



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 25 June 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



On Sunday 21st June four young people were received into membership at Grange Park URC.

In the picture are Jordan, Shareen, Abena and Lawrence. They gave wonderful Testimonies which were moving and inspiring. The encouragement they had received from Sheliesa, our Youth and Childrens worker, Sandra and Francis, and the whole family of the Church was evident in their sincere commitment to Christ and the Church. We give God Thanks.



Thames North Synod Eco Newsletter from the Green Team June 2026

Welcome to our first eco newsletter. We plan to send a newsletter out for each season of the year. We shall include news, updates, and events. Please do send us notices of any events happening near you as well as any news you have from your churches.

Eco Church

We now have 49 churches registered as eco churches in the Synod. Of these, 16 churches have a bronze award and 6 have a silver award. If your church is working towards an award we can offer help or support. Feel free to contact us with any requests.

Carbon literacy training

Training is available either online via a trainer, or in-person as a member of a church group. If you would like to organise a group in your church you can find out more here <https://carbonliteracy.com/faith/>; We can offer support to help you get started. If you would like to attend online training we can organise a short course.

Net Zero Calculations: Making a Start

How much carbon does your church building produce? Revd Rob Weston shares practical examples from churches, exploring heating emissions, offsetting costs, and simple ways congregations can begin measuring their environmental impact as the URC works towards net zero by 2030. For more information go to South West Synod www.urcsouthwest.org.uk



People's emergency briefing

This is a documentary film that presents the latest scientific evidence for the detrimental effects of climate change. It is available for churches to show. The "Call to Action for Churches" connected with the briefing was produced by a coalition of major UK churches and Christian organisations, including the Joint Public Issues Team and will provide you with full guidance. <https://arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/PEB-Resource-for-Churches-A-Resource-and-Guide-for-Churches.pdf> But if you need support in any way do please contact us.

Church of England environmental updates

The CofE Environment team send out regular bulletins by email. In this month's edition there is an article about their Net Zero Carbon programme, a recycled stained glass window and a note about swifts. You can sign up to receive these monthly updates on their website churchofengland.org Go to their Environment and climate change page.

ARocha UK updates

ARochaUK recently sent out their Spring e-News. It included information about Big Green Week as well as a tip for supporting pollinators. You can sign up to receive these updates on their website arocha.org.uk

Quiet Gardens

The quiet garden movement oversees a network of beautiful gardens and outdoor spaces intended for prayer, stillness, contemplation and an appreciation of the natural world. They publish regular newsletters. You can access these on their website quietgarden.org

Eco day

An enjoyable Eco day was held at Amersham Free Church on Saturday 13 June. It brought together *creation, nature, and community action* to those attending in a way that was both practical and spiritually rooted. The 2026 theme "Nature on our Doorstep" focused on appreciating local wildlife, sustainable gardening, and energy-saving habits.

It included nature-focused sessions such as:

- A Talk: "Amersham in Bloom" — how public spaces are transformed to support biodiversity, with ideas communities can replicate.

- A Guided walk to the River Misbourne — exploring local habitats and chalk-stream ecology.
- Workshops on gardening, wildlife support, and using nature-tracking apps.
- Energy-saving and eco-skills sessions for households and churches.

If your church is interested in hosting an Eco day do let us know.

Season of Creation

The season of creation takes place between 1 September and 4 October each year. This year's theme is Living Water. To enable you to plan ahead you can access information about it at seasonofcreation.org where you can download the celebration guide.

Church Contact Forms

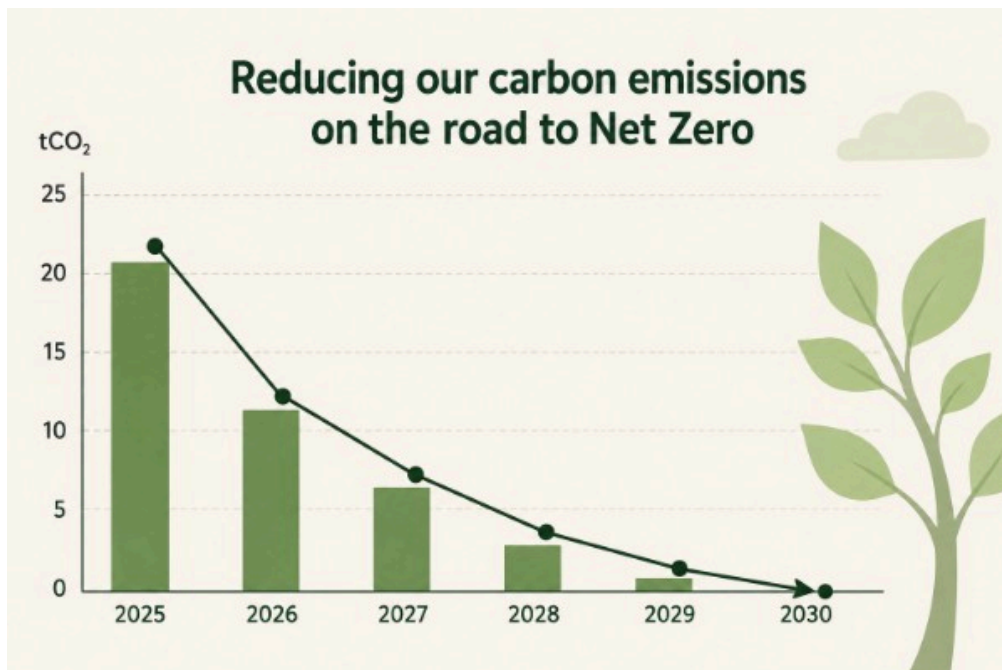
Thank you to all churches who responded to our recent request for an eco contact and also to those who returned their eco journey forms (sent to churches who have an eco award). If you haven't already done so, please do send us a response.

Contacts for the Green Team

Jill Nugent jillnug@hotmail.com

Anna Barrett poppyana57@hotmail.com

Net Zero Calculations: Making a Start



How much carbon does your church building produce? Revd Rob Weston (URC South Western Synod) shares practical examples from churches across the Synod, exploring heating emissions, offsetting costs, and simple ways congregations can begin measuring their environmental impact as the URC works towards net zero by 2030.

👉 [Click here to read more.](#)

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.urch.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.



Exciting news! There's less than a week to go before we open the doors on One Story. His Glory. LIVE – an opportunity for us to come together and celebrate UCB's 40th anniversary.

Our 100-strong voice choir are practising a selection of favourite worship songs through the decades, ready to lead us in praise to our amazing God, and David L'Herroux is preparing to share what God has laid on his heart.

We'd love to have you join us and share in this moment of celebration as we look back at and everything God's done for us through the years, and

look forward to the exciting plans He has for UCB's next season!

Will you join us next Saturday as we celebrate and share stories of God's impact through UCB.

SATURDAY 27th JUNE 6:30pm
Bethel Convention centre - West Bromwich

TICKETS

We would love you to join us in the celebration.
Tickets are £10 plus a booking fee, and are limited.

[GET YOUR TICKETS](#)



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

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

Scan the QR
or use link to
join



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

Copy link

Registration ends
on the 1st of August



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

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



A Rocha UK turns 25!



Saturday 27th June
St John's Church, Waterloo, London

That's right, A Rocha UK started in 2001, inspired by the incredible conservation work that was happening in Portugal, all as an outworking of a conviction to care for God's beautiful earth - and that vision continues today.

We will be sharing more of our story this year as we reflect on all that has happened and all that God has done. But there are still some tickets left for our 25th Anniversary event on Saturday, 27th June at St John's Church, Waterloo in London, from 11:30am to 3:30pm.

Booking is essential to help with catering numbers.

The event will be a time of thanksgiving, storytelling and celebration, focusing on what we have achieved together, recognising how much the A Rocha UK community has grown since 2001, and just how much action has been taken to care for and protect God's beautiful creation. During these years, the A Rocha Worldwide Family has also grown, and we now have sister organisations in over 20 countries around the world.

If you are free to come and celebrate with us, please [book your place](#). All the information you need can be found on the link.

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 PT 2

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
United
Reformed
Church
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/IYFSRTKKWXASXU4N8](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



Safeguarding Training 2026

June

Thurs 25th June 6-8.30pm Intermediate

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
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](#)



www.urc.org.uk





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



UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

Salary: £40,500 pa

The University of Bedfordshire Ecumenical Chaplaincy Trust (UBECT), in partnership with the University, seeks to appoint a **Lead Chaplain** to co-ordinate and oversee the development of a vibrant Chaplaincy for the University, working closely with its Community and Faith team, Student Services and Human Resources on initiatives to support student and staff well-being. The role is based primarily in Bedford and Luton but will involve travel to other University locations.

We seek a committed Christian of any denomination who

- Has experience in a Christian ministry, lay or ordained.
- Is committed to an ecumenical and multi-faith (and no faith) approach, with a solid understanding of other faiths and traditions.
- Has strong communication, pastoral and leadership skills, with experience in team building and planning.
- Is confident, empathetic, self-motivated and reliable, including when working under pressure.
- Has theological and pastoral training or experience.
- Will bring theological insight to contribute to the life of the University.

Deadline for applications: **1st July 2026**

Interview Date: **21st July 2026**

As the role holder will be working for a Christian charity leading a multi-faith chaplaincy to the students and staff of the University of Bedfordshire, they are required to be a Christian, we welcome applications from members of any Christian Church.

For a detailed Job Description and Application Form, please contact
Revd Tricia Reed, PA to the Archdeacon of Bedford
by email tricia.reed@stalbandsdiocese.org or telephone 01727 818167

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