

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

(1 Corinthians 4: 20)

## Whole Life Preaching

A day to be Refreshed & Inspired in your Preaching.

October 28 at St. Paul's URC, Croydon.

**SPEAKER: Steve Rouse**

Refreshments from 10.00 Starts: 10.30 Depart: 15.30

The day will include time for delegates to share ideas of books or resources they have found helpful.

Soup will be provided at lunchtime.

**All are welcome!**

To book your place contact  
Synod Lay Preaching Advocate  
Sue Knight: [localchurchleader@reigateparkchurch.org](mailto:localchurchleader@reigateparkchurch.org)

## Training in

# pastoral care

November 1: SESSION 1: Introduction to Pastoral Care

November 6: SESSION 2: Building the team and Boundaries

November 27: SESSION 3: Developing your Listening Skills

VENUE: Dorking URC,  
53 West St, Dorking RH4 1BS.

TIME: 19.00 – 21.00

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

For more details or to book your place, contact Andy Twilley:

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

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**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**A CELEBRATION  
OF BLACK AND  
WOMANIST  
THEOLOGIANs**

**AT THE CAMBRIDGE  
THEOLOGICAL FEDERATION**

Keynote Speaker:  
Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE  
Saturday 21st October 2023  
10am - 4pm

<https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/celebration-of-black-and-womanist-theologians>

## PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE



Interested in attending the  
sacraments course?

October 16<sup>th</sup>: 18.30 – 21.00

December 6<sup>th</sup>: 18.30 – 21.00

Whitstable URC

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to register:

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

## AN EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY

### FAMILY AND YOUTH WORKER

CHRIST CHURCH URC  
PETTS WOOD, BR5 1LH



An exciting opportunity to shape a new role as

#### Family and Youth Worker

at an intergenerational diverse church  
in Southeast London.

We are an inclusive church  
that is looking to invest in the faith journey  
of families in our church and community.

Hours of work: Average of 35 pw  
(including 2 Sundays a month)

Salary: up to £32k (depending on experience)

Contract: 3 years (with potential to extend)

For more detailed information and how to apply visit  
<https://christchurchpettswood.org.uk/job-opportunity/>

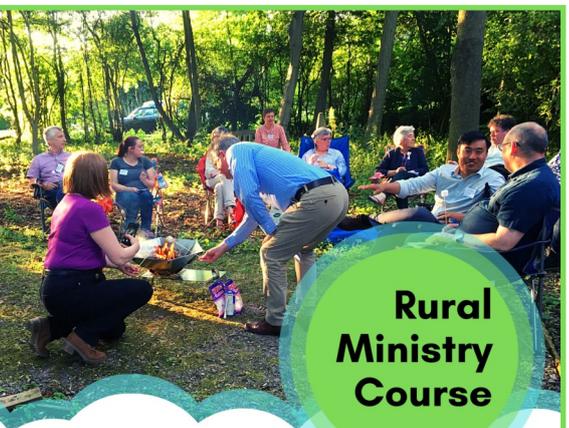
Or to arrange an informal chat

email [welcomes@ccpw.org.uk](mailto:welcomes@ccpw.org.uk)

Closing Date: 23rd October 2023 12:00 Midday

Interview Date: to be arranged

Flexible start date



## Rural Ministry Course

17-18th Oct 2023

- New to rural?
- Fancy a refresher?
- Come & meet others
- Learn together

Booking & further details:

<https://tinyurl.com/RMC2023>

£500 full board  
King's Park,  
Northampton

Arthur Rank  
Centre  
CONFIDENT RURAL CHRISTIANS



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## You are invited to Youthscape Essentials, all round training for every volunteer youth leader.

We are going to learn and pray in a community with a shared heart and hope for young people and for God.

Each of the 10 sessions includes:

1 insight into youth culture to explore

1 practical skill to try out together

1 area of Christian character to reflect on

We always start with the voice of a young person through a special recorded video, and we close by being sent out in hopeful prayer.

Whether you have been involved in youth ministry for years or you are thinking of getting involved, Youthscape Essentials is the place for you.

Date & Time:  
Tuesday evenings 7pm to 9pm  
starting 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Location:  
zoom

Confirm your place:  
cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk



**Story  
STORY  
STORY** *What will you discover?*

**URC  
= YOUTH ASSEMBLY =  
= 2024 =**

26 to 28 January 2024  
Whitmoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffs

#URCYA24 urcyouth

For all young people with a connection to the United Reformed Church including:

## A WEEKEND TO HAVE YOUR SAY, MAKE FRIENDS AND FIND FELLOWSHIP:

- **Youth Decides** – discussions on issues that matter to us – leading to action and engaging the wider church
- **Workshops** – craft, drama, Bible studies, opportunities to grow your skills and thinking
- **Worship** – led by Youth Assembly band plus prayer room, late night communion
- **Entertainment** – campfire, karaoke, games and more

Fully funded places provided for young people from Southern Synod.

Year 10 students in England & Wales and S3 students in Scotland up to 25 years (inclusive)  
Creche available for children 0-5 years old.

Book your place through

**cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk**

before 2 January 2024

or contact [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) if not in Southern Synod.

If you or your group need a leader to accompany you, please get in touch with the Children's & Youth Work Office using the following details:

Children's & Youth Work Office,  
United Reformed Church,  
86 Tavistock Place, London  
WC1H 9RT

020 7916 8683

[children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk)

Find out more about Youth Assembly at [bit.ly/Youth-Assembly](http://bit.ly/Youth-Assembly)



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Tel: 020 8688 3730 [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk)

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Empowering Christians with learning disabilities through simple Bible teaching

## Living Well with God



Easy read Bible lessons for people who find reading hard

Jo Acharya

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Items for the next issue of “*Mission & Vision*” need to be sent to [Andy](#) by **6 October**.

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

## National Safeguarding Training 2023



All training will take place via zoom.

Bookings can be made by emailing [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)

Domestic Abuse

September 19th 1.30pm-3.30pm

Modern Slavery

September 25 7pm-9pm

Safeguarding for Ministers Supporting Survivors

October 9th 2pm - 4pm

Adult Safeguarding

November 21st 7pm - 9pm

Elders as Trustees

September 21st 1pm - 3pm

October 20th 2pm - 4pm

(participants only need to attend one date)

DDC Verifiers and Safer Recruitment

November 22nd 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Supporting Survivors

November 28th 1.30pm - 3.30pm

## YOUTH LEADERS GATHERING 26-28 January 2024

As in previous years this event will run in parallel with the URC Youth Assembly at Whitemoor Lakes.

For all those who work with young people in URC settings, this will be a chance to meet with others to be encouraged, challenged, inspired and equipped.

There will be a mixture of input, worship, space to relax, prayer and social time as we spend time together in this temporary community to hear from God and learn from each other.

**SAVE THE DATE** and look out for further details soon

Any questions contact John Stephenson: [john.stephenson@urc-northernsynod.org](mailto:john.stephenson@urc-northernsynod.org)



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You are invited to the North Downs Cluster of Churches talk on

## Angels in Art

With a retiring collection for



Where: Reigate Park Church,  
Park Lane East, Reigate, RH2  
88D

When: October 31st  
at 2:30pm  
Refreshments provided

A light-hearted look at angels. We sing about them and admire their beauty, but do they exist and if they do, how do they pass their time in heaven? Speaker, Dr Katy Brown

Dr Katy Brown is a graduate of the University of London and has lectured for the Universities of Edinburgh, Sussex and Surrey and the Open University. She has a particular interest in Italian Medieval and Renaissance art the majority of which was the result of religious patronage. Angels are frequently found in panel paintings and frescos and they add greatly to their beauty. Her talk will illustrate their magnificent appearance and the roles they play in Christian iconography.

To book a place at this free event, contact Wendy Hopkins (wendy\_hopkins@ntlworld.com 07855 233770) or the Church Office (office@reigateparkchurch.org 01737 249766)

## Stepwise

Would you be interested in being part of a Stepwise group: “Faith Filled Life”?

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more:

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

Booking Now

10-12  
OCTOBER  
2023

### URC - GODLY PLAY 3-DAY ACCREDITED TRAINING COURSE

Basingstoke URC, London Street,  
Hampshire RG21 7NU

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

CYDO@URC5.ORG.UK

BOOKING VIA [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3MBNDXD](https://bit.ly/3MBNDXD)



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## EXPLORE YOUR CALL



**November 22**

**19.00 – 20.30**

An evening on ZOOM to find out what it means to become a...

**Minister of Word & Sacrament  
Church Related Community Worker  
Local Church Leader  
Lay Preacher**

With input from a range of speakers, this will be an exciting opportunity to hear insights from those who are engaged in these ministries, to ask your questions, and most importantly, to “Explore YOUR call”.

To find out more, or to book a place, contact Andy Twilley  
[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)

## God

is calling you

**Local Worship Leader Course 2024**



Remind Me  
@naycrumors



Message



**Contact Andy Twilley to find out more.**

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

## Church in focus

## OUR UNIQUE SELLING POINT: USP

I heard a punter say that the demise of Wilko was because they didn't refresh their USP (household items at discounted prices), and so went the way of Woolies, seen off by B & M's more attractive offering.

And the relevance for churches? In a nutshell, whilst our USP, the Good News of Jesus Christ, drew people in the 50s and 60s, those days have gone. The challenge in our secular world is to convey the good news in a way that attracts and feels relevant to our neighbours.

Emmanuel's Warm Spaces, now Warm Welcome Fridays, provides a space for people to meet, opportunities for faith discussions and free refreshments. We'd like to employ a community worker to up our outreach. Elmers End tried a café and now have a focus on making their premises attractive and fit for purpose. Both are looking afresh at signage, websites and social media.

Our Lord didn't say it would be easy, and it isn't, but he did promise to be with us along the way. I wonder how God may be calling us to faithfully share the good news today?

*Rev. David Pickering*

*Minister of Emmanuel URC, West Wickham and Elmers End Free Church*