



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 12 February 2026.

Please circulate this widely so that the great events and opportunities here can benefit as many as possible. Please feel free to copy and paste any of this news for your own church's noticeboards or newsletters.

Events Diary

Isabella's Ordination & Commissioning Service on Saturday 21 February 2026 at 11am at The Hyde URC, Varley Parade, Edgware Road, Colindale NW9 6RR

Wise Words - Youth Assembly 2026 27 February to 2 March 2026. [Book here](#)

URC Youth Leaders Gathering 27 February-1 March 2026 at Highgate House, Northampton. [Register](#)

Godly Play UK Conference 2026 5-6 June 2026 at St Andrews Church, Rugby. Information and booking [here](#).

Limitless Festival 2026 on 5-9 August 2026 at Stafford Showground. mdoandrew@urcwestmidlands.org.uk or mdosally@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Join JPIT on Iona from 17-23 October 2026. Bookings are now open. Find out more [here](#).

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA
17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

Please note: Synod meetings are usually on the 3rd Saturday of March and October.

News & Information



On Sunday the Moderator led worship at Burnham URC. Although a small congregation it is very committed and enthusiastically engaged with the theme of justice based on the lectionary readings.

Racial Justice Sunday Service at Grange Park United Reformed Church





Revd Philip Vinod Peacock, the General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches was a guest preacher at the Racial Justice Sunday Service at Grange Park United Reformed Church Leyton. Revd Philip Peacock who is an ordained minister of the Church of North India is the first leader from Asia to hold the position of the General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. WCRC is a Christian Ecumenical body that came into being in June 2010. It has 231 member churches in 108 countries and over 100 million Christians World-wide.

Revd Philip was very warmly welcomed by the congregation and the leaders of Grange Park URC. The church felt privileged and honoured to have him participate in the worship as it was his first Sunday service as being newly appointed General Secretary. Revd Shahbaz Javed thanked him for sharing a very blessed message on the importance of asking questions based on the story of the good Samaritan and wished him God blessings for his new position as a General Secretary of WCRC.

Carbon Literacy Course

Certified Carbon Literate



New Carbon Literacy for Christian Congregations Course

If you look at the Buildings and Energy section of the Eco Church Survey you will find statement 8 which says “Our Eco Church champion or team has the confidence and knowledge to carry out their role and/or has access to appropriate training or support e.g. Carbon Literacy training”.

A Rocha are keen for this to be in place because it has been shown that Carbon Literacy provides people, including faith-based groups, with the resources, knowledge and tools to understand climate change, empowering them to take meaningful action. Now available for the Faith sector is the Christian Congregations Shareable Course, a comprehensive resource for delivering a full day of Carbon Literacy training tailored to people of the Christian faith.

Rooted in values such as stewardship, justice, and compassion, this course supports a low-carbon culture grounded in spiritual responsibility and collective action. Developed in collaboration with Caroline Harmon and the Church of England, the Christian Congregations course is the first of its kind, created with adaptable, pre-accredited materials and sector specific guidance. By participating in this training, individuals and church communities gain the knowledge, confidence and collective purpose needed to reduce emissions and create low-carbon societies. For places of worship Carbon Literacy can help embed sustainability into governance, buildings, daily practices, and outreach turning intention into measurable impact. Training has already empowered participants in faith organisations to lead change in their communities and align climate action with spiritual values and long-term climate goals.

The course is flexible and can run as a ‘house group’ pack over 5 weeks or two half days. Thames North Synod has arranged to make payment for those who use the training package to gain Carbon Literate Certification. You need to inform the TNS Green Team when you plan to run the course to ensure any certificates are paid for.

To access the course materials, you’ll need to complete a short form and either:

- Already be certified as Carbon Literate or
 - Have attended a briefing session about the course.
 - For full details please get in touch with The Carbon Literacy Project at faith@carbonliteracy.com
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Your church community project could win £2,000



For 28 years, the United Reformed Church has recognised outstanding community projects taking place in its churches – projects that don't always get the recognition they deserve, but which demonstrate the mission of the church by reaching out in many different ways to the local communities which they serve.

Our partners Congregational have again donated £10,000 in prizes - three awards of up to £2,000 and four of £1,000, which are presented to projects at the URC General Assembly in July.

Your project could win. The simple to use entry form is available from our website where [you can read more about the awards and download the form](#). You can also [watch videos about previous awards winners](#). The deadline is 20 February 2026.

What's On

Friday 29 May - Sunday 31 May 2026
Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire

Cost: £75 (£30 deposit
required at booking)
Age: 11 (must be in Year 7)
to 16 years

Thames North & Southern Synod
Youth Residential 2026
“WISE WORDS”



Book by 22 Feb
www.bit.ly/residential2026

Outdoor Activities
Creative Workshops
Games
Discussion
Worship



**LOVE
BEYOND[®]**
THE MUSICAL

In Concert

**Come and encounter an epic
musical voyage of God's love
with top West End singers**

With Musical Arrangements by Matt Brind
(Paddington, Greatest Showman)

1st March 2026 at the famous
Cadogan Hall, London
Performances at 2pm and 6pm

Lovebeyondmusical.com

As featured on BBC1



"More epic than Jesus Christ Superstar"
londontheatre1.com

Go to lovebeyondmusical.com to
find out more, and book your tickets

Bring your friends and family to what West End singers say is the best show they've ever been part of. The music will knock their socks off while telling the complete story of the Trinity and Their love for humanity.

Follow us on social media for latest news and cast announcements



Love Beyond Musical



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LOVE BEYOND the Musical



LoveBeyondUK

Love Beyond, the greatest love story.

The Trinity - three voices, one divine heartbeat - creates a cosmos ablaze with beauty and invites humanity into their eternal dance of love. But love requires choice. When Adam and Eve are seduced by the Deceiver's whispered lies, they shatter the mirror. Shame floods in. Connection breaks. Paradise fractures.

Humanity now claws for worth, for power, for belonging in a world that no longer recognises them. The Trinity has been waiting for this moment since before time began.

Jesus tears through the veil between divine and human, born into flesh through a young girl who said yes to the impossible. He walks among the broken, healing the sick, dining with outcasts, upending every assumption about power and love. His message is dangerous: you are not abandoned. You never were.

The people fracture. Some abandon everything to follow him. Others see only threat—to their comfort, their control, their carefully constructed world. They will silence him.

Jesus walks willingly into their trap. Betrayed. Tortured. Executed as a criminal on a Roman cross.

His followers scatter into the darkness, their hope crucified alongside their teacher. They had expected a conqueror. They got a corpse.

Then the impossible: an empty tomb. Three days later, everything changes.

A zealot bent on destroying this movement meets the risen Jesus on a desert road. He will never be the same.

The Deceiver makes one final, desperate play for humanity's soul. And in a vision that tears open time itself, we glimpse the moment all creation has been aching for - a wedding, the joining of heaven and earth, lover and beloved, finally one.

From Wembley arena to the world famous Cadogan Hall, Love Beyond in concert, 1st March 2026.

- **Elite Cast:** Olivier-winner **David Bedella**, **Alice Fearn** (*Wicked*), and **Joanna Ampil** (*Miss Saigon*).
- **World-Class Music:** Arranged by award-winning Musical Director **Matthew Brind** (*Paddington*, *The Greatest Showman*, *X-Factor*).
- **Evangelistic Tool:** This is an "invite-friendly" production designed to engage both the faithful and the curious through a visually stunning, high-production-value concert experience. Please find a link below here for a digital flyer for your use.

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To book

BLOCK BOOKING CODES - LOVE15 for groups of 10 more save 15%.
LOVE25 for groups of 25 or more save 25%

Book online or phone the Cadogan Hall ticket office on 0207 730 4500 quoting the above codes

Vacancies

Mission Practitioner (Training)

Job Advert

Mission Practitioner (Training)

Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church

Full time – 35 hours per week (flexible, including some evenings and weekends)

Annual salary - £38 – £43,000 pa depending on experience

Can you come alongside local churches to help them learn, adapt, and develop new skills for today's challenges?

Do you have the skills and experience to equip local churches to engage in their mission?

Are you looking to work in a team to enable churches to share and live their faith?

We are seeking an experienced trainer for a regional role for the United Reformed Church in East Anglia as part of an interdisciplinary Mission Team supporting local churches in their mission and ministry. (The rest of the team is a youth specialist and a children's specialist.)

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a Christian.

Office based, with some working from home permissible, and a Full driving license as regular travel around the Synod is an essential requirement.

An application pack can be accessed via the Synod website:

www.urceastern.org.uk or by emailing Marion Gentry on admin@urceastern.org.uk

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.

Closing date for applications is **4pm on Monday 9th March.**

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 18th March.**

As part of the interview, you are asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation, as if to a local church, on your choice of subject to display the essential knowledge and skills and abilities listed in the person specification. (The panel will not be role playing, but a discussion will follow about the content, assumptions, method etc.)

Here is the link to the URC's job page: <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

Safeguarding Training 2026

Synod Safeguarding Training

COMBINED (FOUNDATION & INTERMEDIATE)

Wed 18th Mar 10-12pm

INTERMEDIATE

Wed 18th Feb- 10am-12.30pm

Mon 23rd Feb 10am-12.30pm

Thursday 5th Mar 6.30pm-9pm

ADVANCED

Part 1 Mon 23rd Mar 10-12pm

Part 2 Mon 30th Mar 10-12.30

(both sessions are required to be attended)

There is a new Safeguarding Training Framework which was agreed at the most recent General Assembly, as well as a document highlighting the key changes in the training framework which shows who is mandated to complete training may be accessed [here](#)- please take the time to note these as it will have an impact on Ministers, Elders, Children's Workers and Church Safeguarding Coordinators.

You will see that there is a COMBINED safeguarding module. This is the Foundation and Intermediate module in one. If you need to do both modules, that training shortens the amount of sessions that need to be completed. If you *only* need to complete the Foundation or *only* the Intermediate modules, **please do not** book on to that module, but rather complete the Foundation eLearning (link below) and book an Intermediate only date to attend.

There is also national training available for Ministers who need to complete the Advanced level. Ministers will need to have completed the Foundation and Intermediate within the last 3 years prior to attendance on the Advanced training. This training is being facilitated by Carrie Kaunda, the Training Development Officer (Safeguarding) so please contact her directly to book on to that training using the details in the attached document.

I am trialling a new way to book on to training, so if you would like to book on to the advertised dates, please book via this link

<https://forms.gle/ypiNNdikjU7oHUxM8>

Your place will only be confirmed once you receive a follow up email with the link to the Zoom training and slides to attend.

Please note that the Foundation training is now available online via eLearning. You do not need to login to access this training.

This is the link to access the eLearning:

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24> This it takes approximately an hour to complete, and a certificate will be generated and sent to you straight away.

There will be more training dates advertised in due course so please do share this email with those who need to update their training.

If you have questions on what training you need following referencing the framework, please let me know.

Regards

Belinda Herbert



Minister's Advanced Safeguarding Training

Each course will last 4.5 hours, delivered across 2 Zoom sessions

Please click the link below the relevant date to go to the booking form.

The zoom link will then be sent the week before.

Thursday 15th Jan 1-3pm and Thursday 22nd Jan 1-3.30pm
[Ministers Advanced Training Booking Form January](#)

Tuesday 3rd March 10am-12noon and Tuesday 10th March 10am-12.30pm
[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers March](#)

Wednesday 6 May 1-3pm and Wednesday 13th May 1-3.30pm
[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers May](#)

Monday 5th October 1-3pm and Monday 12th October 1-3.30pm
[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers October](#)

Please email carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk with any questions.


The United Reformed Church Safeguarding
www.urc.org.uk

UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2026

Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event
Tuesday 13 January 7:00pm	Domestic abuse
Monday 26 January 7:00pm	Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting survivors
Thursday 5 February 1:00pm	Refugees and Asylum Seekers Including Modern slavery
Tuesday 24 February 7:00pm	Elders as Trustees
Thursday 5 March 1:00pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment
Monday 23 March 1:00pm	Substance abuse
Tuesday 21 April 1:00pm	Online Safety
Wednesday 13 May 1:00pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting survivors
Tuesday 19 May 6:30pm	Spiritual abuse
Thursday 28 May 1:00pm	Adult safeguarding

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub

[Home | URC Learning Hub](#)

 The United Reformed Church Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }} You received this email because you are registered with URC Thames North



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