



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 16 April 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

Playful "Liturgy": A Theology of Worship for a Postmodern World on Date: Tuesday 5th May 2026. Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Richard Goldring for further information: rgoldring23@gmail.com

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents: Pastoral Care in Practice at Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS
Date: 09.05.2026
Time: 10:30 – 4:30pm lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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

Free to Believe Conference 2026 at Highgate House
Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 June 2026

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](#).

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

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

News & Information

We bring you the sad news of the deaths of two of our Thames North Synod retired ministers.

Revd Michael Lay died in Barnet General Hospital on 7 April. He was 94yrs old. He had been in hospital for the last couple of weeks with a chest infection. His wife Enid died in 2014. Latterly, he was in Henry Nihill Care Home. He leaves two sons Julyan and Jeremy.

He served at Richmond Hill, Bournemouth 1957-59; Ilford, Bournemouth 1959-65; Highbury, Bristol 1965-72; Union Church, Mill Hill 1972-96.

Revd Meryl Court was born in 1946 and died, aged 80, on 11 April 2026. She served in St Albans District in 2003; was a Pastoral Consultant for Thames North Synod from 2003-06 and served at Trinity, St Albans & Bricket Wood 2003-13.

We will share any further information on funerals or memorial services once we have them.

**London
Churches
Refugee
Fund**

Charity number
1121108

LCRF Grants Round 40

Spring 2026

Apply now for up to £1,000 to support destitute asylum seekers in London

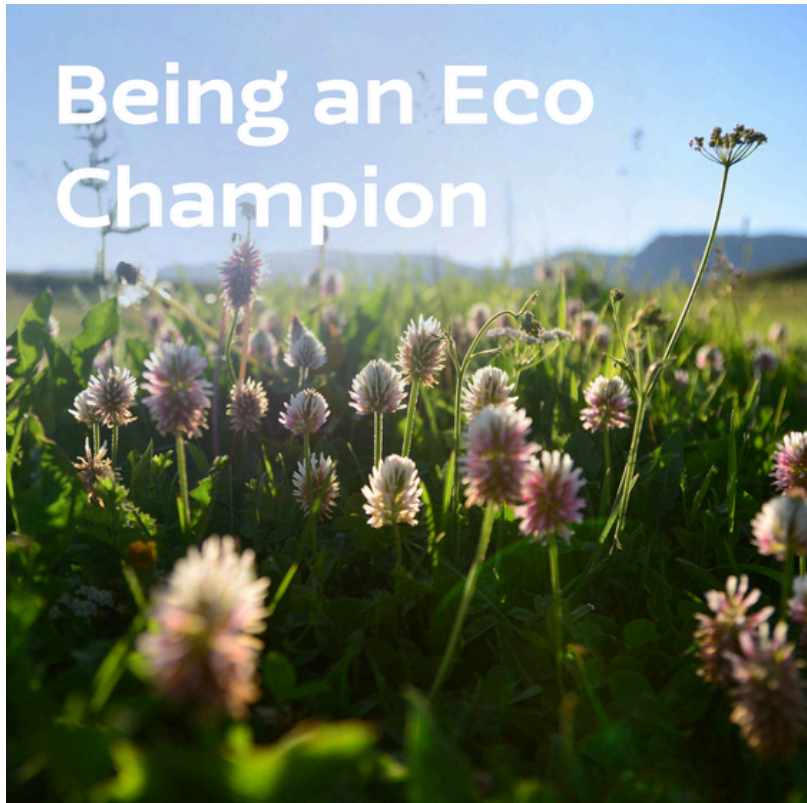
- **The Deadline** for applications for Spring 2026 Grants Round (nos 40) is **Sunday 10th May**
- Refugee Projects can apply for a grant to provide essential items for destitute refugees or asylum-seekers in London: phone & travel credit, hygiene items, food, nappies, emergency payments etc.
- Applications must be made on the Round 40 Application forms which can be **downloaded HERE**
- **Applications MUST be sent to grants@lcrf.org.uk**
Read Guidance Notes on website very carefully.
- Thank you for the amazing work your project does to help support the tens of thousands of vulnerable and destitute people in London seeking asylum from war, oppression and famine

The Chair and Trustees of LCRF

Resources for your Eco Church journey

Did you know we have over 100 resources to support you with the Eco Church survey?

Being an Eco Champion



New resource: Being an Eco Champion

This resource supports Eco Champions as they seek to embed care for creation and the Eco Church ethos in churches and the wider community.

[Being an Eco Champion](#)

Celebrating your

Eco Church Journey



Your Eco Church journey is unique. But like all journeys it benefits from moments along the way to pause, reflect and celebrate how far you have come. These moments can also be valuable opportunities to invite and involve others.



Your Eco Church journey is unique

But like all journeys it benefits from moments along the way to pause, reflect and celebrate how far you have come. These moments can also be valuable opportunities to invite and involve others.

The ideas shared here are just some of the many ways you might choose to reflect on and celebrate your Eco Church journey. While they can be used at any time, there may be natural jumping off points, such as celebrating your Eco Church award, marking an environmental day like Earth Day, or recognising an anniversary like ten years of Eco Church in 2026!

Whatever you choose to do, these celebrations provide a wonderful opportunity for your church to involve others from the wider local community, children or young people from a local school or group, and other churches.

Do tag #EcoChurch and A Rocha UK's social media accounts (linked at the end of this resource) to share your celebrations!

The ideas shared here are just some of the many ways you might choose to reflect on and celebrate your Eco Church journey. While they can be used at any time, there may be natural jumping off points, such as celebrating your Eco Church award, marking an environmental day like Earth Day, or recognising an anniversary like ten years of Eco Church in 2026!

We've created a new resource, Celebrating your Eco Church journey, with ideas and inspiration for recognising milestones - whether that's ten years of Eco Church or achieving a bronze, silver or gold award, for example.

You could host a special service, an outdoor worship gathering, a Fairtrade coffee morning, a nature walk or an art exhibition, or plant a tree or hedge! Read the resource for inspiration and let us know if you plan to do something.

**WAYS THAT YOU CAN CELEBRATE YOUR ECO CHURCH JOURNEY:
HOLD A SPECIAL SERVICE OR OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

GATHERING
GO ON A PRAYER WALK
TAKE PART IN CITIZEN SCIENCE OR A GUIDED NATURE TOUR
PLANT!!
CUPPA AND CAKE
HOST AN ECO EXHIBITION
GO ON A PILGRIMAGE
GET CREATIVE WITH ARTWORK

Celebrate your Eco Journey

Registrations for CCoN are open!



Churches Count on Nature is an annual event where people explore their churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter. This is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales, and A Rocha UK. Churches of any denomination can take part.

CCoN runs from 6-14 June 2026. Register your event on the Caring for God's Acre website! Register by 23rd May to receive the resource pack in time for your event.

Read more

What's On



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

Playful "Liturgy": A Theology of Worship for a Postmodern World

Speaker - **Revd Dr Charisa Hunter-Crump**,

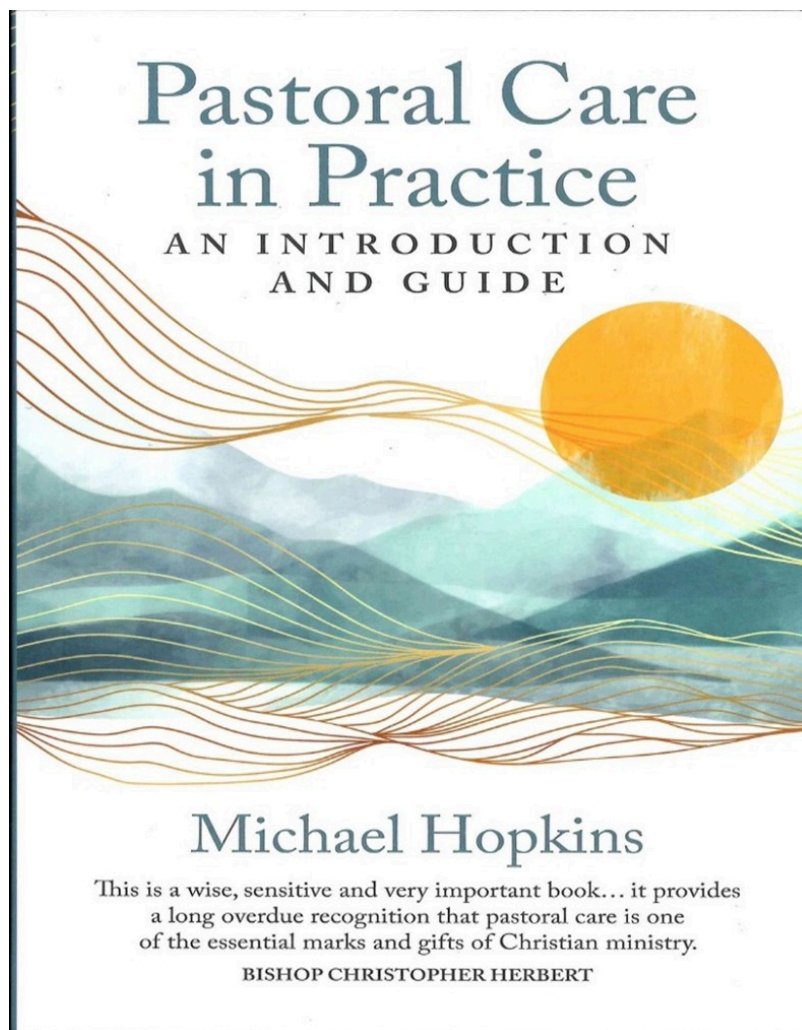
Training and Development Officer for the Southern Synod. Charisa will consider why a playful and communal approach to our creation of worship is critical for the times in which we live and how this might be approached in the local congregation.

Date: Tuesday 5th May 2026

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

If you have not yet registered with the Theology of Worship Group and may be interested in attending this meeting, please contact Richard Goldring for further information: rgoldring23@gmail.com

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents: Pastoral Care in Practice



Led by:

The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins

Moderator of Wessex Synod

Clerk of the URC General Assembly 2014-2024

Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS

Date: 09.05.2026

Time: 10:30 – 4:30pm

A day for lay preachers, worship leaders, elders and members to explore some practical and spiritual aspects of our provision of pastoral care. Lunch included.

To book your place at this free event, indicating any food intolerances or allergies, please email, Ola Lawal, [**lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**](mailto:lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

Church Action on Poverty Sunday

A Just Church: Food, Faith & Fellowship

18 October 2026



I came for food but I found
not just food - I found a job,
a Church, a family and God



Rasoul
Doxa Deo Community Church, Kingston

Give, Act & Pray with us

Together, we can challenge
the injustices of poverty

Find out more and sign up at
www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday



This is Gavin from Church Action on Poverty. I wondered if you might please be able to share the little news snippet below with your local Churches Together members, or in any upcoming newsletters? I also attach a copy of a flyer, in case this is useful.

I also want to thank all of you who have shared our previous notices like this over the past six months, since I took on this role - it has been really helpful in connecting us with lots of additional churches around the country, so thank you!

Best wishes
Gavin

.....

This year's Church Action on Poverty Sunday will take place on Sunday 18th October, with a theme of "Food, faith and fellowship".

A record number of churches took part last year, and interested churches are encouraged to register now.

Resource packs will be sent out over the summer, containing bring & share lunch ideas, worship materials, prayer cards, Scriptural reflections, activity sheets, and inspirational stories of churches already doing great work through food.

To sign up, visit church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

One Story. His Glory. LIVE



On Saturday 27th June 2026, we're gathering at the Bethel Convention Centre in West Bromwich to celebrate 40 years of UCB's ministry in the UK.

It'll be an evening of worship, prayer, and celebration, and we'd love your help to make it happen.

It's going to be a wonderful evening where we celebrate what God has done through the ministry of United Christian Broadcasters, as well as looking forward and praying into what God is doing today and for the next 40 years.

GRAB YOUR TICKETS

We would love you to join us in the celebration.
Tickets are £10 plus a booking fee, and are limited.

Safeguarding Training 2026

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**
 - **Date:** 8th September, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - **Topics:**
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Unconscious Bias / Roles
 - Creating Welcoming Environments
 - Generational Theory
2. **Developing Spaces for Under 5s**
 - **Date:** 13th October, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - **Topics:**
 - Effective Communication
 - Safe, Spiritual Spaces
 - Creative Storybooks / Activities
 - Missional Opportunities in Toddler Groups
3. **Supporting Faith Development in Young People**
 - **Date:** 8th November, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - **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.

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.

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

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](#)



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](#)



www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee



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



The
United
Reformed
Church
Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies

Receptionist Role



American
International
Church

American International Church is looking to add to our receptionist team to support our busy building with commercial events, church activities and community outreach every day.

We are seeking candidates with a friendly, professional manner; reliability; good communication skills; helpfulness; spatial awareness; confidence engaging with people from diverse walks of life; and attention to hospitality and security in engaging with members of the public.

Employment is casual, with shifts set in advance based on building needs. The building is usually open seven days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., with shifts generally a minimum of five hours. Weekend and evening availability is a must. Hourly pay at London Living Wage.

Minimum Qualifications: at least 18 years of age; physical requirement to move chairs and tables, lift delivery boxes, and walk stairs frequently; basic computer usage to handle email and MS Word documents. undergo the church's safer recruitment process, including a DBS check that confirms suitability for working in a position of trust.

Full job description available [here](#).

Please send letter of inquiry or resume to info@amchurch.co.uk.

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](#)