

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19: 21



Talking About... Children's Participation

We believe that every child has something to say. Join us to explore how we can make sure their voices are heard.

**Thursday, 22nd February
7-8pm**

Book your place at
www.bit.ly/URCTakingAbout



URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19: 21

Equipping Small Group Leaders in your Church



Led by Revd. Andy Twilley

Training & Development Officer for Southern Synod

Where: St. Martins URC, Saltdean

When: 13 February

Time: 18.00 Fish and chip supper
19.00 Start of seminar
21.00 Depart

Creating dynamic and inspirational small groups within the local church can transform both individual members as well as the vitality of the church. This first of 4 seminars is entitled:

➤ **How to be Better Group Leader**

This seminar is designed to inspire and equip existing small group leaders as well as providing core training for those interested in the possibility of serving in this way.

ALL ARE WELCOME

To find out more or to book a place please contact:

Graeme Allan: graeme.allan59@btinternet.com

Andy Twilley: training@urcsouthern.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Andy](#) by **16 February**.

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

VC Training

5th March 2024

10.30 – 13.00

Crawley URC

Contact Andy Twilley

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

LMMR

Training and refreshment for
Pastorate Facilitators

April 10th

On ZOOM

7.00 – 8.30pm

Interested in attending?

Book your place now:

Andy Twilley

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19: 21

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF KESSA: 3rd February 2024



From L to R:

John Ellis, Joint Leader of KESSA, Revd Dr John Bradbury, Gen Sec & Speaker, Dr Connie Garrett, presented with a long service certificate by JB after her 90th birthday and 66 years of service to host church Maidstone URC and 60 as a Lay Preacher, Revd Bernard Fidler, Joint Leader of KESSA, Revd Russell Furley-Smith, Convenor of Synod Council and Preacher

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTH LONDON: 2024 REFLECTION ON PEACE

In a meeting during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Church leaders who make up the ecumenical partnership of Churches Together In South London issued the following reflection:

As we pray for Christian unity, we recall the words of Jesus, who said "Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called Sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

In a world filled with conflict, violence and division, the need for peacemakers has never been greater. This call to become peacemakers is to all of us; in our homes, in our communities and in our world at large. It requires that we empathise with others, listen without judging, and seek common ground. Christians bring a vision of reconciliation rooted in responding as neighbours to this essential ongoing work for peace.

As Church leaders, we commit ourselves to this work, and acknowledge our particular responsibility for bringing about and supporting peace in our world.

Rev Cristina Cipriani

URC Southern Synod Ecumenical Development Officer

ecumenical@urcsouthern.org.uk

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19: 21

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:



Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

Visit the MHFA England website at mhfaengland.org
Find us on social media @MHFAEngland

March 2024
Evenings 18:30-21:30
4 online sessions
Mon 11, Tues 12
Mon 18, Tues 19



Register at:
www.bit.ly/march2024mhfa

TRAINING FOR ELDERS IN A TIME OF CHANGE

April 3: 19.00 – 21.00
Emmanuel URC, Worthing

April 16: 10.30 – 12.30
Reigate Park URC

Helping your Elders Meeting to be the best it can be in the spiritual and pastoral leadership of your church.

To book your place, contact Andy Twilley
training@urcsouthern.org.uk

All are Welcome.



The United Reformed Church History Society Conference:
16-18 September 2024
University of Durham



£275 full board in single room, £250 per person sharing a double room.

*The Church on the margins:
learning from the past to shape the future.*

TO FIND OUR MORE OR TO BOOK: email michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk



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

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD

MISSION & VISION

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19: 21

PRESIDING AT A FUNERAL

19 March 2024

14.00 – 16.00

St. Johns, Orpington

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

PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE

Interested in attending the sacraments course?

February 22nd: 10.30 – 13.00

April 4th: 10.30 – 13.00

Eastwick Road URC, Bookham

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more or to register:

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



SOUTHERN
SYNOD

SAFEGUARDING

training

14
JUNE
2024

10AM- FOUNDATION MODULE

1PM INTERMEDIATE MODULE

EMAIL:
SAFEGUARDING@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK
TO BOOK

ST ANDREW'S URC CANTERBURY -
WATLING ST, CANTERBURY CT1 2UA

Church in focus

DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY (MISSION)

If I were to sum up my ministry, the phrase varied and interest immediately pops into my head. The DGS Mission brief covers oversight of Global Intercultural Ministries, Commitment for Life, Mission Enablers, Fresh Expressions, the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), Church and Society, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. I am the General Secretariat representative on the Worship, Faith & Order Committee and since last year, I serve on Business Committee, which brings with it a close input to the Church Life Review process. Before moving to URC Church House in London, initially to become the URC's Ecumenical and Interfaith Secretary, I was minister to two Methodist/URC LEPs in Bolton and Salford. Prior to that, I served as the Bolton Town Centre Chaplain. My manse is in Coulsdon, where I live with my wife Debs, who is a primary school teacher. We have a grown-up son and daughter and two grandsons, who live in Germany. Hence the long standing partnership between the URC and the churches of the Pfalz has particular meaning for me.

Rev. Philip Brooks