



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 17 July 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

Online quiet day: attending to the presence of God on 26 July 2025 10:30 to 16:00. Venue: Online. Book at: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-3/#em-event-booking-form

Extreme Love in Extreme Times on Wednesday 6 August 2025 at 4pm (doors open at 3:30pm) at Seedbed Centre Renewal Programme, 395 High St North, Manor Park E12 6PG.

The NEW Church Leadership Programme (CLP) Taster Session on Wednesday 13th August from 19:00-20:00 on Zoom. Email Christine to register your interest – christine.hufton@lutherking.ac.uk

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions - Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 19:30 to 21:30 via Zoom training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Youth Mental Health First Aid 22 September - 1 October www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

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

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

News

Message from Anna Barrett, Green Apostle



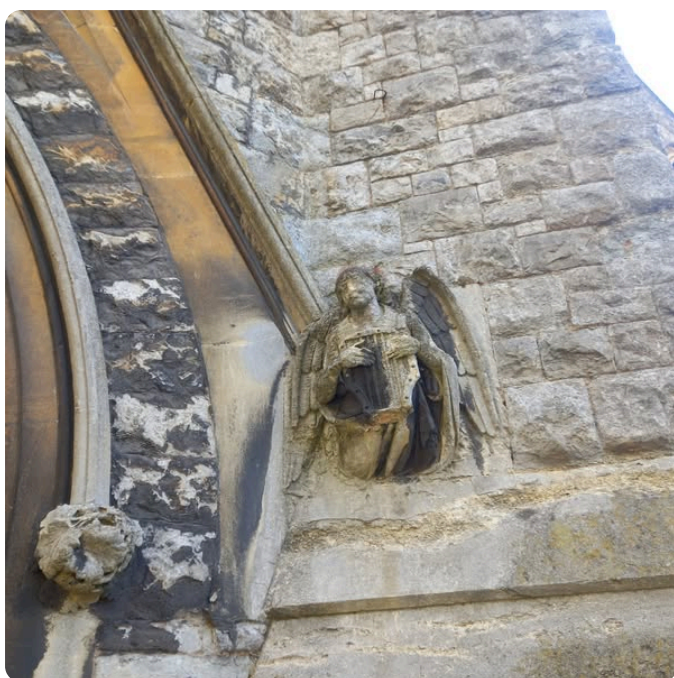
Last week, at the Climate Coalitions Mass Lobby, I enjoyed meeting and talking to my MP, Daisy Cooper. It is always inspirational to meet up with others who are taking action for Creation as Daisy is undoubtedly doing.

The group in the photo also particularly caught my attention. With the recent MET office report on climate change stating that the weather extremes we have experienced over the last few years are the 'new normal' it is good to see such a group taking action. Their website states: Our Grandchildren's Climate (www.ourgrandchildrensclimate.org) are senior citizens (including, but not only, grandparents), who are trying to ensure that the world in which future generations will grow up will be safe, healthy and just.

With the Season of Creation approaching, and if you are a Grandparent or senior citizen it may be very worthwhile exploring their website to get some ideas for actions you could take or even join in with some of theirs!



Christ Church United Reformed Church, Chase Side in Enfield, was built on the site of two adjacent 18th century chapels, that united in 1871. The new church was designed by John Tarring, and was completed by the minister, Henry Storer Toms, who climbed the scaffolding to affix the weather vane to the top of the 180 foot spire. It was dedicated in November 1875.



Funeral Details - Keith Webster

Thursday July 31 at 4.00pm at the North Oxfordshire Crematorium

The service will be streamed live and available on demand at

<https://watch.obitus.com>

User Name: cufu2798

Password 697155

What's On



EXTREME LOVE IN EXTREME TIMES

WHEN

Wednesday, August 6
@ 4pm GMT+1 (doors
open @ 3:30pm)

WHERE

Seedbed Centre
Renewal Programme
395 High St North
Manor Park E126PG
(London, UK)

WHAT

Shane Claiborne will speak on Christian activism and how to make a difference in your community.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



Vital Link Summer 2025 'Love that moves'

Welcome to the Vital Link summer '25 update from Through the Roof.

Exploring the 2025 theme 'Made in God's Image', we've focused on one key word per issue. This time, we focus on 'God' and His nature, and that 'God is love' (1 John 4:8).

Read on for our top stories, or [download the full PDF](#), read the online [Joomag version](#) or [contact us](#) for other accessible formats.



In the heart of Kolkata (Calcutta), India, where some of the world's most vulnerable people live, our Wheels for the World team with partner, Sathyam Ministries, brought more than just mobility aids – they brought dignity, hope, and the tangible love of God. Each wheelchair given was a message: 'You are seen. You are valued. You are loved.'

Kolkata is home to thousands of disabled people, many of whom are hidden away or forgotten. But God never forgets. Alongside mobility equipment, the team shared the hope of Christ – handing out Bibles, audio Bibles, and messages of encouragement that lifted spirits as much as the wheelchairs lifted lives.

Picture the moment when someone who has spent years confined indoors finally wheels into the open air – a child beaming, an elderly man waving at neighbours. It's the joy of movement, of connection, of belonging. And it's holy ground.



Take Lolly – bright, resilient, full of purpose. Polio took her ability to walk as a baby, and she was abandoned shortly after. But God placed her in a loving children’s home where she discovered faith, family, and her calling. Today, she’s an award-winning social worker who calls herself “a beautiful butterfly with broken wings.” With her new self-propelling wheelchair and sturdy crutches, she’s more ready than ever to spread God’s love to others on the margins. See Lolly on the donation form (at end of PDF).

Then there’s Gourab, an 11-year-old boy who cannot walk or speak. His mother had carried him everywhere, without support or options. But love intervened. With care, teamwork, and prayer, the team fitted him with a custom wheelchair. As his mother wheeled him out – both of them smiling, perhaps for the first time in a long time – their faces said it all: this is what freedom looks like.

Thanks to your support, communities are living out the ABC of disability inclusion: Access to mobility, Belonging in community, and Commission to flourish. This is what love looks like when it moves – and when it mirrors the heart of God.

Please consider donating to enable Through the Roof to continue its vital mission.

[Follow this link](#) for ways to donate to TTR.

And remember Disability Awareness Sunday on 28 September 2025.

The NEW Church Leadership Programme (CLP) Taster Session

We are delighted to be able to share that the CLP course has been revised and updated and is now being offered, through Northern College, from September 2025. More details can be found here:

<https://northerncollege.co.uk/learning/training-for-lay-people/church-leadership/>

Taster Session

Join Northern College for a taster session on Wednesday 13th August from 19:00-20:00 on Zoom. You will get a flavour of what you can expect from the course and the opportunity to ask questions.

Please email Christine to register your interest –

christine.hufton@lutherking.ac.uk

The Church Leadership Programme (CLP) is a year-long learning journey designed for lay and ordained leaders in URC churches and community contexts. It is delivered through a blend of online learning and three residential weekends held in Manchester.

CLP encourages you to explore reflective practice as a foundation for sustaining healthy leadership in ministry. It aims to deepen your theoretical and practical understandings of reflective practice, by engaging with a range of perspectives including theological, biblical, and psychological approaches.

Experiential learning is central to this programme and will be fostered in several ways:

- A regular reflective space led by your tutor, creating an environment for shared reflection and discussion
- Self-reflective tasks designed to help you personalise your engagement with the material
- A reflective journal, maintained throughout the programme, which will form a key part of allowing you to integrate your learning into the heart of your ongoing ministerial practice

By the end of the programme, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of reflective practice and its application to leadership in your context
- Apply reflective practices to bring insight, transformation, and growth into your leadership and ministry
- Gain a clearer understanding of your strengths, vulnerabilities, and development needs as a leader

CLP is beginning in September 2025. To register your interest and for more information, please contact christine.hufton@lutherking.ac.uk. If you would like to register for the course, please download the registration form. Fees and funding options can be found in Section 8 of the form.

To submit your registration form, or to discuss tuition and/or funding further, please email ministries@urc.org.uk – registration close at 12pm on Saturday 30th August 2025

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Revd Jenny Mills (she/her)
Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action)
United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
0207 520 2720 or 07769201978 | jenny.mills@urc.org.uk |
www.urc.org.uk

Online quiet day: attending to the presence of God



26 July 2025 10:30 to 16:00
Venue: Online

How can we become more attentive to the presence of God? with Mark Argent

We'll explore some of the ways people have found helpful to deepen their sense of the presence of God.

Occasionally that's a powerful "mountain top" experience that turns life upside down and sends us off on new paths. But few of us could stand that happening very often, and experiences of God are usually much more gentle — often so gentle that they are easily missed.

Some people find stillness helps — that's been described as "getting out of God's way" or recognising that God is working when we're not. Others talk of observing — gently attending to what is going on and gradually becoming more aware — as a place where meditation begins.

Many of the traditional ways of praying, such as imagining oneself into a Bible story, or staying with a passage of scripture, are also ways into stillness and attentiveness.

During the day we'll spend some time together on screen, and some time away from our computers, praying, spending some time in stillness and some time attending to what is around us in our normal spaces.

We'll use some of the readings of the day, Psalm 85, Hosea 1:11-2:15, and Luke 8:22-25 which tells of Jesus calming the storm:

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement, they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Please book at: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-3/#em-event-booking-form



You are invited to join us for our

New Window Dedication Service
"our journey, our future"

Saturday 26th July 2025 @ 3pm

Vine United Reformed Church
Riches Road
Ilford, IG1 1JH.

Service will be followed with
Light refreshments
Limited parking available

RSVP:
vinechurch@btconnect.com
020 8514 8770

To book your place

Vacancies

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 minister.kensington.urc@gmail.com

Tel .07738 766677

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
For informal inquiries, please contact our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson
revdmarkr@gmail.com.

Visit our website: 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

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>

Zoom Intermediate Safeguarding Training

Saturday 2nd August 2025 - 10.30am – 1.00pm

Advanced Safeguarding Training

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

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

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