



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 21 August 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

Aspiring to More Taster Session - 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

Light on Friday 26 September 2025 at Lumen 6:15-8:15pm. Book with Maggie Hindley m@maggiehindley.com

Messy Church Fun Day Saturday 27 September 2025 10:30am - 4:00pm Lumen London WC1H 9RS. Register online at www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

Wild Goose Resource Group 3-5 October 2025 at St Albans URC
gilldotelliott@googlemail.com

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

Godly Play Accredited 3 Day Training Powys, Wales 14-16 October 2025 judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

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

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

18 October 2025 Venue: Lumen

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA

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

News



Last Sunday the Moderator received a warm welcome as he spoke at a joint service of the North Lea Valley Pastorate (Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Hertford) which was led by their minister Revd Mark Robinson.



Passing of Revd Dr Peter Cruchley, Council for World Mission (CWM)



It is with heavy hearts and deep sorrow that the Council for World Mission (CWM) mourns the passing of Rev. Dr Peter Cruchley. Our deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Lena, his daughters, Enfys and Eleri and all those who grieve him. Rev. Dr Cruchley served faithfully as CWM's Mission Secretary for Mission Development for more than six years, offering outstanding leadership in mission work among our member churches. Born to missionary parents of the London Missionary Society (LMS), CWM's forbearer, Rev. Dr Cruchley often described himself as a "troubled missionary child", a self-awareness that shaped his missional vocation. Rev. Dr Cruchley currently serves as Director of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME), a role that recognised his life's work and gave him a global platform to continue his mission that aims to repair, restore, and witness to the new world Christ promises. May Rev. Dr Cruchley's memory continue to guide us as we strive to be a fellowship that enables life-flourishing communities. #RevDrPeterCruchley #InMemoriam #CWM #MissionSecretaryForMissionDevelopment

Newbiggin Pioneering Hub's Certificate in Pioneering Mission's 2025-26 programme



Certificate in Pioneering Mission

September 2025 - July 2026

Residentials, seminars, coaching,
in person & online for pioneers

APPLY NOW



Do you have ideas for how your local community can flourish in God's love and shalom, but know this can't happen alone? Explore your ideas through the Newbigin Pioneering Hub's Certificate in Pioneering Mission's 2025-26 programme. Submit your application by: 12 September. For more information, see bit.ly/NewbPH

**The Holy Ghost doesn't
only make you dance and
speak in tongues, It also
makes you apologize,
shut up and examine
yourself.**

The Celtic Christian Tradition



Get Support, Advice and News from the National Churches Trust

Go to their [website here](#) for events, grants, news, advice and more.

What's On

Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training



2025-2026 Course

Thames North Synod is recruiting people who want to learn more about the Bible, theology, worship leading and preaching, beginning in September 2025 for 15 to 18 months.

Aspiring to More is a free part-time course delivered via Zoom on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, with 5 in-person Saturday Study Days. It can be done either for interest or to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader with a mentored Learning by Doing module.

Taster Session

Tuesday 2 September 2025
19:30 to 21:30

via Zoom

To book your place, contact:

Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Or write to: 102 St Georges Road
London E10 5RQ

[Book here](#)

**You are warmly invited to
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London
on Friday 26th September 2025,
6:15 to 8:15 pm for a screening of**

“Light”



**A film showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams
in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

***“Where all other elements are controlled and rationed,
perhaps our light is the one thing that cannot be taken”***

**All are welcome. Free admission with donations to CPT
invited.**

Watch the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>

17.45 Doors open, tea/coffee

**18.15 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley, reservist with
CPT in Hebron**

18.20 *Light* (60 mins)

**19.20 Q and A with the film director, Ahmad Abu Monshar,
by Zoom from the West Bank.**

**Please book your place with Maggie Hindley
m@maggiehindley.org, 07545 130260**

Watch the trailer [here](#) and [book your place](#) with Maggie Hindley.

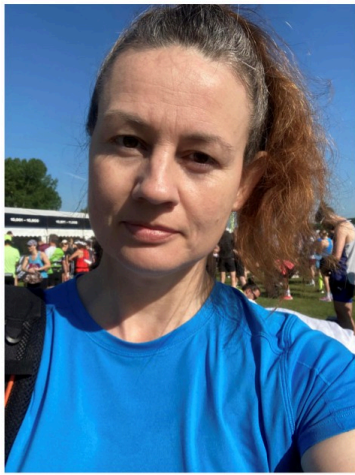
Ministry Enquirers

Learn what God might be asking
of you

4 October
9.30am-12.30pm
on Zoom

Join us in thinking about God's
call to: **Stepwise, Worship**
Leading, Lay Preaching, Lay
Pioneering, Ministry with children
and young people, the Ministry of
Word and Sacraments or Church
Related Community Work.

Email us for joining details:
ministries@urc.org.uk



**Please Sponsor
LCRF Trustee Bethan Lant
as she takes on
the heroic challenge of
THE GREAT NORTH RUN!
on September 7th**

**13.1 gruelling miles raising money for
The London Churches Refugee Fund
providing life-giving essentials
for destitute refugees across London**

[Click HERE to Donate](#)

Bethan says: As a trustee of LCRF I know how much our grants are appreciated. Please sponsor me if you are able to do so.

Twice a year LCRF makes grants of up to £1000 each to numerous refugee projects in London so they can purchase travel cards, phone credit, food vouchers, hygiene packs, & make emergency payments to give to the thousands of destitute refugees in London for whom they provide support and guidance

*we know Bethan is training regularly to ensure she gives of her best.
So PLEASE give her the encouragement of YOUR support!*

[Click here to donate](#)

JPIT News



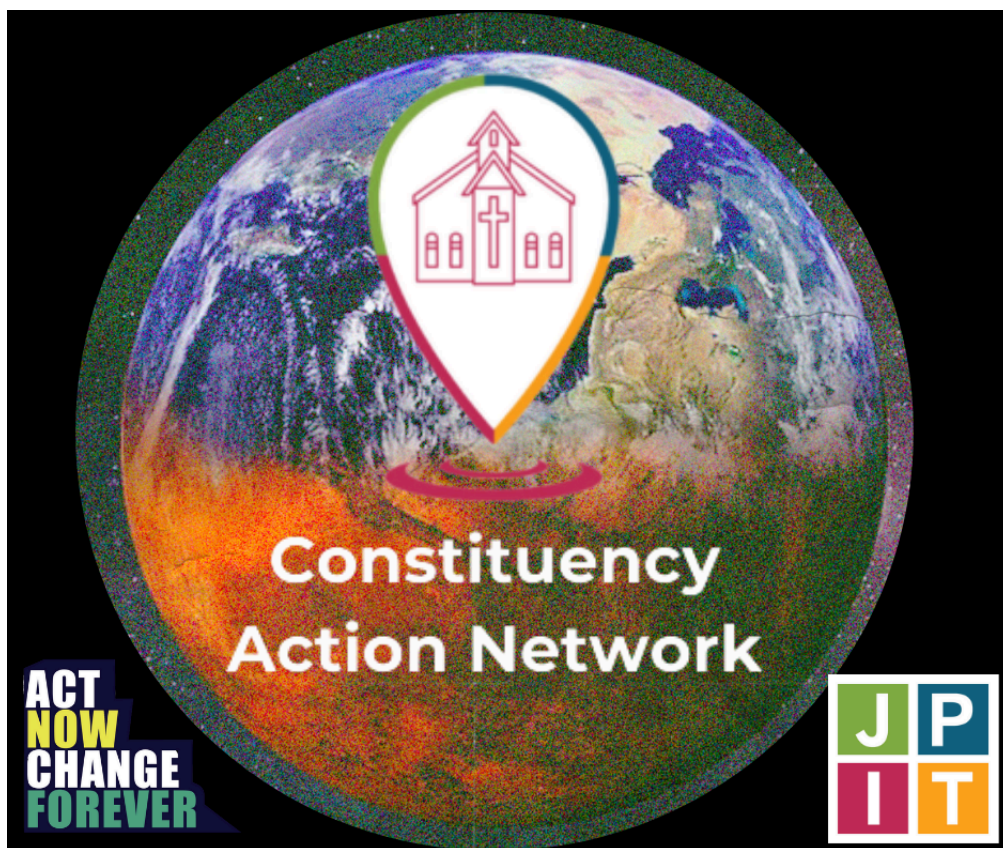
Season of Creation

Season of Creation: 1 September - 4 October

The Season of Creation is an opportunity to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity and solidarity.

Our friends at Eco Congregation Scotland provide weekly resources for the Season which can be found through their [Season of Creation overview](#).

A celebration guide can be found on the [Season of Creation webpage](#).



In more good news for the Constituency Action Network, a group of URC church members in Kingston met with local MP Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, to speak with him about poverty, climate justice, and peace. The group were inspired by the Constituency Action Network and were told by the MP and party leader that he wished more people would contact him. Christine Thompson, a member of the group, wrote that, "It reminded us how important it is for everyday people to have their voices heard in politics". For more info, read all about the meeting in Reform Magazine. For support to speak with your MP, join CAN!

Vacancies

URC Vacancies

Advert for members of the Accreditations Sub-Committee

Do you have a passion to support people who release the church in its local community to flourish in faith, hope and love? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

Ministries Committee is looking for a member for its Accreditations sub-committee to replace a member who has moved into another role. The member will need to have working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church.

The Accreditations sub-committee plays a vital role in supporting and creating new opportunities in shaping posts to be recognised as Church Related Community Work projects or Pioneering posts including current Special Category ministries, in approving certificates for ministers from partner churches both at home and abroad to serve with us, and in analysing trends in the Rolls of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers, Elders, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers.

If interested in making an application or nomination, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for an application form.

Closing date: 8th September 2025

Advert for Assessment Board Convener

Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Do you have a passion for discerning what God is saying about Call and vocation? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for a Convener for the Assessment Board to replace its current convener who will complete their term at the July 2026 General Assembly. The convener will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church, and of the training programmes for the formation of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments (MWS) and Church Related Community Work (CRCW). Training will be provided, particularly in a period of 'shadowing' the current convener in the run-up to July 2026.

The Assessment Board plays a vital role in the discernment, assessment and selection of students for training for MWS and CRCW. Its assessors are drawn from ministers and lay members of the URC.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for an application form.

Closing date: 8th September 2025

Advert for Ministries Committee members

Volunteer Opportunities: Join our Team!

Does developing the strategy and supporting the work of the Ministries Committee excite you? Then this could be an opportunity for you!

The Ministries Committee is looking for two lay members to be part of its new committee agreed at General Assembly 2025. Member will need to have a working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church and support of their training programmes.

The Ministries Committee carries the General Assembly responsibility and care for the formally accredited ministries of the United Reformed Church namely the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, Church Related Community Work, Assembly Accredited Lay Preaching, Locally Recognised Worship Leading, Assembly Accredited Pioneering both lay and special category.

This responsibility includes all lifelong learning for these accredited ministries including funding and other educational elements.

We are looking for lay members with expertise in education particularly adult, higher, or theological education who can bring a critical and constructive voice to group discussions.

If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for an application form.

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If you feel you have the gifts and graces to serve in this way, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for an application form.

Closing date: 8th September 2025

Synod Property Officer - West Midlands

The United Reformed Church (West Midlands) Trust seeks to appoint a part-time Synod Property Officer (21 hours per week)

Part-time salary: £29,316 (based on £48,860 full time equivalent)

Closing date for applications: noon on Monday 8 September 2025

Interviews will be held in the week beginning 15 September 2025

We are looking for an individual to provide technical expertise on buildings and property in support of Synod Officers, members of Synod Committees and local churches.

The successful candidate will be working to a wide brief and is expected to undertake a range of duties including, but not limited to, advising and initiating action on property issues in local churches, overseeing quinquennial inspections and manse inspections, and providing advice on property-related matters to Synod Committees.

We are looking for someone who:

- has experience of property matters either through extensive operational management or through the practice of a relevant profession, while holding appropriate qualifications at higher or professional level
- has some knowledge of charity procedures

- is a team player and is used to working collaboratively
- possesses effective oral and written communication skills
- possesses sound IT skills
- has a willingness to work within the Christian ethos of the United Reformed Church
- can work flexibly with some evening and weekend work

In return we can offer a friendly, supportive and flexible working environment, five weeks' annual leave and a contributory pension scheme.

[Download the Job Description](#)

[Download the Person Specification](#)

[Download the application form](#)

For more information, please contact Lindsay Peniston at the URC (West Midlands) Synod Office in Yardley, Birmingham B26 1TW. Tel: 0121 783 1177. **Email:** moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

We do not accept CVs and require candidates to fill in an application form to ensure we consider each person on equal terms. We follow United Reformed Church Safer Recruitment Policy and Practice.

Vacancy: Synod Safeguarding Officer - Wales Synod

Salary: £28,652 per annum
(full-time equivalent: £47,754)

This 21-hour per week position is for someone excited by the prospect of building upon the current strategy and strategic oversight of all safeguarding matters as well as being an advocate for safeguarding across the Synod structure and in its seventy-five churches.

The successful applicant will be willing to work within the Christian ethos of the United Reformed Church and at times travel extensively in Wales. This post is offered on a five-year, fixed-term contract, in the first instance.

An information pack is available to download below.

Closing date for applications: 9am on Monday 1 September 2025

Application pack:

[Job Description](#)

[Person Specification](#)

[Background paper](#)

Application form - contact sharon.barr@urc.org.uk

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 kensington.urc@gmail.com

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>

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



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