

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

"The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Saviour!" Psalm 18: 46



Next Course September 2021
Tues 21, Thurs 23
Tues 28, Thurs 30
Mornings 9:30-12:30
(Must attend all 4 sessions)

To book a space email
cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

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:

Tom Hackett
 Children's & Youth Development
 Officer
 Email: cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

MHFA England
 INSTRUCTOR
 MEMBER

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

INTRO TO THE URC

Interested in finding out more about the URC, its history, and ethos? This 2 session course is a great opportunity to understand more about who we are. Maybe you've joined the URC from another denomination. Or you are considering some aspect of ministry and want to deepen your knowledge of the denomination's background.



DATES: 28th Sep & 19th Oct

TIMES: 4.30pm

VENUE: Caterham URC

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE

All items for the next issue of *"Mission & Vision"* need to be sent to Opuene by **17 September**.

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

Stepwise

"FAITH FILLED LIFE", the first module in the Stepwise programme will be starting September 29th on ZOOM from 14.00 – 16.00. It's not too late to register:

Andy Twilley: training@urcsouthern.org.uk

It's sure to be a stimulating journey!



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Issue 100

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Intergenerational Worship

A day to be Refreshed & Inspired in your Preaching

October 23rd

at St. Paul's URC, South Croydon

SPEAKER: Ruth White

CYDO for Wessex Synod

Refreshments from 10.00

Starts: 10.30

Depart: 15.30

Soup will be
provided at
lunchtime.

All are welcome!



To book your place contact
Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner

Sue Knight: localchurchleader@reigateparkchurch.org

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

Exploring what it means to be
an inclusive and affirming community

Open Table South London
at the Church of the Ascension
Saturday 25th September 2021

Free event. Details and booking via
www.ascension-blackheath.org



Open Table South London
Twitter & Facebook: @OpenTableSL
southlondon@opentable.lgbt



THE MONTGOMERY
TRUST
Speak · Listen · Understand

Doors open from 10.30 and the event ends at 16.00. The speakers and session leaders are from Open Table South London, The Church of the Ascension, House of Rainbow, and St Bride's – home of the first Open Table community in Liverpool.

The Open Table Network www.opentable.lgbt is a partnership of Christian worship communities which welcome and affirm people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, & Asexual (LGBTQIA) + our families, friends and allies.

The Church of the Ascension is an open and affirming Anglican Church in Blackheath.

Jide Emeka Macauley:
A rainbow of bread

The Church of the Ascension
Dartmouth Row, London SE10 8AW
www.ascension-blackheath.org
07903 337195

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes:
Nourished by the word.

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Is God Calling YOU or someone you know to be trained as a Lay Preacher? As plans come together for the series starting in 2022, please contact Andy Twilley if interested in finding out more.

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

URC Online BASIC Safeguarding Training

The safeguarding team have adapted the physical training modules into a virtual format held via Zoom, which has been condensed to 2 hours for this platform.

The following dates are available for the **Foundation module**:

16th September 2021 10am

The following dates are available for the **Intermediate module**: (2 ½ hours)

16th September 2021 6.30pm

NOTE: you will be required to enrol and attend the Foundation training before being enrolled on to the Intermediate training, despite any previous workplace training or expertise.

To book for this training, please email your name, role, church and preferred date to safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk

LICC LEARNING HUB 2022

Interested in your church being one of the 10 churches forming the new Learning Hub?

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more.

[ANDY TWILLEY](#)

DDC Training for DBS Verifiers

Free 1 hour online training to address all of these DBS questions like: what the role of a verifier is, blemished disclosures and more!

Dates available:

10th September 4pm

2nd October 9.30am

To book your place, please email:

Matt Baxter, Safeguarding Administrator: safeguarding@urc.org.uk



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Youth Get Together Sunday 24th October 2pm, The 02, London

A gathering for 15-25 year olds from
Thames North & Southern Synods

An opportunity to meet together for
an afternoon of food and activities

Contact your CYDO to book
Thames North - Lorraine Downer
cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk
Southern - Tom Hackett
cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk



Church in focus

REFLECTIONS FROM EKSA AREA LEADER

East Kent Synod Area (EKSA) is formed by coastline on three sides and ranges southwards to Hythe, northwards to Margate and eastwards to Dover, with many Kent roads leading to the Cathedral city of Canterbury at the centre, and Ashford in the south. EKSA has a contrast with on the one hand large towns, some requiring urgent urban regeneration and the other hand nature reserves and picturesque villages. Several URC churches trace their roots back to the 17th century, but not all are traditional in worship, and fresh expressions are being explored. With eight LEPs and shared and collaborative ministry with Methodists and Anglicans, there is close cooperation with the two Methodist Circuits and the Kent Church Leaders meeting. Examples of mission work include our involvement with the ecumenical Cross-Links project in Dover, and a New Housing Missioner post at Chilmington Green (Ashford) funded by Methodists and URC. There are many Churches Together groupings, working on projects such as Street Pastors. Quite a few of our congregations have now become smaller, the average age is increasing and members have become frailer. We especially ask for prayers for those congregations who have been hit hard by this during the lockdown, that they may be encouraged, strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit, so they may be able to stand their ground being a witness to the love of Jesus in their communities.

Rev. Bernard Fidler



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