



To all churches in the Wessex Synod

We are delighted to be sharing with you the details of your Wessex Synod Big Day Out '24. This will take place on **Saturday 4th May 2024 at Hollycombe Steam in the Country** (Liphook, GU30 7LP)

Main Marquee

During the day there will be a range of activities taking place in the main marquee. You will be sent a timetable before the event, however there will also be full details available on arrival. The main marquee will have a constant stream of things to dip in and out of. It will provide space to meet with friends over a picnic lunch and to meet new friends throughout the day. There will be activities such as a family friendly pub quiz, story time for younger guests (and those young at heart) and very intentionally, there will just be time to come and chat with others during the day. Most importantly, there will be opportunities for worship at the start, with the opening worship being led by Liss Brass Band, and towards the end of the day when there will be the chance to take part in a scratch choir and contribute to closing worship.

Market Place

In the Market Place there will be areas showcasing the work of Commitment for Life, Wessex connections with the World Church, Eco Church displays, and the URC bookstall.

There will also be the opportunity for *your* church to share with the rest of the Synod via the "Show and Tell" area. We are asking you to bring along a display of your news (please see information on the [Synod Big Day Out Show and Tell](#)) and if you wish, we will schedule a short slot during the day for you to present your Church work. Please let us know by 13th April if you wish to bring a display and/or have a scheduled slot.

We are also offering a chance to "Make Connections" with other churches - if you have a particular question or would like to develop an activity or idea but would like to hear how other churches approached this - please use our "[Make Connections](#)" information sheet to submit your question. We hope that others at the Big Day Out will then make contact and share their ideas and learning with you. (Questions to be submitted by 13th April please). The forms needed for these are attached or can be accessed through the website address above.

The Synod Youth Exec will be hosting an exciting venue in the middle of the fairground. They will be running a programme of activities and workshops, some specifically for youth and some open to all ages.

Main Field

The main field will include our welcome and information tent and will host a craft tent with something to do for everyone.

Picnic areas and food outlets

The Hollycombe Cafe will be open this year serving hot meals and drinks, and we have arranged for a variety of additional food and drink outlets to be available during the day, wherever possible using local suppliers and enterprises. You are also welcome to bring your own picnic, and there will be signposted picnic and meeting areas.

Quiet areas and woodlands

There are extensive woodland areas including the beautiful Azalea Walk which will be open for you to enjoy. In the woodlands and ornate gardens there will be a prayer trail, a children's nature scavenger hunt and storytelling during the day.

We have Forest Church running all day at the Steam Farm, come and help make a natural art piece out of leaves, acorns, and other collected woodland items. Or create your own art work with charcoal to take home.

You could visit the Beam engine and Waterwheel and find Eco Craft reusing and recycle plastic bottles.

Steam Rides

The Hollycombe Steam Train and Rides will be available from 12 noon (each entry ticket allows 10 rides, with the option to upgrade to unlimited rides) until 5pm. As well as the main train rides (the Quarry Railway and the miniature Garden Railway) there will be a variety of fairground rides running from 12 noon.

Frequently asked Questions

How do we book?

Booking is through Eventbrite, a secure booking platform. A link to the booking page is posted on our URC Wessex Big Day Out '24 webpage - <https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/synod-big-day-out/> Posters advertising the event also include a QR code which will take you directly to the booking page.

Booking is open until Thursday 2nd May; you can still turn up on the day, but you will be asked to pay the normal Hollycombe prices as per their website.

What about parking?

Ample free parking is available on site. There will be car parking stewards to guide you to the parking.

If you require accessible parking, please contact development@urcwessex.org.uk for a parking permit.

To give numbers to our parking stewards please also let us know if you are coming by coach (organiser of the coach only please) on development@urcwessex.org.uk

What time does it open and close?

The Big Day Out '24 will open at 10am, and the day will end at 5pm.

We look forward to receiving bookings from your church and welcoming you to your Wessex Synod Big Day Out '24 on May 4th.