



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 19 March 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

Presiding at Holy Communion - Initial Training for Elders seeking Authorisation on Saturday 28 March 2026 from 10:30-12:30 at Lumen.

Ministry Enquirers - Learn what God might be asking of you webinar on 11 April 2026 on Zoom at 9:30am to 12:30pm email: ministries@urc.org.uk

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

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](#).

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

21 March 2026 Venue: The Lumen Community
17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

News & Information



On Sunday the Moderator received a warm welcome at Ponders End United Reformed Church as he led worship for Mothering Sunday. The theme was 'What do you see?' The congregation was encouraged to see others through the lens of love.



LR: Alex Jackson (Glanville), Nagin Karsan (Ash), Ahmed Abdulkareem (Ash), Daniel Almond (CPL), Matthew Cox (Ash), Ruth Moriarty (Baptist), David Skipp (URC), Andrew Mills (URC), Francis Mudford (Baptist), Andy Moulding (Lester Partnership).

Major £3.4 Million Renovation Project Begins to Transform Grade II Listed Church and Community Hub

LONDON, UK — Work has officially commenced on a transformative £3.4 million building project at Christ Church New Southgate and Friern Barnet Baptist/URC, a historic church site on Friern Barnet Road, N11.

The extensive scheme will revitalise the Grade II listed landmark, creating a modern, eco-conscious facility designed to serve the entire local community.

The project features a total renovation of the existing hall alongside the creation of several new high-specification facilities, including a secondary small hall, versatile meeting rooms, a welcoming foyer, and a new courtyard garden. By physically connecting the hall and the church, the development will establish a unified, secure site for all visitors.

As a heritage-listed building, the project prioritises sensitive restoration. Skilled workers will restore the original stonework and brickwork, as well as the signature wooden lantern situated in the centre of the roof.

A Commitment to Sustainability and Accessibility

In a significant move toward environmental responsibility, the site is being redeveloped with a focus on "green" infrastructure. Modern upgrades include the use of renewable energy; installation of air-source heat pumps and solar panels, effective water management; implementation of new sustainable waste-water systems and site wide accessibility; comprehensive landscaping to provide step-free access to the church's main doors while preserving the site's mature trees.

Minister Rev'd Dr Ruth Moriarty said at the breaking ground ceremony on 18 March: 'We pray our church will be place of blessing in our community as a sign of God's justice and peace to all.'

Christ Church is a Baptist and United Reformed Church (URC) partnership which merged from two churches to become one in 1994. The development project was funded by the sale of a Baptist church site; Grove Road Hall, New Southgate and grants from Thames North Synod URC. Church architects **CPL** (cplarchitects.co.uk) and **Ash Contracting** (ashltd.biz) are completing the works.

Contact:

[Ruth Moriarty]

[Rev Dr]

[revruthm@gmail.com]

[christchurchnsfb.org]

Green News



As we reach the fourth week of Lent, we arrive at a gentle turning point in the season. The journey of reflection and repentance begins to open into anticipation—of joy, of new life, of resurrection. Here in the UK, the world around us mirrors that shift. Snowdrops give way to crocuses, and now daffodils and primroses brighten our days. Fresh green foliage is already with us, even as we await the full leafing of trees and shrubs.

This in-between time invites us to notice both what is present and what is still to come.

As part of the Green Team, and in my role caring for our buildings, I am reminded that renewal is not only about what grows, but also about how we care for what has already been given. Our churches and homes are made from the very elements of creation—stone, timber, metal and water—drawn from the earth and shaped for worship, shelter and community. To maintain them well is an act of stewardship, honouring those gifts and ensuring they endure.

Building care can be simple and practical. There are three key elements to maintenance:

- **Inspection:** regularly checking buildings to assess their condition and identify any issues early
- **Regular maintenance tasks:** such as clearing gutters, testing services, watching for damp, and caring for the outdoor spaces
- **Minor repairs:** addressing small issues promptly—like slipped tiles, broken glass, or temporary weatherproofing—before they become larger problems.

These small, consistent actions help extend the life of our buildings and reduce waste, supporting our wider care for creation. Further helpful guidance can be found here: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/buildings-maintenance/regular-maintenance>

In this Lenten turning, as light increases and life stirs, may we be attentive both to the beauty around us and to the responsibilities we hold.

Sacha McArdle, Synod Property Officer and member of the Green Team.

Photo by [Filip Baotić](#) on [Unsplash](#)



What's On



Presiding at Holy Communion

Initial Training for Elders seeking Authorisation



Saturday 28 March 2026

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, in person

Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RS

Initial training in the
theology, liturgy and
practice of Communion
Presidency is offered to
Elders who have the
support of their local
church.

Upon completion of initial
training, Elders will need to
seek Authorisation from their
Local Area Group.

Led by:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer

To register, email:
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

To register



London
23 May 2026
2–5pm

Hope in our Hearts
Joy on the streets

A public and passionate celebration of Jesus on Pentecost weekend in London in 2026. Joining with the global movement of March for Jesus.

WHAT IS IT?

The Jesus March is a joyous, hopeful celebration of Jesus in London. The global movement of March for Jesus, which began in London in 1987, has continued around parts of the world and recently begun again across Europe. We are inviting you to join us as we relaunch March for Jesus in London this Pentecost weekend – this time called the Jesus March.

As the annual celebration of the birth of the church, of the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit and of thousands saved, Pentecost is the perfect date for the church to publicly celebrate Jesus, heal the spiritual atmosphere in our city, and raise hope and peace in our communities. There is a series of other significant Christian missions happening in the

run up to the Pentecost weekend and throughout it: the Jesus March is a perfect climax to draw everything together.

WHAT IS IT NOT?

- This is not a **protest** – we are not using this march to speak against any injustices or wrongs regarding the government of the UK, we are celebrating Jesus and lifting him up!
- This is not a **political** march – this is not left or right, and no political or national flags are allowed.
- This is not a **promotion** – there will be no money-making or products being pushed. No-one is promoting their own ministry or agenda.
-

WHERE IS IT?

The Jesus March will take place in central London. The route (pending police confirmation) is from **Marble Arch** and along **Piccadilly**, following a joyful mobile worship team on a float. We will end with an extended time of worship and prayer in **Trafalgar Square**.

Register your interest



Friday 29 May - Sunday 31 May 2026
Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire

Cost: £75 (£30 deposit
required at booking)
Age: 11 (must be in Year 7)
to 16 years

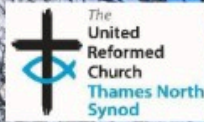
**Thames North, Southern & West Midlands
Synod Youth Residential 2026**



“WISE WORDS”

Book by 22 March
www.bit.ly/residential2026

Outdoor Activities
Creative Workshops
Games
Discussion
Worship



Thames North Synod URC

Eco Day

Saturday 13th June 2026

9.30am - 4pm

Amersham Free Church

Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

Nature on our Doorstep

Join fellow churchgoers from across the Synod in exploring animal and plant life, gardening skills, and energy saving.

Hear our gold medal winning 'Amersham in Bloom' describe how they transform public places for nature and people.

Come for a walk with us (optional!) through the woods to the River Misbourne, a chalk stream. 45 minutes of gentle walking, but bring strong shoes. We'll bus back.

Enjoy a delicious lunch - locally sourced produce, and home-made cakes for tea.

• For information email: Colleen Fraser at modpa@thamesnorthurc.org

Thames North Synod Eco Day: Nature on Our Doorstep

Saturday, June 13th, 2026 | 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AJ

Join us for the Thames North Synod Eco Day at Amersham Free Church! We're looking forward to welcoming fellow churchgoers for a day of eco-themed workshops and discussions. The church is a 10-minute walk from Amersham Station (Metropolitan and Chiltern lines). There is also parking available, with easy access via the M25.

Please contact Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk to let us know you're attending and to help us plan for lunch. Booking details will be provided later.

Programme Highlights:

9:30 AM: Arrival & registration (by 10:10 AM)

10:10 AM: Worship, followed by a presentation on "Transforming Public Places for Nature and People" by Amersham's gold medal-winning "Amersham in Bloom" volunteers.

Workshops on eco topics: drawing plant life, caring about hedgehogs, energy saving in our buildings, gardening, and hymn writing.

Lunch: Ploughman's style with vegan and gluten-free options.

Afternoon: Optional walk to the River Misbourne, with easy downhill walking (sturdy shoes needed). We'll take the bus back to the church in time for tea.

Final worship and plenary session.

Children are welcome! School age children will find plenty to interest them in the programme, and there will be a space for younger ones to play.

We look forward to spending the day with you!

Please [click here](#) to download a poster to display in your church – Thank you!

Safeguarding Training 2026

Synod Safeguarding Training

ADVANCED

Part 1 Mon 23rd Mar 10-12pm

Part 2 Mon 30th Mar 10-12.30

(both sessions are required to be attended)

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.

You will see that there is a COMBINED safeguarding module. This is the Foundation and Intermediate module in one. If you need to do both modules, that training shortens the amount of sessions that need to be completed. If you *only* need to complete the Foundation or *only* the Intermediate modules, **please do not** book on to that module, but rather complete the Foundation eLearning (link below) and book an Intermediate only date to attend.

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](#)



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

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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



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www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies

URC Resources Hub & Helpdesk Coordinator

- London (Hybrid)
- Permanent contract, Full-time, 35 hours per week
- Salary: Circa £38,599 – £40,180 per annum
- Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Wednesday 15 April 2026
- Interview date: Tuesday 28 April 2026

Job Advert

We are seeking a proactive and organised Hub and Helpdesk Coordinator to oversee the day-to-day operation of the URC Resources Hub and deliver an efficient, user-focused helpdesk service.

In this role, you will be the first point of contact for enquiries, triaging and tracking queries through to resolution and escalating issues as needed. You will monitor Hub performance, flag content and technical issues, maintain service documentation and coordinate closely with the relevant teams and users to ensure a consistent and reliable service. The role also involves preparing regular performance reports and escalating risks or development needs, helping to support continuous improvement of the Hub's operations.

The successful candidate will demonstrate excellent judgement, strong risk awareness and confident use of IT tools. You will have outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to manage a complex workload within the tight deadlines and the confidence to act on your initiative when appropriate.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who thrives in a service-oriented digital environment. We offer you a flexible and friendly hybrid work environment from the Office of General Assembly in London and from home.

Apply for this post

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please read the job description and complete the job application form.

- [Job description \(PDF | 149kb\)](#)
- [Job application form \(Word | 975kb\)](#)

Send the completed job application form to: recruitment@urc.org.uk
Please note, we do not accept CVs.

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



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