



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 12 June 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

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

[Find out more here.](#)

Holy Communion Presidency Training 9 June 2025 7:30-9:30pm via Zoom Contact Julian Templeton training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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

Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey 12 June 2025 at 12pm

LCRF Speaker Event Bishop Rose Hudson Wilkin on Thursday 19 June 2025 at 6:30pm At St Pancras Church, Euston Road, NW1 2BA

Jazz Vespers 25 June 2025 19:00 at the American Church in London music@amchurch.co.uk

The Theology, Rhythm and Feeling of Hymns in Worship on Saturday 28 June 2025 10:30 to 12:30 at The Lumen Community WC1H 9RS lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Watch the film "Light" showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, West Bank Palestine with Revd Maggie Hindley at St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH on Sunday 29th June 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Vision Evening at St Andrew's, Kimbolton Road, MK40 2PF Date: Tuesday 1st July 2025 Time: 7:00-8:30pm

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

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

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>

Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

News

Synod Green Day





Delicious vegan & vegetarian lunch



Anna and Francis Ackroyd



The third Thames North Synod's Eco Day was held on 7th June 2025 at St Albans URC – Greenwood, one of the two premises that makes up St Albans URC – One Church on Two Sites.

The day started with an act of worship led by the St Albans URC Worship Team. This was followed by a very informative talk by David Britton, Campaign Officer for Operation Noah. David described how Operation Noah in 2004 was formed by a group of people who felt that the church should be responding more strongly to the climate crisis. (See this [YouTube video](#) for greater detail)

There was an additional short talk from Revd. Francis Ackroyd who was inspired by the talk on the book "Climate Change is Racist" by Jeremy Williams at the Thames North Synod Eco Day 2024. Francis' review of the book will be in Reform Magazine and the book is available now from the URC bookshop [Climate Change Is Racist by Jeremy Williams - URC Bookshop](#) and is a 'must read' for anyone concerned about racial/climate justice or, in fact, everyone!

In the afternoon there were several workshops including:

- Effective campaigning for Individuals and Churches with Roo Stewart – Head of Public Issues, URC
- Climate Resilience in Bangladesh with Peter Musgrave from Vine Church Ilford
- Eco Church new survey with Rachel Johnston, St Albans Diocese Environmental Officer
- Sustainable flower arranging with representatives of St Albans Cathedral Flower Guild
- Sustainable Buildings - Approach and Support with Sacha McArdle, Assistant Property Officer Thames North Synod ,
- Green Psalm writing with Revd. Maggie Hindley - [read it here](#)

In between times people were free to wander around the site – enjoy the meadow flowers and engage with the various displays. Oh, and enjoy lots of vegetarian/vegan food too!

For the full report and reflection by Green Apostle Anna Barrett read [here](#). More [lovely photos](#) may be found [here](#).

Information



Link to all Green Investment Campaign resources:

<https://www.operationnoah.org/green-investment-campaign-resources/>

What's On



Calling all URC men

Union Church Totteridge is having a men's bbq on Friday 12 June 2025 7pm to 9pm. You are all welcome and it's free of charge. Please check address and directions on www.totteridgeunion.org Weather forecast: hot and dry 32c.



THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD

CREATIVE WEEK

TUES 5TH – SAT 9TH AUGUST 2025
LUMEN, LONDON – WC1H 9RS

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SECONDARY
SCHOOL (AGE 11–16)**

**CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF CREATIVE
STREAMS INCLUDING
DRAMA, MUSIC, CREATIVE WRITING
MOVEMENT & DANCE, STAGE CRAFT**



**REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.BIT.LY/CW-REGISTRATION
DEADLINE 6TH JULY**



**COME AND WATCH OUR SHOWCASE
PERFORMANCE ON
SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST AT 4PM
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Register online at www.bit.ly/cw-registration
NB Deadline is 6 July 2025

Film 'Light'



You are warmly invited to St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH on Sunday 29th June 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm to watch the film "Light" showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.

Rev Maggie Hindley, retired minister from Thames North Synod, has done several spells with the Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron over the years. She was unable to visit in 2024 due to the security position, but this film made then allows us insight into the Hebron situation and the work of the Peacemakers.

Maggie will be introducing the film, which focuses on two stories, Nisreen from Hebron city and Tareq in Masafer Yatta, South Hebron Hills, a pair who embody non-violent resistance and resilience. It is equally suitable for newcomers to the topic of Israel-Palestine and for those who are already familiar with the background.

All are welcome, and admission is free (donations to CPT are welcome) We should be delighted if you and others from your church can join us for the evening. Doors open with tea/coffee at 1815 and after the film there will be refreshments available before a Zoom link up to the film director in Hebron for a Q&A session.

Watch the trailer at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjI>

Do get in touch if you have any queries. There is plenty of parking at the church and we can advise on access by public transport or lifts from the station. RSVPs are helpful so we can plan refreshments! We look forward to hearing from you. A poster is attached, do share with others.

Thank you from
Philip Nixon and Hilary Tyrrell,
Members of St Albans URC
tyrrellnixon@btinternet.com
07849 041285

**You are warmly invited to
St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH
Sunday 29th June 2025, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

“Light”



**A film showing the
work of Community Peacemaker Teams in
Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

**“Where all other elements are controlled and
rationed, perhaps our light is the one thing that
cannot be taken.”**

**All are welcome. Free admission with
donations to CPT invited.**

Watch the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>

1815 Doors open, tea/coffee

**1830 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley who has spent
time with CPT in previous years**

1835 the film (60 mins)

**1935 – tea/coffee/refreshments and our opportunity to
share comments and reactions with the film director,
Ahmad Abu Monshar, by Zoom from the West Bank.**

Saturday 28 June 2025, 10:30 – 12:30

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



The number and type of hymns available to worship leaders and worshippers today is vast. What criteria does a worship leader use to select hymns? This workshop will include a discussion, with sung examples, of hymns that might be selected for their theology or rhythm or feeling, and how these hymns shape the moments of worship.

Participants are invited to select 3 hymns, 1 in each category:

- A hymn selected for the theology/message of its words
- A hymn selected for the rhythm of its music
- A hymn selected for the feeling it evokes

and to email the selected hymns to Julian training@urchthamesnorth.org.uk by 21 June.

Julian and Francis will note all the hymns submitted, and from these will choose some that we will sing together in the workshop. Hymns can come either from published hymnals or from online videos, so long as you identify their source. If you don't wish to select hymns yourself, please come to the workshop anyway.

To attend this free Thames North Synod Preachers' Circle Event
Please email Ola Lawal, Lay Preaching Advocate,
lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

The Reverends Francis Ackroyd and Julian Templeton are both musically trained and have made congregational and choral singing a significant feature of their ministries.

Vision Evening

Did you know there are currently over 200 children looked after away from home in Bedfordshire?

Home for Good and **Safe Families** have a bold vision: we hope for a society where no family feels alone, and every child has a home where they can flourish.

We believe the Church is central to this vision.

Come along to St Andrew's on Tuesday 1st July at 7pm to find out about how you can play your part in finding a home for every child that needs one by discovering more about fostering, adoption and supported lodgings. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please reserve your free space by registering at:

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?
a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2fe%2fhome-for-good-
vision-evening-tickets-
1399884545359&c=E,1,r7JtcOvNbpbSae2Ns42FILQbS04q9AbG_ocxBAAt3j
fQX8kSTh8TqCWPVVrW35WawLGyzYeCZKSQC0Sg41eGllhF9RCgrnWc0mu
SMgXGgIKUCnWxrXoUHb6y2EQ,,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2fe%2fhome-for-good-vision-evening-tickets-1399884545359&c=E,1,r7JtcOvNbpbSae2Ns42FILQbS04q9AbG_ocxBAAt3jfQX8kSTh8TqCWPVVrW35WawLGyzYeCZKSQC0Sg41eGllhF9RCgrnWc0muSMgXGgIKUCnWxrXoUHb6y2EQ,,&typo=1)

Location: St Andrew's, Kimbolton Road, MK40 2PF

Date: Tuesday 1st July 2025

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Vacancies

Accreditations Sub-Committee Convener



Do you have a passion to support people who release the church in its local community to flourish in faith, hope and love? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

Ministries Committee is looking for a convener for its Accreditations Sub-Committee to replace its current convenor who will complete their term at the July 2025 General Assembly. The convener will need to have working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church.

The Accreditations Sub-committee plays a vital role in supporting and creating new opportunities in shaping posts to be recognised as Church Related Community Work projects or Pioneering posts including current Special Category ministries, in approving certificates for ministers from partner churches both at home and abroad to serve with us, and in analysing trends in the Rolls of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers, Elders, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers.

Please click the link for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for an application form.

<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ASC-Convener.pdf>



Mersey Synod Clerk

Part time, permanent post up to 30 hours per week.

£32,500-£44,000 pa. FTE.

Mersey Synod seek to appoint a new Synod Clerk. The person will be an excellent administrator, strong team player and be committed to seeing Mersey Synod grow into the future.

Duties and responsibilities include:

1. Working with the Moderator, staff team and volunteers to ensure the smooth running of Mersey Synod.
2. Representing and connecting Mersey Synod to the national church.
3. Line managing members of the Synod staff team.
4. Providing leadership on governance and GDPR across the Synod.

For further details download a job pack from the website: www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/job-vacancies

Closing date for applications 26th June. Shortlisting 30th June. Interviews 16th July appointment to start as soon as possible.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.

Safeguarding Training

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

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

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)