



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 14 July 2023.

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

Blessings.

Events

Events Calendar

Synod Prayer Meeting 19 July 10:30am at Lumen or via Zoom (see link below)

Leading Funerals and Memorial Services 20 July 2023 8pm Zoom and 22 July 2023 2pm Lumen

Women from Palestine 24 Jul 2023 18:30, at Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London

URC Holiday Forum 19-25 August 2023 at The Hayes and via Zoom

Disability Awareness Sunday, 17 September 2023

Liturgy as Proclamation of the Gospel 28 Sept 2023 11am Llanduff Cathedral

Appreciating the Tough Stuff 30 September 2023 Birmingham and Zoom

Thames North Prayer Meeting

You are invited, if you are able, to come together for prayer on Wednesday 19th July at 10am for 45 minutes to pray, to be still, to intercede for the life and mission of our Synod, to listen, and to open ourselves to the Spirit. This prayer meeting will be 'hybrid' and you will be very welcome to attend in person at Lumen at 88 Tavistock Pl, London WC1H 9RS or on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99001654053?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99001654053?pwd=TVFmMjZPVzFPYUtYSXhIMGNIV3JTdz09)
pwd=TVFmMjZPVzFPYUtYSXhIMGNIV3JTdz09
Meeting ID: 990 0165 4053 Passcode: 936456

The Zoom link is recurring and is used each month unless announced as otherwise

Leading Funeral and Memorial Services

Either: **via Zoom, Thursday 20 July, 8:00–9:30pm**

Or: **In person, Saturday 22 July, 2:00–4:00pm**
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS



Led by Julian Templeton
Training & Development
Officer

To book your place at this
free event, indicating your
preference for one or other
date, email:
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



This event is for Elders and Lay Leaders asked to lead Funeral or Memorial Services who have had little or no experience in doing so. It is also offered to those with some experience who want a refresher.

- This will be a practical session about planning and leading a service that balances the requests of a bereaved family with the Church's tradition and one's local context
- We'll look at Funeral, Committal, and Memorial liturgies and discuss the different functions of each
- We'll also consider recent cultural shifts in marking death rites, including the expectation that some events ought to be celebratory

To book your place at this free event, indicating your preference for one or other date, email training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

URC Holiday Forum - 19-25th August 2023

Time is flying, in just over a month we'll be gathering at The Hayes (and via Zoom) for our annual conference. This year's theme is 'Inclusion Through Invitation' and will be led by Michael Harvey. [Find out more here.](#)

He'll be joined by our 2023 worship leader Rev Ruth Watson. Ruth brings 'something different' to worship - meet Ruth [here.](#)

As ever, we've got a jam packed programme, including guest speakers Victoria Turner, Sam Sheehan and Lorraine Webb!

You don't want to miss HF 2023 and luckily there's still time to book your place! Spaces are limited so don't delay.

ZOOM STREAMING

If you can't join us in person, we'll once again be streaming a

lot of the conference online so you can join from the comfort of your own home. Either [sign up here](#) as a virtual attendee, or simply use this [zoom link](#).

Look out for an email in the coming weeks featuring our 2023 programme and booklet...

In the meantime, check out our [Facebook group](#) to connect with our Forum community and get excited.

News from around the Synod



On Sunday the Moderator presented the Revd Donald Macarthur with a certificate recognising 60 years since his ordination. Donald served at Harlesden and at Frognal URC's.

Synod Green Day



On Saturday the Synod Green Reflection Day was held at Cores End URC, Bourne End in Buckinghamshire. Worship, bible study and workshops took place in the building and in the grounds which includes wonderful gardens, a graveyard and a meadow. The event culminated in the planting of a tree by the Moderator (assisted by others!) Thanks to the Green Apostles (pictured with the Moderator) for arranging an amazing and thought provoking event.



We now have a Thames North Synod Labyrinth!

A small team recently got together to make a 7m x 7m cloth floor labyrinth that is going to be used for prayer and discipleship around our Synod area for years to come. A big thank you to Terry, Josh, Peter and Grace who joined me and also to Aileen White who led us and provided everything we needed, inspired us and calmed our initial anxieties. The design is a classic labyrinth and can take up to twenty minutes to walk round in prayer and reflection. Once some guidance notes have been produced to offer some ideas about how to use it and also how to take good care of it then it will be available to use for our Synod events and in our churches and communities to help people encounter God. If

you are interested in making use of it at some point then please let me know.

Eddie Boon, Synod Discipleship Enabler



Bury Park URC Closing Service



About 90-100 gathered to celebrate and give thanks for 128 years of worship, including representatives from the other four Luton and Dunstable churches amalgamating, family of past members, previous ministers and friends from the neighbouring mosque at the closing service of Bury Park URC Luton.

St Andrew's Frognal



On Sunday morning the Moderator led worship at Frognal URC, Hampstead for their 120th anniversary.

Women from Palestine - an opportunity to listen and learn



Mon, 24 Jul 2023 18:30, at Union Chapel, Compton Terrace, London

Organised in collaboration with CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association).

Come and hear Palestinian women speak about their lives. At this point when terrible violence and pressure is making the news, come and hear what the apartheid situation means for two ordinary women from different backgrounds in Palestine. Everyone who believes in equality and human rights is welcome.

Our church and CADFA have helped to organise this visit, which seeks to take a more interpersonal, human approach to understanding the situation in Palestine. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the situation.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-from-palestine-an-opportunity-to-listen-and-learn-tickets-676524181037?aff=oddtcreator>



Disability Awareness Sunday



Celebrate God's Gifts on Disability Awareness Sunday, 17 September 2023

Christian disability inclusion charity 'Through the Roof' is offering free resources for Disability Awareness Sunday on the 17th September 2023 (or a day of your choice). All churches are invited to celebrate the unique gifts God gives to each one of us – including disabled people.

Follow this link to request a free resource pack:

<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>

Part Time Church Cleaner Role

The United Reformed Church Thames North Synod Part Time Church Cleaner Role

Previous Applicants Need not Apply.
• £9321 per annum (15 hours per week)

The Lumen Community is a contemporary Christian community space provided by the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church in the heart of London.

We offer you the opportunity to support the development of an exciting service to residents, guests, and various ministries of the Synod.

Usual working hours: (for guidance only)

- 15 hours according to service needs
- Monday to Friday daily 0600-0830
- Saturday or Sunday 3 hours

Your role will ensure that the Lumen building is maintained to the highest standard, and will help provide our guests with a safe, comfortable, and pleasant experience while using our facilities. You will also be responsible for maintaining all records in accordance with Synod policies, procedures, and guidelines.

The main duties of the role are:

- Opening and locking the building daily, with some occasional weekend cover
- Cleaning
- Event preparation

The above list of duties is not exhaustive and may change according to service needs. Proven experience as a cleaner within a similar environment would be a strong advantage.

Closing Date 1200 Midday 03 August 2023

To apply for an application pack and Job Description please contact Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

National Safeguarding Training 2023



Refugee and Asylum Seekers
May 30th 7pm-9pm

Substance Abuse and the impact on
Safeguarding
June 26th 7pm-8.30pm

Suicide Awareness
September 11th 2pm-3.30pm

Domestic Abuse
September 19th 1.30pm-3.30pm

Modern Day Slavery
September 25 7pm-9pm

Safeguarding for Ministers Supporting Survivors
October 9th 2pm - 4pm

Adult Safeguarding
November 21st 7pm - 9pm

**All training will take place via zoom.
Bookings can be made by emailing
Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk**

Thames North Safeguarding Training 2023

Below are the dates for safeguarding training this year. Please do share more broadly amongst your teams and networks and get back in touch with me to book on to the training date you prefer.

Foundation Safeguarding Training (Approx 2 hours)

19th September 10am - 12pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)
Parking available at Maidstone East station

2nd October 6.30pm - 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

7th November 6pm - 8pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 10am - 12pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

E-Learning

The Foundation training is also available as an E Learning which can be completed in your own time.

The link is here:

Standard Course for a Laptop or Desktop Computer

[Safeguarding Foundation E-Course](#) (canva.com)

Standard Course for a phone or laptop [Safeguarding Foundation E-Course](#) for phone and tablet (canva.com)

Narrated version of the course with a voice over each slide

[Safeguarding Foundation E-Course narrated version](#)

(canva.com)

Intermediate Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).

6th September 6pm- 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

12th September 10am- 12.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

19th September 1pm – 3.30pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)

9th November 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.

5th October 6.30pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

To book on to this training, please email your **name, church role, church and preferred date** to safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING FOR ELDERS AS TRUSTEES 2023

Webinar

Please join one of the dates below to gain vital information on your specific safeguarding role in the URC. This session is for all Serving Elders with Trustee Responsibility in their church.

From the webinar you will

- Gain an understanding of URC policies and how they underpin your role in relation to Safeguarding.
- Understand your role as a trustee for the church and how this links to safeguarding.
- Understand the 5 safeguarding actions outlined by the government for churches as charities.

PLEASE NOTE THIS TRAINING IS IN ADDITION TO THE FOUNDATION AND INTERMEDIATE TRAINING AND COVERS SEPARATE INFORMATION

March 14th 2023 7pm-9pm



October 20th 2023 2pm-4pm

**TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT
CARRIE.KAUNDA@URC.ORG.UK**

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