



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 9 April 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

Ministry Enquirers - Learn what God might be asking of you webinar on 11 April 2026 on Zoom at 9:30am to 12:30pm email: ministries@urc.org.uk

Playful "Liturgy": A Theology of Worship for a Postmodern World on Date: Tuesday 5th May 2026. Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Richard Goldring for further information: rgoldring23@gmail.com

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents: Pastoral Care in Practice at Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS
Date: 09.05.2026
Time: 10:30 – 4:30pm lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Godly Play UK Conference 2026 5-6 June 2026 at St Andrews Church, Rugby. Information and booking [here](#).

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](#).

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

News & Information



On Sunday the Moderator had the joy of leading all age worship at his home church, Adeyfield Free Church in Hemel Hempstead for Resurrection Day. Everyone was very engaged with a monologue from Mary Magdalene's perspective, decorating wild flower seeded paper and giving thanks for what God has done. Happy Easter!



What's On



Theology of Worship Group
exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

Playful “Liturgy”: A Theology of Worship for a Postmodern World

Speaker - **Revd Dr Charisa Hunter-Crump,**

Training and Development Officer for the Southern Synod. Charisa will consider why a playful and communal approach to our creation of worship is critical for the times in which we live and how this might be approached in the local congregation.

Date: Tuesday 5th May 2026

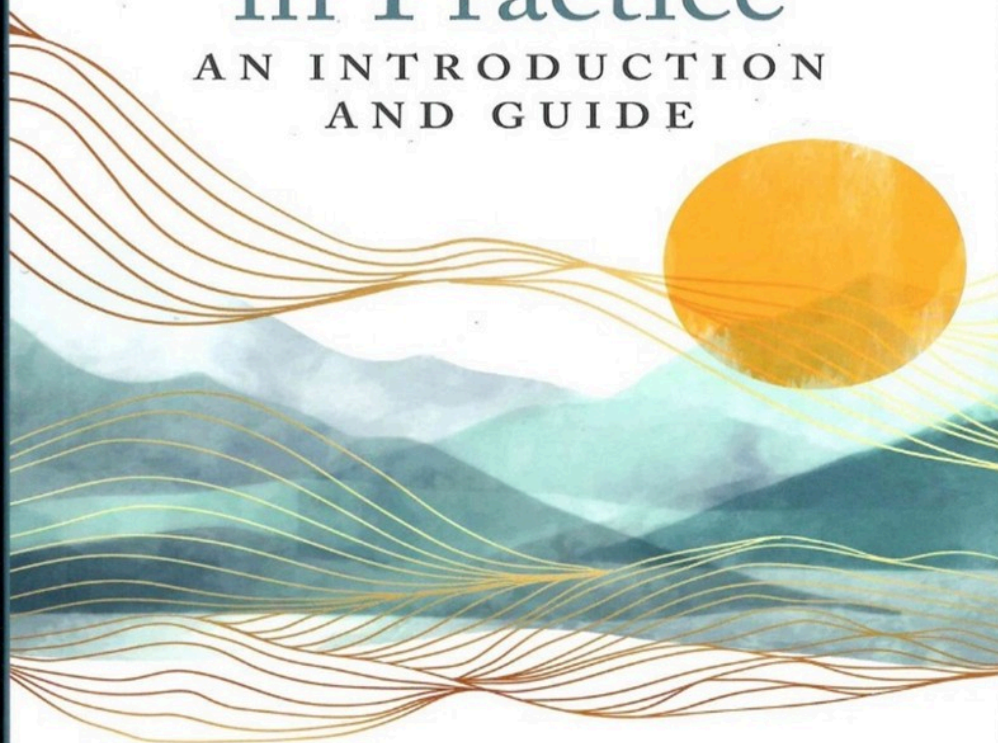
Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

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

**Thames North Preachers' Circle
Presents:
Pastoral Care in Practice**

Pastoral Care in Practice

AN INTRODUCTION
AND GUIDE



Michael Hopkins

This is a wise, sensitive and very important book... it provides
a long overdue recognition that pastoral care is one
of the essential marks and gifts of Christian ministry.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER HERBERT

Led by:

The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins

Moderator of Wessex Synod

Clerk of the URC General Assembly 2014-2024

Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS

Date: 09.05.2026

Time: 10:30 – 4:30pm

A day for lay preachers, worship leaders, elders and members to explore some practical and spiritual aspects of our provision of pastoral care. Lunch included.

To book your place at this free event, indicating any food intolerances or allergies, please email, Ola Lawal, [**lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk**](mailto:lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

Free to Believe Conference 2026
Highgate House, Grooms Lane, Creaton,
Northants NN6 8NN
Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 June 2026
Come help us dream your future into birth
Taken from the hymn 'God like a child, your open
***hands receptive.'* (Graham Adams)**



Speakers:

Graham Adams Tutor in Mission Studies, World Christianity, and Religious Diversity at Northern College within the Luther King Centre

Ian Bradley Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History at the University of St Andrews; Former Principal of St Mary's College, the Faculty and School of Divinity

Jo Clifford Playwright, performer, proud father and grandmother. Author of 100+ performed plays.

Worship Leader:

Nicola Robinson Minister in the Leeds URC Partnership, Chaplain to the 2026 Moderator of the United Reformed Youth and proud companion of her dog Maisie.

[Click here to download a booking form](#)



Annual Forum

Wednesday 13th May 2026

6pm Buffet

7pm AGM

7.30pm Speaker - Alex Rodmell

Christians Against Poverty

At Holy Ghost Church

33 Westbourne Rd

Luton

LU4 8JD

**If you are attending the buffet please email
secretaryctbeds@gmail.com**



'Creation care: mission or mission drift'



Kuki Rokhum from A Rocha and based in North India challenges the global church to integrate creation care into its missional theology and practice – without compromising the centrality of Christ. watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdw9UvJFGmA&t=263s>

Safeguarding Training 2026

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.

There is a new Safeguarding Training Framework which was agreed at the most recent General Assembly, as well as a document highlighting the key changes in the training framework which shows who is mandated to complete training may be accessed [here](#) - please take the time to note

these as it will have an impact on Ministers, Elders, Children's Workers and Church Safeguarding Coordinators.

There is also national training available for Ministers who need to complete the Advanced level. Ministers will need to have completed the Foundation and Intermediate within the last 3 years prior to attendance on the Advanced training. This training is being facilitated by Carrie Kaunda, the Training Development Officer (Safeguarding) so please contact her directly to book on to that training using the details in the attached document.

I am trialling a new way to book on to training, so if you would like to book on to the advertised dates, please book via this link

<https://forms.gle/ypiNNdikjU7oHUxM8>

Your place will only be confirmed once you receive a follow up email with the link to the Zoom training and slides to attend.

Please note that the Foundation training is now available online via eLearning. You do not need to login to access this training.

This is the link to access the eLearning:

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24> This it takes approximately an hour to complete, and a certificate will be generated and sent to you straight away.

There will be more training dates advertised in due course so please do share this email with those who need to update their training.

If you have questions on what training you need following referencing the framework, please let me know.

Regards

Belinda Herbert



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 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](#)

 The United Reformed Church Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee



UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2026

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

All training will take place via Zoom

Foundation
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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

Vacancies

Managing Chaplain, HMP Wayland, External, Closing date: 13/04/2026

Managing Chaplain, HMP Wayland, Thetford, East of England
External Full-time vacancy

Ref: 15503

Band: 7

Working hours: 37 hours per working week

Salary: £52,316

Closing date: 13/04/2026

Job description

Overview of the job:

This is a management job which provides leadership and facilitates/enables religious and pastoral care to prisoners and staff within an establishment.

The details of the post can be found on the FCG website [here](#).

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<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



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