

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD

# MISSION & VISION

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” *1 Thessalonians 5: 11*

## SACRAMENTS COURSE

December 12th & January 9th  
10.30—13.00

Christ Church URC, Petts Wood

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more:  
[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)



## When Christmas Hurts.....

*A Service of Remembrance and Hope*

Tuesday 19th December  
2.30pm  
at  
Hayes Free Church  
111 Pickhurst Lane  
BR2 7HU

**PLEASE NOTE:** Items for the next issue of “*Mission & Vision*” need to be sent to [Andy](#) by **15 December**.


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



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2024




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

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

26 to 28 January 2024  
Whitemoor 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](mailto: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)

## LWPT Support and Funding for Theology Students



### Vocational Grants

If you need financial help to pursue your vocation in ministry, including the early stages of exploring your calling, you can apply to the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT) for a grant.

Grants can be used for course fees and materials for any recognised theology course or study that develops your preaching skills. This can include theology degrees, 'gap year' style courses and continuing professional development.

### More about vocational grants

We have two rounds of grant-giving each year

- August awards
- Application deadline May 3rd

- January awards
- Application deadline October 3rd

Each year we give thousands of pounds worth of grants to students across the UK.

The maximum individual grant for course fees is £2000 and for course materials it is £500. Students can apply for up to £2500

We give grants to students of all ages and from all denominations.

Apply online at [www.lwpt.org.uk/vocational-grants](http://www.lwpt.org.uk/vocational-grants)



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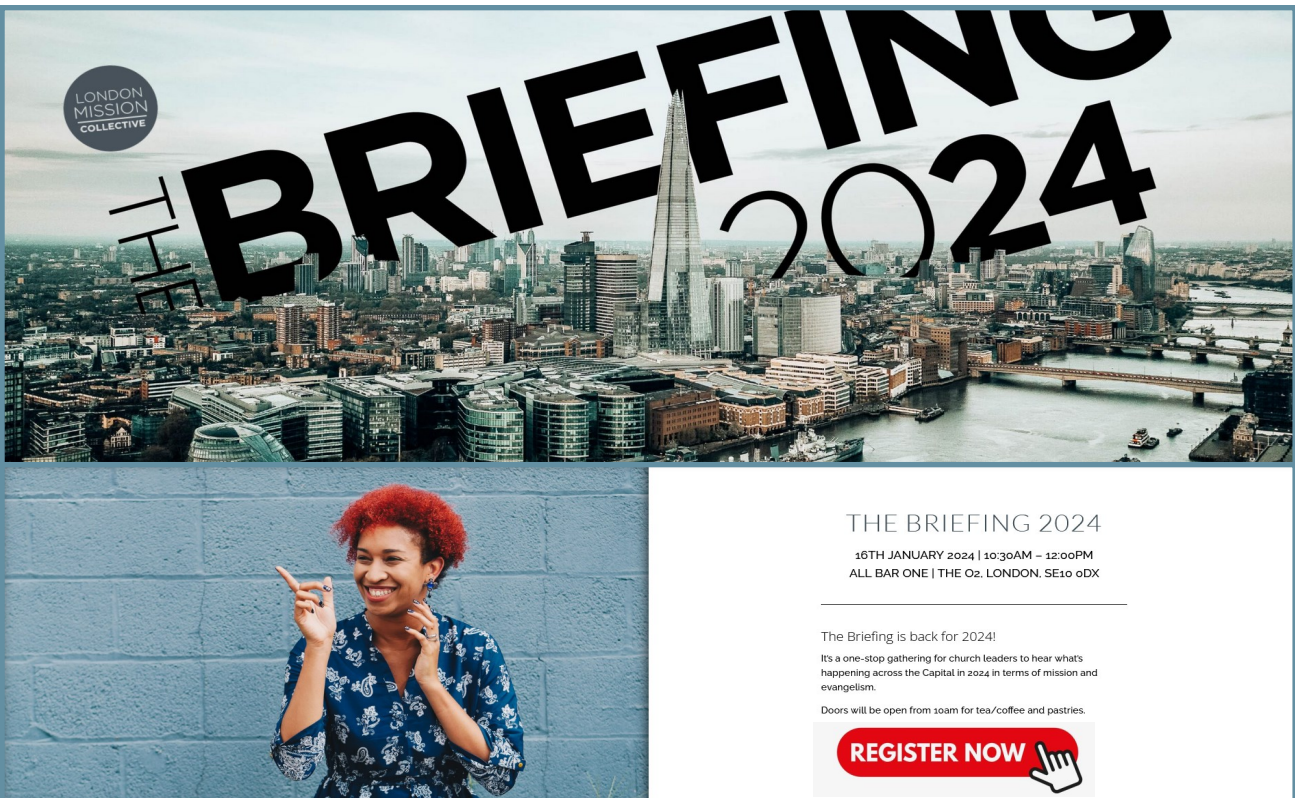
**Ekklesia** 2024

CHURCH LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

[CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

IN BUT  
NOT OF

13TH & 14TH MARCH 2024  
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL,  
LONDON



**THE BRIEFING 2024**

LONDON MISSION COLLECTIVE

THE BRIEFING 2024

16TH JANUARY 2024 | 10:30AM – 12:00PM  
ALL BAR ONE | THE O2, LONDON, SE10 0DX

The Briefing is back for 2024!

It's a one-stop gathering for church leaders to hear what's happening across the Capital in 2024 in terms of mission and evangelism.

Doors will be open from 10am for tea/coffee and pastries.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



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*The Story of God,  
the Story of Us.*

*Youth Leaders Gathering*

*Whitemoor Lakes, Lichfield. 26-28 January 2024*



The URC Youth Leaders Gathering is an opportunity for all involved in working with young people to meet with others, share ideas, learn together and be refreshed in their work with young people.

We live in a world shaped by stories - whether it be the 24/7 news or the worlds created by Hollywood studios - stories are everywhere.

But how do we know live and share the story of God in today's world?

And how do we allow that story to shape our own personal stories and impact the lives of young people today.

Together we will explore this theme.

**WHO IS IT FOR?**  
all who work with young people aged 11-25 that are in any way connected with the URC (volunteers and employed) in unaffiliated organisations, Pilots, youth groups or any other setting.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**  
Meet others, share ideas, space to think, see resources, space for worship and prayer, Input from experienced practitioners, inspiration and encouragement.

Cost £124 *funding available—speak to your Synod CYDO*  
Book your place at <http://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering>



## Prayer and the Holy Spirit

*Growing in prayer with the help of the Holy Spirit*

Do you ever long to develop in your life of prayer? Would you like to discover how the Holy Spirit can make a difference and take you deeper into that great adventure of prayer?

Why settle for less when Jesus promises more?

Through testimony, teaching and practice, this Ignite explores some of the basic ingredients of prayer and looks at:

- ◆ What it means to ask in the name of Jesus
- ◆ How vision and prayer shape the future
- ◆ Intercession that is led by the Holy Spirit

Join us for this faith-inspiring event and discover how much more God can do in you, for you, and through you.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

9:30 am - 5 pm



*"The teaching, prayer, worship and practical application has transformed my personal spiritual walk."*



St Andrew's URC  
Watling Street  
Canterbury. CT1 2UA

- » Light refreshments will be provided
- » Please bring a packed lunch
- » Parking is limited

Find out more and book your free place:

**[dunamis.org.uk/ignite-events](http://dunamis.org.uk/ignite-events)**

Practical Theology Short Courses

## LEADING IN CHURCH CHANGE

[TrinityCollegeGlasgow.co.uk/leading-in-church-change](http://TrinityCollegeGlasgow.co.uk/leading-in-church-change)

ONLINE  
THURSDAY MORNINGS  
APRIL 18TH - JUNE 13TH, 2024



Course image design by Keeley Johnson



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

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REGISTER NOW

## CALLED TO PREACH?

The Lay Preachers  
Training Course

Starting  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
6.30 – 9.00pm  
at  
Crawley URC

Is God calling **YOU?**  
Contact Andy for details  
[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)



# VC Training

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

10.30 – 13.00

Venue being finalised.

Contact Andy Twilley

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

## Church in focus

### TELSCOMBE CLIFFS COMMUNITY CHURCH

2023 has been a changing year for the small congregation at Telscombe Cliffs Community Church. The Spirit is leading and doing splendid things!

I have been attending the church since 1977. When I first went the congregation was regularly in the 80s and we expanded to meet demand. As the years went on the congregation dwindled, however, the resolve strengthened. This year has been a game changer with the addition of training sessions led by Andy Twilley. We have been attending a series of talks and discussions led by Andy at our sister church St Martin's. The sessions start with fish and chips, followed by topics on eldership among others. They have proved very inspirational to those attending and will lead to re-evaluating our current roles as well as strengthening our resolve! Like many other URC church's we rely on visiting preachers to fill our pulpit supply. This is beneficial due to the regular worship styles we have each week. As a direct result of Andy's training we are going to explore a bible series over Lent. The training has also reminded us of the original way that the message was spread and strengthened, and, you can imagine our Lord meeting with his disciples and teaching after eating together.

2024 promises more growth in faith and in direction for the church. One of our regular intercessions is that our church grow in faith and number. The Spirit has answered one of those requests!

From all at Telscombe Cliffs we wish you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

*Neil Watts,  
Church Secretary*