



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 10 April 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

Time for Jesus - the Musical Saturday 12 April at St James Church East Barnet Road EN4 8RN and Sunday 13 April 2025 at 7pm St Mary's Church, Church End, Hendon NW4 4JT

Induction of Revd Dr Tessa Heny-Robinson on Palm Sunday (13 April) at 6.30pm at the American International Church. Book [here](#)

IOPT in Focus: Exploring Apartheid & the Occupation Wednesday 30 April 2025. For the Zoom link commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

Spiritual Abuse Training on Thursday 1 May 2025 contact emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

Rejoice and Sing Live at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May 2025 www.bit.ly/reform-live

Dinner Dance at Grange Park URC on 3 May 2025 4-9pm

Designing for the Future on 7 May 2025 at The Lumen Centre 11
Book : training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Latte, americano or espresso? Exploring God through café style worship.' Tuesday 20 May 2025 7:30pm via Zoom
rgoldring23@gmail.com

From Lament to Action: Church service five years after George Floyd's death on Sunday 25 May 2025 15:00-16:30. Doors at 2pm.
Location: St John's Church, Waterloo
Waterloo Road London SE1 8TY. Book [here](#)

Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential 29 May-1 June 2025 www.bit.ly/residential2025

Eco Day on Saturday, 7 June 9:00am – 4:00pm Location:

St Albans Greenwood AL2 3HG. Please check the news each week for more on what's on.

Love your Burial Ground Week, National Cemeteries Week & Churches Count on Nature Saturday 7th - Sunday 15th June 2025.

Find out more here.

IOPT in Focus: Antisemitism Wednesday 18 June 2025. For the Zoom link commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

Bradwell Pilgrimage Saturday 5 July 2025 10am-3:15pm
www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions Saturday 12 July 2026 at 10:30 to 15:30 at The Lumen and Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 19:30 to 21:30 via Zoom training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025

150th Anniversary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches 12 July 2:00pm at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road. Free tickets can be reserved here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1257520550819?aff=oddttdtcreator>

News



On Sunday the Moderator received a warm welcome as he led worship at Deanway United Church, Chalfont St Giles (a joint URC and Methodist Church)

Bush Hill Park Fun Day



Bush Hill Park URC held a Free Fun Day (funded by Enfield Council) on Saturday 29th March. This community event was organised by the members of the Bush Hill Park church family with considerable help from the 2nd Enfield Boys Brigade leaders. Over 330 people attended the church for the afternoon of fun. It was really good to see the church alive and buzzing with people who were clearly having a good time. The activities included inflatables, craft, a Lego room and a café.

The afternoon concluded with a visit from Mr Marvel, who is a children's entertainer. A couple of attendees said that because the day was free they could for once treat their children to an ice cream (the ice cream van was the only thing people had to pay for). Being able to do something for the local community was a blessing to all those who helped, even though a fair few of us went home and before we knew it, fell asleep!

Svitavy Joint Service



On Sunday 6 April, St John's URC New Barnet shared worship with Revd Filip Keller and members of its twinned church, the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren in Svitavy, Czechia. It was the first joint service where each congregation gathered in its own church building and came together through the wonders of the internet. This technological challenge was achieved through Zoom with translations available on the screen where necessary. After the service, a news update was presented from each church. Despite the complexity of the operation, this meaningful time of worship helped both congregations to feel truly connected as members of the worldwide group of Reformed churches.



Information

Green Team Message



Love Your Burial Ground Week/Churches Count on Nature, 7th-15th June - registration now open

Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week (now in its 15th year), focusing on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative of Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK.

As part of Thames North Synod Eco Day on 7th June you will have an opportunity to take part in a 'Count on Nature' exercise in St Albans URC's meadow, and if you have a smart phone, you can explore how to operate the iNaturalist app that is used as part of this project.

More information and resources: [Caring For God's Acre – the conservation charity for burial grounds across the UK](#)

Spring 2025 Vital Link: "God is in Charge of Making Me"



Welcome to the **Spring 2025 Vital Link** newsletter from Through the Roof.

This issue, we begin our 2025 series exploring the Disability Awareness Sunday theme, 'Made in God's Image'.

[Download your PDF copy](#) in this more-accessible format with alt text and reading order.

As creation springs into new life in the UK, we focus on the first word of our 2025 theme: 'Made' by God, our creator.

- Hear from author Emily Owen about being 'Made in God's image' and access her Disability Awareness Sunday resource
- Meet John Garrett, a blind singer-songwriter, who has made his 'Life Story' album free online
- Read life-changing stories from Nigeria on our recent international Roofbreaker mission
- Check out our accessible holiday at Calvert Trust, booking fast for June 2025!
- Hear from our new staff member Grace, and new Trustees Matt and Steve
- Find out about a new online Hope Explored course and plans for sessions in BSL
- Last chance to contribute to our Future of Through the Roof survey and more news and views...

Alternative formats

Vital Link is available in many different, accessible formats:

- large print, Word file, braille, audio link, CD.

Contact us on 01372 749955 or email info@throughtheroof.org to request one of the above accessible formats.

As above, there is the new-design PDF with alt text and adjusted reading order

Or read Vital Link onscreen with the Joomag viewer [here](#):

What's On

**'Latte, americano or espresso?
Exploring God through café style
worship'**



Theology of Worship Group:
exploring the practice and nature of worship today

invites you to our next Speaker meeting on
'Latte, americano or espresso? Exploring God through café style worship.'

Speaker: Revd. Heather Whyte

Heather is a recently retired URC minister who has used and taught café style worship with congregations and to workshops over the last 20 years.

Date: Tuesday 20th May 2025

Time: 7:30 via Zoom

Café style worship offers all the aspects of worship in a distinct experience which allows for engagement at multiple levels, making it accessible to all stages of discipleship. Heather will introduce the principles of café style worship and offer a brief exploration of preparation. She will also share why she believes Café style worship is an important aspect of enabling spiritual journey and confidence in sharing our experience of God. She calls this style of worship "Soul Café," contemporary worship in an informal setting providing food for the soul.

To book, please contact Rev. Dr. Richard Goldring:
rgoldring23@gmail.com

**Tessa Henry-Robinson - Induction
Service; CTE Keynote Address;
George Floyd 5th Anniversary
Service**





From Lament to Action

The Racial Justice Advocacy Forum invite you to From Lament to Action, a dynamic and prophetic Ecumenical Service to mark the Fifth Anniversary of the Killing of George Floyd.

Sunday, 25 May at 3pm

St John's Church, Waterloo Road, London SE1



All are invited but registration via [Eventbrite](#) is required.

Light refreshments will be available.



The co-celebrants include bishops Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Mike Royal, and Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson.

The programme includes Christ's Hospital School Gospel Choir and organist Wayne Marshall, OBE.



RJAF
THE RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY FORUM

As recently advised, our own Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson will soon be inducted to the role of Moderator of the Free Churches Group. In so doing, Tessa will also become a President of Churches Together in England (CTE). It is not too late to book a (free) place for Tessa's induction service, taking place on 13 April, 6.30pm at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1277875783869?aff=oddtcreator>

I write now with 2 further updates about what Tessa has been doing or will soon be doing:

At the recent CTE forum, Tessa gave an address on the topic of 'Reparations'. Quite simply, it was brilliant! You can view Tessa's input here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0GCbICITLM>

Sunday 25 May marks 5 years since the killing of George Floyd. A special Anniversary Service – **George Floyd: From Lament to Action** - has been planned by the ecumenical Racial Justice Advocacy Forum. Following her CTE input, Tessa has been invited to play a key role in the Anniversary Service, taking place in Waterloo, London. Please see the flier above & [book your place via this link](#).

Blessings

Karen Campbell

Secretary for Global & Intercultural Ministries (Mission) | The United Reformed Church



Designing for the Future

Creating Sustainable and Beautiful Buildings

Thames North Synod & Eastern Synod



Date: 7 May 2025

Venue: The Lumen Centre, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS (in person only, lunch provided)

Time: 11am–2.30pm

Booking: Email:

training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

including any dietary restriction

Join us for a workshop

focused on reimagining church spaces for the future. This session explores how buildings can be more than structures—they are vital tools for gathering, mission, and nurturing faith. We'll dive into the broader concept of sustainability, emphasising that net-zero carbon targets are just one part of the equation. Learn how to design spaces that balance environmental responsibility with flexibility, ensuring they serve the needs of your community for generations to come.

Discover the principles

of delight, commodity, and firmness as a guide for creating beautiful, functional, and sustainable buildings. We'll discuss practical strategies for reducing carbon footprints, improving accessibility, and aligning your space with your mission. Whether you're planning a new building or adapting an existing one, this workshop provides actionable insights to create spaces that reflect your values and meet your church's evolving needs.

Facilitated by Julian Templeton, Sacha McArdle and Cliff Patten.

Book: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Vacancies

Independent Examiner Wanted -- Voluntary Role

The United Reformed Church, Broxbourne, is seeking a new qualified Independent Examiner to review and certify our Annual Accounts for submission to the Charity Commission and HMRC.

Our long-serving and much-appreciated Independent Examiner has recently retired, and we are now looking for someone to kindly step into this important role.

Time Commitment: Approximately 15-20 hours annually

Type of Role: Voluntary (if possible)

If you're able to help, or would like more information, please contact:
Amanda Harwood (Church Treasurer) Email:
Amanda.Harwo@outlook.com

Case Presenting Officer

The United Reformed Church is seeking immediate nominations and applications for a Case Presenting Officer to be part of the process for dealing with cases of discipline involving Ministers or Church-Related Community Workers. This is a volunteer role that is crucial in ensuring the integrity of the disciplinary process.

The deadline for any expressions of interest and submitting an application form is Friday 2nd May. Interviews will take place shortly after this date. Contact Samantha Bircham
samantha.bircham@urc.org.uk

Safeguarding Training

Spiritual Abuse Training

Thursday 1st May 1.30pm-3.30pm

This training will focus on

Defining Spiritual Abuse

Developing healthy cultures in Churches

Developing healthy relationships

Responding to inappropriate and unhelpful behaviours

To book please email Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk



www.urc.org.uk



Synod Training Dates 2025

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email 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

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – 12.30pm-3.00pm

Monday 12th May 2025 - 6.30pm- 9.00pm

Thursday 5th June 2025 - 12.30 – 3.00pm


Saturday 2nd August 2025 - 10.30am – 1.00pm

Tuesday 16th September 2025 – 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Advanced Safeguarding Training

Part 1 - Tuesday 16th September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Part 2 - Tuesday 23rd September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm



UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

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

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event
14 January, 2025 1:30pm	Domestic abuse
23 January 7:00pm	Supporting survivors
4 February 7:00pm	Modern slavery
13 February 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees
4 March 7:00pm	Substance abuse
18 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers
27 March 7:00pm	Adult safeguarding
24 April 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse
13 May 7:00pm	Online safety

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



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

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)