



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 13 March 2025.

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

### Events

**Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs** Monday 24 March at 7.30pm only and Monday 28 April 3pm or 7.30pm The link is the same as ever  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)

[pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)

**Opportunities for Partnership** – online gathering 3 April 2025, 19:00-20:30 [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1)

[pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1)

Meeting ID: 842 2245 1396

Passcode: 726105

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

**IOPT in Focus: Exploring Apartheid & the Occupation** Wednesday 30 April 2025. For the Zoom link [commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

**Rejoice and Sing Live** at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May 2025 [www.bit.ly/reform-live](http://www.bit.ly/reform-live)

**Spiritual Abuse Training** on Thursday 1 May 2025 contact [emma.pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:emma.pearce@urc.org.uk)

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

**IOPT in Focus: Antisemitism** Wednesday 18 June 2025. For the Zoom link [commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

**Bradwell Pilgrimage** Saturday 5 July 2025 10am-3:15pm [www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk)

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

## Christian Aid Week 2025



Find out more at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do3nW-cVAMs&t=9s>



🌿 The URC is on a mission to be Net Zero by 2030! 🌍 It's a big challenge, but together, we can make a real difference.

Want to take the first step? Watch this short introduction on Eco Church in England and Wales and see how you can get involved! 🎥 ✨

📺 Watch here: [bit.ly/URCintroECew](https://bit.ly/URCintroECew).

## Heaton Way URC - Memories and Lessons Learned



A *Memories of Heaton Way United Reformed Church* booklet will be distributed free at Synod on Saturday 15 March 2025 or can be sent to you free of charge if you contact Revd. Francis Ackroyd on [email ackroyds22@gmail.com](mailto:ackroyds22@gmail.com) or phone 020 8558 5270.

This project was started by a small group following the closing service for Heaton Way Church on October 1st, 2023. It started as a booklet to share memories of the church that had meant so much to them over the years. The purpose of the project grew as it was felt that there were lessons that could be learned by all churches as we fight to keep our churches viable in a changing world.

The Moderator says of it '*It is always sad when a church closes. But what a wonderful testimony this account provides of the faithfulness of individuals in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and in action. Through the witness of the church, lives were touched and transformed. It is important that the story is shared to encourage disciples today and to give God the glory.*'

A PowerPoint presentation on lessons learned from the closure of Heaton Way will be shown at synod on Saturday and is also available for download [here](#). We hope the PowerPoint presentation will be useful in local Area Groups, individual churches or in Training Sessions. The seven members of the Group have expressed their willingness to come and be part of any such training or discussion sessions if invited.

**Would you like to visit Sicily in October 2025?**



The United Reformed Church Waldensian Fellowship has been organising visits to the Waldensian (Protestant) Church in Italy since 1980. This year we shall visit Sicily, an island of extraordinary history and beauty. We shall:

- Explore Palermo, the crowded and exotic capital of the island, and the Norman cathedral of Monreale
- Hear about the social and teaching work in a visit to La Noce, the Waldensian church's centre in the city
- spend some time in Servizio Cristiano, a Waldensian Church centre of education and agriculture, at Riesi in the deprived centre of the island
- visit Scicli, where the church is a centre for the support of migrants (and featured in the Montalbano television series)
- and finish in Siracusa, once the most important city in the Western world with a beautiful island centre
- on our journey we would visit historic sites such as the Greek temples at Agrigento.

The visit is expected to last ten nights, or thirteen for a longer stay in Siracusa. We will stay at Servizio Cristiano and in hotels.

At this stage we can only estimate a cost but ten nights should cost of the order of £1000 and thirteen nights £1200. Single rooms would cost more.

We will give more information as the details are worked out. Travel to and from Italy will not be included. Participants will have to arrange travel to Palermo and return from Siracusa or Catania.

Please let us know if you would like information about the visit.

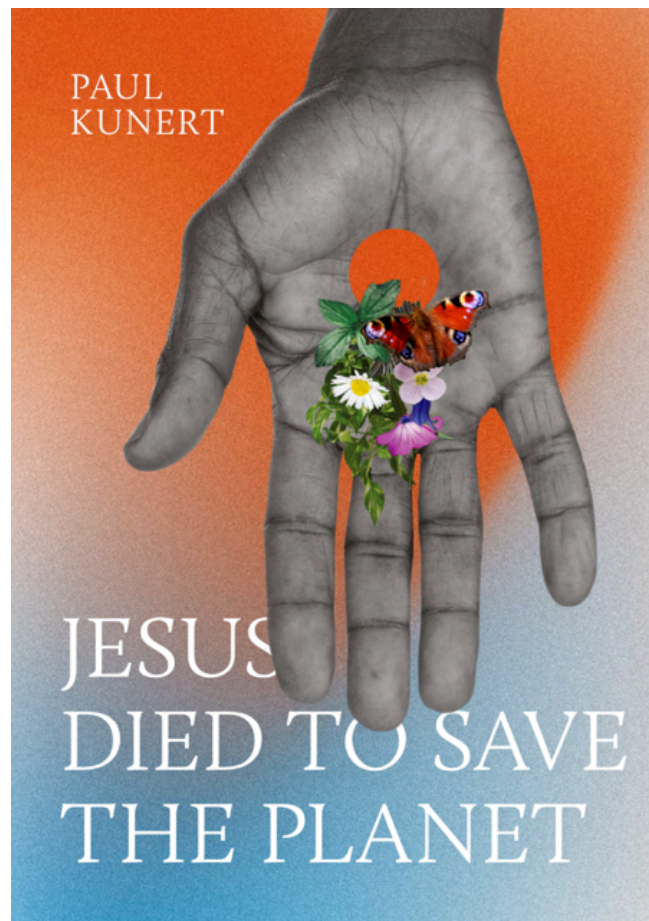
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## Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs Meetings

Please note that Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs **Monday 24th March will be at 7.30pm only**. Monday 28th April 3pm or 7.30pm The link is the same as ever <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>

## Lent reading from the Green Team



An online A Rocha talk this week, The Green Heart of Mission, in which the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (licc) leaflet 'Jesus died to save the planet' was discussed.

**Our planet is at breaking point. There's no planet B, but there is hope for God's world. Because Jesus died to save the planet.**

We're facing climate and ecological breakdown caused by human overconsumption. Rampant wildfires, tumbling biodiversity, and rapidly escalating temperatures are just a few reminders that our planet is at breaking point.


But all too often, the church treats protecting the earth as a 'nice-to-have' rather than a foundational outworking of the gospel. Urgent action is required, and that change must start in the church.

This powerful essay by Paul Kunert reclaims the foundational truth that the gospel is good news for the whole of creation. By focusing on human interests over all else God has made, we fail to recognise the full redemptive reach of Jesus' sacrifice. We need to embrace the full, holistic scope of the gospel – living in line with the truth that Jesus is King of all things, and came to save all he has made.

Read on to discover how you can make kingdom-like decisions in your everyday life that will help the earth flourish. Then share your new perspective with your church family, discuss how it'll shape your everyday choices, and advocate for changed messaging from the pulpit and in policy – for the good of the whole planet and the glory of God.

*'There is a prophetic, Jeremiah-like urgency to this essay, calling the church to wake up and get serious about this issue. But, also like Jeremiah, Paul Kunert calls for repentance and holds out hope.'*  
Chris Wright, Global Ambassador, Langham Partnership

You may download the booklet [here](#)



# GENEREROUS FAITH

## Our Wound is Our Word A one-day conference

What is a prophet and what is prophecy? Where is it being spoken today? How do we recognise it and respond?

Keynote speakers include **Rabbi Elisheva Salamo**, **Revd Azariah France-Williams** and **Revd Chris Howson**. This conference is being presented by **St John's Waterloo** in partnership with **Together for the Church of England** and **Inclusive Church**.

Further details, access information and registration [here](#).



**St John's Waterloo**  
73, Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8TY



**Saturday 22nd March 2025**  
9:30am - 5pm



**£33 (£12 concessions)**  
includes refreshments  
and lunch.



**together**   
For the Church of England


### Generous Faith: Our Wound is Our Word – A One-Day Conference on Prophecy and the Church

St John's Waterloo, in partnership with Together for the Church of England and Inclusive Church, presents a thought-provoking conference exploring the intersection of prophecy, faith, and the church.

**Date:** Saturday 22nd March 2025, 9.30 a.m to 5 p.m.

**Location:** St John's Church, Waterloo, London  
**Tickets:** £33 / £12 concessions (including lunch)

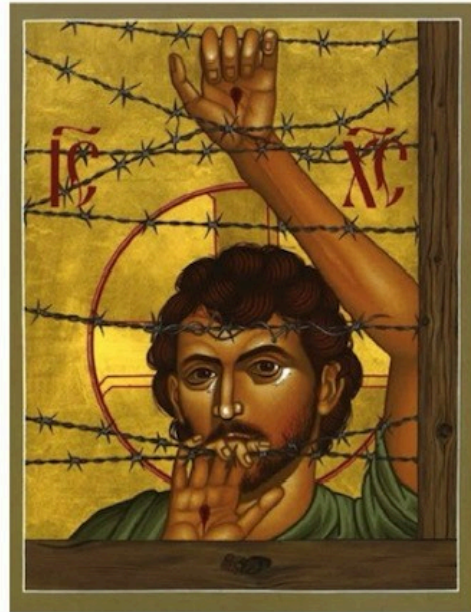
**For further details and to book, visit**  
<https://stjohnswaterloo.org/event/generous-faith-our-wound-is-our-word/>





**Vigil for Refugees**  
**Monday 17th March 12.30-1.30pm**  
**Outside the Home Office SW1P**

*"Is it nothing to you...all you who pass by?"*



**Monthly Memorial Prayer Vigil  
for refugees and asylum-seekers  
on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month  
outside the Home Office SW1P 4DF**

*Praying for:*

- \*Those who died trying to reach the UK*
- \*Victims of current wars*
- \*Those in detention & who are homeless*
- \*The UK to be a more welcoming nation*

*Sign up to receive email news & alerts of changes  
or cancellations at : [homeofficevigil@gmail.com](mailto:homeofficevigil@gmail.com)*

**[Click HERE](#) for sample liturgy**

**Join Monthly Prayers for Refugees**  
**[JPG flyer here](#) [Sample Vigil Liturgy here](#)**

Presented by **Friends of the Holy Land**

# **CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND: CHALLENGES AND HOPES**

A presentation by

**Bishop William Shomali, Patriarchal  
Vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine**

**Monday 31 March from 12pm**

at **Bloomsbury Central Baptist  
Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave,  
London WC2H 8EP**



Bishop William Shomali will share and answer questions on how the war and ceasefire conditions are affecting the daily life of Christians in the Holy Land, particularly in his pastoral area, Jerusalem and Palestine. Then drawing on his experience with local Christian Related Organisations (CROs) such as the Latin Patriarchate and Friends of the Holy Land, as well as his Palestinian heritage, will outline where there is hope for peace and economic recovery through the actions of this Christian community and these CROs which among other projects operate 93 schools, universities, and vocational centres, 19 healthcare facilities, 47 social protection institutions, 77 cultural and tourism centres, 38 youth and 21 local and international development agencies delivering a variety of services to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians as part of their Christian identity, witness and culture.



Attendance is free of charge however as light refreshments will be provided please register at [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/bloomsbury](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/bloomsbury) so we can plan for numbers.



We are most grateful to The Revd Dr Simon Woodman and the team at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church for their support.

## **Information**

# Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS): important deadline



The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance has just issued the following e-mail which we thought worth passing on:

"As you know, from 1 April 2025 there is a cap on VAT refunds under the LPWGS. The cap will limit a place of worship to a total VAT refund of £25k in the year (i.e. equivalent to a spend including VAT of £125k)

We have just heard that VAT claims need to be in by 31st March 2025 latest if they are to be treated under the current rules - that is, without a cap applying.

If the claim is received on or after 1 April then the cap will apply even if the expenditure was incurred before that date.

So if you think the cap may apply to you, you should claim for as much as possible on or before 31 March. If the cap definitely won't apply to you, then there is no rush."

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## Vacancies

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# PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER

## Broxbourne URC



### ABOUT US

We are a United Reformed Church in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming church, proud of our heritage, but forward looking and innovative. Everyone is welcome in our church.

As a church family we are offering a rare and flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

### THE APPLICANT

We are seeking a motivated and enthusiastic Children's and Youth Worker who can help us nurture and grow the existing work with our young people, working with our children's team volunteers. We will welcome your ideas.

### EXPERIENCE

We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting, with the ability to engage young people through creative and age-appropriate teaching methods.

### THE POSITION

This position is essential for the spiritual development of children and youth, supporting their faith journeys and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment for all families.

Over time, the role will extend across our pastorate: Broxbourne and Hertford United Reformed Churches and Cheshunt Free Church. We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts.

#### Location

Broxbourne United Reformed Church, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ

#### Hours

16 hours a week – negotiable and flexible, including some Sunday mornings and mid-week and evening events.

#### Contract and salary

Three-year fixed-term, £16 per hour. Responsible to the Minister, working with him, Elders and volunteer members.

### HOW TO APPLY

Please apply for an application pack to our Pastorate Administrator, Mrs. Stepanka Moysey at [urcnlvg@gmail.com](mailto:urcnlvg@gmail.com)  
For informal inquiries, please contact [revdmarkr@gmail.com](mailto:revdmarkr@gmail.com).

The closing date for applications is **noon on Wednesday 23rd April**.  
Interviews will be held in the week beginning 28th April.

## URC Roles

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

# Safeguarding Training

## Spiritual Abuse Training

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)**



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



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

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