

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."

Psalm 37:23

'Building for the Future'

A Zoom conference, for all interested parties, to consider strategies for churches and church buildings

19th April 3pm-4.30pm



Many churches have been wrestling with questions during the pandemic concerning the implications for the way in which our buildings play a part, for better or for worse, in God's mission and in local communities and neighbourhoods. The **URC Buildings Forum** has existed for several years focussing on these questions and this online conference is the first of a series to explore the different aspects of the use of our buildings and capital assets.

Conference to include:

- **The Revd John Bradbury, General Secretary** as keynote speaker – thinking about the purposeful and creative use of our premises.
- **HeartEdge movement** – sharing the ways in which they can support you in the use of your buildings.
- **Stories** – of creative ideas that are being put into practice.
- **An opportunity for conversation** in breakout rooms – a listening exercise to hear your questions and the challenges that particular churches face. Hopefully sharing positive ideas and news.



This online event is open to everyone.

Registration deadline: 16th April, to register email mission@urc.org.uk
Include 'Building for the Future' in the subject line, and your name and email address. Please tell us which church you belong to, or are representing, if appropriate.



Further information, full programme and updates will be available here:

www.urcbuildingsforum.co.uk



Login details will be sent a few days before the meeting. The meeting will be recorded in speaker view with only those providing input being recorded, to assist us in planning further conferences.



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

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BUILDING LIFE FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

A SERIES OF WEBINARS WITH CWM EUROPE

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

URC BLACK HISTORY MONTHLY



THIRD MONDAYS 7.30-8.30PM ON ZOOM

URC Black History Monthly: Monday 15th March 7.30pm



The Kairos Document

One of the key church documents from the heart of the freedom struggle in South Africa, the Kairos Document, produced back in 1985 & 1986, has had a rich afterlife in other freedom struggles. Does it have helpful resonances with the situation in the UK today as we try to respond to Black Lives Matter? Let's re-read it and discuss it for ourselves.

The text of the Kairos Document will be available on the URC website...

[CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



The
United
Reformed
Church Youth

Triologue

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 triologue](#)
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Listen

to podcasts on all platforms

Take Part

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

Fortnightly
Thursdays at 7pm



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Listen to a daily reading and reflection
Sunday 28 March to Sunday 4 April

**2021
HOLY WEEK**
MINI PODCAST
SERIES



<http://bit.ly/holy-week-2021>



PRESIDING AT THE SACRAMENTS COURSE

COMING SOON: an opportunity to participate in this 2 session course online.

Delegates need to be recommended by their Church. Interested in attending?

Please contact Andy Twilley:

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



PLEASE NOTE: All items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Opune](mailto:Opune@urcsouthern.org.uk) by **19 March**.

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



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All Sisters and Brothers

Sustaining hope with refugees & asylum seekers

Thursday 25 March 2021, 6-7.30pm
London Churches Refugee Fund and Church Times
present an online event in support of refugees.



Keynote speaker: Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP

Dominican friar, writer & former Master of the Order of Preachers

A view from the frontline: Zrinka Bralo

CEO of Migrants Organise

Chair of the evening: **Revd Dr Andrew Prasad**
Moderator Thames North Synod URC and LCRF Patron

With a special appearance by: **Alfred Enoch**
Actor (Harry Potter movies and more) and LCRF Patron

This is a livestreamed online event, there will be an opportunity for Q&A. Tickets are free but pre-registration is essential. See more and register at www.churchtimes.co.uk/all-sisters-and-brothers

YOU'RE ON MUTE!

I was recently struck by the words of Psalm 107: 2... "Let the Redeemed of the Lord say this." On their own that may not make much sense, however the Psalmist is referring to the call to "speak out" about the fact of our redemption. To tell our story in the light of "His Story"... the most amazing life changing event of history, our redemption.

Sadly for too long, too many of us have been on "mute". How could we un-mute this Easter? Maybe as we celebrate the amazing truth of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we could also speak out about the fundamental transformation it has brought into our lives.

Maybe we can look again at the challenge of Acts 1: 8... to be His witnesses... in the context he has placed us in, on the Frontlines he takes us out to... near or far, unmuted to tell of the wonders of His redemptive act in Christ.

Andy Twilley

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YOUTH GET TOGETHER

Online gathering for young people aged 13-25
from Thames North & Southern Synods

Sunday 28th March - 6:00pm to 7.30pm

Meet other young people for an evening
games, discussion and worship.

Book Via Eventbrite - bit.ly/youth-get-together-march

Church in **focus**

EAST WITTERING URC

A year of Covid and we at East Wittering have kept things going using IT apps & prayer meetings; however, now is the time to assess our situation & future. Technologies provide only a poor substitute and our concern is that they are considered a viable alternative and congregations are not encouraged to assemble together. Relationship with God and our fellow believers is paramount. How do we collectively give thanks, make a sacrifice of praise, collectively draw into the presence of God, pray in agreement, take communion or lay on hands if we are not together? Furthermore, who is in control of the church when it's online, are we then governed by the internet access, how would PC protocol impact on what could be said online, could the plug be pulled on a church online? The Lord Jesus Christ is zealous for His church. In conclusion, scripture should have the final say:-
"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

*John Gunning
Local Church Leader*