

**Children's and Youth Work Committee****Report to Synod, October 2022**

Submitted by Graham Purdye

*The good leave an inheritance to their **children's children**...**Proverbs 13:22a*

**Membership:** There have been a couple of recent changes to the committee and there are currently 6 active members. We have had a couple of members 'stand down' from the committee - Rev Dr JunSoo Park leaving the synod and Marie Jackson due to her increasing workload at Sedlescombe. The secretary's post is still vacant, so, if anyone knows somebody in their church that may be willing to take on this role, please let me know. Many thanks to Tom who is still valiantly fulfilling this role.

**Recent Events etc. – From CYDO – Tom Hackett****South East Partnership Group – Boost Conference**

The Boost Conference took place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June and was attended by around 70 participants. The conference went very well. The delegates really engaged with the content and were keen to put into practice what they were learning about how to re-imagine schools work in the season following the pandemic. As part of the programme I facilitated a seminar exploring Wellbeing and Mental Health.

**Children & Youth Friendly Church Scheme**

I have continued to support local churches through the Children & Youth Friendly Church Scheme. Since the last meeting I have had continued to attend working group meetings at Kingston URC & Caterham URC. I will also be attending Gillingham URC in July to discuss the award with the congregation.

**Lundie Award**

The recipient of the Lundie Award for June 2022 was 4 year old Cleo Ward from Gillingham URC, who was nominated by local church leader Pam Tolhurst.

News of recent recipients is available on the URC site - <https://urc.org.uk/four-shining-lights-gain-lundie-memorial-award/>

*Four-year-old Cleo Ward, from the URC Southern Synod, is June's winner. Cleo is described as "a shining light in the fellowship of the Church" by Pam Tolhurst, a local church leader at Gillingham URC, who nominated the youngster for the award.*

*"Cleo is often a busy bee," says Pam. "You will usually find her either offering the biscuit basket round the congregation, encouraging her best friend to attend the puppet ministry or helping to count the Kingdom Club and youth fellowship money held in the 'pink pig' money box.*

*"The delight of her infectious and warm personality is shown in the faces of Cleo and those she is helping to serve. Cleo is a great example to us all of how to build relationships across the age ranges."*

*Cleo said she was "very happy" to receive the award and her mum, Sarah, shared how proud she is of Cleo and how included she feels Cleo and her family are within the church.*

*Cleo plans to spend her £100 award helping children who do not have toys and will be dividing the money between the charity Starfish Malawi and the Rainbows group she has recently joined within her church.*

I attended Gillingham URC on 17<sup>th</sup> July to present Cleo with her award certificate and medal. The next deadline for Lundie Award nominations from Southern Synod is 8<sup>th</sup> October. The award celebrates children and young people who are playing their part in the mission of God. Nomination forms are available via this link - <https://urc.org.uk/news-from-the-lundie-memorial-award>

### **URC Children Launch**

This was successfully launched at General Assembly. This is the new programme for all children aged 0-12 linked with the URC and for those who are involved in work with 0-12s. A joint Southern and Thames North event for URC children is being planned for late October. Details will be shared via Synod newsletter.

### **Youthscape Essentials Training**

New online course for all involved in Youth Work started on 12<sup>th</sup> September on Monday evenings 7-9pm over 10 weeks.

### **MHFA Training**

A new date for Youth Mental Health First Aid training has been set. This will be a 2 day course taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov - 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at URC Church House in London. Booking details will be released via Synod newsletter.

### **Youth Gathering**

A Joint Southern and Thames North "Board Game Challenge" youth gathering has been rearranged to October half term. This will now take place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October in London. The event is open to young people aged 15-25 years.

### **Synod Youth Assembly 2023.**

URCYA will take place at Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire from 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Jan. The event is open to young people in school year 10 to 25 years (inclusive) . Spaces for participants from Southern Synod to be funded from Synod Children & Youth Work Budget. Bookings are now open via urc website - <https://urc.org.uk/urcya>

For the latest news and resources for your Children's & Youth Work, please follow this link. <https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

16<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
( via 'Zoom' )