

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD

# MISSION & VISION

*"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16: 24*

## LMMR

Training and refreshment for  
Pastorate Facilitators

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**On ZOOM**

**7.00 – 8.30pm**

Interested in attending?

Book your place now:

Andy Twilley

[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)

## St Luke Passion

**Palm Sunday Choral Service**  
**24 March 6.30pm**

Date : Sunday 24 March 2024

Time : 6.30pm

Venue: Trinity Church Sutton

Music: St Luke Passion with the Trinity Festival Choir

<https://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk/choral>

**Free entry, all welcome**



Please pray for Synod  
Together on Saturday that it  
will be a time of inspiration  
and blessing.

## PRESIDING AT A FUNERAL

**19 March 2024**

**14.00 – 16.00**

**St. Johns, Orpington**

A training session to explore all aspects of conducting a funeral service, particularly designed for Elders or Lay Preachers who might be called upon to serve in this way.

To express interest in attending, please contact Andy Twilley:

[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)

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## TRAINING FOR ELDERS IN A TIME OF CHANGE

**April 3: 19.00 – 21.00**  
Emmanuel URC, Worthing

**April 16: 10.30 – 12.30**  
Reigate Park URC

Helping your Elders Meeting to be the best it can be in the spiritual and pastoral leadership of your church.

To book your place, contact Andy Twilley  
[training@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:training@urcsouthern.org.uk)

All are Welcome.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Items for the next issue of  
"Mission & Vision" need to be sent  
to [Andy](mailto:Andy) by **15 March**.

A copy of this news sheet can be found &  
downloaded from the Synod website  
[southernsynodurc.org.uk](http://southernsynodurc.org.uk)



The  
**Dunamis**  
project

Equipping you  
to cooperate with  
the Holy Spirit

## Gateways to Empowered Ministry

*The person and work of the Holy Spirit*



**17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

St Andrew's URC, Canterbury. CT1 2UA  
*Wednesday early afternoon to Sunday lunch time*



Full details and booking form online:

[www.dunamis.org.uk/canterbury](http://www.dunamis.org.uk/canterbury)

For enquiries about this event contact Val Cannon:  
[val@dunamis.org.uk](mailto:val@dunamis.org.uk)

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## OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTERS & CRCW's



### URC - Godly Play Core Training Course

1-3 May 2024

East Midlands Synod Office,  
Sherwood, Nottingham  
Training facilitated by Revd Peter  
Privett & Richard Knott

Led by two experienced trainers, this course is a mixture of trainer-led sessions and opportunities for coached participant

storytelling. We work to model a Godly Play environment, with the opportunity to use and see a comprehensive set of resources. Each day focuses on a different kind of Godly Play presentation (sacred stories, parables and liturgical action/church practice) to help you begin to understand how different genres of Christian language support spiritual exploration.

**Contact: [trainingpa@urc5.org.uk](mailto:trainingpa@urc5.org.uk)  
to express interest and to book your place.**



**Synod Office:** East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP  
Tel: 020 8688 3730 [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk)

Issue 161

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SOUTHERN  
SYNOD

## SAFEGUARDING

*training*

14  
JUNE  
2024

10AM- FOUNDATION MODULE  
1PM INTERMEDIATE MODULE

EMAIL:  
SAFEGUARDING@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK  
TO BOOK

ST ANDREW'S URC CANTERBURY -  
WATLING ST, CANTERBURY CT1 2UA



The United Reformed Church History Society Conference:  
16-18 September 2024  
University of Durham



*£275 full board in single room, £250 per person sharing a double room.*

*The Church on the margins:  
learning from the past to shape the future.*

TO FIND OUR MORE OR TO BOOK: email [michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk](mailto:michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk)

## Church in **focus** SIDCUP, BEXLEY & GEDDES PLACE

Bexley Pastorate URC is constituted by three churches: Geddes Place URC in Bexleyheath, Bexley URC in Bexley village and Emmanuel United, an LEP, URC and Methodist church in Sidcup. The three churches share a full-time minister and some activities. A team of preachers helps to lead services each Sunday. The strength of the three churches is their fellowship groups, which bring together people from the neighbourhood for lunches, cafés and entertainment. Ecumenical relations are also strong in the borough, through regular meetings and joint activities throughout the Christian year. As with many URC congregations, the main difficulty in Bexley is the ageing of the members, with the feeling that as society changes, people and families are less likely to join a congregation and even less likely to volunteer for church, community or charity work. Bexley's elders and minister are praying for inspiration to find new ways of sharing the Good News in this context, responding to new needs in society and serving the people in our communities.

*Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal*



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