THAMES NORTH SYNOD
NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 19 November 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

Preaching Paul: bringing the letters of Paul to life for our day on Saturday 21 November 2026 10:30am - 12:30pm at Lumen lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Leading your Church into Growth (LvCiG) Conference from 23-25 November 2026 at Highgate House. Book with Eddie at disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions Please note that the previously publicised taster sessions have been postponed until June 2027. For further information, contact the Training and Development Officer: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Presiding at Holy Communion - Refresher Training for Authorised Elders (Hybrid) on Saturday 28 November 2026 11:00am -1:00pm at Lumen

Elders seeking Authorisation to Preside at Holy Communion, Initial Training on Saturday 28 November 2026 2:00-4:30pm at Lumen

Holiday Forum Winter Social on Saturday 28 November 2026 between 7pm and 9:30pm
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83442638466?pwd=sakvj4u7X3xbtyYQFIH5nm2YukxgJI.1
Meeting ID: 834 4263 8466
Passcode: 372218

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -
20 March and 16 October 2027 venue Lumen Community

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

Information and News

Nominate LCRF Now!



Dear friend of LCRF,
1) Please will you nominate the London Churches Refugee Fund for a £1000 share in the Benefact Group Charity Draw!
2) To nominate LCRF Please follow the link below to the "Benefact Group Movement for Good" online Nomination Form..
3) The Benefact Group is a highly reputable organisation and the Trustees of LCRF have already personally nominated our charity on the Benefact website and we are now encouraging all our supporters to do the same.
4) The Draw closes on 15th December but please act now so you don't forget!
And PLEASE ask friends and family to nominate us too!
5) To Nominate LCRF : TAP the button below which will direct you to the on line nomination form.
Then enter the official name of LCRF which is "The London Churches Fund for Destitute Asylum Seekers" Charity number: 1121108
And the " Charity type" which is "Poverty":
and then follow the rest of the form filling giving your details.
Thank you so much,
Chris
Revd Chris Brice

Trustee LCRF
(and here’s hoping LCRF wins its £1000!)

Nominate LCRF

What's On

Eco Church Prayer Forum on 25 November



Eco Church Prayer Forum on 25 November
Praying together as an Eco Church community

Join us online on Wednesday 25 November from 12 - 1pm for an hour of encouragement, reflection, and prayer with the Eco Church community. Whether you’re brand new or have been part of Eco Church for years, you are so welcome!

Led by the A Rocha UK churches team, we’ll begin with a reflection before moving into smaller breakout groups to pray together. This month, we’ll be joined by Heather Poxon, Environmental Officer for The Salvation Army, who will be leading the reflection.

The prayer forum is a chance to meet others from across the Eco Church community, share stories, and pray for one another and for the work of caring for creation in our churches. You’re welcome to bring along any

prayer requests from your church's Eco Church journey. We'll share some prayer points to help guide your prayers, too.

Please register through Eventbrite to receive the Zoom joining details. The Zoom link will be emailed to registered attendees two days before and the morning of the event (via Eventbrite).

Book your place

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2027



'Do not be afraid'

Resources for WPCU 2027 are now available. Prepared by representatives of the churches in Ireland, they explore what it means to follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and how letting go of fear can be a catalyst for reconciliation and shared witness.

Read more



Register here

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents:
Preaching Paul: bringing the letters of Paul to life for our day



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, 21.11.2026
Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm

During our time at the Preachers' Circle, we will pay attention to the many voices and perspectives on Jesus that Paul's letters reveal to us - perspectives like Chloe's (1 Corinthians 1:11), Prisca's (1 Corinthians 16:19 and Romans 16:3-4), and Lydia's (Acts 16:11-40; Philippians), asking what they contributed to how Paul and others understood Jesus. We'll consider how paying attention to their perspectives shows us new things in Paul's letters we might not have seen before. And we'll explore how we can preach today on Paul's letters with awareness of the many people, both then and now, who are making sense of how Christ reshapes our lives.

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**

Elders seeking Authorisation

to Preside at Holy Communion, Initial Training





Saturday 28 November 2026

2:00 - 4:30 PM
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place,
London, WC1H 9RS

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

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

Co-led by:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer

John Campbell
Tutor and Minister

To register, email Julian Templeton
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Book your place



Some Important Safeguarding Updates

Training reminder
There are a few remaining training dates before the end of the year. If you or anyone on the church need to renew their training, please get in touch to book on. The training dates are here.

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



Safeguarding Training 2026

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/6cltwe2kpki65biriqdva/
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kpki65biriqdva/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.

Vacancies

URC vacancies may be found **here**.

Convenor of the Faith in Action Committee – United Reformed Church (volunteer)

An exciting opportunity to help lead the work of the URC's newest Core Committee, **Faith in Action**. The Faith in Action Committee brings together the work on mission and discipleship. It guides our staff team in delivering the Assembly's work that covers evangelism and ecumenism, public issues, racial justice and intercultural church, net zero, global ministries and inter faith, ministry with children and young people, intergenerational discipleship, and lay learning. The staff team, based in the Offices of the General Assembly, is focused on serving the synods and local churches through their work.

As Convenor, you will chair the committee, support the team as they develop the Faith in Action strategy based on the 5 Marks of Mission, take its business to General Assembly and Assembly Executive, and help build a diverse, inclusive membership.

Commitment: Four committee meetings a year, two online and two in person, plus General Assembly, Assembly Executive and Business Committee meetings. Planning or follow up meetings in between. Induction, training and admin support are provided, and expenses are reimbursed.

To find out more or apply go to https://urc.org.uk/jobs/ and scroll down to Volunteer posts where you will find more information and an application form. DEADLINE for applications: 30th November 2026.

Link to application form:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/u3p2amj2gzlmopdjuuc42/Application-Form-FiA-Committee-Convenor.docx?rlkey=ucyqzk1km345kbarrm7368jir&st=785uv5fl&dl=0

If you would like more information about the role or an informal conversation, please contact jenny.mills@urc.org.uk who is the Deputy General Secretary (Faith in Action) or Sarah Lane-Cawte at slanecawte@gmail.com who is the current Faith in Action Committee Convenor.

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