



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 13 August 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

Theology of Worship Group - Worship is Word and Sacrament on Thursday 13 August 2026 at 7:30pm via Zoom
john@spiritualseekers.co.uk

Youth BBQ on Saturday 22 August 2026 at Lumen Community. Contact Lorraine cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

DBS Barring and Legal Duty to Refer Workshop on Tuesday 25 August • 10 AM - 12 PM. [Register here.](#)

URC Holiday Forum on 23-28 August 2026 at The Hayes.
Please visit our website: <http://www.urcholidayforum.org.uk>

Grange Park URC Annual BBQ on Saturday 29 August 2026 from 1pm to 5pm. More information at 07944 871 416

Celebrating Season of Creation - Reflection and Action Day for Wildlife on 5th September 10am - 4pm at St Albans
URC <https://buytickets.at/stalbansunitedreformedchurch/2298589>

Carbon Literacy Courses for Christian Congregations on Wednesdays 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September and 7th October - 6:30pm to 8:30pm. To book a place visit:
<https://buytickets.at/stalbansunitedreformedchurch/2298655> or Tuesdays on 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September and 6th October - 6:30pm to 8:30pm ; sign up via this Eventbrite link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carbon-literacy-for-congregations-online-creation-time-2026-tickets-1991352776761>

Final booking date 27th August 2026

Meeting on AI Generated Complaints on Thursday 10 September, Online

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82757997549?pwd=lgfrAv7mUpfd8UpVCWiBXOxVuA7TaE.1>
Meeting ID: 827 5799 7549
Passcode: 214109

LCRF Annual Speaker Meeting "Roots and Refuge" Brother Johannes Maertens on Thursday 17 September 2026 at 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm) at Wesley's Chapel EC1Y 1AU

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

Church Action on Poverty Sunday on Sunday 18th October 2026, church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

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

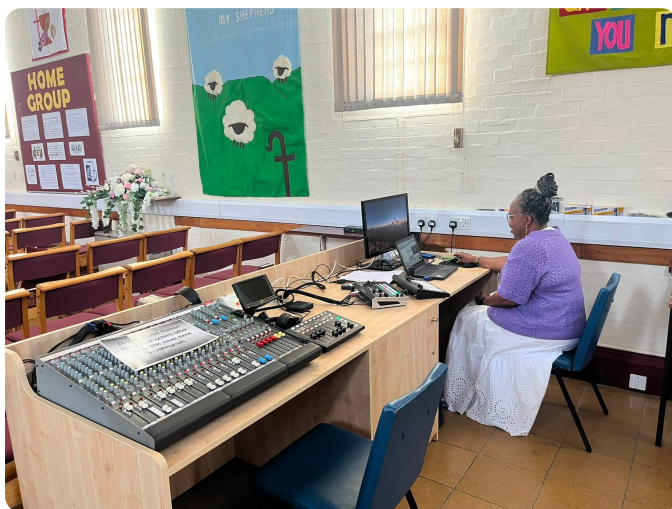
Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

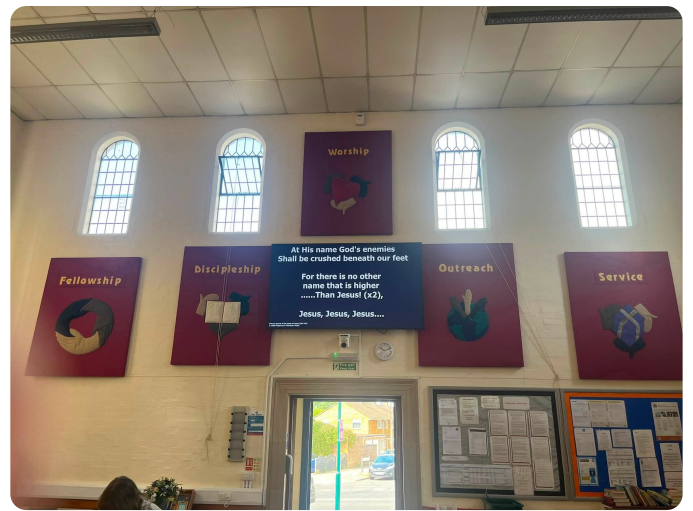
17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

Information and News

Last Sunday the Moderator led worship at St George's, Hemel Hempstead with two assistance dogs in the congregation. The new audio visual system supported by a grant from the Synod is now up and running





Enfield Mayor Visits URC



The Mayor of Enfield said 'It was a pleasure to join Rev Ruth Dewis and members of the United Reformed Church for a delightful cream tea.'

It was wonderful to meet representatives from churches across Enfield and to hear about the strong collaboration between the United Reformed, Baptist and other local churches. The spirit of friendship, shared purpose and support for our community was inspiring to see.

Thank you for such a warm welcome and generous hospitality. I look forward to seeing you all again, especially at the Christmas Tree Festival later this year.'

Book Launch - 'Trees of the Bible' by the Revd John Danso



On Saturday 8th August Revd John Danso's latest book *Trees in the Bible: Meditations and Prayers* was launched at Grange Park United Reformed Church. The guest speaker was Her Excellency Mrs Sabah Zita Benson, Ghana High Commissioner. Both the Moderator and the Synod Clerk were present for the occasion.

Copies of John's book can be obtained from Waterstones, Amazon, eBay UK, Pegasus Publishers and many more booksellers.







What's On

Only 14 Days until Holiday Forum 2026 begins!

We hope those of you who are joining us at The Hayes are starting to get excited about everything we have planned for you. For those unable to attend in person, we have opportunities for you to join us as we live stream events each day.

We're trying something new this year by live streaming some events on YouTube and also others on zoom. The links for each event will be available in the next few days. In the meantime, we've attached the timetables for you to have a look at.

We look forward to welcoming you to Holiday Forum 2026 whether online or in person and pray you will enjoy all we have to offer.

Sunday

2:30pm	Arrivals
4pm	Coffee Break
4:30pm	Welcome Walk (Reception)
	Tech Team Meeting (MCH)
5:15pm	Musicians Meeting (MCH)
5:15pm	Families Meeting (Writing Room)
6pm – 7pm	Evening Meal
7:15pm	Welcome Event (MCH)
8:15pm	Quiz (MCH)
9:15pm	Evening Meditation

Sunday Live Streaming

7:15pm	Welcome Event
8:15pm	Quiz

Duty Elders - Wendy Beck & Abi Howl

Monday

7:45am	Morning Prayers (MCH)
8am – 9am	Breakfast
9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship (MCH)
10am – 11am	Theme Talk / CYP Groups
11am – 11:30am	Coffee Break
11am	Long Walk (Meet at Reception)
11:30am – 12:30pm	Discussion Group (MCH) / CYP Groups / Craft Group (Vinery)
1pm – 2pm	Lunch
2:15pm	Cricket
4pm - 4:30pm	Coffee Break
4:30pm – 5:45pm	Choir (MCH) / Bible Study (Reading Room) / CYP Activity
6pm – 7pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Bingo (MCH)
9:15pm	Evening Meditation (MCH)

Monday Live Streaming

9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts
10am – 11am	Theme Talk led by Revd Leslie Newton
11:30am – 12:30pm	Discussion on the Theme Talk

Duty Elders - Cathy Heath and Negin Faninam

Tuesday

7:45am	Morning Prayers (MCH)
8am – 9am	Breakfast
9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship (MCH)
10am – 11am	Theme Talk (MCH) /CYP Groups
11am – 11:30am	Coffee Break
11:30am – 12:30pm	Discussion Group (MCH) CYP Groups / Craft Group (Vinery)
1pm – 2pm	Lunch
2:15pm	Meet the Moderator (MCH) / CYP Activity
4pm - 4:30pm	Coffee Break
4:30pm – 5:45pm	All Age Art Workshop with Neil Thorogood (MCH)
6pm – 7pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Jigsaw Challenge and Beetle Drive (MCH)
9:15pm	Evening Meditations (MCH)

Tuesday Live Streaming

9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts
10am – 11am	Theme Talk led by Rev Leslie Newton
11:30am – 12:30pm	Theme Discussion Group
2:15pm	Meet the Moderator Revd Neil Thorogood

Duty Elders - Angela Storer and Richard Storer

Wednesday

7:45am	Morning Prayers (MCH)
8am – 9am	Breakfast
9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship (MCH)
10am – 11am	Theme Talk (MCH) /CYP Groups
11am – 11:30am	Coffee Break
11:30am – 12:30pm	Theme Talk Discussion (MCH) / CYP Groups / Craft Group (Vinery)
1pm – 2pm	Lunch
2pm – 3pm	Make A Race Car (Writing Room)
3pm – 4pm	Healing Service (MCH)
4pm – 4:30pm	Coffee Break
4:30pm – 5:45pm	Choir (MCH) / Drama Workshop (Reading Room) / Bible Study (Writing Room)
6pm – 7pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Family Race Night (MCH)
9:15pm	Evening Meditation (MCH)

Wednesday Live Streaming

9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts
10am – 11am	Theme Talk led by Revd Leslie Newton
11:30am – 12:30pm	Theme Discussion

Duty Elders - Garcia Yearwood and Iain McLaren

Thursday

7:45am	Morning Prayers (MCH)
8am – 9am	Breakfast
9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship (MCH)
10am – 11am	Theme Talk (MCH) /CYP Groups
11am – 11:30am	Coffee Break
11:30am – 12:30pm	Discussion Group (MCH)/ CYP Groups/Craft Group (Vinery)
1pm – 2pm	Lunch
2pm – 4pm	Open Meeting (MCH) / CYP Activity
4pm – 4:30pm	Coffee Break
4:30pm – 5:45pm	Holy Communion Service (MCH)
6pm – 7pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Open Mic Night (MCH)
9:15pm	Evening Meditation (MCH)

Thursday Live Streaming

9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts
10am – 11am	Theme Talk led by Rev Leslie Newton
11:30am – 12:30pm	Theme Talk Discussion Group
2pm – 4pm	The Open Meeting
4:30pm – 5:45pm	Holy Communion Service

Duty Elders - Sandra St Clair and Abigail Perrow

Friday

7:45am	Morning Prayers (MCH)
8am – 9am	Breakfast
9:15am – 9:45am	Morning Worship (MCH)
10am – 11am	Theme Talk (MCH) / CYP Groups
11am – 11:30am	Coffee Break
11:30am – 12:30pm	Forum Round Up
1pm – 2pm	Lunch
2pm	Departures

Friday Live Streaming

9:15am	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts
10am - 11am	Theme Talk with Holy Communion led by Revd Leslie Newton

Duty Elders - Abi Howl & Wendy Beck

**On behalf of the Steering Group
may we wish you a safe journey home,
and may God hold you in the palm of his hand
until we meet again next year.**

Worship is Word and Sacrament

Speaker - Revd Dr Elaine Colechin, URC minister who becomes Synod Clerk of the Southern Synod in July 2026.

Elaine writes, "There is a strand of our tradition that feels that worship is not worship without the community both gathering around the Word and the Table. Why? What difference does the sacrament make? We will consider these questions and how it might inform our thinking as a denomination as many of our churches wrestle with who can preside at the table."

Date: Thursday 13th August 2026

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

If you have not yet registered with the Theology of Worship Group and wish to attend this meeting, please contact John Burgess by 7 August: john@spiritualseekers.co.uk

Safeguarding Training

Just a gentle reminder to book on to your mandated safeguarding training.

Please see below the poster which has all of the dates scheduled for this year.

You will see that there is a new **COMBINED** safeguarding module. This is the Foundation and Intermediate module in one. If you need to complete both modules, that training shortens the amount of sessions that need to be completed. You are welcome to book on to the COMBINED module if you need to renew your INTERMEDIATE training. If you *only* need to complete the Foundation module please complete the Foundation eLearning (link below).

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24>This

In order to book on to the ADVANCED module, you **must** have completed either the COMBINED module or the separate FOUNDATION and INTERMEDIATE modules beforehand.

If you would like to book on to the advertised dates, please click on the link below and complete the form

<https://forms.gle/nKrqAeM28XosXbmg7>

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

For the URC Safeguarding Training Framework document [please click 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



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Thames North Synod

TO BOOK ON TO ANY OF THESE TRAINING
DATES, PLEASE COPY THE LINK BELOW INTO
YOUR BROWSER AND COMPLETE THE FORM.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/IYFSRTKKWXASXU4
N8](https://forms.gle/IYFSRTKKWXASXU4N8)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ORDER TO ATTEND
THE ADVANCED TRAINING, YOU MUST HAVE
COMPLETED THE INTERMEDIATE OR
COMBINED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
BEFOREHAND.



DDC Verifier Safeguarding Training (On Zoom)

To book...

Please email

emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

This training is for all Primary Contact Church Safeguarding Coordinators, Secretaries and DBS verifiers as you act as verifiers for DBS checks within your church.

This training provides all the information for you to access the portal and conduct document verification,

The training also provides additional information on Safer Recruitment Processes for the Church.

PLEASE BOOK ONE DATE ONLY by emailing Emma Pearce
emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

21st May – 1pm

9th July – 10am

8th September – 10am

8th October – 7pm



The
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Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



Safeguarding Training 2026

August

Wed 12th Aug 10-12pm Combined

September

Wed 16th September 6-8pm Advanced pt1

Wed 23rd September 6-8.30pm Advanced pt2

Thurs 17th September 6-8.30pm Intermediate

October

Wed 7th October 6-8.30pm Combined

Thurs 29th October 10-12.30pm Combined

November

Wed 11th November 6-8pm Advanced pt1

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/6cltwe2kпки65biriqdva/https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kпки65biriqdva/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.



Building Bridges Across Generations

Empowering Communities Through Intergenerational Workshops

Training Workshops for Supporting Intergenerational Communities

This series of training sessions aims to foster intergenerational communities, offering insights for working with young people and expanding ministries. Co-delivered by the Children and Youth Team and Safeguarding, these workshops will be conducted via Zoom.

Workshop Details:

1. **Growing Intergenerational Communities**
 - o **Date:** 8th September, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - o **Topics:**
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Unconscious Bias / Roles
 - Creating Welcoming Environments
 - Generational Theory
2. **Developing Spaces for Under 5s**
 - o **Date:** 13th October, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - o **Topics:**
 - Effective Communication
 - Safe, Spiritual Spaces
 - Creative Storybooks / Activities
 - Missional Opportunities in Toddler Groups
3. **Supporting Faith Development in Young People**
 - o **Date:** 8th November, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - o **Topics:**
 - Models of Discipleship / Mentoring
 - Youth Groups in Private Dwellings
 - Engaging Young People
 - Lone Working & Risk Assessments

To participate, please email emma.pearce@urc.org.uk. These workshops are an excellent opportunity to enhance skills in fostering intergenerational relationships and faith development.

Minister's Advanced Safeguarding Training

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

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](#)





UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2026

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

All training will take place via Zoom

Foundation
Training can be
accessed on the
Learning Hub
[Home | URC Learning Hub](#)

Thursday 2nd July 10.30am-12.30pm	Domestic Abuse
Tuesday 7th July 1.00pm- 3.00pm	Supporting Survivors
Tuesday 14th July 7.00pm- 9.00pm	Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Modern Slavery
Monday 7th September 1.00pm-3.00pm	Elders as Trustees
Tuesday 15th September 7.00pm -9.00pm	Online Safety
Wednesday 23rd September 1.00pm-3.00pm	Spiritual Abuse
Tuesday 6th October 7.00pm-9.00pm	Adult Safeguarding
Wednesday 21st October 1.00pm-3.00pm	Discriminatory Abuse



www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies

URC Representative on World Day of Prayer National Committee (Voluntary Role)

Closing date: Tuesday 15 September 2026

At the heart of the United Reformed Church (URC) lies a strong commitment to active ecumenical partnership and global Christian unity. We are looking for someone with a passion for prayer and ecumenical unity to serve as a URC representative on the World Day of Prayer National Committee for England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

The World Day of Prayer service is held annually on the first Friday in March. There are approximately 1,500 local branches which hold about 3,000 services each year. It is part of the international World Day of Prayer movement with over 100 countries and islands involved. Representatives are expected to be able to commit to an initial 3-year term, followed by a further 2 terms if willing (max. 9 years).

Why volunteer with us?

- **Make a Global Impact:** Connect with a worldwide movement active in over 120 countries, while helping allocate vital charitable grants funded by service offerings globally.
- **Enrich Your Spiritual Journey:** Immerse yourself in worship materials, theology, and lived experiences shared by Christians from countries around the globe (such as Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Italy).
- **Build Ecumenical Bridges:** Form deep friendships and collaborate creatively with committee members representing different Christian traditions across the UK.
- **Grow Your Skills:** Gain valuable hands-on experience in publishing, proofreading, workshop facilitation, Bible study leadership, and charity governance. (Mentoring and training are provided to help build your confidence!)

More information:

[Job advert](#)

[Job Description](#)

[Person Specification](#)

If you're interested in volunteering for this role or would like more information, please contact Victoria Blunt, Convenor of Nominations Committee at nominations@urc.org.uk

Community Development Worker — Holtspur, Beaconsfield

- **Salary:** £30,000 p.a. pro rata (£18,000 p.a. actual)
- **Hours:** 22.5 hours per week (0.6 FTE), three days a week
- **Leave:** 15 days per year plus pro-rata bank holidays
- **Location:** Holtspur URC, Crabtree Close, HP9 1UQ
- **Probation:** 3 months

The role

This is a rare chance to shape a role from the ground up. As our Community Development Worker, you won't be managing an established programme — you'll be building one. You'll get to know Holtspur street by street, person by person, and turn what you learn into activities that genuinely matter: community meals, support for the elderly, family and children's groups, informal spaces where people feel they belong. You'll recruit and grow volunteers around you, and you'll help make our refurbished Holtspur building the welcoming hub it's meant to be.

Faith sits at the centre of this role. You'll work closely with our Minister and Eldership, and you'll have the confidence to create natural, unforced opportunities for people to explore Christian faith alongside the practical support you offer. This post carries an occupational requirement under Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010 for the postholder to be a practising Christian.

How to apply

Please send a CV along with a personal statement (max. two sides of A4) to the contact below telling us about your experience building relationships and communities, how you'd go about understanding Holtspur's needs, your track record of working with others to create change, and what draws you to this role.

Contact details – Peter Miller, peteredwinmiller@gmail.com

Closing Date – 20th August, 2026

This role is now live on Charity Jobs here - <https://bit.ly/4ff5m7q>

Synod Clerk - now recruiting! - URC West Midlands Synod

Application deadline: Monday 10 August 2026 (noon)

- [Download the Job Description](#)
- [Download the Person Specification](#)
- [Download the application form](#)

This is a part time, 21 hour post.

Salary: £43,176.00 (full time equivalent)

Actual for 21 hours: £25,905.60

10% employer's pension contribution

Please email your application to: moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

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<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



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