

#### October Synod Meeting Minutes now available

The October Synod Minutes are now available for you to read on the Synod website at link: [October 2024 Synod Minutes](#)

Direct link to open the Minutes as pdf: <https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/S-2024-10-12-Minutes.pdf>

The 2025 meetings of Synod are:

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February (7-9pm online)
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April (7-9pm online)
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October (10.30-4.30 at Avenue St Andrew's, Southampton)

#### Le Weekend – 2-4 May 2025

A weekend away in Luneray, France with friends

Save the date - 2-4 May 2025

More details email [helen.everard158@gmail.com](mailto:helen.everard158@gmail.com).

No French speaking needed!

[Download the Save the Date Poster here](#)

#### Evangelism in the URC

Take a look at the new page on the URC Website all about Evangelism.

Link: [Evangelism in the URC](#)

#### Theology of Worship Group

The Theology of Worship Group provides preachers and worship leaders (and other interested persons) helpful stimulus and opportunities to reflect on worship in the URC. At the meetings we discuss the issues on the nature, theology and practice of worship in the URC and suggest ways to address some.

The group is looking to widen the Planning Group as well as seeking a new chair. If interested, or want to know more, and have some free time, why not join our next Planning Team Meeting.

**Date: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Time: 7:30 -9pm. Via Zoom**

To register your interest in attending the planning meeting, please contact, Rev. Dr. Richard Goldring, ToW Group Secretary, [rgoldring23@gmail.com](mailto:rgoldring23@gmail.com)

## Advent Joint service with the Church of the Pfalz

This will be on zoom on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December in the evening.

All are welcome to join as part of the URC link with our German brothers and sisters. More details and zoom link will be available on the URC website.

## Emsworth URC

Sadly, the URC church at Emsworth will be closing on 31 December 2024. There are a number of items available to other churches, including copies of 'Rejoice and Sing', both standard size and big print, some bookcases and church pews.

If anyone is interested please contact Phil Maddocks ([phil\\_maddocks@btinternet.com](mailto:phil_maddocks@btinternet.com)) for further details.

## 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

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding Training – *Flowchart*

The flowchart gives an overview of the various safeguarding training courses on offer and has a table which shows the mandatory level of safeguarding training for various roles within the URC. The [flowchart](#) is on the Synod website.

### Safeguarding – *Away Day – change of date*

**Saturday 15 March 2025 at Fleet URC and on zoom. 10.30am – 3.30pm.**

Safeguarding Away Day for Church Safeguarding Coordinators.

Bookings: <https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/event/safeguarding-away-day-for-church-safeguarding-coordinators/>

### National Safeguarding Training – *spiritual abuse webinar*

**Spiritual Abuse webinar on Wednesday 27 November 2024, 1pm – 3pm.**

This is a one-off webinar on Spiritual Abuse being hosted by the URC Safeguarding Team. Dr Lisa Oakley is the speaker.

[Booking link](#)

### Safeguarding Quarterly Newsletter – *July 2024*

Read the latest [newsletter](#) from the Safeguarding Team at Church House.

### Safeguarding Training – *Advanced Safeguarding*

**Advanced Safeguarding Training online.**

**Tuesdays 14 & 21 January 2025. 6.30pm – 8.30pm on zoom**

This course is mandated for those in the following roles:

**Children and Youth Workers including volunteer leaders, and Adult Workers including volunteer leaders.**

Anyone who has completed the Foundation & Intermediate safeguarding training is also welcome to attend (numbers permitting). Places are limited, priority will be given to those in the mandated roles.

### **Safeguarding Training – *Foundation & Intermediate courses***

**Foundation & Intermediate** Safeguarding: training courses.

- Saturday 11 January 2025, at Trinity Church, Totton. 10am – 4pm
- Saturday 25 January 2025, at Trinity URC, Charminster. 10am – 4pm
- Online foundation & intermediate safeguarding training across 3 sessions. Thursday mornings 9.30am – 11am on 30 Jan, 6 Feb and 13 February 2025.
- Saturday 8 February 2025, at United Church Winchester. 10am – 4pm.
- Online Refresher training across 2 sessions. Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8pm on 16 September and 23 September 2025.

**To book your place please email:** [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) or book via the Synod website, go to Safeguarding page <https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/safeguarding/>

### **National Safeguarding Training courses – *various topics***

Specialist Safeguarding training in 2024 organised by Church House. Please see the [poster](#) for the full list of dates and topics.

To book, please email: [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)

**Training Webinars.** [Elders as Trustees](#). This is available online for you to access in your own time.

### **Safeguarding – *Good Practice 6***

**GP6** is now available. Church House has sent out hard copies to Church Safeguarding Coordinators. **GP6 is available online** [here](#).

### **Stepwise – *Faith Filled Worship***

**An online group will be starting after Easter in 2025.**

For those who have completed the Faith Filled Life stream.

Please email [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) to find out more or to register an interest.

### **First Aid training – *information on courses***

Local churches have a responsibility to ensure that there is adequate provision of first aid at all their programmes.

[Flowchart](#) to help churches identify the appropriate training.

[Booking procedure](#).

## First Aid training – for young people 14 – 17 years

**Saturday 23 November 2024** at Woking URC.

An opportunity for young people 14 – 17 years to attend emergency first aid training. Bookings: email [youth@wokingurc.org.uk](mailto:youth@wokingurc.org.uk)

## First Aid training – courses

Emergency First Aid (4 hours)

**Tuesday 21 January, 9am – 1pm**, at Trinity Church Totton, SO40 8WU.

## Mental Health First Aid training – with Peter Larkum

**Become a certified Mental Health First Aider.** Two-day courses in-person or online equivalent which includes four live zoom sessions with the trainer.

**Become a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider.** This two-day in-person course or online equivalent qualifies you as a MHFA with a specific focus on how that relates to younger people.

Wessex Synod will cover the cost of the MHFAider training course, (2-day course or online equivalent).

**Training dates and further information for with trainer Peter Larkum can be found [here](#).**

**Please register via Wessex Synod, not direct, and preferably no later than 10 days before the start of the training course.**

Email: [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) to receive the link to register on the course.

## Development and Support

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

## 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 the DSOs 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)

## Dates in 2025

**Church Secretaries' Networking Zoom** – Saturday 18 January 2025.

**Lay Preachers' Gathering** – Saturday 29 March 2025 at Sarum College.

**Church Treasurers' Networking Zoom** – change to **Saturday 14 June 2025**.

**Elders' Conference** – Saturday 28 June 2025 at Sarum College.

## Children's and Youth Events and Training

### Talking About ... *unpacking Advent with children*

**On Thursday 28 November 2024. 7pm – 8pm.**

Are you under pressure to get your Christmas decorations down from the loft? Order your turkey? Put up the tree? Make a list for Santa?

Well, hang on – it's not quite Christmas yet! To help us prepare for the birth of Jesus we have the season of Advent.

But how might we explore advent with children?

Joining us for this session are two of the writers of the United Reformed Church's Advent resource for 2024. They will share their thinking about how we can explore the themes of Advent with our children.

Get your free ticket at [www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](http://www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout)

### URC Youth Assembly 2025

**URC Youth Assembly, 7 – 9 March 2025.**

Details on the [poster](#). Wessex Synod will fund places and help with transport.

[Further information about Youth Assembly.](#)

Book your place by emailing [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk)

### Children and youth Work webinar

For those working with children and young people.

**Understanding behaviour and additional needs webinar.** Available on YouTube [here](#).

### Family Film Night – *new resource* - Moana

**Moana.** To celebrate the release of Moana 2 the new family film night resource uses the original Moana film. Have fun with creative activities and wondering questions as you follow Moana's story and think about what you are called to.

Download this free resource - [Moana](#)

These exciting Family Film Night resources are designed for families to have fun and explore big questions together, all based around a family friendly film. Each film night has a main theme and follows the same pattern. Watch the film together, have fun doing the activities and then explore using the wondering questions. For families who want to link to the Bible, there are 'going deeper' wondering questions to use. This resource can also be used in Sunday Schools, messy church, bible study groups and school assemblies. **Why not consider hosting a family film night and inviting your community to come along?**

Free to download from the [Synod website](#).

## Job Opportunities

### URC vacancies

The URC has the following job opportunities available:

1. Head of Governance Services
2. Board Members of RMHS (Volunteer position)
3. Chair of RMHS (Volunteer position)

All can be viewed here: <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

### Other Vacancies

The Methodist Churches in Basingstoke currently have two vacancies for lay staff. Details can be found in the links below.

[Assistant Outreach Worker \(Basingstoke\) Advert](#)

[Pastoral Assistant \(Basingstoke\) Advert](#)

## Other News

### Children's and Youth Bi-monthly Newsletter – November 2024

From the Children's and Youth Team at Church House.

[Bi-monthly Newsletter – November 2024](#)

### URC News Update

[View November News Update here](#)

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.

### Education and Learning bi-monthly newsletter

View Issue 10: October 2024 of [Education and Learning bi-monthly newsletter](#)

### Joint Public Issues Team

[View latest JPIT newsletter](#)

### Churches Together in England Newsletter

Latest newsletter available here: <https://cte.org.uk/enews/>

## News from around the Synod

### 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

### December Calendar

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shanklin, Isle of Wight</li> <li>• Verwood</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milton, Christ Church, Portsmouth</li> <li>• Peachcroft Christian Centre</li> </ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christ Church, Woodley</li> <li>• Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guernsey, St Saviour's</li> <li>• High Cross Church, Camberley</li> </ul>
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Moderator and Synod Staff</li> <li>• Trinity Church, Lower Earley, Reading</li> </ul>

### Eco prayer for December

Lord of all Creation

In the darkness of winter,

we wonder if new growth is possible

In the cold of the season

We wonder how our fellow creatures will survive

You have given us a season to lie dormant

To wait and to watch for longer days

Help us to trust you

To work with all you have made, even in winter

To endure with the world around us

And to hope, with the coming of Your Son

Into darkness, bringing light for all.

Amen

### January Calendar

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumnor</li> <li>• East Cliff, Bournemouth</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rowlands Castle</li> <li>• Aston Tirrold</li> </ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fordingbridge as it closes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banbury URC @ The Haven</li> <li>• United Church Ferndown</li> </ul>
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beacon Hill, Hindhead</li> <li>• Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury</li> </ul>

**Eco prayer for January**

Lord God

In our winter, help us remember our warming world

Be with those struggling to plant and harvest because rains have not come

Help those fighting wildfires because the earth is warmer

As we plan our planting

Help us to grow better in tune with your world

And help us to act in whatever way we can

For all things work for good through Jesus who loves us

Amen

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

by 12noon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Please submit news items in the form of:

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