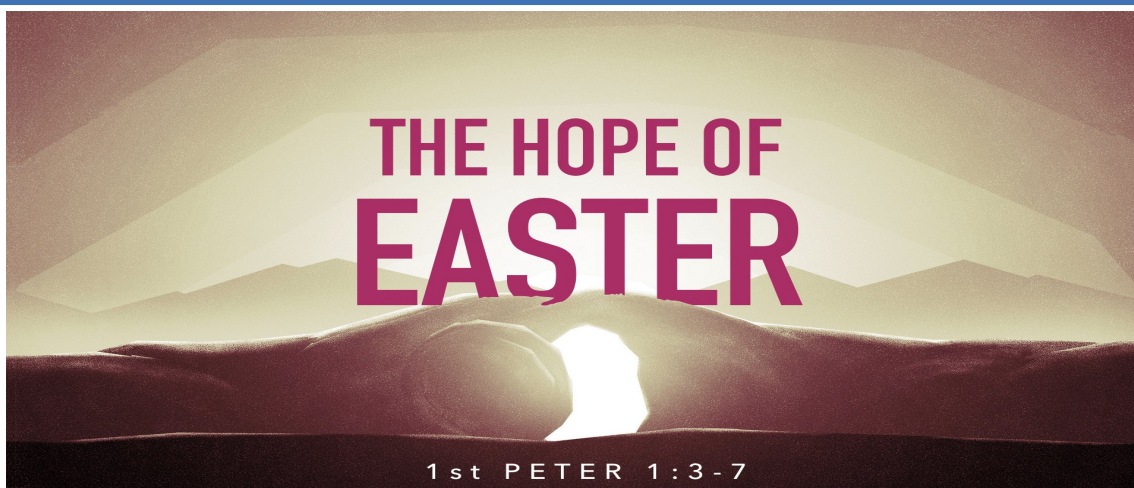


URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” *1 Peter 1: 3*



HANDEL'S
MESSIAH

**MERRY OPERA'S
DRAMATIC STAGING**

ALREADY SEEN BY OVER
11,000 PEOPLE ACROSS THE UK

*“Imaginative new staging that
moves every spectator”*
British Theatre Guide

*“That was the Messiah I have
waited all my life to hear”*
Wallingford

*“Original, memorable and
genuinely spiritual”* Helmsley
“A delight” Opera Now

Christ Church
Kingswood Avenue
Swanley
Kent BR8 8AN
FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2023
7.30PM
£14.50; Under-16s £8
Booking:
www.merryopera.co.uk
(booking fee payable)
Tel 03336 664 466
or at the door


The Merry Opera Company
www.merryopera.co.uk
Registered charity no 1127392

 SUPPORTED BY
FOYLE FOUNDATION



If you are attending the jubilee service at Methodist Central Hall on April 15 and are happy to serve a small tray of bread and wine to others, please email:

50@urc.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Items for the next issue of “Mission & Vision” need to be sent to [Andy](#) by **14 April**.

A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website
southernsynodurc.org.uk



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Tel: 020 8688 3730 office@urcsouthern.org.uk

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Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

COME AND CELEBRATE

15th April 2023

Westminster Central Hall

[CLICK FOR FULL DETAILS](#)



Discovering your place as children of the King whilst being married to a church leader.

A time to think about yourself and your role in the life of the church – how to honour yourself, as well as God, your spouse and community where you are placed, whilst being the person you are created to be. This course brings an opportunity to come together as a group of like-minded people to consider how who we are as individuals fits with our role as a church leader's spouse, in a safe and confidential space.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Leatherhead Trinity Primary School and Nursery are seeking a member or minister of the URC to undertake the role of school governor as a representative of the denomination. The school is a two-form entry primary school aiming to provide education within the context of Christian belief and practice. The school works in close partnership with three local church communities; the Anglican parish church, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. More information about the school can be found at: <https://www.leatherheadtrinity.surrey.sch.uk>. If you are interested please contact: Ms Heather Ward at: heatherward879@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

Find out more about what's been going on.

[CLICK HERE](#)



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BOOST
STRATEGY FOR SCHOOLS MINISTRY
PRACTICAL AND FULLY INTERACTIVE WEBINAR


ONE DAYTIME SESSION MONDAY 17TH APRIL 10-1PM
OR TWO EVENING SESSIONS THURSDAY 20TH & 27TH APRIL 7:30-9:15PM

JOIN US FOR AN INNOVATIVE EVENT WHERE EXPERTS WILL ENABLE YOUR TEAM TO CREATE, DEVELOP OR REVIEW YOUR STRATEGY FOR ENGAGING WITH SCHOOLS AND OTHER AREAS OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRY

SUITABLE FOR CHURCHES OR CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS WHO WORK IN SCHOOLS, CHURCH LEADERS, VOLUNTEERS, NEW OR EXPERIENCED CHILDREN'S, YOUTH OR SCHOOLS WORKERS AND PARENTS/CARERS...

BOOK YOUR £5 TICKET AT
WWW.SEPARTNERSHIP.ORG.UK/BOOST

PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE



Interested in attending the sacraments course?

May 4th : 10.00 – 12.30

May 31st: 14.00 – 16.30

Crawley URC

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to register:
training@urcsouthern.org.uk

FROSTED GLASS PANES

Crawley United Reformed Church has ten frosted glass panes for sale each with an individual theme etched onto a plain glass in the centre of each pane. The panes available are (in cms): 1 x 93 x 74; 3 x 81.5 x 81.5 at £25 each and 6 x 105 x 84 at £50 each. Buyer collect if possible please.

Email: crawleyurc@outlook.com

Tel: 01293 551709



2023 Offering SPIRITUAL CARE to those at end of life

at All Saints' Tudeley, Kent TN11 ONZ

An interactive morning workshop led by Penny Stephens, previously Chaplain at St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney & Hospice in the Weald, Pembury, with 24 years' ordained ministry.



A morning workshop for:

- ◆ All involved in Pastoral Care
- ◆ Health and Social Care Workers
- ◆ Anyone with a personal interest
- ◆ Volunteer & Staff Chaplains
- ◆ Family Carers

Please book to attend on one of the following dates:

Thursday 20th April, Friday 21st April,
Monday 5th June, Tuesday 6th June

All dates: 9:30am - 1pm

Cost: £10
(Bursary Available)

More dates may be offered if sufficient demand

To book contact Liz Wood:
chadmin@tudeley.org 01892 833241

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Westminster College and the Cheshunt Foundation
invite you to
the Easter 2023 Cheshunt Lecture

‘Flesh and blood theologies’



Dr Karen O'Donnell

Westcott House, Cambridge

Thursday, 4th May

14.15-15.30 BST

Healey Room

Westminster College
and online

A lecture and discussion on the topic of Dr O'Donnell's latest book, *The dark womb: Re-conceiving theology through reproductive loss* (SCM Press, 2022), taking embodied experience seriously in theological discourse, and their implications for Christian ministry. A reception will follow for those attending in person.

Please visit cheshunt.eventbrite.co.uk or scan the QR code to register for the reception or receive the streaming link.



Training in

**pastoral
care**

Sunday 20th August

TIME: 14.00 – 18.30

Two seminars:

Introduction to Pastoral Care

Listening Skills

VENUE: Christ Church URC,
High St, Tonbridge TN9 1SG

EVERYONE WELCOME

For more details or to book your place, contact Andy Twilley:
training@urcsouthern.org.uk

Stepwise Facilitator Training

We are offering another opportunity for you to learn more about **Stepwise** and be enthused and equipped to facilitate Stepwise in your church, community or wider context.

This in-person event will take place on **Wednesday 19th April 11.00am - 3.00pm at Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT.** Lunch will be provided.

Interested? Contact David Salsbury david.salsbury@urc.org.uk or Marion Brown marion.brown@urc.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.

Deadline for registrations: Wednesday 31 May 2023.

To register or for general CLP enquiries contact:

Philippa Linton: Administrator for Education & Learning

Email: philippa.linton@urc.org.uk

Direct number: 0207 916 8635



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Calling all grandparents

Join our free in-person or online gatherings

10 June in Reading
17 June in Newcastle-upon-Tyne
15 and 19 June online

Glorious grandparenting

www.bit.ly/glorious-grandparenting
for more details

Church in **focus** Goring URC

Surrounded by new housing developments, Goring URC is ripe for growth, so it is the perfect time to work with the LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity). Its encouragement for us to have a bolder approach to church leadership has reignited our enthusiasm. Even during the first session, the possibilities to adapt and use its methods were clear. It reminds us that being a Christian is not restricted to church on Sundays. We are all Christians on our 'frontlines' every day; at work, at leisure, even doing the shopping.

Likewise, it strengthened our trust in meaningful but sustainable change – the importance of moving forwards to stay relevant. There is always a reluctance to change, so the focus is on small, regular and thoughtful 'one-degree shifts' in direction.

At times the LICC inspires and challenges us with fresh and exciting ideas, at others it reminds us of something seemingly obvious yet long forgotten, but always based on the concept that we are 'whole-life disciples' rather than Sunday churchgoers. Contributors instead of consumers.

We invariably leave each session motivated and energised to try new things, and feel better equipped for our future.

Rev. Andrew Sellwood