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## Report from Synod Council Committee

Since Synod Together last met on the 12th March 2022, Synod Council has met on the 26th May 2022, and on the 22nd September 2022.

### Grateful thanks

Grateful thanks go to all those who constitute the Synod Council, Synod Officers, for all the Committee Convenors, Synod Area Leaders and Synod representative for Assembly Executive. Grateful thanks for their time, wisdom and guidance.

### Mission projects

We remain thankful to Rev Wendy Swan for overseeing the mission projects in the Synod. If anyone wishes to contact Wendy to consider new opportunities, please do so on:  
[wendyaswan@hotmail.com](mailto:wendyaswan@hotmail.com)

### Deployment

The Terms of Reference for the Deployment Sub-Group, which acts in an advisory capacity, will soon be available on the website.

The next day discussing deployment issues will be at Crawley on the 9th November 2022.

### Children's and Youth Friendly Synod Scheme

This scheme invites Southern Synod, with the help of an external accompanier, to reflect on how Synod activities promote a welcoming approach towards children, young people and families. The scheme provides an in-depth look at our engagement with children, youth and families in areas such as vision and values, spirituality and our relationship with God, mission and outreach, equipping and supporting, and decision making and inclusion. Details of the pack can be found by following the link:

[Children and Youth Friendly Church & Synod Scheme - United Reformed Church](#)

The Children's and Youth Friendly Pack initiates an ongoing conversation, where are we now? Where do we want to be? What do we need to do? Next steps? Once the process begins Southern Synod could work towards being recognized as a Children and Youth friendly Synod.

### Energy Audits

A new initiative is being explored to introduce energy audits for churches to reduce their carbon footprint. This would be a valuable resource for those churches that have already begun a journey towards becoming Eco friendly.

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**Synod staff review**

Opuene has moved on to a new job, we remain thankful for all that she did at the Synod Office. The process has begun to fill this role. A staff review will also be initiated in the coming weeks to ensure that we meet the needs of the Synod.

The next meeting will be held on the 15th December 2022