



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 24 July 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

**Vine Church New Window Dedication Service** Saturday 26 July 2025  
Riches Road, Ilford, IG1 1JH

**Online quiet day: attending to the presence of God** on 26 July 2025  
10:30 to 16:00. Venue: Online. Book at: [https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp\\_event/quiet-day-3/#em-event-booking-form](https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-3/#em-event-booking-form)

**Joint Synod Youth Get Togethers Ages 11-16 years Bowling and pizza** Wednesday 6 August 2025 16:30-19:15pm. Register [www.bit.ly/get-together-bowling](http://www.bit.ly/get-together-bowling)

and **Ages 16-25 years World Buffet Meal** Thursday 7 August 2025 at 18:00-20:30pm Register by 4 August [www.bit.ly/Get-Together/Buffer](http://www.bit.ly/Get-Together/Buffer)

**Extreme Love in Extreme Times** on Wednesday 6 August 2025 at 4:30pm (doors open at 3:30pm) at Seedbed Centre Renewal Programme, 395 High St North, Manor Park E12 6PG.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Youth Mental Health First Aid** 22 September - 1 October  
[www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa](http://www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa)

**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](http://www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day)

**Disability Awareness Sunday** – 28 September 2025

**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](mailto: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](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

## News

### Message from the Green Apostles - Big Butterfly Count 2025



Following the results of the Big Butterfly Count 2024, Butterfly Conservation have declared a butterfly emergency, and need our help. Can you take part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count 2025 to help assess the present situation, simply by counting butterflies? All you need to do is choose a place to spot butterflies on any day between 18 July and 10 August, then watch for 15 minutes and record what you see. There is a butterfly ID chart on the Butterfly Conservation website to help in identifying what you see. Then you can add your count, either on the website or the app. They also have an interactive map showing how the data adds to the overall picture. It doesn't take long to do but is tremendously helpful. Last year 85000 people submitted counts. Hopefully there'll be even more counts this year. Here is the link to the website <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>.



Revd Sue McCoan is retiring from St Andrew's (Ealing) and Wembley Park URC's. We are grateful for her ministry there as well as her service in other capacities in the Synod and wider URC. We wish Sue and her husband, Jamie, a happy retirement as they move to Norwich.

**ACT  
NOW  
CHANGE  
FOREVER**

**TOGETHER FOR PEOPLE  
CLIMATE AND NATURE**

JPIT hopes for 'a planet where our environment is renewed'. The Climate Coalition organised a mass lobby at Westminster on the 9th of July. We were there, in the faith space organised by Faith for the Climate.

Watch this [video](#) to find out more about why the mass lobby mattered.



# *The* **United Reformed Church** **Church Life Review**

The Church Life Review (CLR) vision is of a flourishing church, less burdened and better enabled.

Some – but by no means all – of the benefits we hope the proposed changes will bring can be found [here](#). Proposals for all of the CLR Phase Two workstreams (financial resource sharing, employment of lay workers, provision of shared support services, and new URC communities of discipleship and worship) will be brought before an extraordinary meeting of General Assembly in November, where the CLR will propose important changes to strengthen and support your local church community.

You will also find links to the full CLR vision, mission, and strategy statement. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact the CLR at [churchlifereview@urc.org.uk](mailto:churchlifereview@urc.org.uk).

## **What's On**





# Godly Play Accredited 3 day training



This three-day accredited course is being led by Richard Knott  
and Diana Williams

For more information and to book please contact Judy Harris  
[judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk](mailto:judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk)



For more information and to book, contact Judy Harris  
[judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk](mailto:judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk)





Thames North &  
Southern Synod



**Messy**  
Church

# FUN DAY

*an intergenerational event for all ages*

**Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**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](http://www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day)**



# JOINT SYNOD YOUTH GET TOGETHERS



AGES 11-16 YEARS -  BOWLING & PIZZA 



DATE: WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST 2025  TIME: 16:30 - 19:15



VENUE: BLOOMSBURY LANES, TAVISTOCK HOTEL, BEDFORD WAY, LONDON WC1H 9E



COST: FREE — JUST BRING PAYMENT FOR SOFT DRINKS

REGISTER BY MON 4<sup>TH</sup> AUG - [WWW.BIT.LY/GET-TOGETHER-BOWLING](http://WWW.BIT.LY/GET-TOGETHER-BOWLING)



AGES 16-25 YEARS -  WORLD BUFFET MEAL



DATE: THURSDAY 7 AUGUST  TIME: 18:00- 20:30



VENUE: JIMMYS BUFFET, THE O2, GREENWICH SE 10 ODX

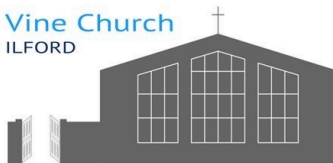


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Vine Church  
ILFORD



*You are invited to join us for our*

*New Window Dedication Service*  
*"our journey, our future"*

*Saturday 26th July 2025 @ 3pm*

*Vine United Reformed Church*  
*Riches Road*  
*Ilford, IG1 1JH.*

*Service will be followed with*  
*Light refreshments*  
*Limited parking available*

*RSVP:*  
*[vinechurch@btconnect.com](mailto:vinechurch@btconnect.com)*  
*020 8514 8770*



# National Churches Trust - Welcome visitors to your place of worship this summer



With summer now well and truly here, it's a great time to be welcoming visitors to your church. Whether your place of worship is located in a city centre or somewhere more remote, visitors are out there looking for things to do and to discover all that you have to offer them over the upcoming months.

Don't worry if you don't know where to start, as we'll always be on hand to support you with advice, guidance and resources. One of the first steps you can take, if you haven't already, is to [add your church – or update your listing – on our website.](#)

Our 'Find a Church' page attracts thousands of church lovers wanting to visit places of worship across the UK. By letting them know about the stories your building has to tell, as well as practical details like parking availability and opening times, you'll help to put yourself on the map.

And to find out more about [The National Churches Trust](#) see their website.

# Vacancies

## 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](mailto:sharon.barr@urc.org.uk)

# Mission Team

## Advert

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### **Mission Team member: Mission Practitioner (Children's Work)**

#### **Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church**

Full time – 35 hours per week (flexible, including some evenings and weekends)

Annual salary - £38 – £43,000 pa depending on experience

We are seeking experienced people who are motivated to stimulate and encourage growth within the Synod, working alongside our Mission and Training Officer and Mission Practitioner (Youth Work).

The focus of the work is to assist local churches in their mission, in implementing mission initiatives, and by encouraging them to be confident in sharing their faith.

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a Christian.

Office based, with some working from home permissible, and a Full driving license as regular travel around the Synod is an essential requirement.

An application pack can be accessed via the Synod website:

[www.urceastern.org.uk](http://www.urceastern.org.uk) or by emailing Marion Gentry on [admin@urceastern.org.uk](mailto:admin@urceastern.org.uk)

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.

Closing date for applications is 4pm on **Wednesday 17th September**.

Interviews will be held on **Friday 26th September**.

As part of the interview, you are asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation, as if to a local church, on your choice of subject to display the essential knowledge and skills and abilities listed in the person specification. (The panel will not be role playing, but a discussion will follow about the content, assumptions, method etc.)





*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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:urcnlvg@gmail.com)  
For informal inquiries, please contact our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson  
[revdmarkr@gmail.com](mailto:revdmarkr@gmail.com).

Visit our website: [www.nlvg.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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>

### Zoom Intermediate Safeguarding Training

Saturday 2nd August 2025 - 10.30am – 1.00pm

### 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/>



[Unsubscribe here](#)