

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD! Psalm 27: 14*

The United Reformed Church

www.urch.org.uk

## Walking towards Easter together

Lent resources and activities for students, seniors, households and families to offer hope in these challenging times

Order now on <http://bit.ly/towardseaster>

This intergenerational Lent resource is available now from the URC shop at a cost of £4.50 plus P&P (£4 plus P&P per pack if purchasing 15 or more).

Order now to avoid disappointment. Dispatch will be in early February.

If buying multiple copies, the packets will be unsealed to enable you to add any additional material before posting on.



**PLEASE NOTE:** All items for the next issue of *“Mission & Vision”* need to be sent to [Opune](mailto:Opune) by **19 February**.

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

take time

### Welcome to Taketime

Discover, in 5 minutes, a compassionate space with Taketime meditations. Spirituality inspired by the stories of Jesus.

**FIND OUT MORE:** [www.taketime.org.uk](http://www.taketime.org.uk)

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## BUILDING LIFE FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

A SERIES OF WEBINARS WITH CWM EUROPE



**REVD. DR. PETER CRUCHLEY**  
‘WHITENESS AND ANTIRACIST PRACTICE: FROM TALK TO ACTION’  
MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY (14:00-15:30)

Can whiteness and white privilege be dismantled? Peter’s presentation will aim to help participants move from talk to action regarding more effective antiracist practices in the church.

**REVD. MELANIE SMITH,  
REVD. DR. AL BARRETT &  
DAVID JONATHAN**  
A PANEL DISCUSSION ON LIFE-  
FLOURISHING ACTIVISM  
MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY (14:00-15:30)



The panellists will be exploring ‘what would life-flourishing activism look like and mean’. This would include new ways of grassroots activism towards transformation. These three colleagues are involved in local community advocacy in a variety of ways.



**CAROL TROUPE**  
‘LOOKING BACK: LOOKING FORWARD’  
MONDAY 8TH MARCH (14:00-15:30)

Carol is a Research Associate on the CWM Legacies of Slavery project and has been exploring LMS mission magazine archives. She reflects on her journey so far, and wonders what, if anything, can be drawn from the archives to help the church reflect on issues of mission, race and justice in the present day.

**DR. EVE PARKER**  
WHAT WOULD A LIFE-FLOURISHING  
CURRICULUM FOR THEOLOGICAL  
EDUCATION LOOK LIKE?  
MONDAY 22ND MARCH (14:00-15:30)



In her presentation, Eve will focus on case studies from her ongoing research - addressing the barriers to belonging in theological education, whilst exploring the liberative potential of engaged and transformative pedagogy and curriculum.

For each presentation, individual Zoom links will be provided. Please contact Sai & Michael at [cwm.europe@cwmission.org](mailto:cwm.europe@cwmission.org)

## URC BLACK HISTORY MONTHLY



THIRD MONDAYS 7.30-8.30PM ON ZOOM

*because it’s too important to leave until October*

Black History is so important to our shared story that we surely can’t confine it to one month a year. We need to break out and make it something we keep learning about and exploring. So, here in the United Reformed Church we’ve decided to take a dip into Black History every month of 2021, from February onwards. Welcome to:

### URC Black History Monthly

A one-hour conversation every month  
Third Monday Evenings @ 7.30pm on Zoom

Each month we’ll identify a particular nugget or sweeping overview of Black History which we’ll all be encouraged to review for ourselves, then we’ll come together on Zoom to share an hour’s discussion, exploring and teasing out how it affects all of us in our situations and settings today.

[CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

*Begins Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
with a look at Ava Duvernay’s documentary “13<sup>th</sup>”  
available for free viewing on You Tube*

### KENT WORKPLACE MISSION

#### Vacancy for Team Support Co-ordinator

Kent Workplace Mission is an LEP, including two URC Trustees, which provides chaplaincy to a wide variety of workplaces across Kent and the London boroughs of Bexley and Bromley. The Team Support Co-ordinator, who supports both the Trustee body and over 30 chaplains, retires in May and an enthusiastic and efficient successor is being sought.

This paid post is for 15 hours a week and currently based near Maidstone. To obtain more details please contact John Ellis, one of the URC Trustees:

01732 353914 or [john.ellis@urc.org.uk](mailto:john.ellis@urc.org.uk).

The closing date for applications is 19 February.



**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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**Live discussion**  
**3 voices - 3 perspectives**

Join us and our different guests each episode as we explore a variety of topics key to mid-teens and young adults.

**Watch live**  
or catch up on past episodes  
Facebook - [urc youth trialogue](#)  
YouTube - [bit.ly/trialogueURC](#)

**Take Part**  
sharing your thoughts and questions during the live programme  
Slido.com code - [urctrialogue](#)  
Facebook - [urc youth trialogue](#)

**Listen**  
to podcasts on all platforms

**Fortnightly**  
**Thursdays at 7pm**

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Are you an Elder, Church Secretary, Volunteer, Safeguarding Coordinator or Deputy, Youth Worker, Minister, Lay Preacher or just wanting to learn more about Safeguarding?

There is 2 hour training available online via Zoom:  
*Monday 15th February 2021 at 10am (BASIC)*  
*Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7pm (BASIC)*  
*Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 12pm (BASIC)*  
*Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 6.30pm*

*(INTERMEDIATE\*)*

\*Attendance at the Intermediate training requires completion of the BASIC course first.

Please email me at: [safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk) with your name, role, Church and requested date.

If there are specific topics which you would like to learn about or bespoke training desired in your Church, please state these in your email.

*Belinda Nielsen - Synod Safeguarding Officer.*



What is God asking of YOU?



Ministry Enquirers' Event to help you think about God's call to Worship Leading, Lay Preaching, Ministry with children and young people, the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work.

**Enquirers' Event** Saturday 27th February 2021  
 10am - 3pm online  
 Register with [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) to receive Zoom details



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## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

One of the consequences of Covid 19 has been a marked increase in the number of people experiencing mental health challenges. Increasing our understanding, as well as learning how to respond appropriately is something we can all do.

### TWO OPPORTUNITIES

#### OPTION 1: MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE:

A nationally recognised & accredited course which we can offer FREE OF CHARGE for 12 people (usual cost £300pp). The course will take place over 4 sessions (on ZOOM) & will focus on Mental Health amongst young people.

To register your interest, contact TOM:

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

#### OPTION 2: EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES from a *Psychological, Sociological & Theological perspective.*

Four seminars led by Andy Twilley taking place from 13.30—16.00 on the following dates:

**May 4, June 1, June 29, July 27**

INTERESTED? Contact Andy to book your place.

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



## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING WEBINAR

The URC are offering a Mental Health and Wellbeing Webinar which will build knowledge of common mental health concerns, develop skills to support people through crisis and recognise the importance of having self-care strategies in place.

### Topics included:

- Recognising common mental health conditions.
- The impact of trauma on mental health and wellbeing.
  - Alcohol, drug, and behavioural addictions.
  - Recognising neglect and grooming behaviour.
    - Supporting people through crises.
- Self-Care: faith and spirituality, self-compassion, and psychological tools.

The webinar will be held online over of two afternoons to ensure there is enough time to cover the topics in sufficient detail and allowing time for participants to ask questions.

To book your place, email [safeguarding@urc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urc.org.uk) including your name, Synod & role. Please ensure that you are able to attend both sessions.

## Church in FOCUS

## ST. ANDREW'S, DARTFORD

At a conference on the subject of 'Praying in the Spirit' a warning was given. 'Be careful what you pray for, you might get it!'. Church in Focus 2018. I shared a visionary word that we, a small ageing congregation received twelve years previously. "That we would double in number" we had changed considerably, we had young families and children and were giving thanks for our growth. We felt that it was a start, but not fruition of the vision given. Turning to the word it instructs us in James 1: 5 'if you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you'. The way we needed to pray was in the next verse. 'But when you ask be sure that your faith is in God. In faith we continued to pray. Today we have completed our Annual Returns 76 Adults of all ages and 26 children, more than double. Over the past two years, God has brought to us preachers, teachers and musicians, gifts prayed for. The pandemic has not separated us, it's united us. We have found that a people that sincerely 'Pray and Worship Together' unite Together'.

Rita Brown L.C.L