



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 23 October 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

Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

Theology of Worship Group, Liturgy: the work of the people? on Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7:30-9:30pm, please email the address below to receive the link - rgoldring23@gmail.com

Stories of Kindness from Bangladesh on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 5pm at BLOC, Arts One, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road E1 4NS.

For Goodness' Sake! on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 10.25am-4.30pm at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. [Book](#)

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents: New Testament Parables in Lectionary Year A Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS

Date: Saturday, 15 November 2025

Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm Ola Lawal, lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Faithful Adaptation - How God changes the Church's mind on ethics on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 5:30pm at the Farringdon Room at the St Bride Foundation EC47 8EQ. clerk.cmht@gmail.com

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
17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

Grab a coaster, please!

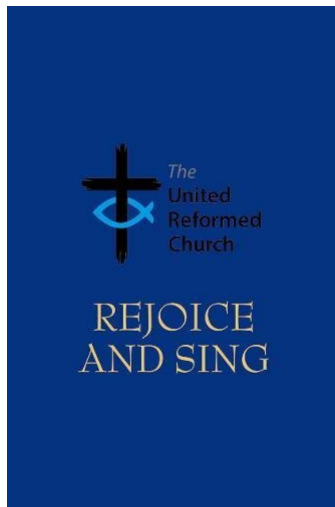


At the recent Synod meeting coasters for use in the mission of the local church were introduced. The coasters can be used as faith conversation starters after morning worship, at midweek events and in church cafes. The Synod have enough for at least 10 for each church. Please let Colleen know if you would like us to send you some modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk.

But once they are gone, they are gone!



Rejoice and Sing



Eddie Boon is looking to put together a small stock of about 20 Rejoice and Sing hymn books for one of our churches. If you can help or know of anyone who has a surplus or is looking to dispose of any please contact Eddie on disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk Collection can be arranged.

JPIT News

Communities Standing Together with Refugees



Have you been wondering how to respond to the unrest and division in our communities?

Our friends at Together with Refugees have designed a poster to help churches and community spaces to show solidarity with refugees. The poster is free of charge and is available in packs of 10, 25 or 50.

Together with Refugees write:

'When we fill our windows, streets, and shared spaces with posters of welcome, we show our neighbours and MPs that kindness and solidarity are stronger than fear or division...

The more places your posters appear, the stronger our message.'

Get your poster here to make our call of welcome impossible to ignore

Child Poverty - Call for Action



**Church Action
on Poverty**

With levels of child poverty rising, Church Action on Poverty and JPIT are inviting local church leaders to add their names to a letter to the chancellor to urge her to 'take strong action to drive down child poverty and enhance the life chances of the UK's children. The letter argues that the 'immoral' two-child limit should be removed from benefits, and for a social security system that ensures no child goes without essentials. You can find, and sign, the [full letter here](#).

Responding to the co-option of Christian symbols to support exclusion

Leaders and members of JPIT partner denominations recently spoke out after a march in London led by figures on the far-right fringes of politics attracted over 100,000 attendees. [Click here to read their letter](#), which condemns the co-option of the cross as a symbol of hatred.

After the march, The secretary of the Methodist Conference, Revd Jonathan Hustler also wrote a powerful blog reflecting on the rise of the far right. He highlighted the ways in which the intentions of the march are in conflict with the values of the Methodist Church and reflected that:

'I was worried that afternoon on the train by the attitudes I saw displayed and the falsehoods that were being repeated, but I cannot despair because I serve a Church whose calling is to respond to the love of God in Christ. If the woman on the train was right, and 100,000-plus people listening to hate-mongers and spouting nonsense can make a difference, how much more can 100,000-plus people who listen to the gospel and speak words of grace change things for the better?'

Stop Rosebank



Oil giant Equinor has just resubmitted a new application for Rosebank - the biggest undeveloped oil field in the UK. For the next 30 days, the government is asking the public what they think about the Rosebank application. After this, the government will make a new decision to scrap or greenlight Rosebank at any time. Please fill out the public consultation [here](#) to let the Prime Minister know why Rosebank would be a disaster for the climate

Join JPIT on Iona

Politics, Power & Protest

17th - 23rd
OCTOBER



Would you like to spend six days on Iona, living in community, exploring the island and reflecting on faith and politics? As part of our partnership with the Iona Community, JPIT's Simeon Mitchell and Steve Tinning are leading a residential programme in Iona Abbey on 'politics, power and protest' from 17-23 October 2026. Bookings are now open. Find out more [here](#)

What's On



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

Liturgy: the work of the people?

Speaker - Revd Sue McCoan

Sue is a recently retired URC minister who served in pastorates in the Sutton Coldfield and West London areas. She writes hymns and prayers and recently

Date: Tuesday 4th November 2025
Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

At this meeting she will be looking at the role of the congregation in shaping the worship of the church. How do we know if our worship is meeting their needs? What balance might we strike between being welcoming new ideas and maintaining theological integrity? Do we embrace the surrounding culture or stand counter to it? And how do we deal with different desires and competing needs within the congregation?

The Theology of Worship Group is an informal group of people interested in exploring the practice and nature of worship today. We hold three or four meetings a year when an invited speaker presents a topic followed by an opportunity to discuss in short groups and plenary.

Group meetings are open to anyone interested in the theology of worship in the church today. If you have not registered with the Group and would like to attend this meeting, please email the address below to receive the link -

rgoldring23@gmail.com

Thames North Preachers' Circle
Presents:
New Testament Parables in
Lectionary Year A



**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, 15.11.2025

Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm

Parables in the New Testament are stories to which we can return time and again and find something nourishing for our faith. We will explore together with Hannah, some parables from Lectionary Year A, getting curious about them and making the familiar unfamiliar so that we can hear more of what Jesus might be saying through these short stories. We'll think prayerfully about how parables are a resource for our own spiritual lives and practically about how we can bring them into our preaching and ministry - through discussion, teaching, and time to reflect.

***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**](mailto:lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**London
Churches
Refugee
Fund**

Charity number
1121108



CAROL SINGING with LCRF

“Peace on earth & Mercy mild”

We will be singing outside:

Highbury and Islington Station

(But undercover in the station if the weather is too wet)

Friday 5th December 2025

4pm - 7pm

Please, if possible, let us know when you plan to come:

(4pm - 5.30pm and/or 5.30pm-7pm)

sign up at carols@crcw.org.uk

and ...whether you can bring a nice loud instrument.

Please encourage other musicians & singers to sign up to join us. We need all the help we can muster

Santa hats provided!

please consider wearing something
bright on the night to highlight the singers!

We hope to raise two or three thousand pounds for
London Churches Refugee Fund: lcrf.org.uk)

Safeguarding Training 2026

URC Website Safeguarding

The URC has revamped the training area on the URC website and [here](#) you can tap into information on the training matrix, bespoke short course offerings and much more.

Bespoke bite-sized courses - these are short supplementary courses (2 hours delivered on Zoom) and we'd like to highlight the following short courses for the rest of the year:

Monay 20 October 1.00-3.00pm **Adult Safeguarding**

Monday 17 November 1.00-3.00pm **Online Safety**

Thursday 20 November 7.00-9.00pm **DBS Verifying and Safer Recruitment.**

Please book via [Emma Pearce](#) stating your name, church, role and course.

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](#)



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies

Regional Children's Work Specialist

Job Advert

Regional Children's Work Specialist Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church

Full time – 35 hours per week (flexible, including some evenings and weekends)

Annual salary - £38 – £43,000 pa depending on experience

Do you have the skills and experience to support local churches in their engagement with children?

Are you looking to work in a team to enable children to fully share in the life of the Church?

Can you come alongside local churches to help them discover and live out their mission?

We are seeking an experienced children's worker for a regional role for the United Reformed Church in East Anglia as part of an interdisciplinary Mission Team supporting local churches in their mission and ministry. You would be our Mission Practitioner (Children's Work).

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a Christian.

Office based, with some working from home permissible, and a Full driving license as regular travel around the Synod is an essential requirement.

An application pack can be accessed via the Synod website:

www.urceastern.org.uk or by emailing Marion Gentry on admin@urceastern.org.uk

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.

Closing date for applications is **4pm on Monday 17th November**.

Interviews will be held on **Friday 28th November**

As part of the interview, you are asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation, as if to a local church, on your choice of subject to display the essential knowledge and skills and abilities listed in the person specification. (The panel will not be role playing, but a discussion will follow about the content, assumptions, method etc.)

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)