



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 27 November 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

Waiting for the light: advent online retreat on 2 December 2025 07:30 to 6 December 2025 21:00.

Please book at: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/advent-online-retreat-2/ after which you will be sent the zoom link for all the sessions.

Intermediate Safeguarding Training on 3 December 2025 at 7pm online and 11 December at 10am in person at Lumen. Please find booking forms below under **Safeguarding Training**

Carol Singing with LCRF on Friday 5 December 2025 at Highbury and Islington station at 4-7pm

Join JPIT on Iona from 17-23 October 2026. Bookings are now open. Find out more [here](#).

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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



Eddie Boon, our Discipleship Enabler, is working with one of our local churches who are looking for a couple of pieces of furniture. Firstly, a wooden display unit/case/shelf suitable for leaflets and resources and maximum width 88cm. Secondly a free standing candle holder (chunk type candle) which stands on the floor.

If you have such items that you were considering disposing of and can offer, or can make any suggestions then please contact Eddie via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk Please attach photos if that is possible. Many thanks

What's On

Faith Talk webinar – Preparing for Easter



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FaithTalk webinar

Practical tips for
everyday evangelism
Join us!

Join us on Wednesday 28 January 2026 from 7-8pm. We will gather to chat about ways we can engage those around us in the Easter story, and its power to transform lives. Do join us for the conversation, ready to share ideas and resources that you have used.

Please register for the webinar here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/faith-talk-webinars-4796784>

BigGive Christmas Challenge 2025



From 12pm (midday) 2nd December to 12pm (midday) 9th December, your Christmas donations can be doubled. Whatever your passion, whatever your cause - double the difference this Christmas with BigGive.

BigGive had an idea to help us all make more of a difference. They bring together larger donors, like philanthropists, foundations and businesses, with the giving public and the charities who need them. They match what the public and large funders donate. And so double the difference that everyone, including the charities, can make.

[Find out more here](#)

Labyrinth Available



Advent, Christmas, and New Year provide wonderful opportunities for spiritual reflection and community engagement. Our Thames North Synod Labyrinth is available for local churches to borrow and use in their own contexts. Please contact Eddie Boon via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk to know more or to make a booking. Picture is from a recent Labyrinth event at our church at Nelves.

Safeguarding Training 2025/2026

Synod Safeguarding Training

Intermediate Level Training online on Wednesday evening 3 December 2025 at 7pm. Please book here:

[Safeguarding Training Booking Form intermediate training 3rd December – Fill in form](#)

Intermediate Level Training in person at Lumen on Wednesday 11 December 2025 at 10am. Please book here:

[Safeguarding Training Booking Form intermediate training 11th December – Fill in form](#)

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](#)



www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies

General Assembly Appointments Panel Members

We are seeking eight people to serve on a Panel on behalf of the General Assembly, to participate, for 5 years, in the process of the appointment of Synod Moderators and other General Assembly roles reserved for Ministers of the Word and Sacraments.

Applicants would need to bring experience of engaging at Synod or General Assembly level, be a good communicator, and have an understanding of the conciliar nature of the United Reformed Church (URC) and its governance. It would be beneficial to have experience in convening meetings and be willing to convene a panel. (See Person Specification for more information.) : <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

The membership of this Panel will be nominated to reflect the diversity of the URC.

Relevant General Assembly papers explaining more about this can be found: (GA Book of Reports 2024 Paper H10 p.210 and GA Book of Reports Paper J1 p.186)

Being part of this Panel will require a commitment to ongoing training (see p.214 of GA Book of Reports 2024, Paper H10) and a willingness to be available to serve on the majority of such panels for 5 years. This role requires willingness to travel as assessments will take place in Synods relevant to the role or within London.

Please email jenny.mills@urc.org.uk for an application form. For further information or an informal discussion, please contact the Convenor of Nominations Committee, Victoria Blunt, at victoria.blunt@urc.org.uk

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