



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

**Welcome to our News Roundup for 19 February 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

**Isabella's Ordination & Commissioning Service** on Saturday 21 February 2026 at 11am at The Hyde URC, Varley Parade, Edgware Road, Colindale NW9 6RR

**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](#)

**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](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)

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

**Limitless Festival 2026** on 5-9 August 2026 at Stafford Showground. [mdoandrew@urcwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:mdoandrew@urcwestmidlands.org.uk) or [mdosally@urcwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto: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 -**

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA  
17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

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

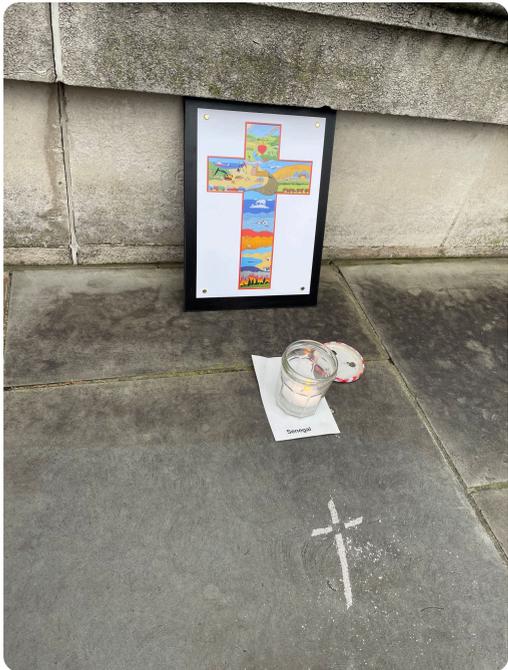
## News & Information



On Sunday the Moderator led worship at Trinity Church, Golders Green. It is a joint URC/ Methodist Church with a wonderful cosmopolitan congregation. There was birthday cake for the organist's birthday. It was good to be part of uplifting worship on a very wet Sunday morning.

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## Christian Climate Action Vigil



Christian Climate Action marked Ash Wednesday with a 24-hour prayer vigil outside St Paul's, London, urging the Church to "join us in repenting of our part in climate suffering and in fossil fuel destruction".

The activists took part in a "die-in" demonstration, lying under white sheets in front of the steps of St Paul's with tombstones at their feet to represent people around the world dying due to extreme climate impacts.

'The World Council of Churches invites the Christian family into a global systemic carbon fast not only to reduce personal carbon footprints but to reshape the systems that drive exploitation and destruction of the web of life.'

*Photos above: Ash Wednesday prayer for Creation, Christian Climate Action, St Paul's, in the rain. The vigil continued all night.*

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# A Lent Note from Green Apostles



**Carbon Fast**  
for Lent



**Climate Stewards**



JOIN THE CLIMATE STEWARDS CARBON FAST 2026!

**WEEK 1: FAST FROM DISCONNECTION TO NATURE**

**THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE - WONDER AT CREATION AND GET PRACTICAL IN CARING FOR IT!**

**WHY RECONNECT AND CARE FOR CREATION?**

**CARING FOR CREATION WAS ONE OF THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO US BY GOD IN EDEN.**



**DID YOU KNOW?  
OUR NATURAL WORLD IS IN CRISIS.**

**WE CONSUME EARTH'S RESOURCES 1.8 TIMES FASTER THAN THEY CAN REGENERATE.**



**SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER**

**CAN YOU MUCK IN? CHOOSE 1 CARBON FAST CHALLENGE THIS WEEK**

- **VOLUNTEER THIS LENT IN YOUR CHURCH'S OUTDOOR SPACE-**
- **VISIT NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP - EXPLORE YOUR NEAREST PARK, WETLAND CENTRE, NATURE RESERVE, OR CITY FARM**
- **GIVE GENEROUSLY OR VOLUNTEER AT A CHARITY HELPING CONSERVE AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO NATURE**
- **JOIN A LOCAL CONSERVATION GROUP'S WORK PARTY THIS LENT - WILDLIFE TRUST, PARK FRIENDS GROUP, OR WOODLAND TEAM**

**SIGN UP TO NEWSLETTER FOR CARBON FAST TIPS AND INSIGHTS**

**FAST TO HELP PEOPLE AND PLANET TO FLOURISH!**

Here is a suggestion for a different kind of 'fast' for Lent, a Carbon fast. It is organised by Climate Stewards and designed to draw us closer to God as we learn to live more gently on earth. Each week there is a different focus, in order these are - nature, shopping, money, food, transport, energy, social media. Every week there is an illustration, a poster, a challenge and a reflection. You can sign up at [climatestewards.org](https://climatestewards.org) to receive them in your mailbox each week. It's a useful way to increase your awareness of your own carbon footprint and that of your church too.

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# Carbon Literacy Course



## **New Carbon Literacy for Christian Congregations Course**

If you look at the Buildings and Energy section of the Eco Church Survey you will find statement 8 which says "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".

A Rocha are keen for this to be in place because it has been shown that Carbon Literacy provides people, including faith-based groups, with the resources, knowledge and tools to understand climate change, empowering them to take meaningful action. Now available for the Faith sector is the Christian Congregations Shareable Course, a comprehensive resource for delivering a full day of Carbon Literacy training tailored to people of the Christian faith.

Rooted in values such as stewardship, justice, and compassion, this course supports a low-carbon culture grounded in spiritual responsibility and collective action. Developed in collaboration with Caroline Harmon and the Church of England, the Christian Congregations course is the first of its kind, created with adaptable, pre-accredited materials and sector specific guidance. By participating in this training, individuals and church communities gain the knowledge, confidence and collective purpose needed to reduce emissions and create low-carbon societies. For places of worship Carbon Literacy can help embed sustainability into governance, buildings, daily practices, and outreach turning intention into measurable impact. Training has already empowered participants in faith organisations to lead change in their communities and align climate action with spiritual values and long-term climate goals.

The course is flexible and can run as a 'house group' pack over 5 weeks or two half days. Thames North Synod has arranged to make payment for those who use the training package to gain Carbon Literate Certification. You need to inform the TNS Green Team when you plan to run the course to ensure any certificates are paid for.

To access the course materials, you'll need to complete a short form and either:

- Already be certified as Carbon Literate or
- Have attended a briefing session about the course.
- For full details please get in touch with The Carbon Literacy Project at [faith@carbonliteracy.com](mailto:faith@carbonliteracy.com)

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## 2026 Lent: Preaching Creation Crucified



This [website](#) offers challenging Reflections on Lectionary themes for Lent. With prayers, links to other resources - Red David Coleman, Environmental Chaplain.

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# Lenten Reflections

**Lent asks for time.**

**In these coming weeks we move through John's Gospel together. The stories are familiar. The path is well worn. Yet each year we find ourselves standing in a slightly different place.**

**This is not about performance, it is about attention. About walking the road, and allowing what we hear to ask something of us.**

**These reflections are offered as companions along the way, an invitation to linger, to attend, and to follow where the voice leads.**



For the complete set of Lenten Reflections see [here](#).

# Request for 2027 URC Prayer Handbook



The theme for the 2027 United Reformed Church Prayer Handbook is: **A larger belonging**

Prayers are invited that draw us beyond tribe, nation and ideology towards God's new creation. A belonging wider than our differences and deeper than our divisions.

Please submit your prayers by **February 27, 2026**, to [phb@urc.org.uk](mailto:phb@urc.org.uk).

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**Christian Aid Survey**



Dear Clergy and Church Leaders,

Christian Aid is working with Aha, an insight agency, to invite clergy and church leadership across the UK to share their thoughts in a short survey. We'd really value hearing from you.

Insights from you will help Christian Aid and its partners create resources that support and equip churches in their conversations about giving to the church, from regular donations to gifts in wills.

At the end, you can enter a draw to win one of five £100 book vouchers. Your survey responses will be viewed anonymously, and any contact details for the draw will be used only to administer the draw and then deleted.

Please take part here: <https://www.research.net/r/RFCS6Y3>

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## What's On

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## THE UPPER ROOM

### The Last Supper



**Christian Stejskal narrates  
chapters 13-17 from the  
Gospel of John.**

Storyteller, photographer and violin player, Christian Stejskal has walked in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and photographed the cultural landscape in Israel and Egypt in search of biblical visual symbols and metaphors, illustrating the "Upper Room" - the Passover meal Jesus celebrated with his 12 disciples before going to the Cross.

CHRISTIAN STEJSKAL  
Storyteller, photographer and violin player  
Email: christianstejskal@live.no  
homepage: christianstejskal.com



**Tuesday 17th March 2026**

**St Paul's United Reformed Church**  
22 Newton Road, Bayswater, London W2 5LS

**7.00p.m.**

The performance will be followed by light refreshments and time for conversations.

Organised by the Central London Area Group, Thames North Synod, The United Reformed Church.  
For more information please contact the Convenor, Revd Sally Massey Thomas  
minister.stpaulsbayswaterurc@gmail.com 07738 766677

*Webinar*

# 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](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)

**11th April on Zoom**  
**9:30am - 12:30pm**



Friday 29 May - Sunday 31 May 2026  
Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire

Cost: £75 (£30 deposit  
required at booking)  
Age: 11 (must be in Year 7)  
to 16 years

**Thames North & Southern Synod  
Youth Residential 2026**  
**“WISE WORDS”**



Book by 22 Feb  
[www.bit.ly/residential2026](http://www.bit.ly/residential2026)

Outdoor Activities  
Creative Workshops  
Games  
Discussion  
Worship

*A Wonderfully immersive musical event*

**Proceeds In Aid of LCRF**

**Invite** your friends! **Spread** the Word!  
**Publicise** in Church & on Social Media!  
and **Please Join us**

*Live Choral "Music in Motion"  
as you've never experienced it before*

**GOSPEL OAK  
CHORALE**

**CHORAL PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP**

**ALL HALLOWS SAVERNAKE ROAD NW3**  
**6.30PM SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**FREE ENTRY**  
**DONATIONS TO**  
**LONDON CHURCHES REFUGEE FUND**

**Vacancies**

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### Mission Practitioner (Training)

#### 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

***Can you come alongside local churches to help them learn, adapt,  
and develop new skills for today's challenges?***

***Do you have the skills and experience to equip local churches to  
engage in their mission?***

***Are you looking to work in a team to enable churches to share and  
live their faith?***

We are seeking an experienced trainer for a regional role for the United Reformed Church in East Anglia as part of an interdisciplinary Mission Team supporting local churches in their mission and ministry. (The rest of the team is a youth specialist and a children's specialist.)

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 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March.**

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

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.)

For a copy of the advert please see [here](#).  
The Job Description may be found [here](#).

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Here is the link to the URC's job page: <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

## Safeguarding Training 2026

## Synod Safeguarding Training

## COMBINED (FOUNDATION & INTERMEDIATE)

Wed 18th Mar 10-12pm

## INTERMEDIATE

Mon 23rd Feb 10am-12.30pm

Thursday 5th Mar 6.30pm-9pm

## ADVANCED

Part 1 Mon 23rd Mar 10-12pm

Part 2 Mon 30th Mar 10-12.30

(both sessions are required to be attended)

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.

You will see that there is a COMBINED safeguarding module. This is the Foundation and Intermediate module in one. If you need to do both modules, that training shortens the amount of sessions that need to be completed. If you *only* need to complete the Foundation or *only* the Intermediate modules, **please do not** book on to that module, but rather complete the Foundation eLearning (link below) and book an Intermediate only date to attend.

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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1-3pm and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1-3.30pm

[Ministers Advanced Training Booking Form January](#)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10am-12noon and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10am-12.30pm

[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers March](#)

Wednesday 6 May 1-3pm and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 1-3.30pm

[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers May](#)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 1-3pm and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1-3.30pm

[Booking Form for Advanced Training for Ministers October](#)



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
Safeguarding

[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)



# UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2026

Make your booking by emailing: [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.urc.org.uk)



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)