# THAMES NORTH SYNOD
# NEWS ROUNDUP

**Welcome to our News Roundup for 8 October 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

**Join JPIT on Iona** from 17-23 October 2026. Bookings are now open. Find out more here.

**From Silence to Safety** on 17 October 2026 10am-1pm Willow Room, Buckinghamshire New University

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

**Safeguarding for Trustees Training** on 22 October 2026 & 23 November 2026 at 10am. Book safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

**Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) Conference** from 23-25 November 2026 at Highgate House. Book with Eddie at disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

**Love Thy Neighbour** at St Dionis, Parsons Green London
Saturday 24 October • 9 AM - 6:30 PM

**Creative Week** 26-30 October 2026 at Kench Hill Centre, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7DG cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

**Ministry Enquirers** on Saturday 7 November 2026 on Zoom, 9:30am - 12:30pm. ministries@urc.org.uk

**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



Great to be at Colindale in North London for the first Sunday service in this our new Christian Community. Another small but significant step in the journey of adventure and faith the Thames North Synod is on to identify, resource & support new mission opportunities around our area. There are over 12,500 new dwellings being built in Colindale and as God leads and provides the Kingdom is being built here "see God is doing a new thing" Isaiah 43:19. We are so thankful!— in Colindale.

# What's On

# SAFEGUARDING FOR TRUSTEES TRAINING

## HOSTED BY THIRTY ONE EIGHT

22ND OCT 2026
AT 7PM

23RD NOV 2026
AT 10AM
ONLINE



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- MODULE 1: POLICIES AND PRACTICES.
- MODULE 2: RISKS.
- MODULE 3: PROTECT
- MODULE 4: REPORT

**EMAIL TO BOOK**

safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Soroptimist International present

# From Silence to Safety

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## Empowering Women, Engaging Communities, Creating Change

**17 Oct '26**
**10am-1pm**
Willow Room, Buckinghamshire New University

**To be opened by the Rt. Hon the Countess Howe, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire**

**Speakers:**

**Chris Green OBE,**
Male Allies Challenging Sexism (MACS)

**Lisa Squire,**
It Does Matter campaign

**To Register:**

**Tickets £5**
(Students £3)

Soroptimist International

Community Boards

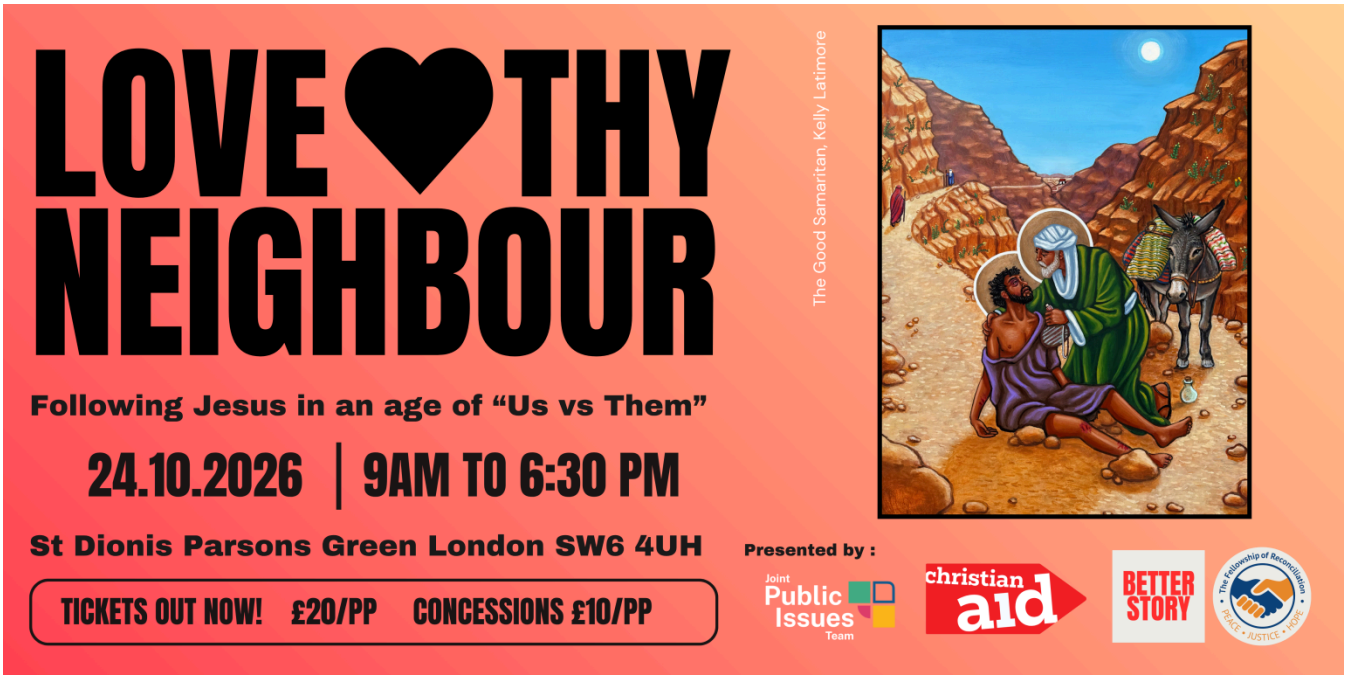
Buckinghamshire New University
EST. 1891

The Clare Foundation

**Refreshments provided**


The United Reformed Church Youth
THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD PRESENT
CREATIVE WEEK
26–30 OCTOBER 2026
Five days to create, collaborate, and bring your main character energy to the stage.
WHERE: KENCH HILL CENTRE, TENTERDEN, KENT TN30 7DG
WHO FOR: SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGES 11–17)
COST: £30 PER PERSON
CHOOSE WHAT YOU LOVE:
DRAMA | MUSIC | CREATIVE WRITING | MOVEMENT & DANCE | STAGE CRAFT
Catch the FINAL performance at
Lumen, King's Cross
6pm – 8pm on Friday 30th October.
REGISTER AT WWW.BIT.LY/CREATIVE-WEEK-2026
BOOKING DEADLINE WEDS 23 SEPTEMBER
EMAIL LORRAINE FOR MORE INFO:
cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk
SCAN ME
SCAN ME
SCAN ME
SCAN ME


Ministry Enquirers
Learn What God might be asking of you.
Join us in thinking about God's call to:
• Stepwise, • Worship Leading,
• Lay Preaching, • Lay Pioneering,
• Ministry with children and young people,
• the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or
• Church Related Community Work.
Email us for joining details:
ministries@urc.org.uk
7th November on Zoom,
9.30am – 12.30pm
The United Reformed Church




**Love Thy Neighbour: book your place**
St Dionis, Parsons GreenLondon, England
SW6 4UH
Saturday 24 October • 9 AM - 6:30 PM

Join us on Saturday 24 October in London for **Love Thy Neighbour**, a day of conversation hosted with Better Story, Christian Aid and Fellowship of Reconciliation.
Together we'll explore questions including:
How should Christians engage with political power?
How can we respond to the rise of the Far Right?
What does a Christ-like approach to national identity and migration look like?

**Book your place here.**

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# The Great Switch for Creation

Choosing a green electricity tariff is a practical response to caring for God's creation, one rooted in faith and a commitment to loving our neighbour. By taking a small step to light the way, we can work towards creating a cleaner, fairer future. Find out more and pledge to make the Great Switch.

# LCRF Grants Round 41
# November 2026

***Apply now for up to £1,000 to support destitute asylum seekers in London***

- **Deadline** for applications for November 2026 Grants Round (41) :is **Monday 9th November**

- Refugee Projects can apply for a grant to provide essential items for destitute refugees or asylum-seekers in London: phone & travel credit, hygiene items, food, nappies, emergency payments etc.

- Applications must be made on the "Round 41 application forms" which can be downloaded on the GRANTS PAGE of the London Churches Refugee Fund website

- **Applications MUST be sent to the email address in the guidance notes!**
  Read Guidance Notes on website very carefully.

- Thank you for the amazing work your project does to help support the tens of thousands of vulnerable and destitute people in London seeking asylum from war, oppression and famine

The Chair and Trustees of LCRF

# Some Important Safeguarding Updates

**Safeguarding Sunday**
Safeguarding Sunday is an annual awareness campaign taking place on November 15, 2026, designed for churches across the UK to focus on creating safe environments and healthy cultures. Safeguarding Sunday will soon be upon us (15th November) and you can find more information here Theme: Love Protects | and the link to sign up for further resources here Safeguarding Sunday.

**Martyn's Law**
In light of Martyn's Law receiving Royal Assent in April 2025 premises hosting events that exceed 200 people will be required to consider how they would respond to a terrorist incident. This legislation is coming into force in April 2027, therefore we want to give all local URC's the opportunity to be prepared for this change. Therefore, the Resources Hub now has some useful guidance notes for local churches on what the law entails and gets them to begin thinking about the practical next steps.

Please consider:
Fire evacuation plans • Emergency contacts • Stewarding arrangements • First aid provision • Incident communication methods
Basic terrorism awareness • Suspicious behaviour reporting • Emergency response procedures.

The guidance notes can be found here;
https://urcresourceshub.org.uk/martyns-law-guidance/
Risk Assessments for church buildings can be found here:
https://urcresourceshub.org.uk/risk-assessment-pro-forma/
Activity Risk assessments can be found here: https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SA1.pdf

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite churches to join a free webinar on **Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 1pm** which is being done in partnership with the Community Security Trust (CST). This session is designed to help local churches, trustees, elders, ministers and church officers understand their responsibilities under the new legislation and what steps they may need to take to comply. Further details of this event can now be found on our new 'Learning' page on the Hub here; https://urcresourceshub.org.uk/learning-development/, as well as the link to register for the event.

Protect UK is also offering further information on Martyn's Law guidance and eLearning on counterterrorism and security.

**Training reminder**
There are a few remaining training dates before the end of the year. If you or anyone on the church need to renew their training, please get in touch to book on. The training dates are here.

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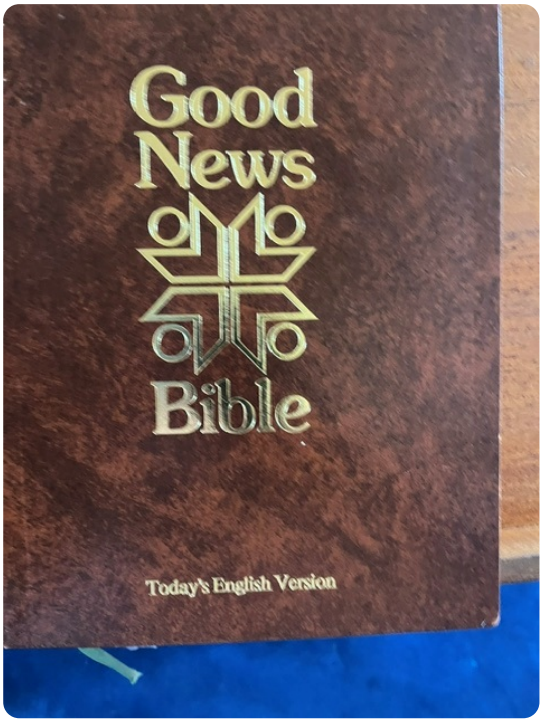
## Looking for a Home










The items above are looking for a new home. They are from Letchworth URC and the insurers need them to be rehomed within the next 2-3 weeks. If you are interested in any of the items please contact Carol Dutson at carol.dutson61@hotmail.com

# Safeguarding Training

Just a gentle reminder to book on to your mandated safeguarding training.
Please see below the poster which has all of the dates scheduled for this year.

You will see that there is a new **COMBINED** safeguarding module. This is the Foundation and Intermediate module in one. If you need to complete both modules, that training shortens the amount of sessions that need to completed. You are welcome to book on to the COMBINED module if you need to renew your INTERMEDIATE training. If you *only* need to complete the Foundation module please complete the Foundation eLearning (link below).
https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24This

In order to book on to the ADVANCED module, you **must** have completed either the COMBINED module or the separate FOUNDATION and INTERMEDIATE modules beforehand.

If you would like to book on to the advertised dates, please click on the link below and complete the form
https://forms.gle/nKrqAeM28XosXbmg7
Your place will only be confirmed once you receive a follow up email with the link to the Zoom training and slides to attend.

For the URC Safeguarding Training Framework document please click here.

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

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

**October**
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

## Safeguarding-Committee-Strategic-Plan

The URC Safeguarding Committee's 2026–2028 Strategic Plan sets out a five-year vision to embed safeguarding good practice into everyday life across the denomination, with clear goals in culture, engagement, training, and practice development. The full document may be accessed here.

## S2 The United Reformed Church URC Safeguarding Training Framework

The United Reformed Church recognises that it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard others and thus needs to ensure that people holding certain roles and responsibilities are specifically equipped to protect vulnerable groups including both children and adults.  2. URC's Safeguarding Training Framework In order to achieve this goal, the URC offers regular safeguarding training for all those working with children and adults at risk as well as those they support. They need to know how to promote the welfare of those they support, reduce the likelihood of harm, abuse or neglect, and respond effectively to concerns or allegations of abuse which arise.

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kpki65biriqdva/
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6cltwe2kpki65biriqdva/S2-URC-Safeguarding-Training-Framework.pdf?rlkey=bngnf7ctdykccbx3p6b7vp3mq&st=qe2phzp9&dl=0
.pdf?rlkey=bngnf7ctdykccbx3p6b7vp3mq&st=qe2phzp9&dl=0

See the **Safeguarding page** on the synod website here for more Safeguarding
information.



# Minister's Advanced Safeguarding Training

Please email
carrie.kaunda@urc.uk.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

The United Reformed Church Safeguarding
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** |

The United Reformed Church Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk

From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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# Vacancies

**All URC vacancies may be found here.**

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# JPIT Communications and Engagement Officer

Based in London (hybrid). Salary £37,500 per annum

Can you support and encourage church members to take action on issues of justice and peace, and to engage well with politics? Do you have an organised approach and a flair for creating compelling and effective communications, resources and events?

The Methodist Church is seeking to recruit a Communications and Engagement Officer to work as part of the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), which helps the partner Churches (Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church) to work together for peace and justice. We do this through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues – from poverty to the climate. Although the matters we're dealing with are often challenging, it's a team that's friendly, collaborative, and passionate about making a difference in the world.

You'll need great communications experience, excellent project management skills, and an ability to reflect theologically and make the links between faith, current issues, and action for justice.

For more information about the work of the team and its hopes for society, visit: Joint Public Issues Team (jpit.uk)

**Key Dates:**
**Closing Date for Applications:** 9am, 16 October 2026
**Interviews (on-site in London):** 27 October 2026

Find out more: JPIT Communications and Engagement Officer

https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/4472335716/

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## Lay Worker (Mission & Community)

**Keld-in-Swaledale, North Yorkshire**

**Full Time (35 hours per week) | Fixed Term: 3.5 Years | 37.5k per year**

Keld URC, working in partnership with the URC Northern Synod and Lady Hewley Trust is seeking an enthusiastic and committed Christian Lay Worker to develop and lead mission, outreach and faith-based community involvement across Upper Swaledale. The successful candidate will develop innovative projects, retreats, youth and family activities, prayer and discipleship opportunities, environmental initiatives, and partnerships with local churches and community groups. We are looking for someone who:

- Is a practicing Christian with a passion for mission and community engagement.
- Has experience of working with volunteers, churches or community groups.
- Has excellent communication and organisational skills.
- Can work independently and collaboratively.
- Holds a UK driving licence and has access to a car.

This is a unique opportunity to help grow Christian witness and build lasting impact in one of the most beautiful parts of the country.

*There is a genuine occupational requirement for the postholder to be a practicing Christian in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.*

The successful applicant will be expected to live within reasonable proximity of Keld to enable effective delivery of the role.
**For further enquiries and application procedure, please contact Rev Nadene Snyman at:- teesandswaleurc@gmail.com**

# Children, Young People and Families Outreach Worker

Palmers Green United Reformed Church in London N13 is looking for a Children, Young People and Families Outreach Worker

We are a small, friendly and welcoming church keen to increase the number of children, young people and families in our church community. You can find out more about our mission and links with the local community on our webpage at https://palmersgreenurc.org.uk

☐ Do you enjoy working with children, young people and families?
☐ Do you want to be part of our ministry to help build our outreach work with children, young people and families?

☐ Do you believe the Gospel is relevant to today's world? If so, you could be the person we are looking for!

**Salary**: £29,000 - £32,000, depending on experience, with annual review.

The post is initially for 3 years, with a three month probationary period, and the possibility of extension to 5 years following review of progress. This is a full time post at 37.5 hours per week, which must include most Sunday mornings. Other working hours may be agreed with your line manager.

This role is an exciting opportunity to have a real impact on children, young people and families in our church and community, through Junior Church activities and creatitig new initiatives to develop outreach. We are looking for a committed Christian keen to explore the faith with children, young people and families in creative ways.

The successful applicant will be required to obtain an enhanced DBS with barred list clearance and to undertake comprehensive safeguarding training.

**To apply**: Please email minister@urcsee.org.uk for full job description, person specification and application form.

We anticipate high interest in this position and advise candidates to apply at their earliest opportunity.

**Closing date: 31st October 2026**

Interviews will take place in mid-November 2026.

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# Finance Administrator

- **London**
- Fixed term contract (12 months initially), Part-time (21 hours per week)
- Salary: £23,768 per annum
- Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Wednesday 14 October 2026
- Interview date: Wednesday 21 October 2026

https://urc.org.uk/jobs/finance-administrator/ for more information.

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