



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 8 January 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

There is One Body and One Spirit just as you are called to the One Hope on 19 and 21 January 2026 at 8pm <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84436613127?pwd=KSPFWaQDBMKaQInIMcC0N3JUHo5KNn.1>

FaithTalk webinar – Preparing for Easter on 28 January 2026 at 7-8pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/faith-talk-webinars-4796784>

Save the Date: Resources Day 2026 at 10am on Saturday 31 January 2026. Hybrid - in person at Lumen and online (link to follow in the new year). Book [here](#) or with Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Preachers Circle: How to Construct a Clear Sermon on Saturday 7 February 2026 at Lumen 10:30am-12:30pm. [To register](#)

Authorised Elders Communion Presidency Refresher Training on Saturday 7 February 2026 at Lumen 2 - 4pm. [To register](#)

"How shall we sing that majesty?" Finding the right hymn for the right moment" on Tuesday 10 February at 7:30-9:30pm 2026 via Zoom rgoldring23@gmail.com

Wise Words - Youth Assembly 2026 27 February to 2 March 2026. [Book here](#)

URC Youth Leaders Gathering 27 February-1 March 2026 at Highgate House, Northampton. [Register](#)

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



Happy New Year from the Synod Green Team! A good time for resolving to make your church as environmentally sustainable as possible. Sustainability isn't a one-time effort; it's a continuous journey. Small actions can lead to significant impact - we can all do something! If you have not registered as an Eco Church, now is a good time to do it - the Green Team are here, ready and willing, to help you through the process if needed. Email Colleen Fraser modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for more information

Whether you are signed up for Eco Church or not, A Rocha have produced a new Eco tips calendar for 2026 that will keep you and your church inspired throughout the year. It has fresh ideas each month and will help to foster a lasting commitment to a greener lifestyle. It focuses on easy-to-implement tips, so that everyone can contribute, regardless of their lifestyle or schedule. Click [here](#) to see. They've designed these tips to be informative, but short enough to be added to church newsletters, social media posts, or other regular communications that you use.

Let's make 2026 our greenest year yet - Watch out for information on the Synod Eco Day - 13th June 2026 - Amersham Free Church.

Photo by [Noah Buscher](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ART



in plain sight

Art in Plain Sight

Following the ongoing success of this Thames North Synod project, there is now an opportunity for a few of our local churches to begin to be a new host venue starting in the early summer of this year. This involves a two-year programme of an A2 print of art/photo which changes every month and is displayed in an area of your building with a good level of community and congregational footfall. All the art and the equipment is provided free of charge to you.

To register an interest or to find out more then please contact our Discipleship Enabler Eddie Boon via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

What's On



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

"How shall we sing that majesty?" Finding the right hymn for the right moment"

Speaker - **Revd Dominic Grant**

Dominic is a URC minister and hymn-writer, and will reflect upon some of the theological issues at stake in choosing hymns for services of worship.

Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

If you have not yet registered with the Group and may be interested in attending this meeting, please contact Richard Goldring for further information: rgoldring23@gmail.com

Preachers' Circle

How to construct a clear sermon



Saturday 7 February 2026

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place,
London, WC1H 9RS**

**Co-led by:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer**

**This workshop will discuss the craft
of sermon construction and offer
guidance on how to:**

- identify themes from biblical texts
- select a clear message
- use a structure to explore the message

**Nathan Eddy
Co-Director, Council of Christians
and Jews
Chaplain, Mansfield College
Oxford**

**To register, email Ola Lawal,
Lay Preaching Advocate:
lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**

To register

Authorised Elders

Communion Presidency Refresher Training



Saturday 7 February 2026

2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place,
London, WC1H 9RS**

Elders who have been authorised to preside at Holy Communion are expected to refresh their training every three years.

This refresher will assume that Elders already have experience of presiding and wish to reflect on their practice and learn from the practice of others.

This session is for those seeking to develop what they already do. (initial training, which can be repeated, will be offered on future dates).

Co-led by:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer

John Campbell
Tutor and Minister

To register, email Julian Templeton
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

To register

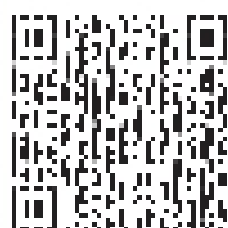
URC
YOUTH ASSEMBLY
2025

Open to Year
10/S3 students
up to 25 years
inclusive

Your voice. New friends.
Find fellowship. One epic weekend.

WISE WORDS

Here's a taste of
Youth Assembly 2025
www.bit.ly/3TkqSfn



Great venue
with twin
rooms and
good food!

WISER ACTIONS



The
United
Reformed
Church Youth

Cost: £155
uary

27 February to
1 March 2026
Kings Park Conference
Centre, Northampton
NN3 6LL

Your voice. New friends.
Find fellowship. One epic weekend.

WISE WORDS



The
United
Reformed
Church Youth

Worship – Inspiring Bible studies, prayer zones, powerful music, and outdoor worship and communion.

Youth Decides – What matters to you? Dive into real talk, make change happen, and engage with the wider church.

Workshops – Level up your skills, challenge your thinking, and go deep on this year's theme – all in creative, hands-on sessions.

Book your place
today:
www.linktr.ee/URCYouthAssembly

Entertainment – From campfires and karaoke to crafts and games – there's always something going down!

Book your place today

URC Youth Leaders Gathering

£210



27 February -
1 March 2026



Highgate House,
Northampton

Keynote: Rev Dr. Ash Barker

Join together with others involved in youth work for a weekend of encouragement, reflection, challenge and sharing ideas.

On Saturday we will be joined by Ash Barker as we consider the theme being followed by URC Youth Assembly.

Wise Words - Wiser Actions

We will explore together how we can be wise in all we do with young people as we seek to grow disciples in God's kingdom.

A programme that allows time for worship, space to reflect, relate and relax. Share joys and sorrows with others as we learn together in community.

If you are working with young people aged 11-25 in any context, this is the weekend that you deserve!

REGISTER NOW

<http://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering>



Ash Barker is a Shalom Activist and Pioneering Minister with over 35 years of experience unlocking potential in urban communities. Born and raised in Melbourne, Australia, he spent 12 years serving in Bangkok's largest slum before relocating to inner-city Birmingham, UK, in 2014.

Alongside his wife Anji, Ash lives in community at Newbigin House in Winson Green and ministers with Lodge Road Community Church (URC).

With a vision for every neighbourhood to flourish in God's love and shalom, Ash's work through Seedbeds grows local leaders and communities into fullness of life.

Ash remains committed to investing in local leaders and communities, passionately advocating for shalom, justice, and grassroots transformation.



If you are bringing young people to Youth Assembly why not enjoy a weekend of refreshment for youth workers in the luxury environment of Highgate House, just down the road from Kings Park?

If you are not bringing young people to Youth Assembly, you are just as welcome!
Spek to your Synod CYDO about grants to support the cost of attending

Register now <http://linktr.ee/urcyouthleadersgathering>. Contact your CYDO about grants to support the cost of attending [Lorraine Downer](#)

Practical tips for everyday evangelism

28 January
7:00 - 8:00 pm



FaithTalk webinar – Preparing for Easter

Join us on Wednesday 28 January 2026 from 7-8pm. We will gather to chat about ways we can engage those around us in the Easter story, and

its power to transform lives. Do join us for the conversation, ready to share ideas and resources that you have used.

Please register for the webinar here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/faith-talk-webinars-4796784>



Please join us online during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There will be a gathering for prayer twice during January, on the 19th and 21st at 8pm.

Please find the link below and share widely.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84436613127?pwd=KSPFWaQDBMKaQInIMcC0N3JUH05KNn.1>

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.

The event will be hybrid (online and in person). To book please fill in this form <https://forms.office.com/r/rr0w3Ts4ej?origin=IprLink> or email Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Charity Commission Webinars

For more information, and to book onto one of the Charities Engagement Team's webinars please visit our Bookwhen page using this link: [Charities Engagement Team Events – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

Webinars

Trustee Duties

Date/Time: Wednesday 14 January 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

For more information and to book to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [FAITH/INTERNATIONAL Trustee Duties – Webinar – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

Faith Charities: Managing risks associated with speakers

Date/Time: Wednesday 11 February 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

For more information and to book to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [FAITH: Faith Charities: Managing risks associated with speakers – Webinar – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

Safeguarding in a Faith Context: Charity Commission's Expectations

Date/Time: Tuesday 17 February 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

For more information and to book to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [FAITH: Safeguarding in a Faith Context: Charity Commission Expectations – Webinar – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

Taking care of your funds

Date/Time: Tuesday 3 March 2026, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

For more information and to book to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [FAITH: Taking Care of your Funds for Faith Charities – Webinar – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

If you have any further questions, or have difficulties using the booking system, please contact the Charities Engagement Team via engagement@charitycommission.gov.uk

NB In the field “Charity registration number” on the booking form, excepted charities can fill the box with with “Excepted Charity” or “000000” so that we are aware the charity isn't on the Commission's Register of Charities.

Safeguarding Training 2025/2026

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

Various roles may be found on the URC Jobs page of the website:
<https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

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](#)