



# Sharing the Vision



August 2021

News from the Wessex Synod

*Note: Items headed in grey have appeared in the newsletter previously*

## URC Podcast

The latest episode of the URC podcast is now available at [www.bit.ly/URCPodcast5](http://www.bit.ly/URCPodcast5) and on all major podcast platforms, looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the workplace.

[Episode 5 - The Workplace by The United Reformed Church Podcast • A podcast on Anchor](#)

Hosts Ann-Marie Nye and Simon Peters explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus at work, talking with two people who work outside the Church, Pauline and David, about their experiences.

[www.bit.ly](http://www.bit.ly)

## Let's Celebrate: Children & Young People in the URC

The video from the event held on 21<sup>st</sup> July can be found here: <https://youtu.be/jm9O7yABPSI> Let's Celebrate – the whole event (1 hour)

## Training for those involved with line management of lay employees in churches

HR at Church House are running some online training for churches over the next few months:

### Why Manage - Part 1

**Date:** Thursday, 16 September 2021

**Time:** 10am – 12 noon

**Training delivery mode:** online

**Topics:** Line Management – Basic, Managing Performance – Induction, Probation, 1-2-1s, Appraisals

### Why Manage - Part 2

**Date:** Tuesday, 26 October 2021

**Time:** 2pm – 4pm

**Training delivery mode:** online

**Topic:** Working Hours, Managing Absence, Flexible Working

### Why Manage - Part 3

**Date:** Thursday, 18 November 2021

**Time:** 10am - 12 noon

**Training delivery mode:** online

**Topic:** When things don't go to plan – Capability, Disciplinary, Grievance, Policies and Procedure, Scenarios

## Why Manage - Part 4

**Date:** Thursday, 9 December 2021

**Time:** 10am – 12:30 noon

**Training delivery mode:** online

**Topic:** Equality Policy

To reserve a place for these training sessions, please contact the HR office at [deepti.upadhyaya@urc.org.uk](mailto:deepti.upadhyaya@urc.org.uk)

## Church Regeneration Worker – Collinwood Road, Oxford

### Are you being called to help the church grow?

**Are you the prayerful, passionate, and imaginative person we need to help a small but energetic congregation fulfil its vocation to be the church for all ages at the heart of its community?**

Can you help us pioneer new forms of church ministry and community outreach while developing the existing congregation?

The United Reformed Church (Wessex Trust) is seeking to employ a Church Regeneration Worker to be based at Collinwood Road Church, Oxford.

Total package worth up to £31,625 comprising a salary of between £25,000 and £27,500 and an employer's pension contribution of 15%. 3 years fixed term.

The aim is to have someone in post in late 2021, but we are prepared to wait for the right candidate.

An information pack and application form can be downloaded from

<https://wessexsynodurc.org.uk/are-you-being-called-to-help-the-church-grow/>

and should be returned to [office@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:office@urcwessex.org.uk) by 12 noon on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

There is an occupational requirement that the postholder holds a personal Christian faith, under the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 9, Pt 1. Appointment will be subject to satisfactory DBS and Barred List checks.

For an informal discussion contact Revd. Ray Stanyon on 07890-909488 or ([dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk))

## Commitment for Life Service

I am writing to draw your attention to the NEW service that *Commitment for Life* has created in conjunction with Christian Aid on leaving a Legacy. The Harvest service including full text and a video of the service is downloadable from our website by following the link <https://urc.org.uk/commitment-for-life/worship-commitment-for-life.html>

As this Harvest Service is a pilot legacy partnership, it would really help Christian Aid and ourselves if you could kindly provide us with some feedback. Please do let me know if your church uses these CFL Harvest resources and how well it was received by the congregation.

A simple 'How to do it' style flyer, is in the process of being prepared and will be added to the *Commitment For Life* website by the end of August.

Finally, Christian Aid are organising training on 'talking about legacies in your church' on 23<sup>rd</sup> September – church leaders can book their place by emailing Kathy directly, a link is here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/gifts-wills/remember-charity-week>.

## 'Shaping our Everyday Prayer' Conference on Zoom

*Wednesday 22 September 2:30-5:30 pm*

Seeking to grow in your prayer life? Looking for creative approaches to prayer in worship? A prayer workshop (on zoom), hosted by the Joint Liturgical Group (JLG) of Great Britain, is the place to be on Wednesday 22 September 2:30-5:30.

**Fr. David Birchall**, Director of the Ignatian Spiritual centre in Glasgow, will lead the Conference in imaginative contemplation and reflective prayer.

**Revd Peter Gardner**, a visual artist and Church of Scotland minister, will invite us to 'Watch & Pray', to open our eyes and look with attentive curiosity, to consider what we would choose to look at when we pray. He will reflect on ways that contemporary visual art practice can enhance our ways of seeing and transform our everyday prayer as individuals and worshipping communities.

Please share the zoom link with folks in your church. Everyone is welcome. We've reserved extra places on zoom, so there's room for everyone.

*There is no registration fee, but donations will be accepted on the day, for the costs of the day and the on-going work of the Joint Liturgical Group. Ana Gobledale is the URC representative on the JLG.*

Find more information about the presenters and the zoom link here:

<https://jlg.org.uk/2021/08/03/shaping-our-every-day-prayer-zoom-conference-september-22-2021/>

[Flier available here](#)

## Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, Oxford – New Build news and fundraising appeal

Planning Permission was granted by Oxford City Council both to demolish and rebuild the site. It is extremely rare for permission be given to demolish a Listed building, but after 4 years of hard work by their team they are very pleased that they can start the major fundraising and soon be able to start on the project.

Their lovely church was condemned in December 2018 but they now have planning permission, subject to the Secretary of States final approval, to go ahead and build a new church and community cafe, hall, and incubator spaces along with 20 flats as affordable housing.

The community will be well served going forwards with a fit-for-purpose, environmentally and user-friendly building, taking us forward into the next decades.

To read about the project take a look at this link:

<https://wessexsynodurc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Holy-Family-Church-in-Blackbird-Leys.docx>

## Church and Community Worker required for a busy church serving the local community

We are looking for someone who will share our vision to be 'Church for Everyone' and spreading the gospel in **Westborough**, helping drive forward our programme of work in the local community, building upon the relationships fostered with neighbours and friends locally for the church to grow. This may include a toddler group, Alpha course, pastoral and prayer visitation, Messy Church and other initiatives.

Salary in the region of £19,760 pro rata

16 hours per week, with flexible working hours

It is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian and appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure and references.

For the Job Description and Person Specification please email [admin@westborough.freeuk.com](mailto:admin@westborough.freeuk.com) or visit our website [Vacancies \(westborough-urc.co.uk\)](http://westborough-urc.co.uk)

Closing date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## Churches Together in Dorset Treasurer vacancy

The Treasurer for Churches Together in Dorset is stepping down soon and the organisation needs a replacement. Since taking up the post, Ruth Jenkins has simplified the role, which consists of producing financial reports for the Executive 3-4 Times per year (including AGM), utilising payroll software and online banking to pay the monthly salary of the County Ecumenical Officer, make other payments, produce a budget and invoice denominational grant-awarding bodies annually. Would it be possible to appeal across the churches in the South West Area of our Synod to see if there is someone who might step up to this role, please? If you need more information, please contact Rev'd Peter Clark, Ecumenical Officer for Dorset - [revptc@btinternet.com](mailto:revptc@btinternet.com)

## LAMPS Collective

### Part Time Communications and Marketing Coordinator vacancy

Christian theatre company LAMPS Collective are currently looking for a part time creative marketer to help them connect with churches nationally.

Link to the job specification is <https://lampscollective.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/LAMPSCommunications-and-Marketing-Coordinator.pdf>

## News Update

News Update is seeking anything of interest for the denomination as a whole from across the country – and the nations.

Any news/photos/event information for the next edition should be sent to: [ann-marie.nye@urc.org.uk](mailto:ann-marie.nye@urc.org.uk)

You can subscribe to News Update via the link on the URC website.

[View the July/August News Update here](#)

## Joint Public Issues Team

[View the June newsletter here](#)

## In GEAR magazine

After a long gap, we are pleased to advise that the Summer 2021 edition of In GEAR is now available on GEAR's web-site. This latest edition plus numerous back copies can be found at:

<http://www.gear.org.uk/publications/in-gear-magazine/>

You can download the PDF version by clicking on the relevant front page view. If you wish to receive a paper copy (or multiple copies), please complete the form on the web page.

## Churches Together in England Newsletter

Latest newsletter available here: [www.cte.org.uk/news](http://www.cte.org.uk/news)

## URC Buildings Forum Conference – 21 July 2021

Following the relative success of the URC Buildings Forum conference on 19 April 2021, it was agreed we should hold future conferences around three times each year. The Steering Committee have recently met and agreed the date of **21 July 2021** for the next conference starting at 11.30am and finishing around 1.00pm.

The conference will explore the vision and mission context for URC buildings and assets, including whether we need a building to be 'church' in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? For this part of the conference, we are pleased to be able to welcome Martin Haywood, the convenor of the Mission Enablers Network and the Southern Synod Mission Officer. We hope to also hear from two separate places of worship about how that have creatively used their buildings. One in a rural community and the other in a multi-cultural community.

**Please email [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk) to sign up for this event.**

The third and final conference for 2021 is being planned for 14 October from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, the conference will focus on environmental issues for church buildings, including Eco-Church and Eco-Congregation.

## URC Holiday Forum – 21 – 27 August

It's time to secure your place for Holiday Forum 2021!

Whether you'd like to join us in-person at The Hayes or online this August, now is the time to book your place to avoid disappointment.

Jane Rowell leads our daily worship and Anthony Reddie brings us our theme of LIVING WITH & LOVING DIFFERENCE: *the challenge of being human in a fractured world.*

[For more information view this link](#)

## **Change of Date – Synod Big Day Out will now be in 2022**

URC Wessex Synod - Big Day Out

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Time: 11am till 5pm

Venue: Hollycombe Steam Fair and Museum near Liss  
(Wessex Synod will have sole use of the whole site)

Theme: Jubilee: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the URC

More details to follow.

## **Safeguarding Sunday**

**Safeguarding Sunday is 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Why not use the resources in this link to have a focus on safeguarding in your services that week [Safeguarding Sunday \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](http://thirtyoneeight.org)

## **Trustee Training for Synod Trustees, Elder Trustees, Ministers, Church Safeguarding Co-ordinators & Deputies**

**Safeguarding.** Southwestern Synod has arranged some further sessions by Farrer & Co regarding trustee responsibilities in respect of safeguarding. The training is free as it is as a result of a successful application to the Synod Development Fund managed by the Assembly Safeguarding Advisory Group and is open to all synods.

The training will be via Zoom and the dates are below:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 11 am – 1 pm

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 11 am – 1 pm

What the training will include:

1. Why does safeguarding matter to the Church?
2. Duties as Trustees.
3. Case studies in breakout rooms regarding Serious Incidents.
4. Reporting Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission.
5. Fictional case study in break out rooms exploring roles and responsibilities.
6. How to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place.
7. Conclusion
8. Q & A

To book email: Dinah Firmin at [secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk)

## **Training for DBS verifiers**

DDC will be delivering online Verifier training over the coming months. It will be a really good opportunity to refresh your knowledge, get to know the DDC and meet other verifiers across the URC.

The topics that will be covered in the hours sessions will include

- The role of the verifier
- DDC and what we do
- Support and assistance available
- Recent changes with the DBS
- Eligibility
- Blemished disclosure process
- Frequently asked questions by URC verifiers
- Real life case studies for overcoming barriers in the process.
- Q & A

The dates and time of the training are below. If you would like to book on the training then please email Matt Baxter with the session you would like to attend his email is [safeguarding@urc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urc.org.uk)

10<sup>th</sup> September 4pm

2<sup>nd</sup> October 9.30am

### Catch up with Stepwise Webinars 2021

If you would like to find out more about Stepwise, what it is, who it's for, and how it can help you develop your discipleship and faith journey, the webinars that took place during the spring, are available on catch up [here](#).

### Stepwise Faith Filled Life – for young people aged 14 to 25

**Saturday 18 September 2021.** Are you or do you know a young person aged 14 to 25 who wants to explore and develop their faith?

The CYDOs will be running a Stepwise Faith Filled Life course in the Autumn especially for young people.

Please encourage young people to come along to our 'Check it out' session on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am. A 90-minute session where we will explain what the course entails and answer any questions.

Please book a place by contacting Ruth Heine at the office who will then send you the course zoom link. [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) Tel: 023 8067 4513

### Change of Date – Synod Big Day Out will now be in 2022

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Venue: Hollycombe Steam Fair and Museum near Liss  
(Wessex Synod will have sole use of the whole site)

Theme: Jubilee: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the URC

More details to follow.

## Upcoming Synod events

Bookings for all events and training courses to

Ruth Heine at the Synod Office

Email: [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk)

Tel: 023 8067 4513

## Development and Support

### From your DSOs

Development and Support Officers Mary and Ray continue to support churches, elderships and ministers, individually and through their work with the pastoral committees.

If you or your church feels that they can be of assistance, please do be in touch with them.

Ray Stanyon – [dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk)

Mary Thomas – [dso-s@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:dso-s@urcwessex.org.uk)

### Church Secretaries – 21 September 2021

**Tuesday 21 September 2021, 7pm – 8.30pm on zoom.** This is an opportunity for church secretaries to get together and discuss topics of interest. If you have a topic to suggest, please mention it when you book your place.

### Elders Development on Zoom – *new dates in October 2021*

**Elders' Development sessions, 7pm – 9pm with a break in the middle**

**Wednesday 13 October: Mission, Functions of Eldership & Trusteeship.**

**Tuesday 19 October 2021: Pastoral Care and Boundaries.**

**Thursday 28 October 2021: Worship, Prayer and Spirituality.**

These are a repeat of sessions held earlier in the year. If you missed any sessions, please book in to catch these repeats on zoom. These sessions are for serving Elders who would like a refresher and for prospective Elders.

Booking is essential.

### Church Treasurers – 23 October 2021

**Saturday 23 October 2021 at 2pm on zoom.** This get-together for treasurers will focus on the 'Data Developments' software packages, 'Donations Coordinator' and 'Finance Coordinator'. Karen Bell who uses this software will be able to share screen to show you, followed by questions and answers. Some of you may already be using this software and be more experienced, in which case you would be welcome to attend and share your knowledge.

Please save the date and book your place to receive the zoom link.

## Discipleship Development Fund

As a way of supporting the growth in deepening discipleship, the United Reformed Church set up the “Discipleship Development Fund” making grants available of up to £200 per person, or per church within certain parameters.

To date we have been pleased to approve an application from a church who were developing resources for their discipleship groups, and another from an individual towards the cost of a discipleship-based course they were attending.

### **Could you be the next good example of a use of these funds?**

In the current climate there are any number of on-line “courses and resources” available so there is no need to wait until face to face meeting is possible again.

If you wish to apply for financial help as you take steps to deepen your discipleship at any level please contact your Development and Support Officer, Mary Thomas or Ray Stanyon, and we will happily discuss the terms of the scheme with you and help you with your application.

## Lockdown Habits – Holy Habits booklets available to loan

Whilst now might not be the time to embark on huge projects, the Holy Habits material is an ideal resource for churches to help consider what habits are already developing naturally, AND how to keep the good habits once face to face meeting becomes possible again.

There is a copy of the series of Holy Habits booklets in the Office, and Ray Stanyon (DSO-n) has another for you to borrow all or part of.

Reminder that there is information about [Holy Habits](#) on the synod website.

## Children’s and Youth Events and Training

### Schools Ministry Training Opportunities

Thinking of getting involved in your local schools in September?

95% of under 18s aren’t in church BUT the majority of them are in schools. So what does it look like for us as schools workers to connect with them there?

Whether you are new to schools work or are only just venturing back into schools since restrictions have lifted, this training event is for you. Join us for our schools training and be equipped and encouraged to explore schools work in a way that’s relevant to your community.

Option one: a day of Zoom sessions on **Tuesday 21st September**

Option two: a full in-person day on **Thursday 23rd September** in Central London (W2 5DX) Cost: £25 (includes tea/coffee, lunch, take-home resources and the chance to connect with like-minded others face-to-face).

For more information head to the Scripture Union [website](#)

## Grants to support your ministry and mission

There are two small grants available from the Synod Youth and Children Work Committee and they are very simple to apply for. Simply write a short letter to the committee on church headed paper, explain the project/training, showing costings and explanations of how it is a mission based project and send it to your CYDO (Children's & Youth Development Officer).

**Start-up Grants** – up to £500 to support the creation of a new piece of work or project. Can be applied for every 3 years.

**Training Grants** – up to £250 to support churches receiving training to support mission.

## Youth Assembly 2022 – *pass this info to your young people*

A weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship for those in school year 10 up to 26 years inclusive. Creche available for children 0-5 years old.

**28 to 30 January 2022, Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffordshire.**

Cost: bookings on or before 11 November - £115 (**Wessex Synod fully funds this early bird cost and will also arrange transport**). Cost for bookings from 12 November is £145.

Find out more about Youth Assembly at: [www.urc.org.uk/urc-youth-urc.html](http://www.urc.org.uk/urc-youth-urc.html)

Book your place at: [www.urc.org.uk/urcya](http://www.urc.org.uk/urcya) before 1 January 2021.

Simply quote "Please invoice Wessex Synod" and we will fund your place.

## Mental Health First Aider with Youth focus – *in-person training*

This two-day in-person training course qualifies you as a Mental Health First Aider, with a specific focus on how that relates to younger people.

Venue: St Paul's Anglican Church, Howell Hill, 15 Northey Avenue, Cheam, **Sutton, Surrey, SM2 7HS**

Date: Two-day course on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Time: **9am – 5pm** both days, (arrivals 8.30 – 8.45am)

Cost: **free** to members of local URC churches and LEPs in Wessex Synod but you will need to fund your own travel.

**Booking is essential and places are limited.** Please email [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) to receive the link to register on the course.

## Safeguarding Training – *online*

The basic safeguarding training course is delivered online across 3 sessions. Participants must attend each of the 3 sessions to complete the training and gain a certificate. Booking is essential.

The next safeguarding training course online will be in October or November. Dates to be arranged and publicised in due course.

## Safeguarding Training – at Shanklin URC in 2022

**Saturday 26 March 2022, 10am – 4pm. At Shanklin URC, Isle of Wight.**

This will be the one-day basic safeguarding training course, delivered in person. Booking is essential.

## Wessex Summer Camps 2022 – save the date

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022**, at Oakwood Activity Centre, Wokingham, RG40 3DA.

Save the date for next year's camp which we hope will be bigger and better than ever.

## Bimonthly Newsletter – July 2021

[Bi-monthly update – July](#) from the Children's & Youth Team at Church House.

## Wessex Synod Children's and Youth Programme 2021

Check out the exciting list of opportunities for children and young people.

Mark the dates in your diary and watch this space for further information.

[Programme 2021](#).

## Children's & Youth resources – on the synod website

Take a look at the Children's & Youth [resources page](#) on the Synod website!

[Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!](#)

## Dialogue – online YouTube broadcast for 16 to 25 year olds

**Monthly on Thursdays at 7pm.** URC Youth offer a monthly online live YouTube broadcast called 'Dialogue'. Aimed at 16 to 25 year olds, each session explores a theme alongside a Bible passage, providing a spring board for further discussion and reflection. 3 Panelists, 3 Questions, 3 Values. All past episodes are available on YouTube for viewing at any time, plus all episodes are now available as podcasts.

Follow the URC Youth Dialogue Facebook page to engage and receive up to date information - <https://www.facebook.com/urcYouthDialogue/>

URC Website for information - <https://urc.org.uk/events-and-opportunities>

URC Children & Youth YouTube channel (Dialogue link) – <http://bit.ly/urctrilogue>

## Does your church have a good news story?

If your church has something it would like to share with people via the Synod Website page "[Stories from our Churches](#)", please send the article to the [Synod Office](#) and we will publish it on that page.

*NB If using photographs please ensure you have signed permission from those people featured for it to be published on the Synod Website (not just for your own personal church's use) and supply this at the same time as submitting the article.*

New Stories are added as when they are received, so do keep an eye on the page regularly.

## Prayer Calendar

The Synod Prayer Calendar is available on the Synod Website and also each month in this enewsletter.

Please note that it is updated from time to time, for example when a church closes it will be removed from the list.

Please refer to the website/enewsletter before printing weekly prayer sheets to ensure the most up to date information. Thank you.

### September

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blandford Forum</li><li>• Fareham</li></ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christchurch: Walkford</li><li>• High Cross Church, Camberley</li></ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bournemouth: Iford</li><li>• Romsey: Braishfield</li></ul>
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bridport</li><li>• South Hayling Island</li></ul>

### October

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anniversary of the Formation of the URC</li><li>• Meeting of Synod</li><li>• Weybridge</li></ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading: Park</li><li>• Isle of Wight: Ryde</li></ul>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parkstone</li><li>• Guildford: Westborough Church</li><li>• Portsmouth: Buckland</li></ul>
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tadley</li><li>• Weymouth: Radipole</li></ul>
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marlow</li><li>• Christchurch: Burton Green</li><li>• Southampton: Bitterne</li></ul>

Items for the next edition to [enews@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:enews@urcwessex.org.uk)

by 12noon on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Please submit news items in the form of:

**a heading; date and venue details; a brief descriptive sentence and a website link.**