



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 2 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

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

Grange Park URC Annual BBQ on Saturday 29 August 2026 from 1pm to 5pm. More information at 07944 871 416

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

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



Practical support has arrived with the launch of the new URC Resources Hub and Helpdesk. Designed to help with the administrative, legal, and compliance tasks involved in managing employees, volunteers, buildings, events, and more, it frees you to focus on your local mission. Visit www.urcresourceshub.org.uk to find out more.



What does church
membership
look like?
Have your say!

What does church membership look like, especially for children and young people? Whatever your age, share your thoughts in this special survey, created by the URC's Children and Youth Development Officers with members of Youth Executive. Have your say, 1-31 July <https://bit.ly/urcMEMBER>

Racial Justice Advocates



Advocates championing racial justice gathered at Lumen in London on 15 June to shape the next phase of their work and renew their collective commitment. The meeting highlighted both strategy and impact, from plans for ongoing advocacy to updates from across the wider church. **[Learn more about the Racial Justice Advocates.](#)**

New season: Politics in the Pulpit

New Season

Eddie Boon

Politics in
the Pulpit 



jpit.uk/politicsinthepulpit



We are delighted to welcome **Eddie Boon** as our new host of the podcast for **July-August 2026**! Eddie grew up in Bournemouth and began to follow Jesus Christ when 16 years of age. He currently lives in East London serving the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church as Discipleship Enabler (Special Category Ministry).

For nearly 40 years Eddie has served and led URC congregations in East Manchester, Haydock & St. Helens, St Mary Cray in Southeast London, Hythe in Hampshire and has served on a number of regional and national committees over the years, and has experience of ministry in the Church of South India. He holds a master's degree in applied theology (Christian Leadership) and has recently undertaken a Sabbatical qualitative research project looking at longevity in ministry. He is a massive fan of Everton FC, Hampshire County Cricket and the band The Stranglers. He loves to swim, cycle, walk, go to the theatre, cinema, and art galleries and take part in book clubs locally. Listen to [Eddie's first episode](#) available **NB from Monday 6th July**.

Bishop's Visits Strengthen Luton Inter-faith Partnerships



Above: The Newland URC Minister Revd Naomi Young-Rodas (3rd from right), with The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE, Bishop of Bedford (R), and The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Ismail Anilmis (3rd from left) outside Luton Central Mosque, the fourth and final place of worship visited in Luton.

Luton's strong tradition of inter-faith friendships and cooperation was on full display, as The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE, Bishop of Bedford, representing the C of E St Albans Diocese, visited places of worship across the town recently.

The Bishop was accompanied by The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Ismail Anilmis, The Deputy Lieutenants Alison Bradbury and Deborah Inskip, Director of St Mary's Centre for Peace & Reconciliation Peter Adams, the Newland URC Minister Revd Naomi Young-Rodas, the Church of the Holy Cross Parish Priest, Fr Emmanuel Nazir SSC, and the Luton Council of Faiths Chair Prof Zafar Khan.

Organised by Grassroots Luton, the Luton Council of Faiths, and Near Neighbours Programme, the visit reflected an ongoing commitment to bringing together people of different faiths, cultures, and backgrounds to foster understanding, trust, and resilience in an increasingly hostile world.

The programme included visits to Luton Turkish Community Association & Mosque, Guru Nanak Gurdwara (Sikh Temple), Bury Park Jamie Mosque,

and Luton Central Mosque.

At each place, the Bishop and the accompanying delegation, were warmly welcomed by host communities, offering opportunities to share our respective faith traditions, experiences, common aspirations, and build deeper and meaningful relationships.

“It was heartening to witness everyone’s shared commitment to community cohesion in Luton. Together, we reflected on shared values such as hospitality, service, peace, mutual respect, and compassion for all, while also acknowledging the important role faith communities play in supporting social cohesion”, stated the Newland URC Minister Revd Naomi Young-Rodas, who has just started her work in Luton.

She added that in the light of Belfast rioting after Henry Nowak’s murder, and the Edinburgh attacks sparking fears over rising anti-Muslim hostility In Britain, Bishop Richard’s messages of solidarity were reassuring for Luton’s Sikh & Muslim faith leaders. On behalf of Christians, he expressed gratitude for the Sikh and Muslim communities’ contributions to Luton, and recognised their important role in strengthening community life locally, and beyond.

Luton has long been recognised for its proactive approach to inter-faith engagement. Organisations such as Grassroots Luton have helped nurture relationships over many years through dialogue, partnership projects, and shared civic initiatives. This visit built on that foundation, demonstrating how connection and collaboration can overcome division and foster hope.

We remain committed to creating spaces and opportunities for people to meet, understand one another, and work together for the common good, stated David Jonathan (Johny), former CWM-URC Mission Partner, leading the inter-faith engagement work in Luton.

Just Peace Coalition



It's time to act for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home. As communities continue to live through devastating violence, loss and injustice, Palestinian Christians have called on the global Church to respond. The situation is urgent.

Churches and Christian organisations across the UK are uniting around one shared commitment: to work and pray for justice and peace. This is more than a moment of awareness. It's time to stand together and act with courage. Sign the commitment, take action and join the movement: <https://justpeacecoalition.com/> #JustPeaceCoalition #TimeToAct



The URC, alongside its world justice programme Commitment for Life, is part of a UK-wide, cross-denominational coalition calling for an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine. The "Time to Act" campaign, organised by the Just Peace Coalition of churches and charities, says the conflict in the

Middle East and the rise in Israeli settler violence in the West Bank has decimated communities. **[Learn more about the coalition](#)**

Plastic Free July: Campaign Actions



Plastic Free July is an annual initiative led by the Plastic Free Foundation, working towards their vision for a world free from plastic waste.

As Christians and as churches we can take this opportunity to recommit to protecting our world - "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15

You can take action by:



Making your Plastic Free Pledge [here](#).



Signing the Friends of the Earth petition for new UK climate legislation [here](#).

Free Church Guides

From using social media to crisis communications planning, we've produced a series of guides to help support you and your church.

Download the guides for free

Synod Prayer Labyrinth



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

What's On

General Assembly Thursday 3rd July (afternoon) - Monday 6th July (morning)

Live streaming

Business sessions and Sunday morning worship at 10:30am will be live streamed on the URC website and YouTube channel: www.urc.org.uk and www.youtube.com/URCUK.

Recordings of each session will be available in the Live section on the URC's YouTube channel after the meeting.

Bromley by Bow Church in Community in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Music Open Academy

Celebrating a year of Lunchtime Concerts

at Bromley by Bow

WEDNESDAY
8TH JULY, 2026

11.30AM-2.00PM

FEATURING:

Cellist Giovanni
Cecchinato

11.30am:

Doors open for Exhibition & drinks

12.00 noon:

Royal Academy musicians &
Bromley by Bow Conversation

12.30 pm:

A repertoire of music for cello through
the years with Giovanni Cecchinato

Followed by refreshments

**Bromley by Bow Church in Community,
1 Bruce Road, London E3 3HN**

For enquiries contact: sue@bromleybybowurc.org.uk



Relaxed Concerts at Bromley by Bow are **inclusive** and **welcome spaces for all**. They are informal, friendly and often interactive. We aspire to be a space where everyone can belong. If you have any particular questions, please get in touch!

ALL ARE WELCOME. ADMISSION IS FREE.

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
MUSIC

Bromley by
Bow Church in
Community

Proud to support



Mayor of London

The Psalms in Jazz



Albans URC - Greenwood



St Albans URC - Homeview

Our Minister, the Revd Naomi Young-Rodas will be leading worship and it will consist of listening to Psalter Themes for Peace with a reading of the relevant verse from the psalms before each piece of music. This is a jazz suite written for a special concert in St Alban's Cathedral in January 2024 by Anglican priest and saxophonist Tim Boniface.

Sunday 5 July 2026 at 6:30pm at St Albans URC -

10a Homewood Road, St Albans, AL1 4, United Kingdom



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

Scan the QR
or use link to
join



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

📄 Copy link

Registration ends
on the 1st of August

**BRING YOUR YOUTH GROUP
AND COME HUNGRY!**



GRANGE PARK URC ANNUAL BBQ

Date
29 August

Time
1 PM - 5PM

**Food music games and
more...**

For more info contact Whitney:
:07944871416





GRANGE PARK URC
GOES TO...

RAMSGATE BEACH

01ST | AUGUST |

Coach collection Grange park URC | At: 7.30am

Coach leaving Ramsgate Beach | At 5:00 pm

Adults: £25

Under 16's: £10

Book your space contact
Whitney: 07944871416

LIMITED SPACES



A vibrant, colorful poster for the Grange Park Holiday Club. The background is a mix of blue, green, and orange. At the top, a banner says 'LUNCH INCLUDED' with a girl on a scooter. Next to it is a black cross with a blue fish symbol. To the right, a boy holds a basketball, and a green circle says 'Ages 5-13YRS'. The main title 'Grange Park Holiday Club' is in large, bold, orange, green, and blue letters. Below it, a red banner says 'August 10th- August 14th' and a pink banner says '10:30am - 3:30pm'. A green circle on the left says 'THEME Wise words & Wiser actions'. A yellow circle below it says 'We have a Christian Ethos. All children are welcome, any Faith or none.' A green box in the center says 'GRANGE PARK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GRANGE PARK RD, LONDON E10 5EP'. A yellow circle on the right lists prices: '1 Child: £30, 2 Children: £50, 3+ Children contact Sheliaesa'. At the bottom, a green banner says 'Play • Learn • Arts & Crafts • Trips'. Below this, it says 'For more Information: Call: 07508610064' and 'stewartsheliesa@gmail.com'. The poster is decorated with various cartoon children and images of activities like arts and crafts, playing, and a trip to a park.

LUNCH INCLUDED

The United Reformed Church

Ages 5-13YRS

Grange Park Holiday Club

THEME
Wise words & Wiser actions

August 10th- August 14th
10:30am - 3:30pm

We have a Christian Ethos. All children are welcome, any Faith or none.

GRANGE PARK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
GRANGE PARK RD,
LONDON
E10 5EP

Prices
1 Child: £30
2 Children: £50
3+ Children contact Sheliaesa

Play • Learn • Arts & Crafts • Trips

For more Information:
Call: 07508610064 **stewartsheliesa@gmail.com**

TV Screens Available



Two large TV screens are available to any church that wishes to make use of them. One (pictured above) can be collected from the Synod's Bayswater office, and the other is in the Chingford/Buckhurst Hill area. Contact Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for information or to register interest.

Safeguarding Training

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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Thames North Synod

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
United
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Church
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>

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.uk
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

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

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.

If you would like to keep your inbox clear, please feel free to unsubscribe at the bottom of the page.

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](#)