



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 21 July 2023.

Please circulate this widely so that the great events and opportunities here can benefit as many as possible.

Blessings.

## Events

### Events Calendar

**Leading Funerals and Memorial Services** 22 July 2023

2pm Lumen **NB this event has been cancelled**

**Women from Palestine** 24 Jul 2023 18:30, at Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London

**URC Holiday Forum** 19-25 August 2023 at The Hayes and via Zoom

**Disability Awareness Sunday**, 17 September 2023

**Liturgy as Proclamation of the Gospel** 28 Sept 2023

11am Llanduff Cathedral

**Appreciating the Tough Stuff** 30 September 2023

Birmingham and Zoom

## News from around the Synod

### Thames North on Facebook

Did you know the Synod has a Facebook page? Please follow us and see more pictures from Synod events, information about what is happening in the wider URC and links to other organisations you might be interested in.



**URC Thames North Synod**

34 followers • 23 following

Message

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# Luton & Dunstable Churches



*Above: Building Closing Service at Bury Park URC*

Please note that last week's news incorrectly stated that Bury Park URC had closed. This is not entirely correct as it is merely the building that has closed - the congregation is amalgamating with the four other Luton and Dunstable churches to form Newland Church. Newland Church will have two sites, one in Luton and one in Dunstable, serving two communities through one structure.

The five United Reformed Churches – Bury Park URC, Edward Street URC, St Katherine of Genoa URC, St Ninians URC and Wigmore Church (URC and Methodist) – will amalgamate into one church. This new church will be based in the former Wigmore Church building on Crawley Green Road in Luton, and the former St Katherine of Genoa URC Building on Katherine Drive in Dunstable.

*Below: St Katherine of Genoa Church*



## Trinity, North Finchley



On Sunday the Moderator led worship at Trinity Church (URC/Baptist) in North Finchley which included the Ordination and Induction of Amy and Nancy as Elders. The congregation is diverse with a number of Iranian asylum seekers, some having been granted leave to stay, and others who are waiting to hear.



## Synod Energy Support Grants 2023-24

At their meeting on 11 July the Resources Committee agreed that the Synod energy support grants programme would be extended to provide churches with assistance covering increased energy costs over the coming winter.

Applications can now be made to cover the period from the end of September 2023 to March 2024. An updated application form can be obtained either from the Resources Committee secretary Nneoma Chima [administrator@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:administrator@urcthamesnorth.org.uk) or from the Synod website

Please address any questions concerning these grants to either Martyn MacPhee or John Wise.

## What's On



# Interfaith Fun Run & London Awards Charities Info Webinar



Are you a charity or community group based in London? We have two incredible opportunities coming up this summer for you.

- Fundraise for your organisation at **London's 3rd and biggest Annual Interfaith Fun Run**
- Nominate yourselves (or an organisation you love!) at our **7th Annual London Awards**

What's not to be excited about?

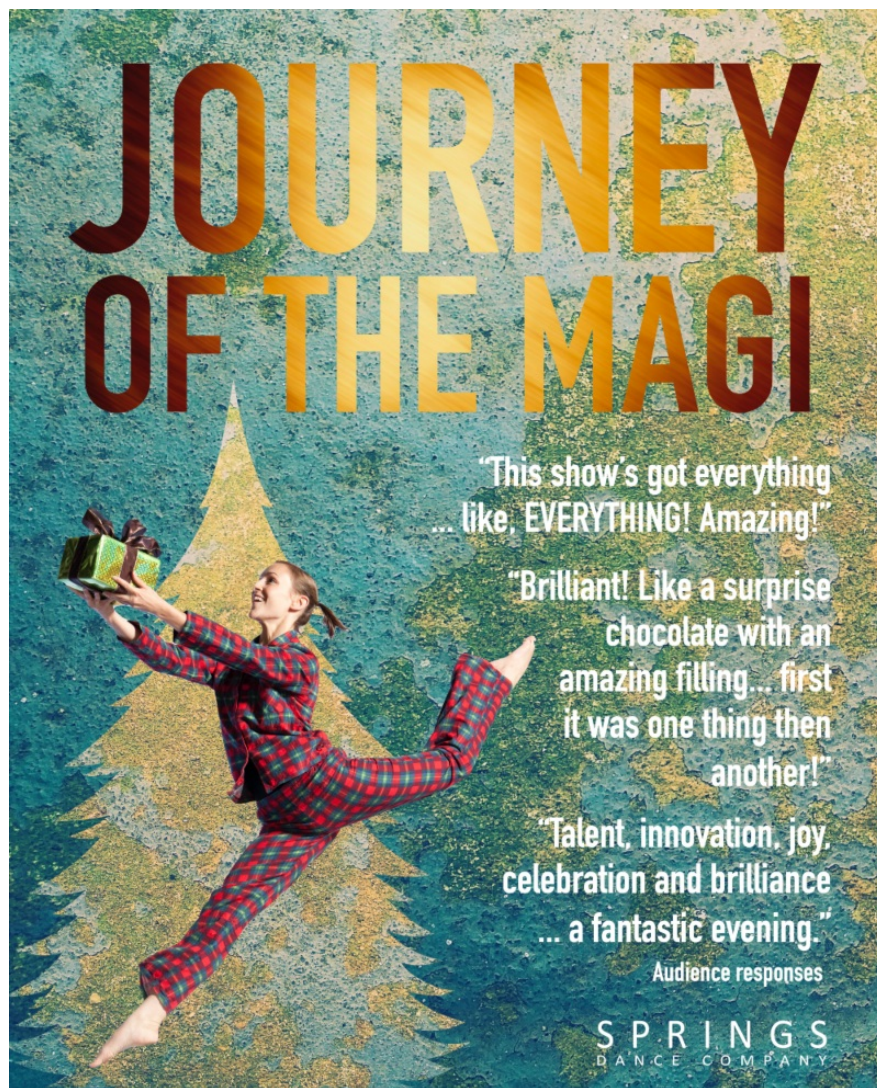
Come to an **Information Webinar on Thursday 27th July, 15:30-17:00**, to hear about how you can get your charity, community or voluntary group involved in these upcoming Faith & Belief Forum events.

We will start by covering the Interfaith Fun Run 2023. The briefing will be for charities and organisations who are thinking of signing up, but want to hear a little more first. We will go over expectations on the day, what you will receive, costs and much more!

We will then talk about the London Faith & Belief Community Awards, where you'll be able to hear about how to get recognition for your local heroes as well as what makes for a good application.

**Register here:** <https://fbf-fun-run-and-awards.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Journey of the Magi



Touring churches and schools this Advent. Inspired by T S Eliot's poem, *Journey of the Magi*, is a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message.

The show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus's birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took. Images from the poetry and familiar Christmas scenes explode in a mix of laugh-out-loud funny, moving and entertaining theatre and dance. We hope to both entertain and offer a chance to reflect and refocus.

Aimed at families, the show attracts all ages. Relatable characters can help audiences to be inspired in their own journeys this Christmas and can help them think about who Christ is for them today.

The fees for *Journey of the Magi* are:

- For a weekend performance (Friday—Sunday): £1175
- For Monday or Tuesday: £990
- For Wednesday or Thursday: £1120

Plus a donation towards the travel costs.

Accommodation with local hosts may be requested. Many venues cover their costs by charging between £6 and £12 for tickets.

For more information and to book for Advent 2023 contact our office on 07775 628442 or email: [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk)



## Christian Women's Fellowship

The Hayes  
Conference Centre  
Swanwick,  
Derbyshire,  
DE55 1AU

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb  
2024

£200 for Full Board

including  
Ensuite Room

2024 Conference Theme!!

### Caring in our society today

#### GUEST SPEAKER:

Tarn Bright  
(Home for Good)



home  
for good

Calling all Christian Women, and  
Non-binary (assigned female at birth)

We would like to invite you to join us for a weekend away in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside staying at the Hayes Conference Centre. We meet every year for a great weekend of fellowship, meeting old friends and new, we explore themes with the help of guest speakers, we enjoy Bible study and worship together

Website:  
<https://cwfmaking1927.wixsite.com/website>

Fun & Fellowship

For more information or to book your place,  
please contact:

Booking Secretary  
Esther:  
[esther.watson3@gmail.com](mailto:esther.watson3@gmail.com)

Activities!!

## What can we learn about Christian unity from the Church of South India?



### Society for Ecumenical Studies

#### A Body in Association with Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

In 1947 four church traditions were brought together in the CSI which unites episcopal and non-episcopal Protestant denominations. How can their experience inform our work for unity between the churches in the UK?

18.00 – 19.15 p.m. Tuesday, 25 July 2023 on Zoom

Chair: Victoria Turner

Speakers:

Rt Rev Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool

Rt Revd Dr Royce Manoj Victor, Bishop of Malabar, CSI

Cost £5: SfES Members free

To book, please go to <https://Learning-from-CSI.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information, please contact the secretary at  
[sfes.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sfes.secretary@gmail.com)



# Protective Security Measures for Places of Worship - open for applications

Applications for the following Home Office's security schemes are still open:

- Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme
- Protective Security for Mosques Scheme

An application can be made via the following link: Protective security schemes for places of worship ([homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk](https://homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk)). Please note that the same application portal is used for both schemes.

The Home Office is holding three online engagement events to promote the launch of the two schemes. Each event will provide you with an introduction to both schemes, details on how to apply and an opportunity for Q&A.

Please select a date from the list of online engagement events below. You will be directed to a registration page on MS Teams, and upon completion, receive a link to your chosen online webinar.

- [Tuesday, 25 Jul 2023 18:00 - 19:30 BST \(In association with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime \(MOPAC\)\)](#)
- [Thursday, 27 Jul 2023 11:00 - 12:30 BST](#)

We encourage you to promote these engagement events with faith-based community representatives in your local area and with networks who have experienced hate crime, or feel they are vulnerable to it.

For further inquiries or to request details for our upcoming events, please contact  
[SecurityfundingCED@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:SecurityfundingCED@homeoffice.gov.uk)

## Part Time Church Cleaner Role

### **The United Reformed Church Thames North Synod Part Time Church Cleaner Role**

Previous Applicants Need not Apply.

- £9321 per annum (15 hours per week)

The Lumen Community is a contemporary Christian community space provided by the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church in the heart of London.

We offer you the opportunity to support the development of an exciting service to residents, guests, and various ministries of the Synod.

Usual working hours: (for guidance only)

- 15 hours according to service needs

- Monday to Friday daily 0600-0830
- Saturday or Sunday 3 hours

Your role will ensure that the Lumen building is maintained to the highest standard, and will help provide our guests with a safe, comfortable, and pleasant experience while using our facilities. You will also be responsible for maintaining all records in accordance with Synod policies, procedures, and guidelines.

The main duties of the role are:

- Opening and locking the building daily, with some occasional weekend cover
  - Cleaning
- Event preparation

The above list of duties is not exhaustive and may change according to service needs. Proven experience as a cleaner within a similar environment would be a strong advantage.

**Closing Date** 1200 Midday 03 August 2023

To apply for an application pack and Job Description please contact Colleen Fraser at [modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

## American International Church Vacancy

### Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator

**Pay:** £32,000-£35,000 dependent on experience

#### Overview

We are seeking a Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator with passion and experience in community engagement, volunteer and program management to lead our community service programs, share our message of welcome and inclusion, and support new and existing relationships and partnerships.

The American International Church is a community of many races, languages, cultures, faith traditions, nationalities, ages, genders, abilities, financial circumstances, and sexual identities, and we seek candidates for this position who reflect that diversity.

Candidates must have the right to work in the UK and will be required to complete enhanced DBS screening.

For a Job Description please contact [info@amchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@amchurch.co.uk)

#### How to Apply

Please submit resume/CV and cover letter by 4 August 2023 to [info@amchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@amchurch.co.uk). First round interviews will be held via Zoom in mid-August, second round at the church in late August or early September.

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



## National Safeguarding Training 2023



Refugee and Asylum Seekers  
May 30th 7pm-9pm

Substance Abuse and the impact on  
Safeguarding  
June 26th 7pm-8.30pm

Suicide Awareness  
September 11th 2pm-3.30pm

Domestic Abuse  
September 19th 1.30pm-3.30pm

Modern Day Slavery  
September 25 7pm-9pm

Safeguarding for Ministers Supporting Survivors  
October 9th 2pm – 4pm

Adult Safeguarding  
November 21st 7pm – 9pm

**All training will take place via zoom.  
Bookings can be made by emailing  
[Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)**

## Thames North Safeguarding Training 2023

Below are the dates for safeguarding training this year. Please do share more broadly amongst your teams and networks and get back in touch with me to book on to the training date you prefer.

### Foundation Safeguarding Training (Approx 2 hours)

**19<sup>th</sup> September** 10am - 12pm **\*IN PERSON TRAINING\***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)  
Parking available at Maidstone East station

**2<sup>nd</sup> October** 6.30pm – 8.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**7<sup>th</sup> November** 6pm - 8pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**5<sup>th</sup> December** 10am - 12pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**E-Learning**

The Foundation training is also available as an E Learning which can be completed in your own time.

The link is here:

Standard Course for a Laptop or Desktop Computer

[Safeguarding Foundation E-Course](#) (canva.com)

Standard Course for a phone or laptop [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course](#) for phone and tablet (canva.com)

Narrated version of the course with a voice over each slide

[Safeguarding Foundation E-Course narrated version](#)

(canva.com)

### **Intermediate Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).**

**6<sup>th</sup> September** 6pm- 8.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**12<sup>th</sup> September** 10am- 12.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**19<sup>th</sup> September** 1pm – 3.30pm **\*IN PERSON TRAINING\***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)

**9<sup>th</sup> November** 6pm – 8.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**5<sup>th</sup> December** 6pm – 8.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

### **Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.**

**5<sup>th</sup> October** 6.30pm – 8.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

To book on to this training, please email your **name, church role, church and preferred date** to [safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

# SAFEGUARDING FOR ELDERS AS TRUSTEES 2023

## Webinar

Please join one of the dates below to gain vital information on your specific safeguarding role in the URC. This session is for all Serving Elders with Trustee Responsibility in their church.

### From the webinar you will

- Gain an understanding of URC policies and how they underpin your role in relation to Safeguarding.
- Understand your role as a trustee for the church and how this links to safeguarding.
- Understand the 5 safeguarding actions outlined by the government for churches as charities.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS TRAINING IS IN ADDITION TO THE FOUNDATION AND INTERMEDIATE TRAINING AND COVERS SEPARATE INFORMATION**

**March 14th 2023 7pm-9pm**



**October 20th 2023 2pm-4pm**

**TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT  
[CARRIE.KAUNDA@URC.ORG.UK](mailto:CARRIE.KAUNDA@URC.ORG.UK)**

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