

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread, for the Lord your God goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."* Deut. 31: 6



## Make a Labyrinth on Zoom 24th Nov @ 7-9pm

Aileen White lead us in an evening of understanding Labyrinths AND we will each make a finger-labyrinth in our own home!



£10 per person  
which excludes the  
clay  
book with Nadene  
welcome@ccpw.org.uk

**PLEASE NOTE:** Items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to **Andy** by **25 November**.

A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website [southernsynodurc.org.uk](http://southernsynodurc.org.uk)

## 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:



Children's & Youth Development Officers  
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell [cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)  
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett [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

[www.bit.ly/november-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/november-mhfa)  
30 Nov - 1 Dec 2022  
URC Church House,  
London WC1H 9RT



[www.bit.ly/february-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/february-mhfa)  
2 Feb - 3 Feb 2023  
Northern College,  
Manchester M14 5JP



Come and join us to share a warm meal in a **WARM SPACE** - FREE!!



From 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> March  
2023 we are opening our doors for  
**two days per week offering:**

- A warm welcome in a friendly atmosphere
- Hot drinks and food at **NO COST TO YOU**
- Watch TV, sit and chat, play board games, cards or just read
- Transport to and from the venue if needed, call **07842 145341**
- Fully Accessible WC
- Baby changing and feeding facilities available
- All ages welcome, **this includes you men!**
- Mobile charging facilities - Limited Wi-Fi, 4G available
- Volunteers welcome, including offers of transport
- No questions asked

**WHERE:** The Chapel on the Hill, Chapel Hill, TN33 0QX

**WHEN:** Weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays

**TIMINGS:** 10.am - 4.30pm

**HOT FOOD 12-2pm**

Other warm snacks and hot drinks always available

Any Questions: ☎ 07842 145341

[thechapelonthehill2020@outlook.com](mailto:thechapelonthehill2020@outlook.com)

Registered with [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk) [www.unc.org.uk](http://www.unc.org.uk)

Safeguarding: Under the Chapel on the Hill URC Safeguarding Policy

### CHRISTCHURCH URC, WALTON ON THE HILL

It was with great sadness that the Elders took the very difficult decision to close the church on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. Our last service is on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, after which we shall have two weeks to dispose of what we can in terms of the church contents before handing the building over to Synod. There are tables, chairs, communion silverware, altar lecterns and table, vases, hymn books, tall metal flower stands, plus other items. We therefore intend to hold an Open Morning on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December between 10.00 and 12.00 for anyone who might be interested in our items for disposal. Any enquiries to me, Janet Holah, on: [janetholah@outlook.com](mailto:janetholah@outlook.com) or 07789 181455.



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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## Eco Day

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
10am - 3pm**



**Craft & Gift Fair**

### Clothing Exchange



### Christmas Wreath-Making Workshops

at TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Mansel Road Wimbledon SW19 4AA  
[www.trinitywimbledon.org](http://www.trinitywimbledon.org)

Supporting Sustainable Merton



### What?

*Springs Dance Company*

present

### 'Journey of the Magi'

a different take on the Nativity story  
an exciting production for all ages

### Where?

Christ Church,  
Old Market Avenue,  
Chichester, PO19 1SW

### When?

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 4 pm

Tickets: Adults £5 Children under 16 £2  
contact: email [damabbitt@gmail.com](mailto:damabbitt@gmail.com)  
or phone 01243 531594 to leave a message

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY:** Thirty one Eight has developed a resource pack to help churches explore what safer places look like and to show your community and congregation that your church takes safeguarding seriously. This can be explored as part of your regular Sunday service or a just few minutes dedicated to safeguarding in your service will make a huge difference. <https://thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday/registration/>

A campaign by

**thirtyone:  
eight**   
[thirtyoneeight.org](http://thirtyoneeight.org)

**One Church  
One day  
One message:  
Protecting  
vulnerable people.  
Together.**

**Safeguarding  
Sunday 2022**

Sunday 20th November

**Join the  
conversation**

#SafeguardingSunday



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New Malden United Reformed Church  
**Hymnathon**  
12-Hour Hymn Sing  
7am - 7pm  
Saturday 14 January  
2023



Visit our website for the hourly themes  
[newmaldenurc.org.uk/hymnathon](http://newmaldenurc.org.uk/hymnathon)



Join us for the whole day and get sponsorship for Christian Aid.



Celebrating 50 years of the United Reformed Church



Faith and Science in the Local Church

Be equipped to engage with scientific issues in the day-to-day life of your church.

13 – 14 January 2023

Online and in Cambridge

[faraday.institute/churchleaders](http://faraday.institute/churchleaders)



Love is...

Children's and Youth are preparing a resource to be published in February & are asking for contributions from YOU!

Simply finish this sentence:

**'Love is ...'**

Then send it to Lorraine Webb at [lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk)

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## Domestic Abuse Awareness Training



**19th Jan 2023 from 10am - 12pm**  
**21st March from 7pm-9pm**

### Covering:

- Definitions of domestic abuse and the different types of abuse eg physical, sexual, emotional, financial
- Recognising signs of control and coercion including gaslighting behaviours
- Recognising spiritual abuse
- Recognising the subtle signs of abuse
- Raising awareness of domestic abuse in the church
- Safety planning advice
- Who to raise concerns to in the faith setting and what to do once a disclosure has been made or suspected

To book on to this training, please email Belinda Herbert at:

[safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)  
[safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk)



[www.gear.org.uk](http://www.gear.org.uk)

## New Edition of In GEAR available.

The Autumn 2022 edition of In GEAR is now available on GEAR's web-site. This latest edition plus numerous back copies can be found at:

<http://www.gear.org.uk/publications/in-gear-magazine/>

You can download the PDF version by clicking on the relevant front page view.

If you wish to receive a paper copy (or multiple copies), please complete the form on the web page.

## WIDGET TRAINING

**FREE online Widget Training Saturday 3 December 9.30-10.30am or Tuesday 10 January 7-8pm**

**Come and learn how to create more accessible signs, documents, posters and orders of service.**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-widgit-tickets-431588050477>



We are looking for a small table lectern, similar to the one shown, for the Communion Table at Trinity URC Wimbledon.

If you have one which is no longer required, please contact

[churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org](mailto:churchsecretaries@trinitywimbledon.org)

Thank you!



## CALLED TO PREACH?

The Lay Preachers  
Training Course

January 2023

Is God calling YOU?

Contact Andy for details

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



The 8 sessions will take place at Caterham URC on Monday mornings. If you are interested but cannot make a daytime timeslot, please get in touch anyway because other options could be considered.



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## Training in pastoral care

- January 24: **SESSION 1: Introduction to Pastoral Care**  
February 21: **SESSION 2: Building the team and Boundaries**  
March 21: **SESSION 3: Developing your Listening Skills**

VENUE: Faversham United Church (LEP),  
Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8PE.

TIME: 10.30 – 13.00

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

For more details or to book your place, contact Andy Twilley:  
[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)

**PROFESSOR DAVID BLOCK**

## GOD AND GALILEO

**The battle for the soul of the world**

Professor David Block explores the relationship between  
contemporary science and faith

**FREE  
EVENT**  
Donations  
Welcome

**SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2023**

**2:30PM**



**All Saints' Church  
Tudeley, Kent  
TN11 0NZ**  
(Doors open 2pm)



LIMITED SEATING, BOOKING ADVISABLE

Booking & more information on our website  
[www.tudeley.org](http://www.tudeley.org)

or contact the church office: email [chadmin@tudeley.org](mailto:chadmin@tudeley.org)

Church in **focus**

## St Paul's URC and South Croydon United Church

St Paul's URC continues to develop and live out its Spirit-led vision to be a 'welcoming church that loves all its neighbours'. As part of this work we are delighted to have recently achieved a bronze Eco-Church award, now aiming for Silver! We are committed to fully welcoming and valuing all younger folk who are connected with our community (Junior Church, Uniformed Organisations and hall users), inspired by the URC Children and Youth Friendly Church scheme. We are seeing real growth in discipleship, thanks to our participation in the 2 year LICC 'Whole-Life Discipleship' program, which is giving us new ways of thinking of church in our whole lives, not just what happens in our buildings.

At South Croydon United Church (Methodist/URC), we have recently been blessed to bring 5 folk into membership. A new Academy Primary school opened next to the church a few years ago and we are building a strong connection with staff, children and adults alike. Events and services for Harvest, Christmas, Remembrance, upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, and offering garden space for learning and growing, are all giving real opportunity to share God's love.

Exciting and busy times! Thanks be to God!

*Rev. Martin Knight*



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