

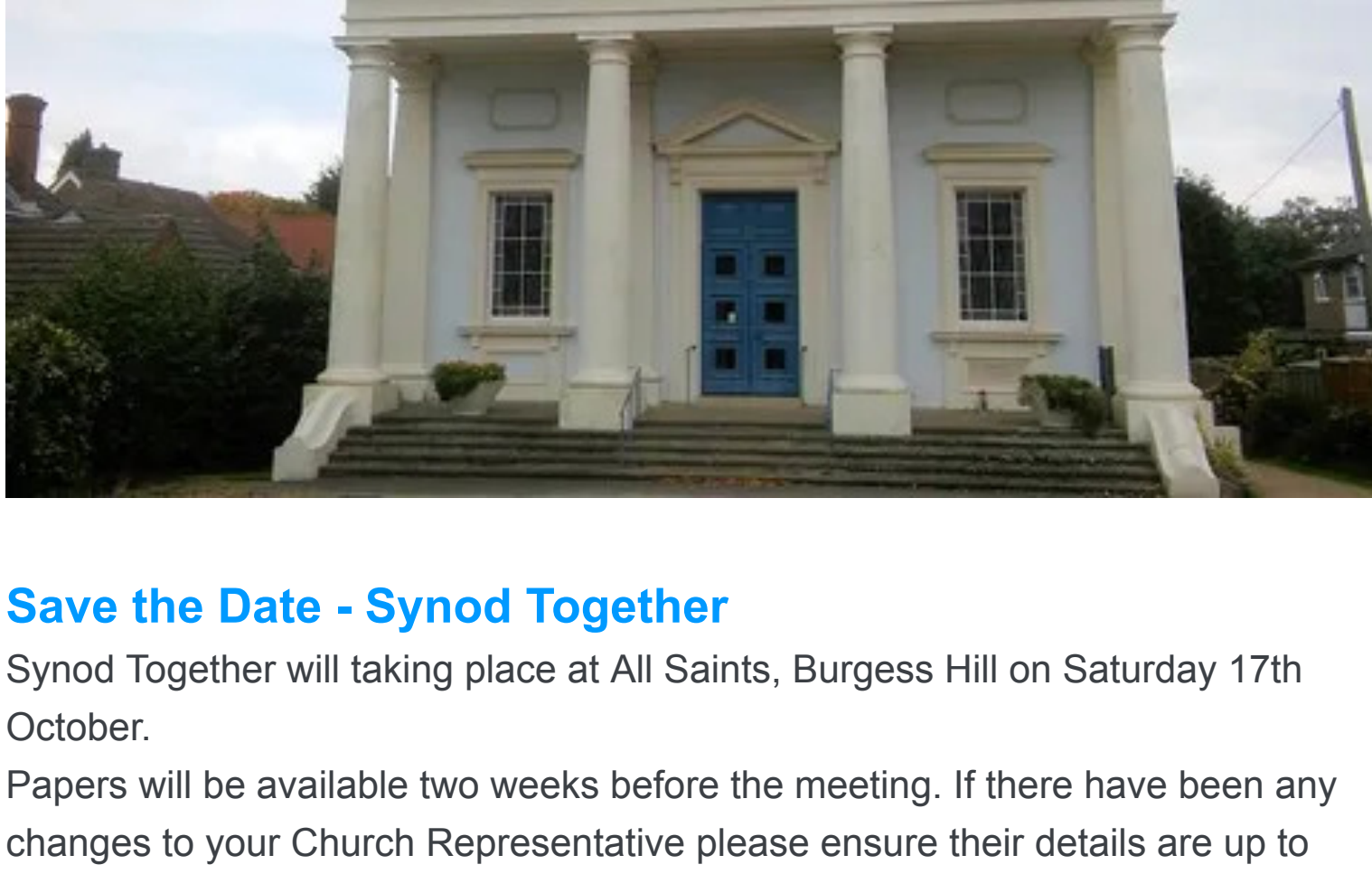


Southern Synod News

We would love to hear from you! If you have any exciting upcoming events, celebrations or good news to share from your local church we would love to include it in the next edition. Please send items for the next issue to Lauren (modpa@urcsouthern.org.uk) by Monday 21th August 2026.

News Changes in Southern Synod Training and Events

Latest News



Save the Date - Synod Together

Synod Together will taking place at All Saints, Burgess Hill on Saturday 17th October.

Papers will be available two weeks before the meeting. If there have been any changes to your Church Representative please ensure their details are up to date either through the update portal or by emailing the Synod Office.

If you wish to order any items from the [URC bookshop](#) for collection from Synod Together please email Lauren before 1st October.

Changes in Southern

Job Advert: Office Administrator

37.5 hours per week.
£30,261 per annum.
Based at the Synod Office, Croydon.

Southern Synod are looking for a competent, efficient and personable individual to support the general administration of the Synod and its Officers. The role is based at the Synod Office in East Croydon Monday to Friday but with the expectation to work up to 5 specified Saturdays and possibly some evenings.

Main responsibilities include (but not limited to):

- Providing administrative support to the office, field team and South London Synod Area
- Arranging and minuting meetings for committees
- Assisting the Finance Officer with maintaining financial records and making payments
- Monitoring utility accounts and making payments as required
- Dealing with general enquiries and bookings

Please download the application form and job description from southernsynodurc.org.uk/jobs and email it back to Lauren

modpa@urcsouthern.org.uk

CVs will not be accepted.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, early application is encouraged.

The Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church warmly invite you to the induction of



The Rev'd. Paul Robinson
as
Moderator of Southern Synod

31st October 2026 at 2 pm
Christ Church United Reformed Church
Tudor Way, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1LH

RSVP to modpa@urcsouthern.org.uk

Upcoming Training and Events

THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD PRESENT

CREATIVE WEEK

26-30 OCTOBER 2026

Five days to create, collaborate, and bring your main character energy to the stage.

WHERE: KENCH HILL CENTRE, TENTERDEN, KENT TN30 7DG

WHO FOR: SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 11-17)

COST: £30 PER PERSON

CHOOSE WHAT YOU LOVE:
DRAMA | MUSIC | CREATIVE WRITING | MOVEMENT & DANCE | STAGE CRAFT

Catch the FINAL performance at Lumen, King's Cross
6pm - 8pm on Friday 30th October.

REGISTER AT WWW.BIT.LY/CREATIVE-WEEK-2026
BOOKING DEADLINE WEDS 23 SEPTEMBER

EMAIL LORRAINE FOR MORE INFO: cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

News from the Training and Development Officer

Training open to anyone in Southern Synod

Please contact the [TDQ](#) if you have any questions about these trainings.

Resource Training

The next three online Resource Trainings, open to anyone interested, (but please see below about an RSVP) will be as follows:

- 14th September – *Helping with the Synod's Net Zero Pledge* led by Green Apostle Ian Moore and TDO Charisa Hunter-Crump. We will become familiar with the URC and Synod commitments and get resources for how our local church can help.
- 12th October – *Compliance 1* led by MDO Jo Patterson and TDO Charisa Hunter-Crump. This will be part one of a two-part resource training looking at resources to help ensure our local churches are complying with Assembly and Synod requirements and good practices.
- 9th November – *Compliance 2*

These are introductions to the topics, helping you know what resources are available, with answers to some frequently asked questions. They are always online on the second Monday of the month (except May, August, and December) from 18:30-20:30. All are welcome but please RSVP to your local Area Administrator.

For more information, please see the Southern Synod website using this [link](#).

Jesus-Inspired Church Training

Inclusive Church

16th September, 18:30-20:30

In the first of a 12-part series over three years, we will explore Jesus' ministry of inclusion and how this impacts our approach to being church. NEW!! Please RSVP to your Area Administrator. For more information, please see the Southern Synod website using this [link](#).

FOR ELDERS OF SOUTHERN SYNOD

Area Elders Gatherings

Join other Elders in your Area on a Sunday afternoon from 14:30 to 17:30 to learn and grow together in our role as Elders, covering topics such as governance, worship leadership, mission, spiritual leadership, and pastoral care. These are new trainings designed by the new TDO, Charisa Hunter-Crump, in partnership with our training consultant, Mark Rigby. If you or your group are unable to attend the training in your own area, you are more than welcome to join one of the other areas. Upcoming trainings include:

- KESSA – 2nd of August
- SLSEA – 6th of September
- SLSA W – 4th of October
- CSUA – 22nd of November

We encourage Elderships to travel together to these events where possible. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please RSVP as an Eldership to your Area Administrator, indicating the names and emails of all Elders who will be attending from your church.

Eco Conference 2026

Think Global Act Local

	Rochester Cathedral
	Sat 19 Sept 2026
	9:30am - 1:00pm
	Free entry

Including:

- > Talks on the global impacts of climate change
- > Workshops on support practical climate action in our churches
- > Networking opportunities

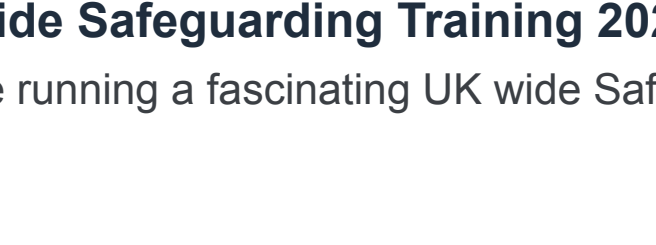
Sign up

Eco Conference 2026 - Think Global Act Local

The Rochester and Canterbury Dioceses' Eco Conference takes place on 19th September

Our keynote speaker is Dr Ruth Valerio who spearheaded Eco Church with A Rocha. We're also going to have workshops on sustainable floristry, church hospitality, data loggers/thermal imaging cameras and biodiversity in churchyards.

[To book tickets](#)



Denominational-Wide Safeguarding Training 2026

URC Safeguarding are running a fascinating UK wide Safeguarding Training series.

Monday 7th September 13:00-15:00 – Elders as Trustees.
Tuesday 15th September 19:00-21:00 – Online Safety.
Wednesday 23rd September 13:00-15:00 – Spiritual Abuse.
Tuesday 8th October 19:00-21:00 – Adult Safeguarding.
Wednesday 21st October 13:00-15:00 – Discriminatory Abuse.

In order to book your place, please email Emma [here](#).

Supporting Intergenerational Communities

This is an exciting series of training workshops designed to help support the growth and development of intergenerational communities. Whether you are working with young people or looking to expand your ministries, these sessions will provide you with valuable insights and practices.

This will be co-delivered by URC's Children and Youth and Safeguarding. To participate in these **Zoom** sessions, please book by emailing carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk

Tuesday 8th September (19:30-21:00) - Growing Intergenerational Communities
Tuesday 13th October (19:30-21:00) - Developing Spaces for Under 5s
Tuesday 8th November (19:30-21:00) - Supporting Faith Development in Young People.

These workshops are an excellent opportunity to enhance your skills and knowledge in fostering intergenerational relationships and faith development. Don't miss out on the chance to learn and grow in these vital areas.

More information about each individual session can be found at the link below;

[More info](#)

Lay Preaching Support

Two Training Sessions in 2026:

- Creating Inclusive Worship
- Leading Holy Worship for Body, Mind, Spirit and Heart

Next Training Day: Saturday 20th September
Oval URC, 10.30am - 1.00pm

To book, contact Debbie Harrison:
debbieharrison@btinternet.com

Open to all: Elders, DEAF, ADEAF, LGs, and Ministers
Come and be inspired!

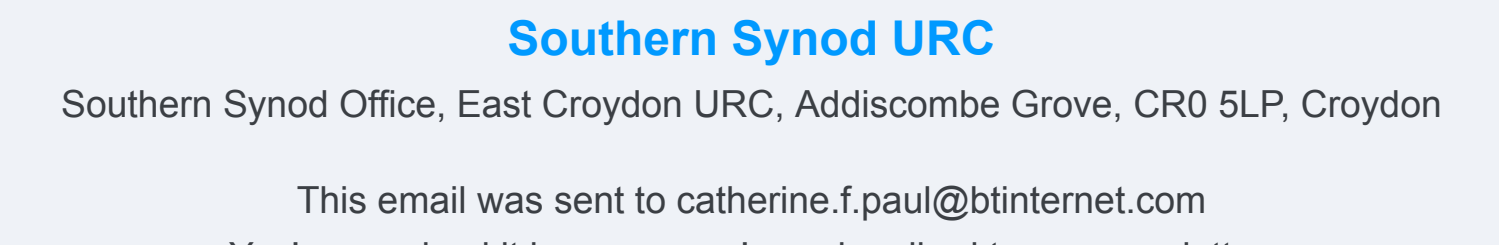
Children's Ministry Essentials

Children's Ministry Network are running a 10-module programme entitled 'Children's Ministry Essentials.' This is a free, monthly, online children's ministry training taking place from 10am-12pm on Saturdays, or it can be self-paced online.

Topics include child development and spirituality, pastoral care, leadership, teamwork and the role of play - helping you grow in understanding, confidence and skills

[Email for more information and register](#)

Know someone who would like to receive Southern Synod News? Feel free to share this email and subscribe using the QR code or by visiting the Southern Synod website: southernsynodurc.org.uk/newsletter



Southern Synod URC

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