



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 1 November 2024.

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

Blessings.

Events

Discipleship Matters Thursday 28 November 2024 3pm or 7:30pm
'Vital Signs' [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)
[pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)
disc@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Old Testament Prophets used in Year C Lectionary on Saturday 9 November 2024 10:30 – 12.30pm at Lumen. Contact Ola Lawal at lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Transforming your Church Building and its Land Tuesday 12 November 2024 11:30am-1pm mission@urc.org.uk

Inter Faith Theological Advisory Group conference on Thursday 14 November 2024 at 11am at EC4V 5DE <https://ctbi.org.uk/conference-dancing-with-diversity-14-nov-2024/>

Introduction to Godly Play on Saturday 16 November 2024 at 10am Contact Lorraine at cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

The 2024 Congregational lecture on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 5:30pm at Westminster College, Cambridge

Spiritual Abuse Webinar Wednesday 27 November 2024 1:00-3:00pm Register [here](#).

St Albans URC Greenwood Open Day 30 November 2025 10:30am at Watford Road, AL2 3HG [St Albans URC](#)

News

St Albans URC



On Sunday the Moderator led worship at St Albans United Reformed Church on Homewood Road. It was good to hear how they are getting on after taking the bold step to become one church on two sites. Work at the Greenwood site has now been completed and will be officially opened next month.

They have amazing banners and pictures and there is always something new to notice and enrich worship there.

The congregation were very responsive to the question of what images of God they find helpful. In the sermon the Moderator grappled with what we can learn from Job and Bartimaeus and how we can have faith and hope for the future as we learn more about what God is like.



Revd Heather Whyte Retires



Revd Heather Whyte (R), United Reformed Church (URC) Minister in Luton & Dunstable leading a service in Luton jointly with Revd George Watt (L), URC Thames North Synod Moderator

In Luton & Dunstable, following the amalgamation of 5 United Reformed Churches (URCs), a new Church by the name Newland Church has been operational for over a year as 'one church on two sites' – in Crawley Green Road (Wigmore) Luton, and in Katherine Drive Dunstable.

All this has been possible with the support and able leadership of the local URC Minister Revd Heather Whyte, who is sadly retiring after serving in Luton for over 7 years. Last weekend, she led the last Sunday Service in Luton.

Revd Heather Whyte has been a great source of inspiration and motivation in enabling the Church members to build relationships, to learn how to be the Church, and offer the communities in which we live, an expression of love and belonging.

Heather is an experienced Church Minister. After completing her Ministerial Training from Westminster College, Cambridge, and before becoming the Pastorate Minister for the URC in Luton & Dunstable, she had served in the

West Midlands, and also in the URC South Western Synod as its community outreach and communications officer.

Heather is interested in photography, and editing. She is also a writer, musician, poet and artist in spirituality with a particular interest and passion in Quantum Theology. She has led spiritual retreats and 'away days' enabling people to reflect on the oneness and interconnectedness of God and humanity. She has often talked of God as not a distant architect but an active participant, continually influencing the unfolding of the universe.

Earlier in the year, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, she was invited by the Churches Together in Luton to share her reflections on the theme – The nature of unity and the oneness of God.

People in Luton will remember her for asking questions of faith, and what it means to follow the teachings of Jesus in today's world. She encouraged everyone to seek answers that are relevant and which propagate a message of peace, justice and compassion for all.

We thank Heather for her services in Luton and wish the very best for all her future endeavours.

*Source: Luton News, Faith Matters
By David Jonathan, Grassroots & Luton Council of Faiths*

What's On

Vital Signs

A BRAND NEW RESOURCE
FOR CHURCH LEADERS

Assessment tool

Book

Videos

It was good to be able to share a brief introduction to 'Vital Signs' at our recent Synod meeting. I am pleased that a number of churches have begun to show an interest in this hopeful, accessible and free resource. At

our Discipleship Matters online meeting this week the attendees did the online assessment tool during the meeting. I have therefore decided to devote our November Discipleship Matters to give more people the chance to explore Vital Signs BUT I have changed the date to THURSDAY 28th November at 3pm OR 7.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09> in case there are some that find Wednesday difficult.

Please contact me if you want to find out more or go to <https://licc.org.uk/vital-signs> and you can also watch an introductory 2 minute trailer at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTKxEZ50IPo&list=PL2o5B72VKerMJrHPyRAC1xm0amUr10IHZ&index=2&ab_channel=LICC

I would love your church to be involved in this

Eddie Boon
Synod Discipleship Enabler
www.discipleseveryday.com



An Introduction to Godly Play

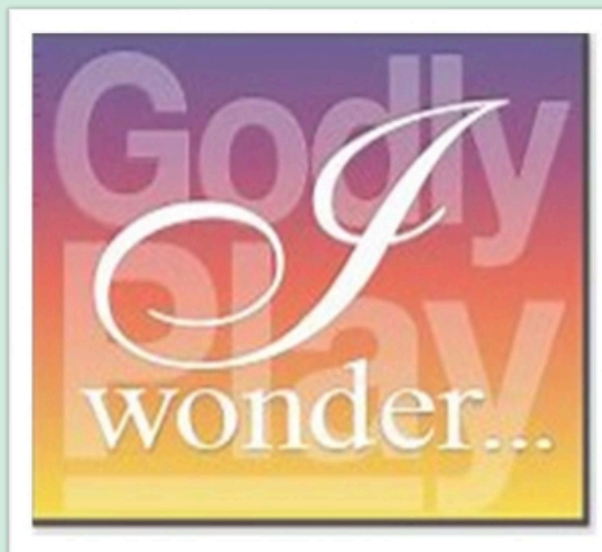
Exploring Childhood Spirituality



An opportunity to experience a whole Godly Play session, followed by two sessions each exploring a different Godly Play story genre.

There will be ample opportunity to discuss key elements of the Godly Play approach to childhood spirituality. The group size will be small, which is ideal for exploring all your questions.

This day is open to anyone and is especially designed for those who have little or no previous experience of Godly Play. Suitable for children's leaders, youth leaders, teachers, ministers, chaplains, or anyone interested in childhood spirituality.



This event is free of charge to anyone connected with The United Reformed Church or LEP Congregation.

Please let us know of any access requirements you have when booking. Tea, Coffee, and light refreshments will be available, please bring your own lunch. You may also like to bring a cushion to sit on, as wherever possible we like to sit on the floor for Godly Play, although this is not essential.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Downer

cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

07716 640 575

Saturday 16th November 2024

The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place, London
WC1H 9RS.

10am arrivals & refreshments for a prompt 10.30am start.

The event finishes at 3:30pm.

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**Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents:
Old Testament Prophets used in Year C Lectionary**



**Led by
Revd Dr Janet Tollington**

A retired URC Minister and former tutor at Westminster College, Cambridge, who taught Old Testament and Hebrew at every level from church groups up to PhD students. She is still active in teaching and passionate in helping people understand ancient Hebrew texts and their relevance for Christians in today's world. She also preaches most Sundays in a wide range of churches

Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS

Date: 09.11.2024

Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm

The whole session will be interactive, allowing opportunity for plenty of questions, and it will fall into three sections. Some general background information about the prophetic books and their historical context; some discussion about their interpretation in relation to the Christian seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; and more detailed focus on Jeremiah.

Please bring a copy of the Bible with you (any translation will be OK), so that we can look at actual texts during the session.

Lunch 12.30 -1.30pm followed by Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders

Annual Meeting from 1:30 - 2:30pm.

To book your place at this free event, please email, Ola Lawal, lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Information

Safeguarding Training

UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event	Second date
17 January, 2024 1:30pm	Domestic abuse	4 June, 2024 6:30pm
25 January 1:30pm	Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting survivors	11 June 6:30pm
30 January 6:30pm	Modern slavery	8 October 1:30pm
31 January 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees	14 May 7:00pm
8 February 1:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	23 May 6:30pm
27 February 6:30pm	Substance abuse	3 October 1:30pm
6 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers	17 September 6:30pm
18 March 6:30pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting survivors	25 September 1:30pm
18 April 6:30pm	Adult safeguarding	15 October 1:30pm
8 May 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse	11 November 7:00pm
28 October 6:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	4 December 10:00am
19 November 1:30pm	Online safety	

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub
bit.ly/3Txldm4



The United Reformed Church Safeguarding

www.urc.org.uk



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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