



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 28 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 preached at Broxbourne URC. Here he is with their minister Revd Mark Robinson and organist Debi Pilgr

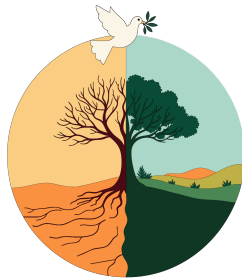


Season of Creation

Otherwise known as 'Creationtide', this wonderful opportunity for celebration of the natural world and to recommit ourselves to caring for God's creation begins on 1st September. This year's theme, 'Peace with Creation' is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. There are excellent resources for the [Season of Creation](#) and churches are invited to join A Rocha on Tuesday 2nd September, 2-3pm, for a special webinar reflecting on this year's theme. Stories, reflective prayer, ideas for individuals and church services will be included. [Book your place here](#).

Dr. Hefin Jones, Member of Executive Committee, World Communion of Reformed Churches says:

"To be at peace with creation is to dwell in harmony with God's life-giving presence in all things. The Season of Creation calls us to a deeper communion with the Earth, embracing our role in God's unfolding work of love, healing, and reconciliation for the whole of creation."



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Carbon Literacy

A new version of the Carbon Literacy for Churches course has been created for use by a congregation in a home group setting or similar. You can have a taster of how the materials have been adapted to a small group setting by joining an online version on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm, for 5 weeks, starting on 10 September. It's a fully fledged course so you can be certified at the end, offered free of charge by the Church of England and open to all.

Sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carbon-literacy-for-congregations-online-tickets-1605033491379>

What's On

Online Quiet Day: Playing with God



27 September 2025 10:30am to 4:00pm

Venue: Online

Ticket: Free

Led by **Leslie Bailey** -(opening prayers),
Mark Argent and **Ann Barton**, and **Jane Weedon** (closing prayers).

The day draws its theme from part of the gospel for 27 September, which records Jesus predicting his death (again) and saying to the disciples: "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."

For some that carries an invitation to come to God "like a child" — which could be heard as "praying with one's inner child". For others that can feel like a more difficult space — particularly if there are uncomfortable memories or associations to childhood.

In biblical times those words could have been heard quite differently — perhaps as a challenge to the idea that power gets someone closer to God (or God is on the side of the powerful).

The invitation of the day is to spend some time in prayer away from our screens, and in discussion with others, to attend to what God may be saying to us.

Book by clicking on this link: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-4/

Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training



The
United
Reformed
Church
Thames North Synod

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](#)

From the BEDS AND HERTS ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

**Have you ever wanted to know what it is like to play a
Church Organ?**

WELL..... Here is the perfect opportunity to do just that!!

**WHERE: ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, 215 ICKNIELD WAY, LIMBURY.
LUTON LU3 2SJ**

WHEN: Saturday 4th October from 9.00am to 5pm

**You don't need to have had any previous experienceand you don't
need to be able to read music**

Help will be on hand from experienced teachers.

If you can read music, then please feel free to bring some with you.

***IF YOU WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONSIDER HAVING TUITION VIA OUR BURSARY SCHEME AND YOU
LIVE IN BEDFORDSHIRE OR HERTFORDSHIRE AND ARE AGED BETWEEN 10- AND 25-YEARS OLD
THEN PLEASE ASK ON THE DAY FOR DETAILS OF OUR BURSARY SCHEME TO POSSIBLY BECOME
THE CHURCH ORGANISTS OF TOMORROW***

Or you can apply as below:

**TO APPLY FOR A BURSARY OR INDICATE YOUR INTEREST AND YOU ARE UNDER 25
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE:**

bedsandhertsorganists.org

Visit our young organists page on this site and apply using the online form

**IF YOU ARE OVER 25 go to BEDSANDHERTSORGANISTS.ORG FILL IN OUR GENERAL
FORM FOR ENQUIRIES**

STEPHEN MCDONALD

BURSARY COORDINATOR

DUPUTY DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ELSTOW ABBEY.

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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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

Safeguarding Training

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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