



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 26 May 2023.

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

Blessings.

Events

Events Calendar

- Theology for Preachers** 3 June 2023 10:00am
Lumen/Zoom
- Trumpet & Organ Concert** 4 June 2023 15:00pm
Amersham Free Church
- Stepwise Faith Filled Life** 12 June 2023 19:00pm
Zoom
- Glorious Grandparenting** 15 June 2023 19 June 2023
10:30am 19:00pm Online
- Refugee Week** 19-25 June 2023
- Self-Care and Resilience** 22 June 2023 19:15pm
Zoom
- Introduction to Godly Play** 24 June 2023 10:30am
High Cross URC
- Resilience and community-care** 29 June 2023
19:15pm Zoom
- Enabling resilience (making safe spaces)** 6 July
2023 19:15pm Zoom
- Synod Green Day** 8 July 2023 10:30am Cores End
URC
- Appreciating the Tough Stuff** 30 September 2023
Birmingham and Zoom

Exploring Resilience for Churches

**Three FREE Zoom sessions: EXPLORING RESILIENCE
FOR CHURCHES**

**URC Training- a collaboration between
Children and Youth Work and Education and Learning**

Thursday 22nd June- self-care and resilience. 7.15-

8.45pm. Led by Adam Scott.

This first session will focus on personal resilience or self-care. Resilience is a word we use a lot, especially recently, and Adam will help us explore what it means for us as individuals in the world we live in as we adapt and endure through times of change.

Thursday 29th June- Resilience and community-care. 7.15-8.45pm. Led by Adam Scott.

This second session will focus on community resilience or community care. We can be adaptable and have worked on our own resilience, but our external environment affects us each day. Adam will help us explore what community resilience is, how important it is and how change can help us all flourish.

The Revd Dr Adam Scott is the Principal at Northern College, Manchester.*

Thursday 6th July- Enabling resilience (making safe spaces). 7.15-8.45pm Led by Alex Clare-Young.

This session will focus on practical things we can do/offer/give access to in church buildings, gatherings and community spaces. Alex will encourage thinking around how we navigate space and self in relation to enabling resilience and flourishing.

The Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young is an ordained URC Minister working in a Pioneer role with Downing Place Church in Cambridge City Centre and is an Associate Tutor at Westminster College, Cambridge.*

*Northern College, Manchester and Westminster College, Cambridge are two of the three URC Resource Centres for Learning that offer learning and training opportunities.

To book onto these sessions go to the Eventbrite link: <https://bit.ly/Resilience4churches>

Synod Green Day



SYNOD GREEN DAY 

Celebration – Reflection – Action

at Cores End URC, Buckinghamshire SL8 5HZ
on Saturday 8 July 2023
A day for all ages to reflect on the wonders of God's creation – and our care for it

10.30 am	Arrivals and refreshments	
11 am	Worship, sensory walk and bible exploration	
1 pm	PICNIC LUNCH	
2 pm	Workshops and Activities (around 5 Eco themes of teaching, land, buildings, engagement and lifestyle)	
3.30 pm	Worship in the Meadow and Tree Planting	
4 pm	Tea and departures	

Limited places – book at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

The Synod Green Team is excited to present this event and looks forward to meeting you in on the day. Terry Hinks, member of the team and minister at the church says, 'We look forward to welcoming you to Cores End United Reformed

Church here in Buckinghamshire, a church set in beautiful grounds with churchyard, gardens and meadow, beside fields and woodland. We hope it will be a great day, bringing us together from across the Synod and connecting us with the natural world of which we are part'.

TRAVEL

The event will be held at Cores End United Reformed Church, Bourne End SL8 5HZ. Please use public transport if possible.

We will arrange pick-ups from Taplow Station (on Elizabeth Line, between London and Maidenhead) or Beaconsfield (on Chiltern Line between London Marylebone and High Wycombe). If you are coming by car, please share if possible (car park beside church from Princes Road).

REFRESHMENTS

Tea, coffee, cold drinks, biscuits and cakes will be available.

Please bring a Picnic Lunch (following LOAF principles if you can).

We have limited places so please book with Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk and you will receive a booking form on which you can add any questions you may have.

A message from one of our Green Apostles, Peter Musgrave:

Hi Everyone,

I am a green apostle based in very urban East London. What I am looking forward to at the Synod Green Day on July 9th is:

- The chance to share and meet with people from all levels of URC including our moderator and JPIT
- To travel to whole length of Elizabeth Line from Ilford to Taplow , which amazingly will only take me 1 hour 15 mins! Instead of just getting off at Whitechapel I will get the rare chance to see the lovely Buckingham countryside and to walk in nature in the church meadows and to see the wildlife not just our bleak East London urban buildings
- To hear good musicians bringing their lovely instruments ,to so we can sing environmental songs along with them
- To be able to share my own experience with empathetic others and to hear different points of view and experiences too.
- For those of you who are getting this publicity people through TNS newsletter , please do spread the word verbally amongst the people you know so that a small group of you come together. That way we can continue our eco journey whether we are new or are old to the environment. And please bring children too. There will be activities for all ages. If there are questions you have about the Synod Green Day, or you need more information about it, please send them to Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk
Hoping to see some of you on the day. We have so much experience to share both urban and rural

Peter Musgrave, Vine URC, Ilford

Peter Musgrave
3 Auckland Rd
Ilford Essex IG1 4SD

United Kingdom
07943 986988
0207 041 7194

Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents:

Theology for Preachers and Worship Leaders

Either: in person, Saturday 3 June, 10am–12noon
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS

Or: via Zoom, Thursday 8 June, 8:00–9:30pm



Led by Julian Templeton,
Training & Development
Officer

To book your place at this
free event, indicating your
preference for either in
person or via Zoom, email
Ola Lawal, Lay Preaching
Commissioner:
lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

This session aims to equip preachers and worship
leaders with greater theological awareness:

- We'll look at a typical Order of Service and explore the theology that underpins each element from the Call to Worship at the beginning to the Blessing at the end
- This will take the form of a brief tour through the doctrines of God, Reconciliation, Revelation, and Providence
- We'll also identify some resources available to those who want to delve deeper

National Churches Trust Small Grants

Status : Open

Next Deadline : 29 June (midnight)

Grant Size : £500 to £5,000

Works Cost : Up to £20,000 (incl VAT and fees)

This programme offers our small grants of between £500 and £5,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection, Building Survey or Condition Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should be up to £20,000 incl. VAT and awards will never exceed 50% of the costs. Decisions are made on a rolling basis.

Small Grants for maintenance are made possible in partnership with, and through the generosity of, the Pilgrim Trust, as well as the additional generous support of our donors and Friends, trusts and foundations, and the many places of worship and individuals who support our programmes.

[Eligibility Criteria and How to Apply](#)

The poster features a background of abstract, textured brushstrokes in shades of yellow, green, and orange. At the top center is the logo for 'Appreciating Church', which consists of three stylized human figures in red, orange, and blue. Below the logo, the text 'Appreciating Church Annual Conferences' is written in a blue sans-serif font, followed by 'Saturday 30 September 2023' in a bold black font. Further down, the locations and times are listed: 'Onsite | Priory Rooms, Birmingham | 10:30 - 16:00' and 'Online | Zoom | 09:30 - 16:30'. The main title 'Appreciating the tough stuff' is prominently displayed in a large blue font. Below it, three questions are listed in a bold red font: 'How do we.', 'How can we.', and 'How might we.'. A paragraph in black text explains that the conferences will run in parallel as practitioner-led events with interactive workshops. Another paragraph in blue text states that speakers from the church and beyond will reflect on using appreciative inquiry in challenging situations. At the bottom left, a question is posed in black text: 'How will you use this opportunity to deepen and share your appreciative inquiry practice?'. At the bottom right, the fee for either conference is listed, with early bird booking by 30th June at £100 and a standard fee of £130 thereafter. The contact email 'enquiries@appreciating.church' is provided at the very bottom right.

Lay Training Grants

Thames North Lay Training Grant Application Forms are available to download from the Thames North Synod website [here](#).

Moderator Wessex Synod



Full-time, seven-year termed appointment Minister's stipend

General Assembly wishes to appoint a United Reformed Church minister to serve as Wessex Synod Moderator from December 2023 or shortly afterwards.

As Christians, our primary call is to be disciples of Jesus. As members of the United Reformed Church we are to follow that call together, whatever our age or ability.

As our Synod Moderator you will be leading us in how we follow our synod strategy, the basis on which we have sought to develop our work supporting and equipping the churches in walking the way as disciples of Jesus. A key opportunity will be leading us in the next phase of our life as a synod, in how we share ministry which sustains the life of our congregations and enables the future mission and growth of our churches.

About the Synod - URC Wessex Synod

The successful applicant will be an authentic example of faith, a strong and enthusiastic encourager, and a sensitive leader able to celebrate the joys and grapple with the sorrows that are a reality for our churches. A sense of humour is of vital importance!

An information pack and application form can be found on the jobs page of the website www.urch.org.uk/jobs
If you wish to nominate a minister for this post, please write to Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urch.org.uk by **Sunday 18 June 2023**

If you wish to apply for this post, please complete an application form and send it to Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urch.org.uk
Human Resources, The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, 020 7691 9871 by **12 noon Monday 17 July 2023**

Interview date: Wednesday 30 August 2023

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part1; Schedule 9 there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church.

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

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**

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)

20th June 6.30pm - 8.30pm
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

10th July 6pm - 8pm at TBC
PERSON TRAINING*

***IN**

19th September 10am - 12pm
TRAINING*

***IN PERSON**

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

2nd October 6.30pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

7th November 6pm - 8pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th 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).

9th June 10am- 12pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

11th July 6pm – 8.30pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***
at TBC

6th September 6pm- 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

12th September 10am- 12.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

19th September 1pm – 3.30pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***
at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)

9th November 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.

22nd June 6.30pm - 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th 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

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**

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

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