



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 4 December 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

Intermediate Safeguarding Training on 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



EVERY CHURCH MATTERS

SUPPORT AND ADVICE MONTHLY ROUND-UP

© Ioan Said

The results of our National Churches Survey are in. Thank you so much to the thousands of churches, chapels and meeting houses that took part, from every denomination and every part of the UK, sharing your perspectives on everything from community activities, services and volunteers to repairs, facilities and hopes for the future.

The results show that churches are facing huge challenges, but despite this, they are still playing a vital role at the heart of local communities. One in ten churches need urgent repairs to their roofs and guttering in the next 12 months, and only two-thirds believe their church will 'definitely' be open in five years' time. But over half of churches are involved with distributing food to the community; 82% now have fully accessible entrances (up from 63% in 2010) and 76% are hosting community groups.

The survey shows that 85% would expand community support if they had more resources; we know that volunteers are the hidden engine of church life.

At the National Churches Trust, we will use this data to continue to highlight to policymakers, other funders and the wider public how valuable churches like yours are in helping local communities to thrive and push for greater support to help you keep your church open and in good repair.

Thank you so much for the incredible work you do in your community. You can read the full survey results on our [website](#) now, in English and in Welsh. And also all of the latest News and Updates.

Green Christian Conference



Here is a link to a thought-provoking speech at the Green Christian Conference by Rupert Read on how the churches can offer spiritual resilience and community leadership as we enter a time of climate breakdown.

Rupert spoke about how our neighbourhood churches will have the opportunity to become hubs of spiritual resilience in a time of climatic change.

<https://youtu.be/KDBo28EgwfQ?si=d8iSRiX3Z6ppvqyP>

Fuller details of the day are here <https://greenchristian.org.uk/church-community-and-climate-risk/>

Stop Crucifying Creation



STOP CRUCIFYING CREATION

A call to the Church to exemplify radical and transformative Christian living in the face of climate collapse.

Time to Wake Up: An Advent Reflection **November 30, 2025**

In September 2025, Christian Climate Action, published a challenge to the Church to Stop Crucifying Creation! This is the first of four Advent reflections arising from this visionary document. By Thalia Carr.

In the first week of Advent, Christians are reminded to wake up, but are we like teenagers, rolling over, wanting another five minutes in bed without facing up to reality?

Our 21st century world is a frightening and unpredictable place. The threats are enormous: economic crises, the rise of fascism, AI and social media which manipulate our perception of reality, escalating international tensions, wars and genocide and the oppression of refugees. Underlying all of these is the biggest threat of all, the climate crisis – which is leading to the profound degradation of all life on earth and could even see the extinction of the human race.

[To read more.](#)



**Transforming lives through Jesus
with disabled people**



[Vital Link - the newsletter for Through the Roof - Winter 2025](#)
Read

Dear friend

Welcome to Vital Link Winter '25 news from Through the Roof. Exploring the 2025 theme 'Made in God's Image', we've focused on each key word. Finally we focus on 'image', knowing too that 'God looks at the heart' (1 Samuel 16:7).

Read on for our headline stories below, or [download the full PDF](#), read the [online Joomag version](#), or [contact us](#) for other accessible formats.

What's On

Save the Date: Resources Day 2026

Saturday 31 January 10-4pm at Lumen

for Church Secretaries, Treasurers, administrators and property managers.

With updates on property, legal and finance matters and a special focus on what the URC's Church Life Review might mean for your church.

Community Transformation Tour - East London

10am-4pm Saturday 24 January 2026

How can we transform our communities - and grow our churches?

Starting at Seedbeds Centre, Renewal Programme, 395 High Street North. Manor Park E12 6PG then visiting community centres, a sports field, schools and an 'urban abbey' in Bonny Downs, East Ham and Royal Docks.

Come and see God at work and seek a pioneering vision for your community. Lunch and refreshments provided. No charge, donations accepted.

To book your place in the minibus, email dave.mann@seedbeds.org

Carol Concert for The Separated Child Foundation



Join us on Thursday 11 December 2025 in the glorious setting of St Cyprian's Church for an evening of festive music and words. We're delighted to be supporting children's charity The Separated Child Foundation again this year. The charity supports young refugees who have arrived here without their families.

Tickets are £15 (£8 for under-12s) and there will be free printed programmes available on the door.

[Concert information and tickets 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 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](#). If you have any problems with filling in the form please contact Carrie Kaunda at carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk

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

Treasurer – The Milton Mount Foundation

The Milton Mount Foundation is a Trust Fund that offers grants to children of Ministers. The Fund arises from the sale of the Milton Mount College in 1962.

For more information: <https://www.miltonmountfoundation.org.uk/>

The Treasurer oversees the financial matters of the charity in line with good practice and in accordance with the governing document and legal requirements and reports to the Board of trustees at each meeting about the financial health of the organisation.

Closing date for applications: 31 January

Informal interview for role: 26 February pm or 27 February am

For more information and application form, please
miltonmountfoundation@gmail.com

This can also be found on the URC Jobs page of the website:

<https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

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