



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 13 February 2025.

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

Please note that this newsletter will be going out every Thursday from the beginning of 2025 as I will be working Monday to Thursday from 1 January.

## Events

**'Today in Palestine: Building Hope'** on Wednesday 19 February 2025 at the Union Chapel 7pm-9pm | Doors 6.30pm in the Bar, Union Chapel, 19b Compton Terrace, N1 2UN

**IOPT in Focus. The URC Online Series Session 1 of 4: Confronting Christian Zionism.** 19 February 2025 at 2pm. Zoom link [commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

**Preparing to Preach to an Unfamiliar Congregation** Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 Time: 7:30 - 9pm via Zoom. Email [rgoldring23@gmail.com](mailto:rgoldring23@gmail.com)

**Talking about...Holiday Clubs** 27 February 7-8pm Online Book [here](#)  
**URC Youth Assembly** 7 - 9 March 2025 Kings Park Conference Centre NN3 6LL [Book here](#)

**Holy Communion Presidency Training for Authorised Elders** via Zoom, 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Monday 10 March 2025.

Contact: Julian Templeton, Training and Development Officer  
Email: [training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Time for Jesus - the Musical** Saturday 12 April and Sunday 13 April 2025 at 7pm St Mary's Church, Church End, Hendon NW4 4JT

**Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential** 29 May-1 June 2025 [www.bit.ly/residential2025](http://www.bit.ly/residential2025)

# News



Sunday 9 February marked the 80th anniversary of a Nazi Germany V2 bomb landing by Church House, then known as Presbyterian Church House, in Tavistock Place, killing 10 people. May their souls forever rest in peace and the comfort of the Lord always be with their friends and families.

## Could you join the Green Team for Thames North Synod?



The Synod Green Team met on Monday 10 February at St Albans (Greenwood site) and shared a working lunch to plan the Eco Day to be held there on Saturday 7 June and to reflect on other plans and activities.

We have been fortunate to have a team of eight people (5 Green Apostles and 3 supporters) and also to now receive the support of two members of Synod staff. However, a number of the team are due to stand down in March and so we are looking for new people to join us, as 'Green Apostle' or 'Green Team supporter'. The Green Team's work is to promote the URC and Synod Environmental Policies in ways that help us better care for God's creation in our worship, shared life and mission. In its first three years, the team has seen 23 churches in the Synod awarded Bronze or Silver from Eco Church, another 22 registered for the scheme, and the Synod itself reaching a Bronze Award. It has organised an annual Synod Green Day of sharing and celebration for adults and children. Two members have been recognised by the Carbon Literacy Project as qualified to facilitate their courses and are now offering these courses to local churches and members. Team members have also shared ideas with Synod committees and the URC's Green Apostles network and write regularly in the Synod e-news.

Could you help take the Team's work forward? There is room on the team for all sorts of perspectives and levels of commitment. The team meets online about four times a year (for an hour), with separate meetings for those planning events like the Green Day. Expenses can be covered by the Synod. New members will be appointed by Synod for a three-year term. For more information, please contact the team via Colleen Fraser at Synod Office [modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

## What's On



**Thames North & Southern Synod Youth Residential**  
Thursday 29 May - Sunday 1 June 2025  
Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire  
Cost: £75 (£30 deposit required at booking)  
Age: 11 (must be in Year 7) to 16 years  
Book by Jan 31 - [www.bit.ly/residential2025](http://www.bit.ly/residential2025)



A time of **FUN**, **LAUGHTER**, and **FELLOWSHIP** exploring the theme **'All Are Welcome'**, through creative arts, bible stories, discussion and worship. Outdoor activities to include, zip wire, climbing, kayaking, raft building, team games.

Come and enjoy, All are Welcome!

Spaces still available.

**Note: Final few spaces available.**



# COAT OF MANY COLOURS

**RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**09.02.25**

## Racial Justice Sunday 'Coat Of Many Colours' Special Edition Playlist

Part of an exciting new initiative launched with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and Churches Together in England to spotlight and uplift music of Caribbean and African songwriters in British and Irish Churches.

SongShare draws on the biblical story of Joseph's coat of many colours to celebrate the beauty and importance of diversity in worship.

This playlist includes well known worship leaders and songwriters like Noel Robinson, Muyiwa, Jake Isaac and Sarah Teibo, as well as many others...

## LISTEN & SIGN UP!



## SongShare



SongShare is an interactive online database and offline 'movement of songs' through live events and music programming.

The introductory website will be scaled up to represent the largest collection of audio, visual and downloadable resources of its kind.

This Special Edition Playlist on Spotify serves as both an introduction to SongShare and a call to action.

By embracing these songs, churches across Britain and Ireland can reflect the vibrant diversity of their congregations while fostering greater unity through worship.



### Follow:

 [SongShare.co.uk@gmail.com](mailto:SongShare.co.uk@gmail.com)  
 [www.songshare.co.uk](http://www.songshare.co.uk)

We are excited to launch Coat of Many Colours—a special edition Spotify playlist for Racial Justice Sunday, featuring incredible music from Caribbean and African UK artists.


Brought to you by Churches Together in England (CTE), Churches


Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and [SongShare](#), this playlist is a celebration of unity, faith, and the power of music to inspire racial justice.

The SongShare platform empowers Black Christian songwriters by providing a centralised space to register and share their work. Worship leaders and other users can access songs via lyrics, chord sheets, multitracks, and instructional videos. The system's search functionality—by author, theme, or keyword—removes reasons for not discovering or using these resources. Additionally, SongShare will partner with churches to incorporate these songs into worship events and other programmes.

This year's Racial Justice Sunday Special Edition Playlist on Spotify serves as both an introduction to SongShare and a call to action. By embracing these songs, churches across Britain and Ireland can reflect the vibrant diversity of their congregations while fostering greater unity through worship.

This is more than a playlist—it's a movement. Join us in celebrating the voices shaping a future of justice and hope. [Watch the introductory video.](#)

 Sunday, 9th February – Official release of the Coat of Many Colours playlist which you can find here: <https://bit.ly/4htCWVC>

 Check out the official press release above for circulation across your denomination and networks. The full story is on the [CTE website](#).

Get ready to listen, share, and be inspired!

## Talking About... Holiday Clubs

Thursday, February 27th 7-8pm



Are you looking to make your holiday club for children more engaging and impactful? Join us for an informative session where you'll learn how to effectively use the latest holiday club material from the United Reformed Church exploring the 2025 theme: **All Are Welcome**

 Date: February 27th

 Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

 Platform: Zoom

**2025 URC**  
Children's and Youth Work  
Holiday Club materials



Book your place at [www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout](http://www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout)

# 'Today in Palestine: Building Hope'



Union Chapel Church presents  
**'Today in Palestine: Building Hope'**

**In conversation with Fadwa Labadi and Abdulwahab Sabbah  
Wednesday February 19th 7pm-9pm | Doors 6.30pm  
in the Bar, Union Chapel, 19b Compton Terrace, N1 2UN  
FREE ENTRY, no ticket booking required**

Fadwa and Abdulwahab (Abed) are visiting Britain for the Camden Abu Dis Foundation (CADFA) Building Hope Conference, building grassroots links with Palestine in different parts of the county, encouraging people to be active in support of human rights. Fadwa is a retired professor of gender studies and both are from the Al Quds University in Jerusalem.

Come along for an informal evening hosted by Union Chapel Church, in partnership with CADFA.

Light Refreshments and a non-alcoholic bar. Entry free, donations to cover costs accepted.

More information on the Building Hope | Voices from Palestine project on [CADFA.org](http://CADFA.org) or from [contact@cadfa.org](mailto:contact@cadfa.org)

More Information:

For Accessibility, please click [here](#).

The venue is fully accessible, with use of ramps and the upstairs bar is accessible with use of a platform lift.

An array of soft drinks and snacks will also be available. Strictly no food or drink may be brought from outside into the venue. Water bottles must be emptied before entering the venue, with refilling stations available inside.

# IOPT IN FOCUS

THE URC ONLINE SERIES



SAVE THE DATE!

19TH FEB '25

2PM GMT



SESSION 1 OF 4

## CONFRONTING CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

WITH

**PHILIP WOODS**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
USA

**UNPACKING THE ISSUES**  
ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED  
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

**FOR ZOOM LINK**  
COMMITMENTFORLIFE@URC.ORG.UK

The General Assembly has recommended that URC members and groups widen/deepen their understanding of some of the fundamental issues as to why the conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory seems so intractable.

The inter faith enabling group together with Commitment for Life are hosting a series of online events beginning on 19 February 2025 with Revd Philip Woods who will be looking at Christian Zionism's role in the questions.

You may already have already heard of this but do please circulate where you think it might best be received.

**Theology of Worship Group  
invites you to our next Speaker meeting on  
Preparing to Preach to an Unfamiliar  
Congregation**





**Speaker:** Revd. Dr. Richard Goldring  
Secretary, Theology of Worship and Semi-Retired Minister

**Chair:**

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Welch  
Chair, Society for Ecumenical Studies (2011-2023); Co-chair International Reformed Anglican Dialogue (2015-2022); Emeritus Honorary Ecumenical Canon, Worcester Cathedral; Former Chair of Theology of Worship Group; Semi-retired Minister.

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 February 2025

**Time:** 7:30 - 9pm via Zoom

How do you decide what to preach upon, particularly to an unfamiliar congregation? To what extent is it helpful to use the Lectionary? Richard will reflect upon the process by which he makes such decisions, and the theological basis underlying that process. We expect his thoughts will prompt lively and enjoyable discussion!

To book, please contact Richard: [rgoldring23@gmail.com](mailto:rgoldring23@gmail.com)

The Life and Mission Choir

joyfully presents

# TIME FOR JESUS

The Musical



Music and Lyrics

**PAUL WARDROP-DAY**

Script

**JOHN COX**

**25th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATIONS**

**Saturday 12th April 2025 7PM**

St James' Church, East Barnet Road, EN48RN

**Sunday 13th April 2025 7PM**

St Mary's Church, Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT

**ADMISSION FREE**

**[lifeandmissionchoir.com](http://lifeandmissionchoir.com)**

This year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our wonderful Easter musical Time for Jesus. And what better way to mark the occasion than with a weekend of performances!

With a brand new cast, and a choir and band of both past and present members this promises to be a production of Time for Jesus like no other. If it's your first time seeing it or your 40th time seeing it, we know you'll be uplifted and moved by this dramatic retelling.

Don't miss this wonderful evening of great music and drama.  
Admission is free so you can just turn up!

(There will be a chance to make a donation at the end of the performance).

We look forward to seeing you!

**Saturday 12th April 2025 - 7pm**  
**St James' Church, East Barnet Road, New Barnet,**  
**EN4 8RN**

## Information



**THE  
CLIMATE  
COALITION**



**Show The Love**

**Turn your love for people, climate, and nature into action**

For the past 10 years, people across the UK have come together every

February to show their love for the people, places, and planet, standing up to tackle climate change and restore nature.

Through crafting green hearts and sparking conversations, we've built a powerful and united movement of hope, and action.

This year, for the first time ever, we're showing the love all year long. Join us throughout 2025!

### **Be part of the art**

This year, we've teamed up with The People's Picture to create a giant collaborative artwork and you can be part of it!

Simply take a photo of a space or place you love and want to protect, holding a green heart in the shot or making a heart with your hands. Then, upload your photo at The People's Picture and share why you want to Show The Love.

Your picture will join thousands of others in a powerful visual display of love and action!

Encourage others to take part by sharing your photo on social media using [#ShowTheLove2025](#).

### **Gift Green Hearts**

Craft a green heart and gift it to someone you care about. It's a small but powerful act of kindness that invites meaningful conversations about climate and nature. [Download the Community Pack](#)

### **Start a Conversation**

Use [#ShowTheLove2025](#) to share your support and spread the word. Whether it's a picture of your green heart, a message of hope, or your community's climate actions, every post helps inspire others to act.

[Download Our Conversation Guide](#)

### **Email Your MP**

Join thousands of people across the UK in calling on our leaders to stand with us in showing the love for people, climate, and nature.

Writing to your MP is a powerful way to amplify your voice—and the voices of your community—while encouraging them to take meaningful action.

Share your hopes of working together for a healthier, fairer future, and ask them to champion the changes needed to protect the people and places we all love.

### **Resources to Help You Show the Love**

[Conversation Guide](#)

[Template Letter to Write to Your MP](#)

[Community Action Pack](#)

**Green alternatives to red roses:  
sustainable Valentine's flowers**



The environmental cost of imported, out-of-season flowers is one of the less romantic aspects of Valentine's Day. [See here](#) for greener alternatives to a bunch of red roses.

## **Synod Lay Preaching Advocate**

The email address for Ola Lawal, the Synod Lay Preaching Advocate, is now [lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

## **Vacancies**



**WELWYN  
GARDEN  
CITY  
UNITED  
REFORMED  
CHURCH**

## **WE ARE RECRUITING**

### **AVAILABLE POSITION**

Mission Developer

18 hours per week

£30,000 pro rata

We are looking for an individual to carry out community projects; if you have a heart for mission and outreach, it is you we're interested in; contact us for a job description and application form at:

**[WGCUNITEDREFORMEDCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:WGCUNITEDREFORMEDCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM)**

Closing Date: 26/2/2025

Interview Date: 14/3/2025

## **URC Roles**

For all URC Roles see here <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

# Safeguarding Training

## Synod Training Dates 2025

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email [safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto: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 25th March 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm

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 - Wednesday 16th September 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Part 2 - Wednesday 23rd September 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm

# ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



## Who is this for?

Youth and Children Workers including volunteer leaders  
Adult Workers including volunteer leaders  
church Safeguarding coordinators  
Ministers  
Anyone else with an interest

## What does it cover?

Exploring unconscious bias  
Understanding how grooming occurs  
Supporting those who may pose a risk to children or adults,  
Managing allegations against people in the church,

## Training Dates

March 5th 10.30am-3.00pm  
Church House  
Tavistock Place

### REGISTRATION



[safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk)

### ANY QUERIES?



[carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk](mailto:carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk)



# UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

Make your booking by emailing: [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

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

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub  
[bit.ly/3Txldm4](https://bit.ly/3Txldm4)



[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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