



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 14 August 2025.

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

### **Aspiring to More Taster Session - Locally Recognised Worship**

**Leader Training** on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 19:30 to 21:30 via Zoom [training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Youth Mental Health First Aid** 22 September - 1 October

[www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa)

**Light** on Friday 26 September 2025 at Lumen 6:15-8:15pm. Book with Maggie Hindley [m@maggiehindley.com](mailto:m@maggiehindley.com)

**Messy Church Fun Day** Saturday 27 September 2025 10:30am - 4:00pm Lumen London WC1H 9RS. Register online at [www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day](http://www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day)

**Disability Awareness Sunday** – 28 September 2025

**Wild Goose Resource Group** 3-5 October 2025 at St Albans URC  
[gilldotelliott@googlemail.com](mailto:gilldotelliott@googlemail.com)

**Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral** on Saturday 11th October 2025

**Godly Play Accredited 3 Day Training** Powys, Wales 14-16 October 2025 [judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk](mailto:judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk)

**Annual Dr Williams Lecture** on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

**Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG)** 24-26 November 2025 at the Hayes Centre [training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

### **Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -**

18 October 2025 Venue: Lumen

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA

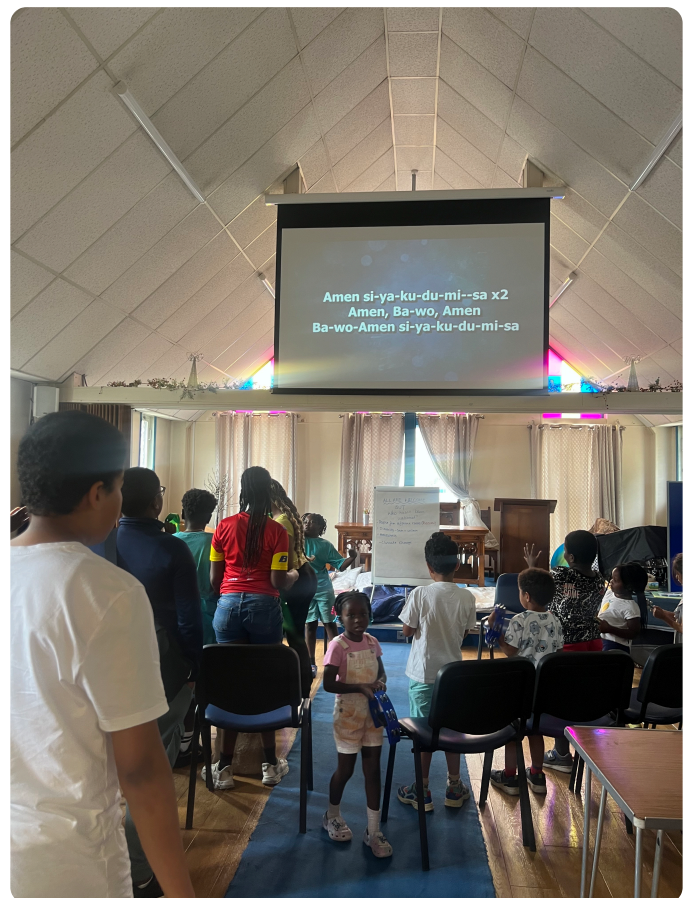
**Please note:** Synod meetings are usually on the 3rd Saturday of March and October.

## News

### Grange Park Holiday Club











Last week from the 4th - 8th August Grange Park URC had their 4th Holiday Club. We had 22 participants, made up of children of the church and the Leyton community. We want to highlight and praise our leaders/helpers who are mostly teenagers or young adults volunteering for the whole week, showing fantastic leadership skills, that we will continue to develop.

We were pleased to follow the Children's and Youth Theme "All are welcome" but looked further into groups of people who may not always feel so welcome and what we can do to help. We focused on racism, disability, homelessness, climate change and World peace.

We had fun afternoon trips such as trampoline park and bowling as well as a great selection of worship songs and creative workshops. We ended the week with a picnic and sports day in the park.

We shared what we got up to in the week with the congregation and participants' families with a special Sunday showcase service.

## Carbon Footprint Game for Churches





During the Season of Creation your church might like to borrow the set of cards for this game to use in their church for a special service, foyer display or event.

The set owned by the synod may be borrowed by contacting Anna Barrett at [poppyana57@hotmail.com](mailto:poppyana57@hotmail.com) or to purchase a professionally printed set of cards in colour for £15, email [comms@climatestewards.org](mailto:comms@climatestewards.org).

## A note from the Green Apostles



**PEACE  
WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

### Season of Creation 1st September – 4th October 2025

Here are 10 easy ideas for your church to celebrate this year's season of creation:

- 1 Ask a minister/preacher to include an environmentally themed service
- 2 Organise a prayer session on an environmental theme

- 3 Offer an outdoor service or prayer time
- 4 Hold a vegetarian bring-and-share lunch
- 5 Create a nature display inside the church
- 6 Plant up a pot to put outside by the main door
- 7 Organise a nature walk in the local area
- 8 Create posters to promote care for the environment
- 9 Introduce a new hymn/song about care for the environment
- 10 Plant a tree for the local community to enjoy

If you have any ideas for your church do let us know!

## Christian Aid Resources



Christian Aid has worked with church leaders and campaigners to produce a series of resources to help tackle the long-standing and "too difficult" issues around Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. The three short films bring together the voices of UK Christians, and Palestinians in a way which helps churches start their own conversations and inspires them to act for a just peace. Learn more and access the films, <https://ow.ly/b9jt50WBYRN>

## What's On



# Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training



## 2025-2026 Course

Thames North Synod is recruiting people who want to learn more about the Bible, theology, worship leading and preaching, beginning in September 2025 for 15 to 18 months.

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

## Taster Session

**Tuesday 2 September 2025**  
**19:30 to 21:30**

via Zoom

To book your place, contact:

Julian Templeton  
Training and Development Officer  
[training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

Or write to: 102 St Georges Road  
London E10 5RQ

[Book here](#)

**You are warmly invited to  
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London  
on Friday 26th September 2025,  
6:15 to 8:15 pm for a screening of**

***“Light”***



**A film showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams  
in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

***“Where all other elements are controlled and rationed,  
perhaps our light is the one thing that cannot be taken”***

**All are welcome. Free admission with donations to CPT  
invited.**

**Watch the trailer at this link:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>**

**17.45 Doors open, tea/coffee**

**18.15 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley, reservist with  
CPT in Hebron**

**18.20 *Light* (60 mins)**

**19.20 Q and A with the film director, Ahmad Abu Monshar,  
by Zoom from the West Bank.**

**Please book your place with Maggie Hindley  
[m@maggiehindley.org](mailto:m@maggiehindley.org), 07545 130260**

**Watch the trailer [here](#) and [book your place](#) with Maggie Hindley.**



## Vacancies

A photograph of two young women sitting outdoors at what appears to be a festival or campsite. The woman on the left has dark hair and glasses, wearing a black top. The woman on the right has curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a denim jacket over a white t-shirt with text. In the background, there are trees, a white tent, and other people. A green banner with white text is overlaid on the top right of the photo.

# Come and join our team!

The Senior  
Administrator role  
is now open for  
applications:  
[movement.org.uk/  
vacancies](https://movement.org.uk/vacancies)

 student  
christian  
movement  
Progressive, student-led faith in action.

Apply at [movement.org.uk](https://movement.org.uk) for full advert and Applicant Pack.

# URC Vacancies

## Advert for members of the Accreditations Sub-Committee

Do you have a passion to support people who release the church in its local community to flourish in faith, hope and love? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

Ministries Committee is looking for a member for its Accreditations sub-committee to replace a member who has moved into another role. The member will need to have working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church.

The Accreditations sub-committee plays a vital role in supporting and creating new opportunities in shaping posts to be recognised as Church Related Community Work projects or Pioneering posts including current Special Category ministries, in approving certificates for ministers from partner churches both at home and abroad to serve with us, and in analysing trends in the Rolls of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers, Elders, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers.

If interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

**Closing date:** 8th September 2025

## Advert for Assessment Board Convener Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Do you have a passion for discerning what God is saying about Call and vocation? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for a Convener for the Assessment Board to replace its current convener who will complete their term at the July 2026 General Assembly. The convener will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church, and of the training programmes for the formation of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments (MWS) and Church Related Community Work (CRCW). Training will be provided, particularly in a period of 'shadowing' the current convener in the run-up to July 2026.



The Assessment Board plays a vital role in the discernment, assessment and selection of students for training for MWS and CRCW. Its assessors are drawn from ministers and lay members of the URC.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

**Closing date:** 8th September 2025

## Advert for Ministries Committee members

### Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Does developing the strategy and supporting the work of the Ministries Committee excite you? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for two lay members to be part of its new committee agreed at General Assembly 2025. Member will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church and support of their training programmes.

The Ministries Committee carries the General Assembly responsibility and care for the formally accredited ministries of the United Reformed Church namely the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work, Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching, Locally Recognised Worship Leading, Assembly Accredited Pioneering both lay and special category.

This responsibility includes all lifelong learning for these accredited ministries including funding and other educational elements.

We are looking for lay members with expertise in education particularly adult, higher, or theological education who can bring a critical and constructive voice to group discussions.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

**Closing date:** 8th September 2025

# Advert for Ministries Committee Convener

## Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Does developing the strategy and supporting the work of the Ministries Committee excite you? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for a Convener to replace its current convener who will complete their term at the July 2026 General Assembly. The convener will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church and support of their training programmes.

The ministries committee carries the General Assembly responsibility and care for the formally accredited ministries of the United Reformed Church namely the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work, Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching, Locally Recognised Worship Leading, Assembly Accredited Pioneering both lay and special category.

This responsibility includes all lifelong learning for these accredited ministries including funding and other educational elements.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for an application form.

**Closing date:** 8th September 2025

## Synod Property Officer - West Midlands

**The United Reformed Church (West Midlands) Trust seeks to appoint a part-time Synod Property Officer (21 hours per week)**

**Part-time salary:** £29,316 (based on £48,860 full time equivalent)

**Closing date for applications:** noon on Monday 8 September 2025

**Interviews** will be held in the week beginning 15 September 2025

We are looking for an individual to provide technical expertise on buildings and property in support of Synod Officers, members of Synod Committees and local churches.



The successful candidate will be working to a wide brief and is expected to undertake a range of duties including, but not limited to, advising and initiating action on property issues in local churches, overseeing quinquennial inspections and manse inspections, and providing advice on property-related matters to Synod Committees.

We are looking for someone who:

- has experience of property matters either through extensive operational management or through the practice of a relevant profession, while holding appropriate qualifications at higher or professional level
- has some knowledge of charity procedures
- is a team player and is used to working collaboratively
- possesses effective oral and written communication skills
- possesses sound IT skills
- has a willingness to work within the Christian ethos of the United Reformed Church
- can work flexibly with some evening and weekend work

In return we can offer a friendly, supportive and flexible working environment, five weeks' annual leave and a contributory pension scheme.

[Download the Job Description](#)

[Download the Person Specification](#)

[Download the application form](#)

For more information, please contact Lindsay Peniston at the URC (West Midlands) Synod Office in Yardley, Birmingham B26 1TW. Tel: 0121 783 1177. **Email:** [moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk)

We do not accept CVs and require candidates to fill in an application form to ensure we consider each person on equal terms. We follow United Reformed Church Safer Recruitment Policy and Practice.

## **Vacancy: Synod Safeguarding Officer - Wales Synod**

**Salary:** £28,652 per annum  
(full-time equivalent: £47,754)

This 21-hour per week position is for someone excited by the prospect of building upon the current strategy and strategic oversight of all safeguarding matters as well as being an advocate for safeguarding across the Synod structure and in its seventy-five churches.

The successful applicant will be willing to work within the Christian ethos of the United Reformed Church and at times travel extensively in Wales.

This post is offered on a five-year, fixed-term contract, in the first instance.

An information pack is available to download below.

**Closing date for applications:** 9am on Monday 1 September 2025

Application pack:

[Job Description](#)

[Person Specification](#)

[Background paper](#)

Application form - contact [sharon.barr@urc.org.uk](mailto:sharon.barr@urc.org.uk)



**Kensington United Reformed Church**

Allen Street, London, W8 6BL.

**Facilities Manager**

for room hire and building management.

This is an interesting and varied role which will appeal to someone who enjoys working with the public and has excellent organisational skills.

**18 hours per week**

Part office and part home based.

Salary £12,963.60 per annum

London Living Wage

with usual holiday and other entitlements.

For an Application Pack please contact

Sally Massey Thomas

email [kensington.urc@gmail.com](mailto:kensington.urc@gmail.com)



# PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER

## Broxbourne URC



### ABOUT US

We are a United Reformed Church in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming church, proud of our heritage, but forward looking and innovative. Everyone is welcome in our church.

As a church family we are offering a flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

### THE APPLICANT

We seek a motivated and enthusiastic Children's and Youth Worker who can help us nurture and grow the existing work with our young people, working with our children's team volunteers. A committed Christian with a passion and ability to share the gospel with children and young people. This post may suit someone seeking flexible, part-time hours, wishing to develop their skills or changing career.

### EXPERIENCE

We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting. The age group is currently 9-15.

#### Location

Broxbourne United Reformed Church,  
Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ

### THE POSITION

This position is important for the spiritual development of children and youth, supporting their faith journeys and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment for all families.

The postholder will focus on carrying out their role at Broxbourne URC, while gradually developing a model that the other two churches in our pastorate could adapt in their future work with children and youth.

We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts.

#### Hours

16 hours a week - flexible, including some Sunday mornings and mid-week and evening events.

#### Contract and salary

Three-year fixed term. £16 per hour. 20 days paid leave and 8 days paid statutory holidays per year pro rata. Workplace pension scheme offered. Responsible to the Minister and supported by him and volunteer members.

### HOW TO APPLY

Please apply for an application pack to our Pastorate Administrator, Mrs. Stepanka Moysey at [urcnlvg@gmail.com](mailto:urcnlvg@gmail.com)  
For informal inquiries, please contact our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson  
[revdmarkr@gmail.com](mailto:revdmarkr@gmail.com).

Visit our website: [www.nlvg.org.uk](http://www.nlvg.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 18 August**.  
Interviews will be held after Monday 25 August.

## Safeguarding Training

## Synod Training Dates 2025

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email [safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

In person training is TBA and will be limited due to the timescales within my role and existing cover period.

## **E Learning**

Foundation Training and Safeguarding Coordinators Training are available as e-learning courses.

Simply follow the links below to access the courses.

### **Foundation Safeguarding Training**

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

### **Safeguarding Coordinators Training**

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=70>

### **Advanced Safeguarding Training**

Part 1 - Tuesday 16th September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Part 2 - Tuesday 23rd September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm



If you would like to keep your inbox clear, please feel free to unsubscribe at the bottom of the page.

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }} You received this email because you are registered with URC Thames North  
<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



[Unsubscribe here](#)