

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1: 3

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

**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.



Email: jenny.mills@urc.org.uk for more information.

REFRESHING YOUR MINISTRY

GEAR are running another 'Refreshing Your Ministry' session on Zoom with worship, Biblical input and prayer. Our first one for 2022 is on Thursday 10 February from 2-3.30pm, and will be led by John Proctor, our former General Secretary. John's title is:

"Holy Week in Luke's Gospel - Jesus in grief, Jesus as guide, Jesus as giver"

All active and retired ministers and CRCWS, local leaders and lay preachers are welcome to join us, and it's completely free. If you'd like to register, please contact Richard Bradley for the Zoom details

(richardbradley@cantab.net)

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Programme Assistant Children's and Youth Work

Permanent contract, 21 hours per week

Salary: £16,334

Are you passionate about building a Church which caters effectively for children and young people? Are you a team player committed to working with others to develop resources and programmes for children and young people? An opportunity has arisen for a new role to support the Children's and Youth Work Office of the United Reformed Church. In this role you will contribute to projects, programmes and resources for local churches as well as support the Children's and Youth Work team in maintaining communication and a strong web presence. This is a varied role requiring flexibility within a lively team. You will be an experienced and creative children's and youth worker with excellent communication skills. You will need to be able to work with a diverse group of colleagues and volunteers. You will ensure that the various events, publications, online materials, and opportunities offered for children, young people, their families and workers, are delivered to a high standard. We can offer a friendly and flexible working environment; hybrid working from Church House in London and from home is possible.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):
Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
T: 020 7691 9871 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Friday 4 February 2022 Interview date: Tuesday 15 February 2022

This post requires a satisfactory enhanced DBS certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service

KNOW & GROW...

helps understanding of learning disability, the challenge for churches and how to set up a ministry group for adults.

A course is being run in Dorking on February 12th.

[CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE](#)



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

Visit the MHFA England website at 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>

PLEASE NOTE: All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opune](mailto:Opune@urcsouthern.org.uk) by 4 Feb.
A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website southernsynodurc.org.uk



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

Issue 109

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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 12th February 2022

10am-3pm online

Register with 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



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>



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New year, new challenges; is God calling you to new ventures?

- ❖ Perhaps you feel passionate about making a difference in your local area?
- ❖ Perhaps you feel unsettled in a job or role you've been doing for a while and feel ready for a new challenge?
- ❖ Perhaps you've been the main parent or carer at home, but your children are older and less dependent now, or your carers' responsibilities are reduced, and you have more available time and energy for a new vocation?



Maybe you've been a family worker or a youth worker employed by a local agency or your church, and feel called to develop your skills further? Or perhaps it's a short-term contract and you hope for a role that's longer-term? Perhaps you've felt a 'niggle' to get involved with community ministry for quite a while now but have never quite got round to chatting with someone or praying about what the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to explore further.

Perhaps some of these stories about community involvement excite you? <https://urc.org.uk/tag/church-related-community-work/>

If any of these examples above apply to you, or if you have any questions about how you might be able to get more involved with making a positive difference in your neighbourhood, community or church, then please do not hesitate to contact steve.summers@urc.org.uk in the Church Related Community Work (CRCW) team for more information. All enquiries will be held confidentially.

Perhaps it's time to step out, have a go, take a risk -and be surprised where God may lead you, and how God will support you in the venture along the way.....

Additionally, the **Enquirers Event** on February 12th will provide the opportunity to discover about different ministries and to explore your discipleship and vocation further. For example, the URC has a recognised ministry of locally-called, locally deployed, non-stipendiary CRCW.

Please email: ministries@urc.org.uk for more information about the event.



Creating Change in Communities & the Church

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PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE

Interested in attending the
sacraments course?

Feb 28th & March 28th

14.00 – 16.00

Oxted URC

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to register:

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



REVISED



The Significance of Worship in a Changing World

Date: 26th - 27th April 2022

On-line Conference

A conference over two days to explore how
worship might be developed in the
post-covid world of the mid 21st century.

Cost: £15

Further details and registration:
john@spiritualseekers.co.uk
or at:

<http://www.spiritualseekers.co.uk/TOWConference22.html>

Church in focus

LAY PREACHING COMMISSIONER

I have been Lay Preaching Commissioner since January 2019 and it is a Synod appointment with an initial term of 3 years. I sit on Synod Ministries Committee and report to that group anything relating to Lay Preaching. I work closely with Andy Twilley, Synod Training Development Officer as he runs the Synod Lay Preaching Course. I try and attend some of the training sessions so that I can get to know those doing the course. Once they have completed the course, they have a choice to do an Assessed Service which if successful, qualifies them as a Synod Recognised Lay Preacher. I have a team of six Lay Preaching Coordinators, one for each Synod Area who organise the date, venue and assessment panel for assessed services. They also assist me in ensuring that all the Lay Preachers, whether Assembly Accredited or Synod Recognised, are kept up to date with everything related to their role. I also have at least two consultations a year with all the URC Lay Preaching Commissioners, the URC Secretary for Ministries and the URC Secretary for Education and Learning. We are really blessed in our Synod that we have had so many folk come forward for Lay Preaching Training and we give thanks to God for raising these people up. At a time when ministers are in short supply, we need to encourage our Lay Preachers – they are an invaluable resource, so please use them!

Sue Knight