



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 31 July 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

Joint Synod Youth Get Togethers Ages 11-16 years Bowling and pizza Wednesday 6 August 2025 16:30-19:15pm. Register www.bit.ly/get-together-bowling

and **Ages 16-25 years World Buffet Meal** Thursday 7 August 2025 at 18:00-20:30pm Register by 4 August www.bit.ly/Get-Together-Buffer

Extreme Love in Extreme Times on Wednesday 6 August 2025 at 4:30pm (doors open at 3:30pm) at Seedbed Centre Renewal Programme, 395 High St North, Manor Park E12 6PG.

The NEW Church Leadership Programme (CLP) Taster Session on Wednesday 13th August from 19:00-20:00 on Zoom. Email Christine to register your interest – christine.hufton@lutherking.ac.uk

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions - 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

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

News



Yesterday the Moderator visited Revd John Key to congratulate him on the 65th anniversary of his ordination. Well done good and faithful servant.



On Tuesday the Moderator presented Revd Geoffrey Roper with a certificate to celebrate 60 years of ministry. Well done good and faithful servant. We will miss Geoffrey as he moves this week to Warwickshire.

Vine Church - New Window



On Saturday the congregation and friends of Vine Church along with the Moderator and the Architect gathered to dedicate the new window at the front of the church. The previous window had been at risk of collapsing. Revd John Campbell wrote a special hymn for the occasion reflecting the symbolism of the window and the life of the Church.

Dulcie, the Church Secretary was presented with a certificate recognising her many years of long service as Church Secretary although she also looks after the room bookings and so much more!

Vine Church Garden Project

If you plan to do a Garden Project this Season of Creation here are some ideas for letting passing footfall know what you are doing and why.



The garden's 30-year old lavender is still attracting bees!

Sunday Story: Jazz Vespers



Our monthly Jazz Vespers services started in the autumn of 2022 as a way to connect with people in the area during the week, but not on weekends. The service has steadily grown a consistent congregation of jazz fans, spiritual seekers and local workers, matching our Sunday morning attendance numbers. But June 2025 was record-breaking!

We partnered with the URC Thames North Synod, who provided a generous grant for musicians and sent singers from churches across the region. A mass choir of more than 40 people joined a professional big band of 15 musicians to perform Duke Ellington's Second Sacred Concert. Jared Jagers and Scott Stroman craft a beautiful service every month.

The event drew 227 people! In addition to the 55 performers, there were probably 40-50 visitors from across the URC Synod. A small number were AIC members, but most were members of our regular jazz vespers community, or newcomers just trying things out for the first time.

AIC's investment in this programme has already resulted in several regular participants in our wider community, and our jazz vespers community continues to grow. Praise God!

What's On

NB Creative Week 2025 (5–9 August)


We regret to inform you that Creative Week 2025 (5–9 August) has been cancelled due to insufficient registrations.


As a result, the Showcase Performance planned for Saturday 9 August will not take place. Please help us spread the word that no event will be happening at Lumen that day.


Alternative Youth Get Togethers this August (Book free spaces by Monday 4th August)


Though Creative Week won't go ahead, URC Thames North & Southern Synods are hosting two free youth gatherings in London, offering young people the chance to connect, have fun, and meet others from across the Synods. We are holding 2 separate events, one for 11-16 year olds, and one for 16-25s.

Bowling & Pizza (Ages 11–16)

 **17** July Wednesday 6 August


 4:30pm – 7:15pm

 Bloomsbury Lanes, Tavistock Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 9E
Enjoy bowling and pizza in a relaxed, fun setting. Free to attend—just bring some money for a soft drink.

 Register by Monday 4 August: bit.ly/get-together-bowling


World Buffet Meal (Ages 16–25)

 **17** July Thursday 7 August

 6:00pm – 8:30pm

 Jimmy's Buffet, The O2, Greenwich SE10 0DX

Join older youth and young adults for a free buffet dinner and fellowship. The cost of all you can eat buffet will be covered – just bring payment for soft drinks.

 Register by Monday 4 August: bit.ly/get-together-buffet

Please share these Youth Get Together opportunities with young people linked to your church community and encourage them to attend. An advert for the events is attached.

**You are warmly invited to
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London
on Friday 26th September 2025,
6:15 to 8:15 pm for a screening of**

“Light”



**A film showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams
in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

***“Where all other elements are controlled and rationed,
perhaps our light is the one thing that cannot be taken”***

**All are welcome. Free admission with donations to CPT
invited.**

Watch the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>

17.45 Doors open, tea/coffee

**18.15 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley, reservist with
CPT in Hebron**

18.20 *Light* (60 mins)

**19.20 Q and A with the film director, Ahmad Abu Monshar,
by Zoom from the West Bank.**

**Please book your place with Maggie Hindley
m@maggiehindley.org, 07545 130260**

Watch the trailer [here](#) and [book your place](#) with Maggie Hindley.

**Wild Goose Resource Group
are coming to STAURC
in October:**

7-9pm, Fri 3rd

10.30-3.30pm, Sat 4th

10.30-11.30, Sun 5th



**An interactive weekend exploring
creative and participative ways to worship,
led by the Wild Goose Resource Group
of the Iona Community -
Jane Bentley, Jo Love, Iain McLarty**

The weekend consists of three workshop sessions with the team (and liberally interspersed by refreshments!) which build creative ideas through Bible study, conversation, music making and more, towards the culmination of the Sunday morning service at Homewood.

Tickets cost £12 for 1 session, or £17 for 2 or 3 sessions.

A simple lunch can be provided between workshops on the Saturday, for which we ask an additional donation.

Please book tickets via Gill Elliott on gilldotelliott@googlemail.com, indicating which workshops and whether you wish to have lunch on the Saturday.

at Homewood...

Workshop #1: Fri 3rd 7-9pm

at Greenwood...

Workshop #2: Sat 4th 10.30am- 12.30pm

Lunch: 12.30 – 1.30pm

Workshop #3: 1.30- 3.30pm

and

at Homewood,,,

Sunday worship: Sun 5th 10.30-11.30am

Homewood Site: Homewood Road AL1 4BH

Greenwood Site: Watford Road,

Chiswell Green AL2 3HG

See [here](#) for more information on the Wild Goose Resource Group. There is a limit on numbers so please book early with Gill Elliott

gilldotelliott@googlemail.com.





Thames North &
Southern Synod



Messy
Church

FUN DAY

an intergenerational event for all ages

Saturday September 27th

10:30 - 4:00pm

Lumen, London - WC1H 9RS

Free Event - All Are Welcome 🎵

Worship Refreshments provided Prayer
Creative Activities Picnic (bring your own)

Register online at

www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day



JOINT SYNOD YOUTH GET TOGETHERS



AGES 11-16 YEARS -  BOWLING & PIZZA 

 DATE: WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST 2025  TIME: 16:30 - 19:15

 VENUE: BLOOMSBURY LANES, TAVISTOCK HOTEL, BEDFORD WAY, LONDON WC1H 9E

 COST: FREE — JUST BRING PAYMENT FOR SOFT DRINKS

REGISTER BY MON 4TH AUG - WWW.BIT.LY/GET-TOGETHER-BOWLING



AGES 16-25 YEARS -  WORLD BUFFET MEAL

 DATE: THURSDAY 7 AUGUST  TIME: 18:00- 20:30

 VENUE: JIMMYS BUFFET, THE O2, GREENWICH SE 10 ODX

 COST: FREE — JUST BRING PAYMENT FOR SOFT DRINKS.

REGISTER BY MON 4TH AUG - WWW.BIT.LY/GET-TOGETHER-BUFFET



Vacancies

A photograph of two young women sitting outdoors at what appears to be a festival or campsite. The woman on the left has dark hair and glasses, wearing a black top. The woman on the right has curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a denim jacket over a white t-shirt with text. In the background, there are trees, a white tent, and other people. A large green banner is overlaid at the top with the text 'Come and join our team!', where the word 'join' is circled in red.

Come and join our team!

The Senior
Administrator role
is now open for
applications:
[movement.org.uk/
vacancies](https://movement.org.uk/vacancies)



student
christian
movement

Progressive, student-led faith in action.

Apply at movement.org.uk for full advert and Applicant Pack.

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



Mission Team

Advert

Mission Team member: Mission Practitioner (Children's Work)

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

We are seeking experienced people who are motivated to stimulate and encourage growth within the Synod, working alongside our Mission and Training Officer and Mission Practitioner (Youth Work).

The focus of the work is to assist local churches in their mission, in implementing mission initiatives, and by encouraging them to be confident in sharing their faith.

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 **Wednesday 17th September**.

Interviews will be held on **Friday 26th September**.

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.)



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

**Do you have a heart for
discipleship and mission?**

**Do you want to make a difference
in the life of the wider URC and
beyond**

**If so, become a member of the
new Faith in Action committee**

**We are looking for people with
an interest in our three focus areas:**

- **Children and Youth /
Intergenerational Mission**
- **Evangelism and Ecumenism**
- **Education / Lay Learning**



www.urc.org.uk/jobs

Kensington United Reformed Church

Allen Street, London, W8 6BL.

Facilities Manager

for room hire and building management.

This is an interesting and varied role which will appeal to someone who enjoys working with the public and has excellent organisational skills.

18 hours per week

Part office and part home based.

Salary £12,963.60 per annum

London Living Wage

with usual holiday and other entitlements.

For an Application Pack please contact

Sally Massey Thomas

email kensington.urc@gmail.com

PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER

Broxbourne URC



ABOUT US

We are a United Reformed Church in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming church, proud of our heritage, but forward looking and innovative. Everyone is welcome in our church.

As a church family we are offering a flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

THE APPLICANT

We seek a motivated and enthusiastic Children's and Youth Worker who can help us nurture and grow the existing work with our young people, working with our children's team volunteers. A committed Christian with a passion and ability to share the gospel with children and young people. This post may suit someone seeking flexible, part-time hours, wishing to develop their skills or changing career.

EXPERIENCE

We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting. The age group is currently 9-15.

Location

Broxbourne United Reformed Church,
Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ

THE POSITION

This position is important for the spiritual development of children and youth, supporting their faith journeys and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment for all families.

The postholder will focus on carrying out their role at Broxbourne URC, while gradually developing a model that the other two churches in our pastorate could adapt in their future work with children and youth.

We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts.

Hours

16 hours a week - flexible, including some Sunday mornings and mid-week and evening events.

Contract and salary

Three-year fixed term. £16 per hour. 20 days paid leave and 8 days paid statutory holidays per year pro rata. Workplace pension scheme offered. Responsible to the Minister and supported by him and volunteer members.

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply for an application pack to our Pastorate Administrator, Mrs. Stepanka Moysey at urcnlvg@gmail.com
For informal inquiries, please contact our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson
revdmarkr@gmail.com.

Visit our website: www.nlvg.org.uk

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 18 August**.
Interviews will be held after Monday 25 August.

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>

Zoom Intermediate Safeguarding Training

Saturday 2nd August 2025 - 10.30am – 1.00pm

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



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