The United Reformed Church

Thames North Synod
NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 12 November 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

Preaching Paul: bringing the letters of Paul to life for our day on Saturday 21 November 2026 10:30am - 12:30pm at Lumen lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Leading your Church into Growth (LvCiG) Conference from 23-25 November 2026 at Highgate House. Book with Eddie at disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions on Tuesday 24 November 2026 7:30-9:30pm via Zoom or Saturday 5 December 2026 10am-1pm at Lumen Book training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Presiding at Holy Communion - Refresher Training for Authorised Elders (Hybrid) on Saturday 28 November 2026 11:00am -1:00pm at Lumen

Elders seeking Authorisation to Preside at Holy Communion, Initial Training on Saturday 28 November 2026 2:00-4:30pm at Lumen

Holiday Forum Winter Social on Saturday 28 November 2026 between 7pm and 9:30pm
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83442638466?pwd=sakvj4u7X3xbtyYQFIH5nm2YukxgJI.1
Meeting ID: 834 4263 8466
Passcode: 372218

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -
20 March and 16 October 2027 venue Lumen Community

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

Information and News

On Saturday Claudine Archer was inducted as Minister-in-Training at Trinity Church North Finchley, a URC/Baptist Church. Revd Josh Kane, the Regional Baptist Minister led the service and the Moderator preached. We pray for Claudine and the Church in this exciting new beginning for them.



Disciples Everyday



Really good to spend the day in Colindale with the Newbigin Pioneering Hub London Cohort. The local experience day followed some online learning the night before and was led by Isabella, Lorraine, Ash, and Dave. Privileged to give some support and to also share in a lovely local Turkish lunch

The Joint Public Issues Team









🎉On Monday we celebrated 20 years of the Joint Public Issues Team 🎉 It was wonderful to gather with friends, supporters, partners and colleagues to give thanks for all that has been achieved over the past two decades and to look ahead to the future.

One of the highlights of the evening was bringing JPIT staff, past and present, for a special photo.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating 20 years of working together for peace and justice

How to engage with COP in 2026



Last week the UN Biodiversity Conference, COP17 ended in Yerevan, Armenia. An Anglican Communion delegation attended, with Bishop Graham Usher, Lead Bishop for the Environment, joining young Anglicans from around the world.

From 9 - 20 November, the UN Climate Change Conference, COP31, is being held in Antalya, Türkiye. On the agenda are topics such as electrification, zero waste, energy efficiency, climate resilience and clean energy transition. The Anglican Communion will be at this COP too, bringing their Lungs of the Earth campaign seeking to restore and protect God's world. They will be sharing their experiences on their social media.

As Christians, we can pray for COP, for those attending, and the decisions they make. Read the full blog about COP. A prayer you can use while praying for COP is available here.

What's On

Holiday Forum Winter Social



Oh the Weather outside is frightful.
The Winter Social is so delightful.
So why not stay in and be
with your Holiday Forum Family!

Hello to all our fellow Forum Family Members!

I hope you're managing to stay warm now that that the darker nights are upon us and the temperatures are beginning to drop.

Why not beat the winter blues and join us on zoom for our Holiday Forum Winter Social. It's a great way to catch up with friends but also a great way to make new friends too. Why not invite family, friends and neighbours, so that they can join in the fun, and see what Holiday Forum is all about.

We're meeting on Saturday 28th November between 7pm and 9:30pm, where we'll have a few rounds of a quiz and have time in breakout rooms to have a catch up and get to know one another. All are welcome to come along and have fun.

The link to join is

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83442638466?pwd=sakvj4u7X3xbtyYQFIH5nm2YukxgJI.1

Meeting ID: 834 4263 8466
Passcode: 372218

Presiding at Holy Communion

Refresher Training for Authorised Elders





This will be a hybrid event held on:

Saturday 28 November 2026, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

either:

In person at:

Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RS

Or:

Via Zoom

The refresher will invite Elders to reflect on their practice of presiding and learn from the reflections of others

Co-led by:

Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer

John Campbell
Tutor and Minister

To register, email:
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Register here

Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training



The United Reformed Church
Thames North Synod

2027-2028 Course

Thames North Synod is recruiting people who want to learn more about the Bible, theology, worship leading and preaching, beginning in January 2027 for 15 months.

Aspiring to More is a free part-time course delivered via Zoom on weekday evenings, with 5 in-person Saturday Study Days. It can be done either for interest or to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader with an added mentored Learning by Doing module.

Taster Sessions:

Either:

via Zoom, Tuesday 24 November 2026, 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Or:

in person, Saturday 5 December 2026, 10 AM – 1 PM at Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS

To book your place, contact:

Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Book your place

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents:
Preaching Paul: bringing the letters of Paul to life for our day



Led by Hannah Fytche
An Associate Tutor in New Testament at Westminster College, Cambridge, and is finishing a PhD on 'body of/in Christ' metaphors in Paul's letters. She is a writer (God's Daughters' and 'Rooted in God's Grace', the Bible Reading Fellowship). Hannah preached regularly at her church in Cambridge during her time as a student.

Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS
Date: Saturday, 21.11.2026
Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm

During our time at the Preachers' Circle, we will pay attention to the many voices and perspectives on Jesus that Paul's letters reveal to us - perspectives like Chloe's (1 Corinthians 1:11), Prisca's (1 Corinthians 16:19 and Romans 16:3-4), and Lydia's (Acts 16:11-40; Philippians), asking what they contributed to how Paul and others understood Jesus. We'll consider how paying attention to their perspectives shows us new things in Paul's letters we might not have seen before. And we'll explore how we can preach today on Paul's letters with awareness of the many people, both then and now, who are making sense of how Christ reshapes our lives.

Lunch 12.30 -1.30pm followed by Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders Annual Meeting from 1:30 - 2:30pm.

To book your place at this free event, please email, Ola Lawal, **lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**

Elders seeking Authorisation

to Preside at Holy Communion, Initial Training





Saturday 28 November 2026

2:00 - 4:30 PM
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place,
London, WC1H 9RS

Initial training in the theology, liturgy and practice of Communion Presidency is offered to Elders who already have the support of their local church to offer this ministry.

Upon completion of initial training, Elders need to seek authorisation from their Local Area Group.

Co-led by:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer

John Campbell
Tutor and Minister

To register, email Julian Templeton
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Book your place

JPIT News

Stand up for refugees



In less than two weeks, we'll be coming together with people of different faiths to call on our MPs to stand up for a fair and compassionate asylum system. It's not too late to join us. Find out more and sign up here. After the lobby, we are also hosting a faith leaders' panel discussion looking at the role of faith communities in providing welcome. If you can't make the lobby during the day, you can attend this panel separately. It's on 17 November, from 4-5pm, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster. Register here

Call for action on autonomous weapons



Advances in artificial intelligence are raising important ethical questions about the future of conflict. We are supporting a petition urging UK and European leaders to support the launch of negotiations towards a legally binding UN treaty on autonomous weapons.
Sign the petition
Read our latest blog on autonomous weapons

Parliament to debate National Emergency Briefing: ask your MP to attend



Thousands of people have now watched the People's Emergency Briefing film and called on the government to set out what we can do – both together and individually – in response to the climate and nature crisis. This petition is now going to be debated in parliament on 16 November. **Please email your MP** to ask them to attend.

If the film hasn't yet been shown in your area, could you **host a screening**

Ethical Buying Guide for Churches

JustMoney Movement have just released an **updated version of their buying guide**, to help you take practical steps with your church's spending to shape a fairer, more sustainable world.



Some Important Safeguarding Updates

Safeguarding Sunday
Safeguarding Sunday is an annual awareness campaign taking place on November 15, 2026, designed for churches across the UK to focus on creating safe environments and healthy cultures. Safeguarding Sunday will soon be upon us (15th November) and you can find more information here Theme: Love Protects | and the link to sign up for further resources here Safeguarding Sunday.

Training reminder
There are a few remaining training dates before the end of the year. If you or anyone on the church need to renew their training, please get in touch to book on. The training dates are here.

SEPTEMBER
WED 16TH 6-8PM ADVANCED PT1
WED 23RD 6-8.30PM ADVANCED PT2
THURS 17TH 6-8.30PM INTERMEDIATE

OCTOBER
WED 7TH 6-8.30PM COMBINED
THURS 29TH 10-12.30PM COMBINED

NOVEMBER
WED 11TH 6-8PM ADVANCED PT1
WED 18TH 6-8.30PM ADVANCED PT2

DECEMBER
THURS 10TH 10-12PM ADVANCED PT1
THURS 17TH 10-12.30PM ADVANCED PT2



Safeguarding Training 2026

November
Wed 18th 6-8.30pm November Advanced pt2
December
Thurs 10th December 10-12pm Advanced pt1
Thurs 17th December 10-12.30pm Advanced pt2

To book for this training, please complete the booking form here https://forms.gle/iYFSrtkkWxAsXu4N8

Safeguarding-Committee-Strategic-Plan

The URC Safeguarding Committee's 2026–2028 Strategic Plan sets out a five-year vision to embed safeguarding good practice into everyday life across the denomination, with clear goals in culture, engagement, training, and practice development. The full document may be accessed here.

S2 The United Reformed Church URC Safeguarding Training Framework

The United Reformed Church recognises that it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard others and thus needs to ensure that people holding certain roles and responsibilities are specifically equipped to protect vulnerable groups including both children and adults. 2. URC's Safeguarding Training Framework In order to achieve this goal, the URC offers regular safeguarding training for all those working with children and adults at risk as well as those they support. They need to know how to promote the welfare of those they support, reduce the likelihood of harm, abuse or neglect, and respond effectively to concerns or allegations of abuse which arise.

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kpki65biriqdva/
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kpki65biriqdva/S2-URC-Safeguarding-Training-Framework.pdf?rlkey=bngnf7ctdykccbx3p6b7vp3mq&st=qe2phzp9&dl=0
.pdf?rlkey=bngnf7ctdykccbx3p6b7vp3mq&st=qe2phzp9&dl=0

See the **Safeguarding page** on the synod website here for more Safeguarding information.

Vacancies

URC vacancies may be found **here**.

Convenor of the Faith in Action Committee – United Reformed Church (volunteer)

An exciting opportunity to help lead the work of the URC's newest Core Committee, **Faith in Action**. The Faith in Action Committee brings together the work on mission and discipleship. It guides our staff team in delivering the Assembly's work that covers evangelism and ecumenism, public issues, racial justice and intercultural church, net zero, global ministries and inter faith, ministry with children and young people, intergenerational discipleship, and lay learning. The staff team, based in the Offices of the General Assembly, is focused on serving the synods and local churches through their work.

As Convenor, you will chair the committee, support the team as they develop the Faith in Action strategy based on the 5 Marks of Mission, take its business to General Assembly and Assembly Executive, and help build a diverse, inclusive membership.

Commitment: Four committee meetings a year, two online and two in person, plus General Assembly, Assembly Executive and Business Committee meetings. Planning or follow up meetings in between. Induction, training and admin support are provided, and expenses are reimbursed.

To find out more or apply go to https://urc.org.uk/jobs/ and scroll down to Volunteer posts where you will find more information and an application form. DEADLINE for applications: 30th November 2026.

Link to application form:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/u3p2amj2gzlmopdjuuc42/Application-Form-FiA-Committee-Convenor.docx?rlkey=ucyqzk1km345kbarrm7368jir&st=785uv5fl&dl=0

If you would like more information about the role or an informal conversation, please contact jenny.mills@urc.org.uk who is the Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action) or Sarah Lane-Cawte at slanecawte@gmail.com who is the current Faith in Action Committee Convenor.

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