



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 16 July 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

Laura Templeton Exhibition at The Lumen Centre 6-30 July 2026
9am-4pm, Mon - Fri

Empowering those in the asylum system on 21 July 2026 at 6:45-8:45pm at Notre Dame Centre WC2H 7BX

Grange Park goes to Ramsgate Beach on Saturday 1 August 2026.
Book at 07944 871 416

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

Grange Park Holiday Club 10 - 14 August 2026.
stewartsheliesa@gmail.com

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

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>

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

Trinity Church Knebworth



On Sunday the Moderator led worship at Trinity Church, Knebworth to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Methodists and the United Reformed Church. He preached on the pearl of great value (pearl is the gift for a 30th anniversary) emphasising the pearls of the good news of Jesus Christ and unity. The celebrations continued after the service with a barbecue

Letchworth Free Church



GRACE LYDIA STABB

THE HISTORY OF LETCHWORTH FREE CHURCH CANNOT BE MENTIONED WITHOUT A PLACE BEING GIVEN TO MISS STABB, FOR IT WAS IN HER HOUSE "SYLVANCOT", BALDOCK ROAD THAT THE CHURCH WAS ACTUALLY BORN.

HERE IT WAS THAT A SMALL GROUP OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE MET AND DECIDED TO FORM A CHURCH WHICH SHOULD EMBRACE ALL DENOMINATIONS OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT IN THE GARDEN CITY.

FROM THAT SMALL BEGINNING, BY WAY OF THE PIXMORE INSTITUTE AND THE READING ROOM, THROUGH TO THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING WHICH WAS BUILT ON THE CORNER OF LEYS AVENUE AND GERON ROAD, AROSE THIS REMARKABLE CHURCH, TESTIFYING TO THE FREEDOM OF THE HUMAN CONSCIENCE AND OVER-RIDING DENOMINATIONAL BARRIERS

MISS STABB WAS INVOLVED IN MANY WOMENS MOVEMENTS AND FORMED THE WOMENS PLEASANT AFTERNOON, KNOWN AS THE W.P.A FOR THE WOMEN OF LETCHWORTH FREE CHURCH.



On Sunday afternoon the Moderator led a service of celebration for the life of Letchworth Free Church which will be closing after 121 years of witness and worship at the end of the month. About a hundred members past and present along with friends from other Letchworth churches and churches in the Local Area Group gathered to lift their voices in worship and thanksgiving and to share precious memories.



A reminder that our Synod Labyrinth is available free of charge to any church or group who would like to use it. The labyrinth is 7m x 7m and comes with a whole host of accessories and resources to enhance your event or programme. There are a number of churches who have already been blessed by the use of it. Please contact our Synod Discipleship Enabler Eddie Boon for more details or to book it via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Circus Equipment Required



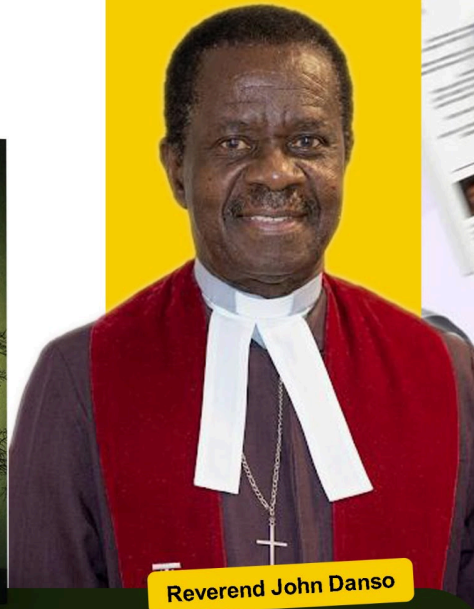
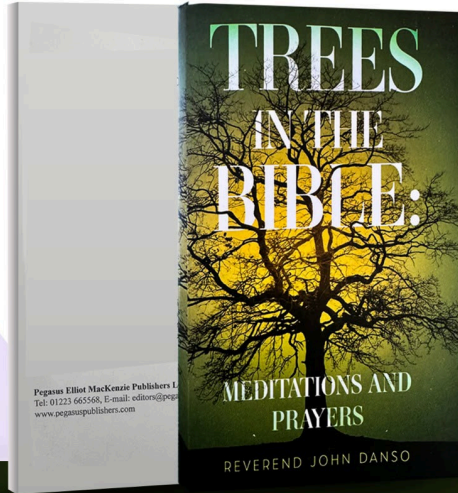
Lancaster Road URC are holding a Holiday Club in the 1st week in August and are looking to hire or borrow some circus skills equipment. They have looked around the local area for a company where they could hire but to no avail and wonder whether there is any church within the Synod who may have some that they could use.

Photo by [Centre for Ageing Better](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What's On

BOOK LAUNCH

Be My
Guest!



Reverend John Danso

8th August '26
12:00pm Prompt

**Grange Park United
Reformed Church**
Grange Park Road
Leyton, London. E10 5EP

Special Guests:
Revd Mrs. Rose Okoe Abbey
Revd DS Dzandu- Hedidor
Revd. Dr. Andrew Prasad



The United Reformed Church Leading Your Church Into Growth Conference

Highgate House, Northampton
23rd - 25th November

Contact Eddie Boon
disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

£330 per delegate including
materials & accommodation.
Contact your Synod for funding options.



The URC Leading Your Church Into Growth team are pleased to tell you that the URC LyCiG Conference will happen again this year! **Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG)** has been equipping and encouraging local churches for over 30 years, helping congregations across denominations become healthier, more outward-looking, and more confident in their calling to grow. Rooted in biblical principles and practical experience, LyCiG focuses not on doing more, but on doing things better—more intentionally, prayerfully, and effectively.

At the heart of LyCiG is its **three-day conference**, the main focal point for local churches and their leaders. Significantly there is a growing commitment across the URC to this shared journey of renewal and growth. It is recommended that a church sends its Minister (if it has one) plus 2 or 3 people from the church. The conference is **interactive and discussion-led**, creating space for teams to reflect honestly on their

church life and explore practical ways forward. It centres on the **seven building blocks of church growth**, including:

- Praying intentionally for growth
- Assessing the quality of welcome and worship
- Reviewing provision for children and young people
- And other key aspects of healthy church life

Through **hands-on activities**, participants are helped to apply these principles within their own context. Alongside this, **short, inspiring sessions** share both biblical insights and practical ideas, giving churches confidence that growth is both possible and faithful. By the end of the conference, each church team leaves with a **clear, realistic plan**, renewed vision, and a sense of confidence that their church can grow.

Following the conference, churches can continue the journey through **LyCiG Local**, which takes the material explored at the conference and works through it at a slower pace. This enables teams to **involve more people from their congregation**, deepen their reflection, and build a sustainable plan for growth, all within a clear and supportive structure.

This year's conference runs 23rd to 25th November at Highgate House, Northampton. The information is on the attached poster/flyer. If you could gather all your bookings and do them all at once please, that would be excellent. Your Synod will be invoiced at the end of November at £330 per person. (Creative funding could use EM3 or DDF to subsidise). Bookings are limited to 10 per Synod - if you need more than this, please contact Emma [**lycig@urcmerseysynod.org.uk**](mailto:lycig@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)

Please get bookings in by **2nd November**. [**www.ticketsource.com/urc-lycig**](http://www.ticketsource.com/urc-lycig)



What's your *favourite hymn* for life's special moments?

Help build a library of well-loved hymns used in churches for occasional offices.



Baptisms



Weddings



Funerals



**We'd love to
hear from you!**

Tell us your favourite hymn for baptisms, weddings or funerals and why it means so much to you.



Share your hymn and the story behind it by completing our survey.

Your voice will help shape a resource celebrating the faith and song of our churches.

Complete the survey here:

bit.ly/WFOChymnsurvey

Please complete by 15th August.

The Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (of which the URC is a member) is holding a consultation on well loved hymns used for **baptisms, weddings, and funerals** amongst its member churches.

This will feed into a conference on these "occasional offices" which The Rev'd Andy Braunston will be going to later on this year. We are engaging in a two part survey - the first part asks for people to list their favourite hymns for **these types of services** and to say why. Later we will put the entries to a vote. You can take part by clicking on this link and then clicking on the blue "modify" button and popping your favourite for one, or all, of the types of services on to the document. Please also say why. There are some entries already up so you get the general idea.

There's no need (or way) to save the document as it does this automatically. **If you struggle with the document you can also email your response to me via Andy.Braunston@urc.org.uk**

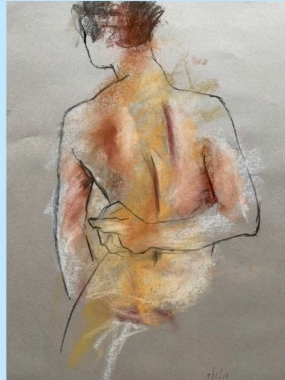
An Invitation to Lay Preachers

Revd Andy Braunston is offering a Seminar for Lay Preachers on Monday 27th July at 7.30. The seminar will look at the worship material the URC offers for September. General Assembly recently commended the marking of the *Feast of Creation in Christ* on the first Sunday in September and he will explore the new Lectionary readings for that Sunday. He will also explore the material on offer for the rest of the month showing how it might be worked to have a Creationtide theme running throughout. He hopes to offer such seminars each month for upcoming material - one in August will look at the October material.

Those who wish to come should read [this note](#) about the Lectionary and read the [Worship Notes](#) for September which should be published by the end of next week. Andy will explore how to build worship around the themes of Creation, which other resources are available, which hymns might work well, and explore any pitfalls with the readings. The session will last for 60 minutes and will just focus on September's material (next month he'll focus on October's.) You can join by going to this [link](#) (on the night only please). The virtual doors will open at 7.25 for a 7.30 start.



Art Laura Templeton Exhibition



The Lumen Centre
88 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RS

6 – 30 July

**9am – 4pm
Mon–Fri**

**Open Evening
10 July 6.30–8.30pm**



 [laura-templeton-artwork](https://www.instagram.com/laura-templeton-artwork)

 laura@templeton.me.uk



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

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

The United Reformed Church
Thames North Synod

AGES 14-25 YRS

YOUTH BBQ

GAMES, FOOD, WORSHIP, CRAFTS & MUSIC!

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 2026

VENUE:
Lumen Community
88 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RT
England

CONTACTS:

- Lorraine : 07716 640575
- cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk
- Stan & Ore : youthrep.thamesnorth@gmail.com

BRING YOUR YOUTH GROUP AND COME HUNGRY!

Scan the QR or use link to join

<https://forms.office.com/e/ksb49kDFr8>

Copy link

Registration ends on the 1st of August

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/nKrQAEtM28XosXbmg7>

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](#).



SYNOD SAFEGUARDING

training

JUNE

WED 17TH 6-8.30PM- INTERMEDIATE

TUES 23RD 2-4.30PM INTERMEDIATE

THURS 25TH 6-8.30PM INTERMEDIATE

JULY

WED 15TH 6-8.30PM COMBINED

MON 20TH 10-12.30PM COMBINED

THURS 16TH 10-12PM ADVANCED PT 1

THURS 23RD 10-12.30PM ADVANCED PT2

AUGUST

WED 12TH AUG 10-12PM COMBINED

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



The
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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

July

Wed 15th July 6-8.30pm Combined

Mon 20th July 10-12.30pm Combined

Thurs 16th July 10-12pm Advanced pt1

Thurs 23rd July 10-12.30pm Advanced pt2

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/6cltwe2kpk65biriqdva/https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kpk65biriqdva/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**
 - **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.



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

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: moderatorspace@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Convenor of the URC Net Zero Task Group

Could you help lead the United Reformed Church (URC) in its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint?

The Convenor of the Net Zero Task Group (NZTG) has a key role in coordinating the work of the Net Zero Task Group to provide support, advice and encouragement to the whole of the URC, to help lead the denomination towards a net zero carbon future.

We're looking for a Convenor who will bring their own experience, drive and perspectives to the NZTG, while also releasing these in others within the task group. The Convenor should be a URC member (lay or ordained).

Closing Date 27 July 2026

More details and application form available here:

<https://urc.org.uk/jobs/#volunteer>

Treasuring the whole of creation is part of our five marks of mission as Christians, and we do want our actions to line up with our words: General Assembly in 2022 committed to reducing our carbon footprint with urgency.

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](#)