

URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all.” 1 Chronicles 29; 11

Faith Talk



14 November 2023

19.00 – 21.00

St. Martins URC, Saltdean

Led by Rev. Andy Twilley

Training & Development Officer Southern Synod

How can we deepen our relationships with one another? The concept of FELLOWSHIP is central to being part of the Church, but what is “authentic fellowship” and how can we deepen it in our life together?

Andy will be helping us explore this important topic. So please join us for what is sure to be an enjoyable and informative afternoon, one which could transform our relating together as members of God’s family.

Interested? To book your place, contact

Andy Twilley

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

Everyone Welcome!

EXPLORE YOUR CALL



November 22

19.00 – 20.30

An evening on ZOOM to find out what it means to become a...

**Minister of Word & Sacrament
Church Related Community Worker
Local Church Leader
Lay Preacher**

With input from a range of speakers, this will be an exciting opportunity to hear insights from those who are engaged in these ministries, to ask your questions, and most importantly, to **“Explore YOUR call”**.

To find out more, or to book a place, contact **Andy Twilley**

training@urcsouthern.org.uk



Talking About... Lego Church

What is it?
How do we start it?
What age group works best?



Thursday, 23rd November
7-8pm

Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout



Synod Office: East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP
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DECEMBER



Horsham URC... celebrate the commissioning of Rev David Pitkeathly and Rev Anne Lewitt... an exciting partnership and new shape of ministry.

SACRAMENTS COURSE

December 12th & January 9th
10.30 – 13.00

Christ Church URC, Petts Wood

Interested? Then contact Andy Twilley:
training@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:



Children's & Youth Development Officers
Mersey Synod - Steven Mitchell cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk
Southern Synod - Tom Hackett cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk

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

December 2023

Evenings 18:30-21:30

4 online sessions

Mon 4, Weds 6

Mon 11, Weds 13

Register at:

www.bit.ly/mhfa-dec23



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2024

*The Story of God,
the Story of Us.*

Youth Leaders Gathering

Whitemoor Lakes, Lichfield. 26-28 January 2024



The URC Youth Leaders Gathering is an opportunity for all involved in working with young people to meet with others, share ideas, learn together and be refreshed in their work with young people.

We live in a world shaped by stories - whether it be the 24/7 news or the worlds created by Hollywood studios - stories are everywhere.

But how do we know live and share the story of God in today's world?

And how do we allow that story to shape our own personal stories and impact the lives of young people today.

Together we will explore this theme.

WHO IS IT FOR?
all who work with young people aged 11-25 that are in any way connected with the URC (volunteers and employed) in uniformed organisations, Pilots, youth groups or any other setting.

WHAT TO EXPECT
Meet others, share ideas, space to think, see resources, space for worship and prayer, Input from experienced practitioners, inspiration and encouragement.

Cost £124 *funding available—speak to your Synod CYDO*

Book your place at <http://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering>



Prayer and the Holy Spirit

Growing in prayer with the help of the Holy Spirit

Do you ever long to develop in your life of prayer? Would you like to discover how the Holy Spirit can make a difference and take you deeper into that great adventure of prayer?

Why settle for less when Jesus promises more?

Through testimony, teaching and practice, this Ignite explores some of the basic ingredients of prayer and looks at:

- ◆ What it means to ask in the name of Jesus
- ◆ How vision and prayer shape the future
- ◆ Intercession that is led by the Holy Spirit

Join us for this faith-inspiring event and discover how much more God can do in you, for you, and through you.

Saturday 27th January 2024

9:30 am - 5 pm



"The teaching, prayer, worship and practical application has transformed my personal spiritual walk."

- » Light refreshments will be provided
- » Please bring a packed lunch
- » Parking is limited



St Andrew's URC
Watling Street
Canterbury. CT1 2UA

Find out more and book your free place:

dunamis.org.uk/ignite-events

PLEASE NOTE: Items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to **Andy** by **17 November**.

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



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2024

Stepwise

Would you be interested in being part of a Stepwise group: “Faith Filled Life”?

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more:

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

Church in focus

SECRETARY FOR MINISTRIES

Being called is fundamental to any understanding of discipleship. The Bible says much about the variety of tasks to which people may be called, perhaps most notably in Paul’s use of the image of the body (1 Corinthians 12). The ‘call’ is primarily the call of God but may be heard and interpreted in various

ways. If we look at our church as a community of disciples, then we need to consider how we are called and what call may require of us.

In the United Reformed Church, ministry is primarily that which is of the whole people of God. Christians are ‘called’ into the Church where they naturally offer their service. Think of your baptismal/membership promises: ‘Do you promise, in dependence on God’s grace, to be faithful in private and public worship, to live in the fellowship of the Church and to share in its work, and to give and serve, as God enables you, for the advancement of his kingdom throughout the world?’ As such, Christians are ‘called’ to live for Christ. This means working in whatever sphere you might find yourselves as if you are working for Christ. This is sometimes considered to be ‘vocation’. People called in this way are called to enable the ministry of the whole people of God.

However, within the whole people of God *“the Lord Jesus Christ gives particular gifts for particular ministries and calls some of his servants to exercise them in offices duly recognised within his Church”*. Here we see that a sense of personal, inward call alone known only to God is not the measure by which the Church acknowledges call, but also by the particular gifts individuals bring. This is done in the spirit of discernment.

God calls and we work out our vocation. For some that will be through the more formal ministries of the church, Minister of Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Workers, Elders, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers... to name but a few. God calls and we respond by working out our vocation which, at points, may be tested by others through the spirit of discernment. My role as Secretary for Ministries is to help you listen for God’s call. If you would like to know more, contact me, I would love to hear your story.

Rev Nicola Furley-Smith