



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 4 June 2026

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

Synod Eco Day 2026 on Saturday 13 June 2026 10:30am - 4pm at Amersham Free Church Woodside Road HP6 6AJ. Book with Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk **Still places available, and we would love to see you there!**

Leading your Church into Growth: Youth on 13 June & 11 July 2026 at Brunswick Parish Church M13 9SX. www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/youth

Free to Believe Conference 2026 at Highgate House Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 June 2026

Limitless Festival 2026 on 5-9 August 2026 at Stafford Showground. mdoandrew@urcwestmidlands.org.uk or mdosally@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

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

Church Action on Poverty Sunday on Sunday 18th October 2026, church-poverty.org.uk/sunday.

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

Information and News

Muswell Hill URC



Last Sunday over 75 members past and present (including some from America) and friends gathered to mark the closing of Muswell Hill United Reformed Church. Memories were shared of 127 years of faithful worship and witness. The Moderator led the service which included communion.



Induction of Naomi Young-Rodas



On Saturday the Revd Naomi Young-Rodas was inducted to the Heartland Local Area Group with responsibility for St Albans and Newland (Dunstable and Luton). The Moderator presided with Revd Dr Jennifer Smith (Superintendent Minister of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission) preaching and Revd Nigel Uden leading the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. Various members of the Churches and Local Area Group also took part in the service.



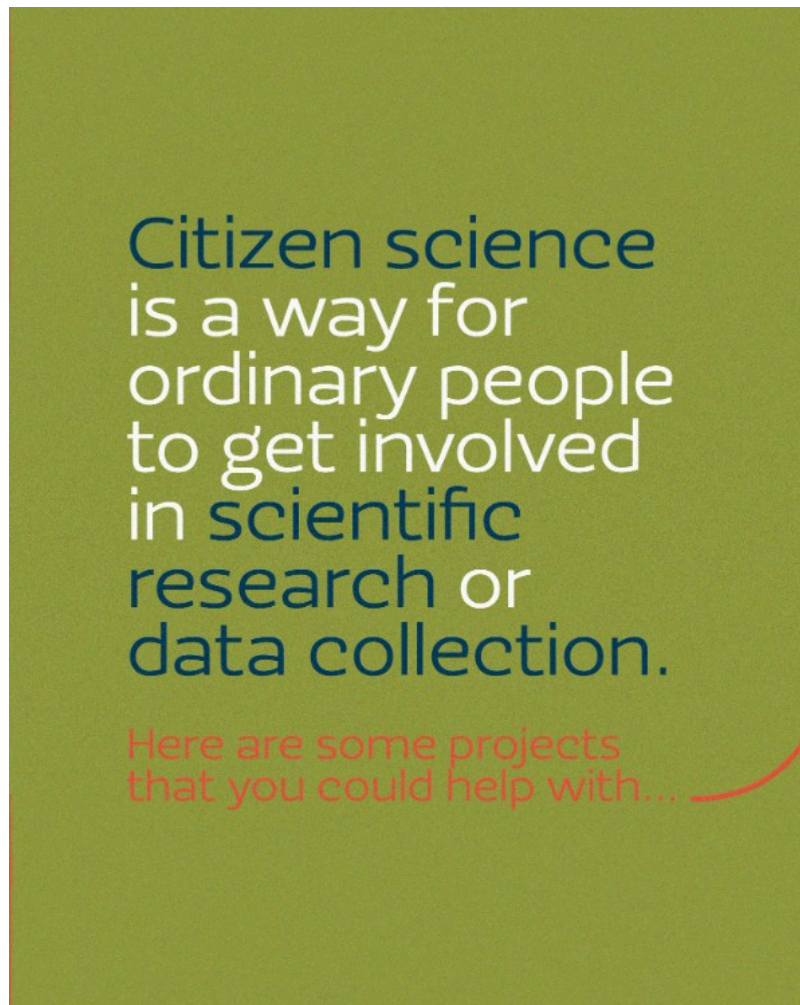
Shaping global reparative justice



Karen Campbell, the URC's Head of Global and Intercultural, was part of a planning meeting in Madagascar that helped shape The Onesimus Project (TOP), an initiative of the Council for World Mission (CWM). The project is named after a runaway slave for whom St Paul advocated. TOP grew out of CWM's Legacies of Slavery Project, initiated in 2017, but has broadened the focus to include Modern Day Slavery. CWM General

Secretary Revd Dr Jooseop Keum said: "Member churches must move beyond symbolic remembrance toward concrete acts of justice, restoration, and communal healing." The URC working with the Churches' Reparations Action Forum on the New Free Villages, a transformative project which aims to see historic Churches in Jamaica donate land inherited after slavery and colonisation.

Citizen Science



Some projects that you could help with:

Take part in citizen science or a local nature event. Citizen science is a way for ordinary people to get involved in scientific research or data collection. There are many projects to choose from and it's easy to make a contribution. Invite others to get involved with you too. Here are some projects that you could help with:

Search your local beach with a shore survey:

wildlifetrusts.org/shoresearch

Spend ten minutes counting pollinators:

ukpoms.org.uk

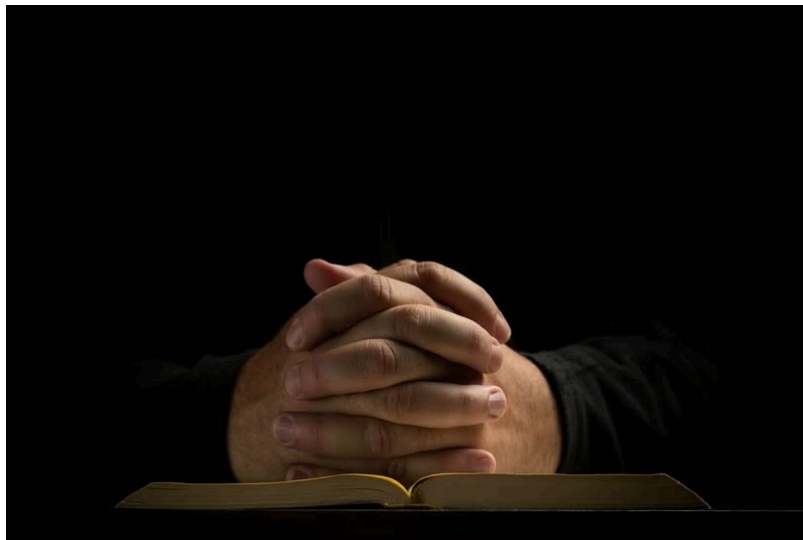
Join in with Churches Count on Nature (6-

14 June): arocho.org.uk/what-we-do/churches-count-on-nature/

Do a Bee Walk: beewalk.org.uk

Join Great Big Green Week (6-14 June):
greatbiggreenweek.com

A prayer following violence in Southampton



The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, Moderator of the United Reformed Church Wessex Synod, offers this prayer in response to recent violence in Southampton, and in sorrow for all who have been harmed, frightened or bereaved following the murder of Henry Nowak.

God of justice, mercy and peace,
we pray for the city of Southampton.

We hold before you the family and friends of Henry Nowak,
and all who grieve his death.

Surround them with compassion, truth and love,
and protect their sorrow from being used to deepen hatred or division.

We pray for all who are afraid today:

for local residents whose streets have become places of fear,
for communities made anxious by racism, suspicion or blame,
for those injured in violence,
and for all who are working to restore calm.

As a Church committed to becoming actively anti-racist,
we confess that racism wounds the body of Christ
and distorts the life of our communities.

Give us courage to name injustice clearly,
to listen to those whose experience is too often dismissed,
and to resist every attempt to turn grief into prejudice.
As followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
we reject violence as a way of seeking justice.
Teach us the discipline of non-violence,
the patience of truth,
and the costly work of reconciliation.
Where public trust has been damaged,
let there be honesty, accountability and careful investigation.
Where anger is justified,
let it be turned towards justice and not hatred.
Where communities are divided,
raise up peacemakers who are neither silent in the face of injustice
nor careless with the safety of others.
God of all people,
make us instruments of your peace:
strong against racism,
steadfast in hope,
gentle with the wounded,
and brave in the work of justice.
In the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

<https://urc.org.uk/a-prayer-following-violence-in.../>

Image: Peter Law/Pexels



Places of Worship Renewal Fund

The Places of Worship Renewal Fund (PWRF) supports urgent repairs and essential improvements to listed places of worship in England.

Grants ranging from £10,000 to £1,000,000 will be awarded for capital works that keep buildings safe, open and in public use.

Priority will be given to projects in areas of England with the highest level of deprivation and need for investment, and those that bring most community benefit.

In order to support different sizes of project, the fund will be divided into three streams. These are:

- £10,000 – £50,000 (small grants)
- £50,001 – £350,000 (medium grants)
- £350,001 – £1,000,000 (large grants)

The fund is competitive, and not all applications will be successful. The full requirements of the fund are set out on our website, which provides details on the priorities, criteria, and objectives that all applications will be assessed against.

Expressions of Interest: The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest for grants from the first round of the Fund has been extended to Sunday 14 June 2026. A second round will follow soon after in September 2026.

The latest date by which applicants will receive a response to their Expression of Interest is now 3 July.

Full applications: The deadline to submit a full application for the Fund has been extended from 16 July to 5pm on Sunday 26 July.
[Source: HRBA, 29 May]

As a reminder, CLAS is hosting its AGM on the 18 June at the Lumen Centre, 88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS, when we will be joined by Diana Evans, Head of Places of Worship and Owners Advice at Historic England, who will talk to us about the Places of Worship Renewal Fund.

There is a sandwich lunch from 13:00 and the actual AGM will begin from 14:00 onwards.

Please let us know if you would like to attend by replying to the email below.

Frank Cranmer
CLAS Secretary
Churches' Legislation Advisory Service

T: 02072221265

E: info@churcheslegislation.org.uk

W: <https://churcheslegislation.org.uk>

What's On

URC Public Issues

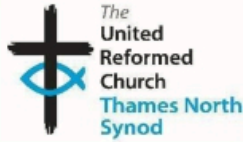
*Free
Webinar*

How can you and your church show Christian love for refugees and asylum seekers in your area? Join our special webinar featuring Welcome Churches on 10 June, 7-8pm

To register, see
bit.ly/PIWC10June



How can you and your church show Christian love for refugees and asylum seekers in your area? Join our special webinar featuring guests from Welcome Churches on 10 June, 7-8pm, and explore the positive impact that being part of the Welcome Churches network has on member churches and displaced people. To register, see bit.ly/PIWC10June



Thames North Synod URC

Eco Day

Saturday 13th June 2026

9.30am - 4pm

Amersham Free Church

Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

Nature on our Doorstep

Join fellow churchgoers from across the Synod in exploring animal and plant life, gardening skills, and energy saving.

Hear our gold medal winning 'Amersham in Bloom' describe how they transform public places for nature and people.

Come for a walk with us (optional!) through the woods to the River Misbourne, a chalk stream. 45 minutes of gentle walking, but bring strong shoes. We'll bus back.

Enjoy a delicious lunch - locally sourced produce, and home-made cakes for tea.



For more information email: Colleen Fraser at
modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



NB Travel Update:

It appears that the Metropolitan Line is going to be disrupted between Aldgate and Harrow on the Hill on Saturday 13th June so that won't be an option sadly for those of you coming from the east of the synod.

However, Amersham is lucky in that it is served by both networks and the Chiltern Line mainline service coming from Marylebone should not be affected. They both end up at the same station in Amersham and directions from there are quite simple.

Cross the road by the zebra crossing in front of you as you come out of the station, turn left and almost immediately right (opposite a mini Tesco) to go up Hill Avenue. At the top of that road by a mini roundabout, turn right (opposite National Westminster Bank) and walk along the main street past the shops right to the end (past St Michael's church on your right) and you come to a pair of mini roundabouts. Go slightly right to another zebra crossing and Amersham Free Church (postcode HP6 6AJ) is facing you as you cross the road.

If you should get lost you can phone Janet Reid on 07754 408738 but it should be straightforward and take no more than 10 minutes on foot.

There is also parking available, with easy access via the M25.

Thames North Synod Eco Day 2026

At: Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ

On: 13th June 2026 - 9:30am- 4pm

Theme: 'Nature on our Doorstep'

Key Speaker – Michelle Catanach and the Amersham in Bloom Team, speaking on 'Transforming Public Spaces for Nature and People'

There will be a wide range of workshops for those on, or considering starting, the Eco Church Journey. There will be a plenary session, and you are invited to submit questions and comments which arise from the day, in writing, by 3pm.

Please include this information in your church newsletters.

Spaces are limited so please book early by emailing Colleen Fraser modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk or via the online [Booking Form](#).

NB The last date for registration is **Thursday 4 June 2026** as the admin team will need an idea of numbers by then to finalise catering.

We would find it helpful if people could **indicate what workshops they would be interested in booking**. The list of workshops on offer is below and it would be particularly helpful if you could indicate whether you are interested in the afternoon accompanied walk so that we can allocate you to other workshops in the morning.

(We are expecting all the workshops, except the Using the Nature App one, to be repeated in the afternoon as an alternative to the walk).

Our Workshops, to be held from 12 noon.

Pop in and Paint (Closely observing and drawing flowers) with Joy Johns

Supporting Hedgehogs in the Garden - (with webcam footage) *with* Richard Winter

How we set up a Nature Friendly Garden at Vine Church, Ilford - with Peter Musgrave

Hymns – creating new hymns to familiar tunes -with Ian Green

Energy savings for buildings – simple and practical steps - with Andrew Mills and Sacha McArdle

Citizen Science Projects and using the iNature App. Smartphone needed with Anna Barrett - morning only

Programme Highlights:

9:30 AM: Arrival & registration (by 10:10 AM)

10:10 AM: Worship, followed by a presentation on "Transforming Public Spaces for Nature and People" by Amersham's gold medal-winning "Amersham in Bloom" volunteers.

Workshops on eco topics: drawing plant life, hedgehogs in the garden, energy saving in our buildings, setting up a wildlife friendly garden, hymn writing, and using the iNature app.

Lunch: Ploughman's style with vegan and gluten-free options.

Afternoon: Optional walk to the River Misbourne, with easy downhill walking (sturdy shoes needed). We'll take the bus back to the church in time for tea.

Final worship and plenary session.

Children are welcome! School age children will find plenty to interest them in the programme, and if there are younger ones we will provide a space for them to play. A parent or carer will need to stay with them.

We look forward to spending the day with you!

Leading your Church into Growth: Youth

Leading your Church into Growth: Youth is a two-day course for local churches looking to grow youth ministry.

Whether you are looking to grow existing youth ministry or start something new, this course will equip you with an achievable plan for working with young people in your context.

“Many times we feel like our work is failing or not growing but you helped us refocus... and come up with practical ways to achieve our goals as a team while partnering with God” - LyCiG Youth attendee

10am-4pm · 13th June & 11th July
Brunswick Parish Church, M13 9SX
www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/youth

Safeguarding Training

SYNOD SAFEGUARDING

training

JUNE

WED 17TH 6-8.30PM- INTERMEDIATE

TUES 23RD 2-4.30PM INTERMEDIATE

THURS 25TH 6-8.30PM INTERMEDIATE

JULY

WED 15TH 6-8.30PM COMBINED

MON 20TH 10-12.30PM COMBINED

THURS 16TH 10-12PM ADVANCED PT 1

THURS 23RD 10-12.30PM ADVANCED PT 2

AUGUST

WED 12TH AUG 10-12PM COMBINED

SEPTEMBER

WED 16TH 6-8PM ADVANCED PT1

WED 23RD 6-8.30PM ADVANCED PT2

THURS 17TH 6-8.30PM INTERMEDIATE

OCTOBER

WED 7TH 6-8.30PM COMBINED

THURS 29TH 10-12.30PM COMBINED

NOVEMBER

WED 11TH 6-8PM ADVANCED PT1

WED 18TH 6-8.30PM ADVANCED PT2

DECEMBER

THURS 10TH 10-12PM ADVANCED PT1

THURS 17TH 10-12.30PM ADVANCED PT2



The
United
Reformed
Church
Thames North Synod

TO BOOK ON TO ANY OF THESE TRAINING DATES, PLEASE COPY THE LINK BELOW INTO YOUR BROWSER AND COMPLETE THE FORM.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/IYFSRTKKWXASXU4N8](https://forms.gle/IYFSRTKKWXASXU4N8)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ORDER TO ATTEND THE ADVANCED TRAINING, YOU MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE INTERMEDIATE OR COMBINED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING BEFOREHAND.



DDC Verifier Safeguarding Training (On Zoom)

To book...

Please email

emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

This training is for all Primary Contact Church Safeguarding Coordinators, Secretaries and DBS verifiers as you act as verifiers for DBS checks within your church.

This training provides all the information for you to access the portal and conduct document verification,

The training also provides additional information on Safer Recruitment Processes for the Church.

PLEASE BOOK ONE DATE ONLY by emailing Emma Pearce
emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

21st May – 1pm

9th July – 10am

8th September – 10am

8th October – 7pm



The
United
Reformed
Church
Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



Safeguarding Training 2026

June

Wed 17th June 6-8.30pm Intermediate

Tues 23rd June 2-4.30pm Intermediate

Thurs 25th June 6-8.30pm Intermediate

July

Wed 15th July 6-8.30pm Combined

Mon 20th July 10-12.30pm Combined

Thurs 16th July 10-12pm Advanced pt1

Thurs 23rd July 10-12.30pm Advanced pt2

August

Wed 12th Aug 10-12pm Combined

September

Wed 16th September 6-8pm Advanced pt1

Wed 23rd September 6-8.30pm Advanced pt2

Thurs 17th September 6-8.30pm Intermediate

October

Wed 7th October 6-8.30pm Combined

Thurs 29th October 10-12.30pm Combined

November

Wed 11th November 6-8pm Advanced pt1

Wed 18th 6-8.30pm November Advanced pt2

December

Thurs 10th December 10-12pm Advanced pt1

Thurs 17th December 10-12.30pm Advanced pt2

To book for this training, please complete the booking form here

<https://forms.gle/iYFSrtkkWxAsXu4N8>

Building Bridges Across Generations

Empowering Communities Through Intergenerational Workshops

Training Workshops for Supporting Intergenerational Communities

This series of training sessions aims to foster intergenerational communities, offering insights for working with young people and expanding ministries. Co-delivered by the Children and Youth Team and Safeguarding, these workshops will be conducted via Zoom.

Workshop Details:

1. **Growing Intergenerational Communities**
 - **Date:** 8th September, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - **Topics:**
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Unconscious Bias / Roles
 - Creating Welcoming Environments
 - Generational Theory
2. **Developing Spaces for Under 5s**
 - **Date:** 13th October, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - **Topics:**
 - Effective Communication
 - Safe, Spiritual Spaces
 - Creative Storybooks / Activities
 - Missional Opportunities in Toddler Groups
3. **Supporting Faith Development in Young People**
 - **Date:** 8th November, 7:30 PM–9:00 PM
 - **Topics:**
 - Models of Discipleship / Mentoring
 - Youth Groups in Private Dwellings
 - Engaging Young People
 - Lone Working & Risk Assessments

To participate, please email emma.pearce@urc.org.uk. These workshops are an excellent opportunity to enhance skills in fostering intergenerational relationships and faith development.



Minister's Advanced Safeguarding Training

Please email
carrie.kaunda@urc.org
with any questions.

Each course will last 4.5 hours, delivered across 2 Zoom sessions

Please click the link below the relevant date to go to the booking form.

The zoom link will then be sent the week before.

Thursday 15th Jan 1-3pm and Thursday 22nd Jan 1-3.30pm

[Ministers Advanced Training Booking Form January](#)

Tuesday 3rd March 10am-12noon and Tuesday 10th March 10am-12.30pm

[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers March](#)

Wednesday 6 May 1-3pm and Wednesday 13th May 1-3.30pm

[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers May](#)

Monday 5th October 1-3pm and Monday 12th October 1-3.30pm

[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers October](#)



www.urc.org.uk





UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2026

Make your booking by emailing:
Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training will take place via Zoom

Foundation
Training can be
accessed on the
Learning Hub
[Home | URC Learning Hub](#)

Thursday 2nd July 10.30am-12.30pm	Domestic Abuse
Tuesday 7th July 1.00pm- 3.00pm	Supporting Survivors
Tuesday 14th July 7.00pm- 9.00pm	Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Modern Slavery
Monday 7th September 1.00pm-3.00pm	Elders as Trustees
Tuesday 15th September 7.00pm -9.00pm	Online Safety
Wednesday 23rd September 1.00pm-3.00pm	Spiritual Abuse
Tuesday 6th October 7.00pm.9.00pm	Adult Safeguarding
Wednesday 21st October 1.00pm-3.00pm	Discriminatory Abuse



www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

Vacancies



UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

Salary: £40,500 pa

The University of Bedfordshire Ecumenical Chaplaincy Trust (UBECT), in partnership with the University, seeks to appoint a **Lead Chaplain** to co-ordinate and oversee the development of a vibrant Chaplaincy for the University, working closely with its Community and Faith team, Student Services and Human Resources on initiatives to support student and staff well-being. The role is based primarily in Bedford and Luton but will involve travel to other University locations.

We seek a committed Christian of any denomination who

- Has experience in a Christian ministry, lay or ordained.
- Is committed to an ecumenical and multi-faith (and no faith) approach, with a solid understanding of other faiths and traditions.
- Has strong communication, pastoral and leadership skills, with experience in team building and planning.
- Is confident, empathetic, self-motivated and reliable, including when working under pressure.
- Has theological and pastoral training or experience.
- Will bring theological insight to contribute to the life of the University.

Deadline for applications: **1st July 2026**

Interview Date: **21st July 2026**

As the role holder will be working for a Christian charity leading a multi-faith chaplaincy to the students and staff of the University of Bedfordshire, they are required to be a Christian, we welcome applications from members of any Christian Church.

For a detailed Job Description and Application Form, please contact
Revd Tricia Reed, PA to the Archdeacon of Bedford
by email tricia.reed@stalbandsdiocese.org or telephone 01727 818167

If you would like to keep your inbox clear, please feel free to unsubscribe at the bottom of the page.

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }} You received this email because you are registered with URC Thames North
<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



[Unsubscribe here](#)