



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 7 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

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

Lancaster Road URC – Psalm Tree Island Holiday Club



Last week, Lancaster Road ran their annual holiday club for children and young people aged 4 to 11 years old. They have been running an annual holiday club in the Summer holidays since 2007. This year was slightly different as it was held in the church because of the redevelopment of the church hall. This year's theme was Psalm Tree Island from John

Hardwick's 5-day holiday club plan, a series of books, which they have used over the last few years. It includes the famous Watt family drama.

They are fortunate in having a talented band of musicians, worship leaders and staff which included staff from Christ Church. Each day included a bible story, games, handicraft, jokes, prayers, and more. They have many children who return each year. This year they averaged 54 children each day across the week. The week closed with a holiday club service on Sunday morning which included music, drama, jokes and stories from the week.

Climate Stewards Carbon Footprint Game



The Season of Creation is rapidly approaching and my thoughts have turned to activities we might do around carbon footprint calculating.

Climate Stewards offer a game that could be the basis of a display for the church foyer- just to get the conversation going around steps we can all take to reduce our carbon footprints. Take a look by clicking on the link - [Carbon Footprint Game – Climate Stewards](#)

Climate Stewards say: Our Carbon Footprint Game is a fun and engaging way to help people understand more about the carbon footprint of different activities, and think about ways to cut their footprint. To purchase a professionally printed set of cards in colour for £15, email comms@climatestewards.org.

Anna Barrett - Green Apostle



Free workshops from The Climate Coalition



Following on from the Mass Lobby in July, the Climate Coalition is holding free summer workshops designed to build confidence with lobbying local politicians suitable for first-timers and those who want to grow their impact. They start on 6 August and you can sign up [here](#).

The Church of England Environment Bulletin this month reports on this. You can also follow them on Twitter @CofEEnvironment for the latest news and sign up [here](#) if you want the Church of England Environment Bulletin sent direct to your inbox each month.





Feeling overwhelmed managing your local church accounts?
The Church Life Review is working on proposals to lighten the load and support you better! 🙌🏻🏡💖

Find out more here: <https://urc.org.uk/church-life-review-group/>



Sunday 10th August
at 6.00 pm

OPEN TABLE
Come as you are

Inclusive Communion Service

followed by refreshments

**Join us at Open Table Wanstead
on the SECOND Sunday of every month.
Open to LGBTQIA+ people and allies of any
Christian tradition and none.**



**Wanstead United Reformed Church
is an inclusive church.**

You are more than welcome here

**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=Vk0W3nqFZjI>

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.

Disability Awareness Sunday - 28 September 2025



The charity Through the Roof has a short video of disabled Christian author Emily Owen that can be played in churches, and Emily has also written the materials for use in services too on the theme of 'Made in the image of God'. All the resources are free and include suggested hymns and songs, prayers, etc, as well as Emily's video and ideas for the talk.

The date for Disability Awareness Sunday is 28th September, but churches can use this material on any Sunday at all. The important thing is to spread the message of welcome and inclusion for disabled people in our churches.

Here's the link for people to request the pack:
[Disability Awareness Sunday - Through the Roof](#)



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



Vacancies



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.

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.

Church Project Coordinator (The Church at Carrs Lane)

Part time post: 25 hours per week (hybrid, including some evening and weekend working)

Salary: £35,725 (25 hours) based on full time equivalent of £50,000
Initial period of 2 years, extendable by agreement

The Church at Carrs Lane seeks an experienced, dynamic Project Coordinator to represent the church in our city centre redevelopment opposite Moor Street station and near the new Curzon Street (HS2) station, managing the next steps towards establishing and running a new church building and community hub.

The building will be part of a large, mixed-use development in Birmingham City Centre. Working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, community groups and a development partner, our plan is to redevelop the existing church site to create a flexible, eco-friendly space which is the centre for the church and its partners.

You will be a confident and effective communicator, acting as 'client representative' on this major capital project. You will understand the congregation's comments and concerns, helping to reach consensus, devise strategy and maintain direction on behalf of the church. You will represent the church to a variety of providers including the Building Development Project Manager and potential partners for the new church building.

Knowledge of the Methodist and/or United Reformed Churches, their structures and practices, and the charity sector, is desirable.

- [Download the Job Description and Person Specification](#)
- [Download the Application Form](#) (CVs will not be accepted)
- [Download a copy of this advert](#)

How to apply:

We do not accept CVs. We follow United Reformed and Methodist Churches' Safer Recruitment policies and practice.

Please send your completed application form to:
moderators@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Application deadline: 9am, Monday 11 August 2025

Shortlisting: Monday 18 August 2025

Interviews: Wednesday 27 August 2025

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



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>

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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