuene) by 21 Jan. A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website [southernsynodurc.org.uk](http://southernsynodurc.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)

**Issue 108**

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."* Habakkuk 1: 5

## 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)*

## 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>

## NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTRY (NSM)

Do you feel God calling you to ordained ministry? But are you deterred because you are unable to spend time at college studying? Are you put off by the thought of having to serve at another church? If so, exciting news! The URC has introduced a new model of locally ordained ministers of word and sacrament, who in most cases will serve at their existing church.

You still have to be financially self-supporting, but the model removes the necessity for a higher education qualification in theology. Instead, training will be largely conducted by distance learning, over either one year full-time or two years part-time. Training will be tailored to the previous experience of the candidate and to the role to which they will be appointed.

As an existing NSM I would willingly share the joy and opportunities the role provides should you be interested. Call me on 07889 878471 or e-mail: [tedbellingham@aol.com](mailto:tedbellingham@aol.com)



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

**Issue 108**



# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."* Habakkuk 1: 5



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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022

10am-3pm online

Register with [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)  
to receive Zoom details

## INCLUSION

I'm sure we all agree that ensuring we are inclusive as local churches is so important as this reflects something of the heart of God and the ministry of Jesus.

Yet are we truly inclusive when it comes to folk with learning difficulties?

I am considering the possibility of facilitating an initial training day entitled **"Know & Grow"**. The day of training run by *"Count Everyone In"* is designed to deepen understanding of learning disability, the challenge for churches and how to set up a ministry group for adults.

It will be face to face training NOT on ZOOM and for this to go ahead there needs to be a minimum of 15 people attending. The cost per delegate is £25. Is this something you would be interested in?

**To register an initial interest**, contact me:

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



## 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>



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

**Issue 108**

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." Habakkuk 1: 5

## PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE

Interested in attending the  
sacraments course?

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> & March 28<sup>th</sup>

14.00 – 16.00

Oxted URC

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to register:

[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

## MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear friends,

Happy New Year. I hope you have managed to have a good Christmas.

"Hope" is a word I often cling onto. Especially recently. A new screensaver for my computer has the verse:

*Hope does not disappoint us.* (Romans 5:5) *Hope* is something positive and encouraging. *Hope* is about creativity and excitement. It is forward thinking. *Hope* is created by the creator. Therefore, it is positive and trusting on God. *Hope* is what we need to hang onto this year.

We are going through a challenging time, but God will not disappoint us. God is creating something new, and we are going to be part of that. I pray we all hold onto the mighty *hope* of God this year, do not fear. We are called by God, and we are His. God is with us on this journey.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you.

Rev Bridget Banks



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

Issue 108