



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 16 October 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

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

Theology of Worship Group, Liturgy: the work of the people? on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7:30-9:30pm, please email the address below to receive the link - rgoldring23@gmail.com

Stories of Kindness from Bangladesh on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 5pm at BLOC, Arts One, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road E1 4NS.

For Goodness' Sake! on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 10.25am-4.30pm at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. [Book](#)

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents: New Testament Parables in Lectionary Year A Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS

Date: Saturday, 15 November 2025

Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm Ola Lawal, lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Faithful Adaptation - How God changes the Church's mind on ethics on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 5:30pm at the Farringdon Room at the St Bride Foundation EC47 8EQ. clerk.cmht@gmail.com

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

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

18 October 2025 Venue: Lumen

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA
17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

Take a Moment to Breathe



As members of the Green Team, we often remind ourselves that nature's gifts are closer than we think. Our local parks, greenways, and

woodlands offer a sanctuary for the soul—no travel required.

Whether it's a quiet walk, listening to the wind rustling through leaves, or watching the dappled sunlight dance through the trees, these moments are simple yet profound. Children delight in the joy of a fallen branch sword fight or the thrill of batting conkers and acorns through the woods. These are not just playful activities; they are opportunities to reconnect with creation and with each other.

Spending time in nature has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, while boosting mood and life satisfaction. It's a reminder that caring for our environment also nurtures our well-being.

Whether alone or with family, take a moment to enjoy the green spaces nearby. Let the breeze, the sunlight, and the laughter of children be a reminder: this is your time to breathe, to be present, and to celebrate God's creation.

For inspiration and ideas, visit WWF's Prescription for Nature:
<https://www.wwf.org.uk/prescription-for-nature/active-in-nature>

Grab a coaster, please!

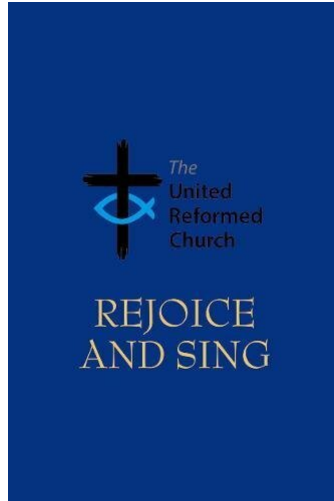


Start a conversation over a coffee, tea, or something else... The URC in association with Ugly Duckling wants to get a million conversations going between people of faith and those somewhere else on the journey. And

we think our question-starter coasters are a brilliant way of getting the chat going. So does Premier Radio! <https://ow.ly/tiQ750X90Rh>

Haven't seen them yet? Contact your synod office.

Rejoice and Sing



Eddie Boon is looking to put together a small stock of about 20 Rejoice and Sing hymn books for one of our churches. If you can help or know of anyone who has a surplus or is looking to dispose of any please contact Eddie on disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk Collection can be arranged.

What's On

**Webinar: inspire your church to act
for a just peace**



Christian Aid says 'Join us as we debut new films and resources to inspire your church to act. As churches we may shy away from talking about Israel and Palestine, seeing it as too difficult or controversial to talk about.

Our new Just Peace films and resources can help you and your church start a conversation.

In this webinar you'll get
an update on the current situation
a screening of the new films
resources for your church
to hear from UK Christians pursuing a just peace

You can register by clicking the following link [Webinar: inspire your church to act for a just peace - Christian Aid](#)



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

Liturgy: the work of the people?

Speaker - Revd Sue McCoan

Sue is a recently retired URC minister who served in pastorates in the Sutton Coldfield and West London areas. She writes hymns and prayers and recently served as one of the editors of the URC Prayer Handbook.

Date: Tuesday 4th November 2025

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

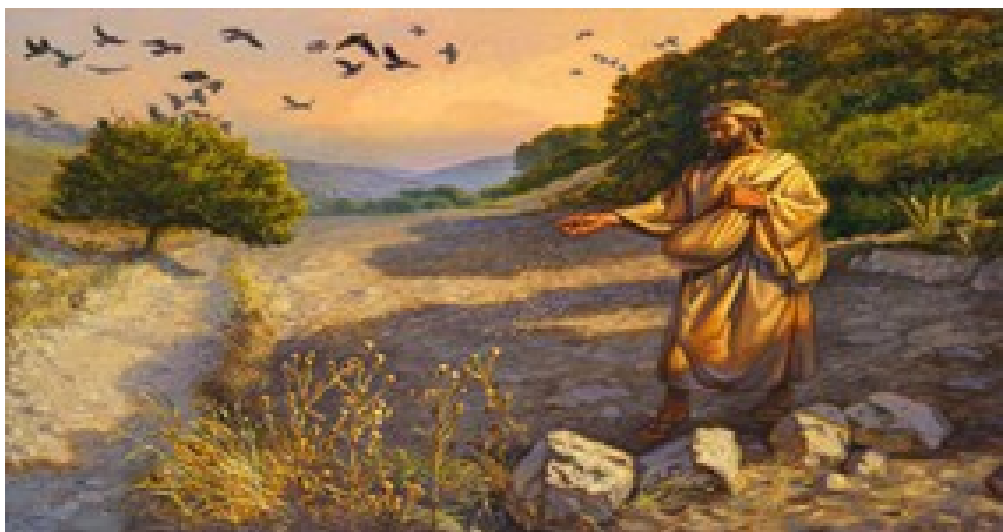
At this meeting she will be looking at the role of the congregation in shaping the worship of the church. How do we know if our worship is meeting their needs? What balance might we strike between being welcoming new ideas and maintaining theological integrity? Do we embrace the surrounding culture or stand counter to it? And how do we deal with different desires and competing needs within the congregation?

The Theology of Worship Group is an informal group of people interested in exploring the practice and nature of worship today. We hold three or four meetings a year when an invited speaker presents a topic followed by an opportunity to discuss in short groups and plenary.

Group meetings are open to anyone interested in the theology of worship in the church today. If you have not registered with the Group and would like to attend this meeting, please email the address below to receive the link -

rgoldring23@gmail.com

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents: New Testament Parables in Lectionary Year A



**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, 15.11.2025

Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm

Parables in the New Testament are stories to which we can return time and again and find something nourishing for our faith. We will explore together with Hannah, some parables from Lectionary Year A, getting curious about them and making the familiar unfamiliar so that we can hear more of what Jesus might be saying through these short stories. We'll think prayerfully about how parables are a resource for our own spiritual lives and practically about how we can bring them into our preaching and ministry - through discussion, teaching, and time to reflect.

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**](mailto:lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

London Churches Refugee Fund Christmas Cards & Gift Cards 2025



*'Joy & Peace' Christmas Card.
The elegant "Dove with
Christmas trees" image
was painted by a refugee
friend who is a community
member of a refugee project
which is regularly supported
by LCRF grants*

*'Shepherds' Christmas Card
This evocative Christmas
Night scene was painted by
Jenny Scoones who is a
Core Volunteer with LCRF*



LCRF supports destitute asylum seekers in London.

Buying our Christmas Cards & Gifts makes a real difference to the lives of those in desperate need

- ❖ **Two beautiful Christmas cards** – see images above
- ❖ **Welcome Gifts** purchased on behalf of family & friends help destitute refugees with phone credit, food, and warm clothing, as you offer the gifts of friendship, hope and love
- ❖ **A stunning Wall Print: "The Flight to Egypt"**

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see the full range and buy safely online

Click to see full range and buy

Safeguarding Training 2026

URC Website Safeguarding

The URC has revamped the training area on the URC website and [here](#) you can tap into information on the training matrix, bespoke short course offerings and much more.

Bespoke bite-sized courses - these are short supplementary courses (2 hours delivered on Zoom) and we'd like to highlight the following short courses for the rest of the year:

Monday 20 October 1.00-3.00pm **Adult Safeguarding**

Monday 17 November 1.00-3.00pm **Online Safety**

Thursday 20 November 7.00-9.00pm **DBS Verifying and Safer Recruitment.**

Please book via [Emma Pearce](#) stating your name, church, role and course.

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](#)

 The United Reformed Church Safeguarding
www.urc.org.uk


From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies

Regional Children's Work Specialist

Job Advert

Regional Children's Work Specialist Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church

Full time – 35 hours per week (flexible, including some evenings and weekends)

Annual salary - £38 – £43,000 pa depending on experience

Do you have the skills and experience to support local churches in their engagement with children?

Are you looking to work in a team to enable children to fully share in the life of the Church?

Can you come alongside local churches to help them discover and live out their mission?

We are seeking an experienced children's worker for a regional role for the United Reformed Church in East Anglia as part of an interdisciplinary Mission Team supporting local churches in their mission and ministry. You would be our Mission Practitioner (Children's Work).

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a Christian.

Office based, with some working from home permissible, and a Full driving license as regular travel around the Synod is an essential requirement.

An application pack can be accessed via the Synod website:

www.urceastern.org.uk or by emailing Marion Gentry on admin@urceastern.org.uk

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.

Closing date for applications is **4pm on Monday 17th November**.

Interviews will be held on **Friday 28th November**

As part of the interview, you are asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation, as if to a local church, on your choice of subject to display the essential knowledge and skills and abilities listed in the person specification. (The panel will not be role playing, but a discussion will follow about the content, assumptions, method etc.)

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)