



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 30 October 2025. It appears that this newsletter was not circulated by the app that we use, so please accept my apologies for anything that you will have missed.

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

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 Tuesday 4 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

Buildings for Mission Forum Webinar - The Church Family and Sustainability on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 11.30am. [Register here.](#)

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) 24-26 November 2025 at the Hayes Centre training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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.

London Church Leaders' Breakfast



On Tuesday we were pleased to host the London Church Leaders Breakfast at Lumen, when Peter Brierley Assistant Director of Citizens UK spoke about the church's engagement with community.

It was an opportunity to say farewell to Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London as she prepares to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Sarah was joint chair with Cardinal Nicholls, Bishop of Westminster. During the business part of the meeting the Moderator was appointed as one of the Trustees for the London Church Leaders.

Talk by David Britton, Operation Noah



OPERATION NOAH

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

Wheathampstead United Church had a talk from David Britton a couple of weeks ago. Jane Deller sent in a report on the event and the Green Team's Anna Barrett feels it worth sharing more widely.

The Green Team are very heartened and impressed by the action taken by Wheathampstead United Church. Though a very small church they invited David Britton of Operation Noah to speak at their chapel and invited ecumenical friends from the surrounding area.

Could your church do something similar? Read a report of the event [here](#).

New Publication – A Measure of Breath

MARK RICHARD ROBINSON

A MEASURE OF BREATH



Revd Mark Robinson, Minister of the North Lea Valley Pastorate (Broxbourne, Hertford, and Cheshunt), has published a new book titled *A Measure of Breath* (Wipf & Stock, 2025).

The novel weaves story and theology in a contemplative journey through faith, silence, endurance, and healing. Drawing on lived experience and reflection, it invites readers to sense how divine presence breathes through the ordinary.

On a train journey to a church disciplinary meeting, a minister carries the weight of illness, memory, and the quiet ache of betrayal. *A Measure of Breath* is a contemplative novel that explores what it means to lead when one's own wounds remain unhealed--and when silence in sacred spaces has done deep harm. As the train moves forward, so does a reckoning. Through memory, lament, and moments of hard-won clarity, the minister confronts not only his past but the cost of survival itself. This is not a story of triumph but of witness. Of choosing to speak when it would be easier not to. Of breathing, even when breath is pain. *A Measure of Breath* invites readers to sit with uncomfortable truths: about faith, justice, leadership, and the stories our bodies carry long after words have failed. Whether you are a person of faith, a survivor, or someone who knows what it is to walk through fire and still serve others, this book is for you.

A Measure of Breath is available through Wipf & Stock, Amazon and other major booksellers.

What's On



Stories of Kindness from Bangladesh

In the face of the Climate Emergency

A Presentation and photo exhibition

presented by Peter Musgrave and friends...In collaboration with Swadhinata Trust

Tuesday 4 November

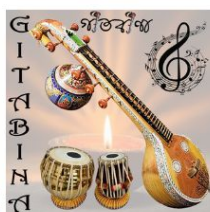
**BLOC, Arts One, Queen Mary University of London,
Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.**

Exhibition opens at 5.00 pm in the Foyer

Presentation at 6.00pm in the Cinema room

Refreshments at 7.00 pm

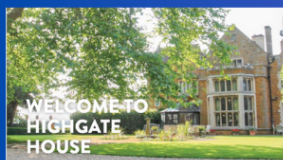
To Register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-kindness-of-people-to-face-the-climate-crisis-in-bangladesh-together-tickets-1743754710279?aff=oddtcreator>



URC Children's Workers Together: THE CONFERENCE 28-30 November 2025!



Exploring how we work with Children together



By popular demand we are moving to
Highgate House Conference Centre in Northampton
for a sumptuous weekend of learning together.

The theme is participation and the wonderful
Peter Privett of Godly Play
and **Child Theology Movement**
(co-author of *Through the Eyes of a Child*) will be our main speaker



Book your place today by emailing
children.youth@urc.org.uk – full weekend
Places cost £210 (funding available through Synods or
Pilots).

workshops, worship, keynotes, networking, resources,
making, exploring, laughing

If you are interested in the event, please contact Lorraine for further information on attending for **FREE**.
cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Buildings for Mission Forum Webinar - The Church Family and Sustainability



Join us on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 11.30am for a quick update on how the resolutions taken at the Extraordinary General Assembly will impact the use of our churches' buildings for mission, and to hear from experts Cliff and Sacha on sustainability for our church families. There will also be plenty of time for exchanging ideas and sharing experiences. Register for the webinar here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/buildings-for-mission-forum-tickets-1785304346359?aff=oddtcreator>.

Beyond a ceasefire - seeking a just peace



Christian Aid are hosting next week alongside friends Embrace the Middle East and Peter Nasir from the East Jerusalem YMCA. (East Jerusalem YMCA is one of the 10 CA partners in IoPt that Commitment for Life supports), the following webinar:

Beyond a ceasefire - seeking a just peace
Tuesday 4 November, 6.30 – 7.30pm

As the ceasefire in Gaza is welcomed, the question of a lasting and just peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory remains. Join us for a conversation with **Peter Nasir, National General Secretary of the East Jerusalem YMCA** as we look beyond the ceasefire.

As part of the ecumenical efforts and series of upcoming events, this event is hosted by **Christian Aid** and **Embrace the Middle East**. Many of us united on World Peace Day as part of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland call to prayer - we must continue to pray and act for justice and peace. You can find a range of resources for your church from organisations involved here.

Register here: [Beyond a ceasefire - seeking a just peace | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Photo by Mohammed Ibrahim on Unsplash

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](#)



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 Christmas Cards & Gift Cards 2025



*'Joy & Peace' Christmas Card.
The elegant "Dove with
Christmas trees" image
was painted by a refugee
friend who is a community
member of a refugee project
which is regularly supported
by LCRF grants*

*'Shepherds' Christmas Card
This evocative Christmas
Night scene was painted by
Jenny Scoones who is a
Core Volunteer with LCRF*



**LCRF supports destitute asylum seekers in London.
Buying our Christmas Cards & Gifts makes a real
difference to the lives of those in desperate need**

- ❖ **Two beautiful Christmas cards** – see images above
- ❖ **Welcome Gifts** purchased on behalf of family & friends help destitute refugees with phone credit, food, and warm clothing, as you offer the gifts of friendship, hope and love
- ❖ **A stunning Wall Print: "The Flight to Egypt"**

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see the full range and buy safely online

[**Click here**](https://lcrf.onlineweb.shop/)



The URC Waldensian Fellowship On-Line

Thursday 13th November at 7.30 pm

Two Visits to Waldensian Churches and Projects this Autumn

During the past few weeks, two groups from the United Reformed Church have travelled to Italy to learn something of the Waldensian Church, its history and current life and witness.

The first group, made up of students and tutors from the Scottish College (based in Glasgow), visited the Waldensian Valleys, on the Italian-French border, in mid-September. For almost all of them, this was their first contact with the Waldensian Church.

Then a couple of weeks later, a group of more 'seasoned' folk, some of whom have visited the Waldensians several times, went to Sicily to explore some of the church and diaconal activities there, including the famous *Servizio Cristiano* at Rieti.

Come and hear from those who participated in these two trips. We would be delighted were you to join us for the evening. Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone you feel might be interested.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476125567?pwd=MFFT R3F5c0REU2IOYkVLa2x1cU5qdz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7612 5567

Passcode: 326951

Invitation:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476125567?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476125567?pwd=MFFTR3F5c0REU2lOYkVLa2x1cU5qdz09)
[pwd=MFFTR3F5c0REU2lOYkVLa2x1cU5qdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84476125567?pwd=MFFTR3F5c0REU2lOYkVLa2x1cU5qdz09)
Meeting Passcode: 326951

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](#)



www.urc.org.uk



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](#)