



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 9 July 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

Laura Templeton Exhibition at The Lumen Centre 6-30 July 2026
9am-4pm, Mon - Fri

Empowering those in the asylum system on 21 July 2026 at 6:45-8:45pm at Notre Dame Centre WC2H 7BX

Grange Park goes to Ramsgate Beach on Saturday 1 August 2026.
Book at 07944 871 416

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

Grange Park Holiday Club 10 - 14 August 2026.
stewartsheliesa@gmail.com

Theology of Worship Group - Worship is Word and Sacrament on
Thursday 13 August 2026 at 7:30pm via Zoom
john@spiritualseekers.co.uk

Youth BBQ on Saturday 22 August 2026 at Lumen Community. Contact
Lorraine cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

URC Holiday Forum on 23-28 August 2026 at The Hayes.
Please visit our website: <http://www.urcholidayforum.org.uk>

Grange Park URC Annual BBQ on Saturday 29 August 2026 from 1pm
to 5pm. More information at 07944 871 416

Celebrating Season of Creation - Reflection and Action Day for Wildlife

on 5th September 10am - 4pm at St Albans

URC <https://buytickets.at/stalbansunitedreformedchurch/2298589>

Carbon Literacy Courses for Christian Congregations on Wednesdays 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September and 7th October - 6:30pm to 8:30pm. To book a place visit: <https://buytickets.at/stalbansunitedreformedchurch/2298655> or Tuesdays on 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September and 6th October - 6:30pm to 8:30pm ; sign up via this Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carbon-literacy-for-congregations-online-creation-time-2026-tickets-1991352776761>

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

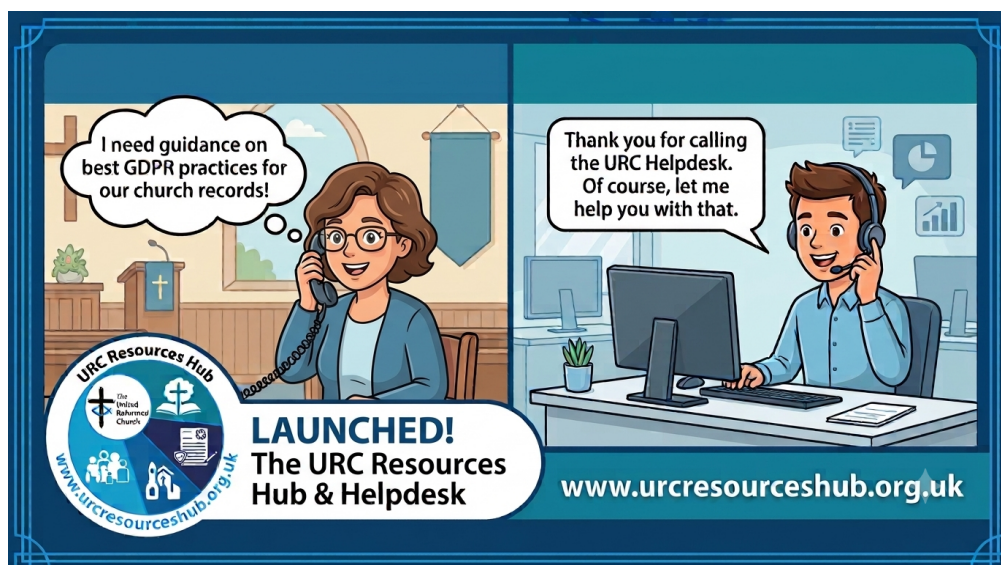
Church Action on Poverty Sunday on Sunday 18th October 2026, church-poverty.org.uk/sunday.

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



We are delighted to announce that the first Church Life Fund shared services, the URC Resources Hub and Helpdesk, are both now available. The Resources Hub is an exciting new venture for the URC which aims to provide local churches with all the practical guidance and support they need to thrive and grow.

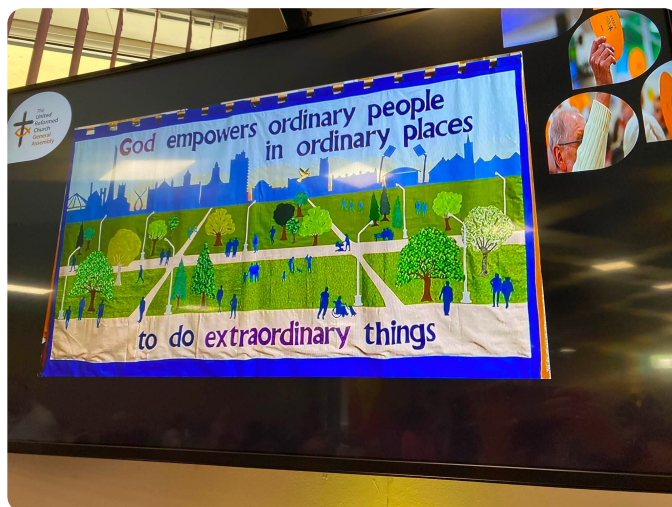
We are very excited that we currently have a number of resources available for you, including GDPR policies, HR templates, selected Ministries documents, and Health and Safety guides. We will continue to develop and upload additional content as it becomes available over the coming months.

The Helpdesk is also here to offer personal support whilst you use the Resources Hub. If you have any specific questions about the content on the Hub, the Helpdesk is here to support you in finding what you need to complete the tasks associated with running your local Church.

[Go to the Hub](#)

General Assembly 2026

12 representatives from Thames North Synod including 2 under 26's attended the URC General Assembly at the Hayes in Swanwick, Derbyshire. There were difficult decisions to make and frustration that our Synod resolutions were not discussed. But there was uplifting worship, thought provoking Bible studies and many good new stories. There was overwhelming agreement on resolutions discussed with many of them shaping the future ministry and mission of the URC. We were also able to meet up with old and make new friends





New season: Politics in the Pulpit

New Season

Eddie Boon



Politics in the Pulpit 

jpit.uk/politicsinthepulpit  

We are delighted to welcome **Eddie Boon** as our new host of the podcast for **July-August 2026**! Eddie grew up in Bournemouth and began to follow Jesus Christ when 16 years of age. He currently lives in East London serving the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church as Discipleship Enabler (Special Category Ministry).

For nearly 40 years Eddie has served and led URC congregations in East Manchester, Haydock & St. Helens, St Mary Cray in Southeast London, Hythe in Hampshire and has served on a number of regional and national committees over the years, and has experience of ministry in the Church of South India. He holds a master's degree in applied theology (Christian Leadership) and has recently undertaken a Sabbatical qualitative research project looking at longevity in ministry. He is a massive fan of

Everton FC, Hampshire County Cricket and the band The Stranglers. He loves to swim, cycle, walk, go to the theatre, cinema, and art galleries and take part in book clubs locally. Listen to [Eddie's first episode](#) available **NB from Monday 6th July**.

What's On

Celebrating Season of Creation - Reflection and Action Day for Wildlife



St Albans URC is celebrating The Season of Creation by opening the peaceful oasis in and around its Greenwood site to give people time and space to consider actions they might take to care for creation. Date 5th September 10am - 4pm. It consists of a morning talk from The Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust on Gardening for Wildlife and 'quite' afternoon for reflection and prayer. For more details and to book full day tickets (no need to book if you are only able to join in the afternoon)

<https://buytickets.at/stalbansunitedreformedchurch/2298589>

Coming Soon: Christian Environmental Mobilisers Course

Do you long to see more people taking action to care for God's creation?
Are you ready to use your passion for the environment to mobilise others? Then our new course is for you!

We are delighted to give you a first look at a brand new initiative from A Rocha UK: The Christian Environmental Mobilisers Course (CEMs). Launching in October 2026 and designed to fit around your life, this interactive online programme will equip you with the biblical foundation, knowledge and influencing skills to become a powerful catalyst for environmental change in your church, workplace or community. The course will be delivered over six evening sessions, monthly.

These are the themes that you'll explore:

1. The Christian mandate for the flourishing of creation
 2. Understanding and communicating the climate and nature crises
 3. Christian leadership and influencing for action on climate and nature
 4. Church/organisation engagement
 5. Campaigning as a Christian locally and more widely
 6. Moving forward: ongoing leadership for the flourishing of creation
- There will also be an opportunity to attend two (optional) face-to-face one-day meetings and participate in practical placements as part of an advanced certification.

Led by expert facilitators and inspiring guest speakers, this course can be completed fully online and is accessible to everyone, no matter where you are on your journey.

If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to stay updated, please fill in our 'Expression of Interest' form below. Full registration will open soon. Don't miss out on your chance to be part of the very first cohort.

Participants will be asked for a nominal contribution of £25 towards the course costs. If this is a barrier for you, please email Rachel Tully, the Course Coordinator, at mobilise@arocha.org.

With thanks and God's blessings

Rachel Tully, CEMs Course Coordinator and the A Rocha UK Team

Carbon Literacy for Christian Congregations

If you are working through the new Eco Church Survey you will have noticed this question in the buildings section: *Our Eco Church champion or team has the confidence and knowledge to carry out their role and/or*

has access to appropriate training or support (e.g. Carbon Literacy training)

It is good to know that this training is now readily available. The Carbon Literacy for Christian Congregations course, designed to be run face-to-face, is ideal **for small groups in churches**, and it would make an ideal study course during the Season of Creation. Visit [Faith - The Carbon Literacy Project](#) to find out more.

There is synod funding available to pay for certificates - but please let us know if you intend to run the course.

In addition there are two opportunities to enable people in churches to work through the material before running a course themselves or for someone in a church who wants to do carbon literacy but can't access the course any other way.

Anna Barrett, one of the Synod's Green Apostles will be running the course online on Wednesday evenings during The Season of Creation. Dates are 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September and 7th October - 6:30pm to 8:30pm. To book a place visit:

<https://buytickets.at/stalbansunitedreformedchurch/2298655>

Caroline Harmon, an experienced CL trainer and writer of the course will also be running it online on Tuesday evenings : 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th September and 6th October - 6:30pm to 8:30pm ; sign up via this Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carbon-literacy-for-congregations-online-creation-time-2026-tickets-1991352776761>

Empowering those in the asylum system

LONDON CHURCHES REFUGEE FUND NETWORK EVENT



Empowerment

Tuesday 21 July 2026

6.45pm-8.45pm

**Venue: Notre Dame Centre,
5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX**

This event is for churches and faith organisations working with refugees and those in the asylum system. The asylum system can be, by its nature, disempowering to those caught up in it.

Even with the best intentions, we can sometimes reinforce feelings of helplessness in the ways we treat people. What can we do to help address feelings of powerlessness?

With presentations from Theos and Praxis.

While not essential, we would be grateful if you could

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

to give us an idea of numbers

[Click here to register](#)



HOLIDAY FORUM
Faith, fun & fellowship

HOLIDAY FORUM 2026

AT THE HAYES 23-28 AUGUST
BOOK NOW!

Myself and my dear friend Wendy Beck are Joint Chairs for a wonderful organisation called Holiday Forum and every August, our Steering Group plan a fantastic 5 days of faith, fun and fellowship for all attendees at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. We have a Bursary Fund to help anyone with limited finances to be able to afford a holiday. Over the past 4 years or so, we have helped a group of asylum seekers and refugees to allow them to come and join us and feel love, support and friendship as they develop their Christian faith. However, this year our funding sources have run dry and therefore we are approaching your Synod to ask if you may find it in your hearts to offer to sponsor an asylum seeker / refugee so that we can welcome more people into our Forum family. You may even have people in your own Synod that you know who would benefit from a faith-filled holiday who you may choose to sponsor instead. These could be asylum seekers / refugees or they could be individuals or families who are in need. I am attaching the link for Holiday Forum so you can find out more about what we do and hopefully you will be able to support us in our mission to welcome and help as many people as possible. I will also add the bank details below in the hope that you may send a donation. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Every donation goes straight into the Bursary Fund:-

Holiday Forum,
20-73-53
80462926

Please visit our website: [**http://www.urcholidayforum.org.uk**](http://www.urcholidayforum.org.uk)



Art Laura Templeton Exhibition



The Lumen Centre
88 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RS

6 – 30 July

**9am – 4pm
Mon–Fri**

**Open Evening
10 July 6.30–8.30pm**



[laura-templeton-artwork](https://www.instagram.com/laura-templeton-artwork)



laura@templeton.me.uk



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

Worship is Word and Sacrament

Speaker - Revd Dr Elaine Colechin, URC minister who becomes Synod Clerk of the Southern Synod in July 2026.

Elaine writes, "There is a strand of our tradition that feels that worship is not worship without the community both gathering around the Word and

the Table. Why? What difference does the sacrament make? We will consider these questions and how it might inform our thinking as a denomination as many of our churches wrestle with who can preside at the table."

Date: Thursday 13th August 2026

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

If you have not yet registered with the Theology of Worship Group and wish to attend this meeting, please contact John Burgess by 7 August: john@spiritualseekers.co.uk

The United Reformed Church
Thames North Synod

AGES 14-25 YRS

YOUTH BBQ

GAMES, FOOD, **WORSHIP**, CRAFTS & MUSIC!

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 2026

VENUE:
Lumen Community
88 Tavistock Place
London
WC1H 9RT
England

CONTACTS:

- Lorraine : 07716 640575
- cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk
- Stan & Ore : youthrep.thamesnorth@gmail.com

BRING YOUR YOUTH GROUP AND COME HUNGRY!

Scan the QR or use link to join

<https://forms.office.com/e/ksb49kDFr8>

Copy link

Registration ends on the 1st of August



Just under 7 weeks to go until Holiday Forum 2026!

A key part of the week are our brilliant Children and Young People's sessions, run each morning by Liz Delafield and Jonny Buxton.

Every year we need some helpers to support the delivery of these sessions. If you're joining us at the Hayes 23rd-28th August and would be up for helping out (as much or as little as you like), we want to hear from you!

All you need is enthusiasm and an up to date DBS check (we'll complete this for you).

Please get in touch if you can help.

Many blessings,

Wendy and Abi.
Joint Chairs

Email chair@urcholidayforum.org.uk

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 be 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=24>This

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/nKrQAcM28XosXbmgZ>

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](#).



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 PT2

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
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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/IYFSRTKKWXASXU4
N8](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
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Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



Safeguarding Training 2026

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.uk
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](#)





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

All URC vacancies may be found [here](#).



URC Youth Intern - Communications

Home based
12 month fixed-term contract, 8-30 hours per month
Living Wage rate

Are you passionate about communicating with young people and young adults?

URC Youth is an organisation for all young people aged 11-25 with a connection to the United Reformed Church. URC Youth elect a Youth Executive each year to run an annual Youth Assembly, to be the voice of young people, enact resolutions, and promote young people's engagement in the life of the church. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion, diversity, mental health, social justice, and environmental issues.

During this Internship you will support the work of URC Youth to increase connection and engagement with young people across England, Scotland and Wales in conjunction with the URC Children, youth and intergenerational discipleship team.

You will work as part of a team; to create and post promotional material on social media, manage a schedule for communication and assist in production of press releases and web content.

You will be aged 17-25, educated to at least National Fives & Highers / GCSE level standard, with experience in communication through social media and wider channels. You will have good design and communication skills. You will be able to manage a fluctuating workload and attend meetings online as required. There is the opportunity to attend URC Youth Assembly from 26 - 28 February 2027.

We will offer appropriate training and development opportunities to increase your skills and knowledge in communication.

If you are interested in this new opportunity and can meet the above requirements, please provide a CV and covering letter to:

Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

020 7691 9874 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/jobs

Closing date for CV's: 12 noon, Monday 13 July 2026 Interview date (online): Thursday 23 July 2026

This post requires an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

This is a home-based, 12-month fixed-term internship for young people aged 17–25, supporting URC Youth's communications and engagement work across England, Scotland and Wales. The role includes creating social media content, supporting communications activities, and helping to engage young people across the life of the Church.

The closing date for applications is 13 July 2026.

More information about the role, including the job description and application details, can be found here: [URC Youth Intern - Communications - United Reformed Church](#)

Convenor of the URC Net Zero Task Group

Could you help lead the United Reformed Church (URC) in its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint?

The Convenor of the Net Zero Task Group (NZTG) has a key role in coordinating the work of the Net Zero Task Group to provide support, advice and encouragement to the whole of the URC, to help lead the denomination towards a net zero carbon future.

We're looking for a Convenor who will bring their own experience, drive and perspectives to the NZTG, while also releasing these in others within the task group. The Convenor should be a URC member (lay or ordained).

Closing Date 27 July 2026

More details and application form available here:

<https://urc.org.uk/jobs/#volunteer>

Treasuring the whole of creation is part of our five marks of mission as Christians, and we do want our actions to line up with our words: General Assembly in 2022 committed to reducing our carbon footprint with urgency.

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](#)