



## **THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP**

Welcome to our News Roundup for 17 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.



Wishing all a happy and blessed Easter. He is risen!  
Photo by [Lala Azizli](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Events Diary

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

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

**Holy Communion Presidency Training** 9 June 2025 7:30-9:30pm via Zoom Contact Julian Templeton [training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

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

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

**Jazz Vespers** 25 June 2025 19:00 at the American Church in London [music@amchurch.co.uk](mailto:music@amchurch.co.uk)

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



The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson was inducted as Moderator of the Free Churches Group (FCG) on Palm Sunday (13 April). FCG is a collective of 29 denominations across England and Wales. Tessa, a former URC General Assembly Moderator, will now lead efforts to unite churches in extending Christ's kingdom throughout society. To read all about Tessa's induction, see <https://urc.org.uk/revd-dr-tessa-henry-robinson-inducted.../>

🙌 #FaithInAction #FreeChurchesGroup #PalmSunday

## Service at St George's URC, Hemel Hempstead

Last Sunday the Moderator led worship for Palm Sunday at St George's United Reformed Church, Hemel Hempstead. During the service the congregation went outside to gather around a flowering tree, giving thanks for Spring and new life at a place where those who died of COVID are remembered. The theme of the Moderator's sermon was 'What kind of king is Jesus?' contrasting Jesus as the suffering servant with



the style of many of today's leaders and encouraging us to be like Jesus.



**Information**

Download your free copy



Copyright is complicated! We hope this free booklet, which, whilst not claiming to be a definitive guide, will help you navigate your way through the potential minefield of copyright law and how it affects churches. To download your free copy, see <https://urc.org.uk/.../getting-to-grips-with-copyright/>

## Green Team Message



**Save the Date!** 🕒 **We're heading to Westminster.**  
Join us on **9th July 2025**, as thousands come together in Westminster to show MPs just how much we care about climate, nature, and the future of our communities.

📅 **9th July 2025**

📍 **Westminster, London**  
🕒 **Times to be confirmed soon**

## CTE Letter to Metropolitan Police

Following the police raid of the Westminster Quaker Meeting House on 27 March 2025, CTE General Secretary Bishop Mike Royal has written an open letter to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley requesting a review and meeting to prevent such an incident happening again.

A copy of the letter is attached for your records and is also available on the [CTE website](#).

Copies have also been sent to the Home Secretary Rt Hon Yvette Cooper and Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan.

## CTE Presidents Pastoral Letter marking the joint celebration of Easter 2025 and the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea

As we enter Holy Week, speaking with 'one voice and with one heart' the [Presidents of Churches Together in England](#) have issued a pastoral letter to mark the joint celebration of Easter 2025 and the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea.

The Presidents write: "It is a special blessing from God that this year all Christians will celebrate Easter – Pascha – on the same Sunday. We are empowered by this and we draw strength to face the realities of our divisions with a new hope of reconciliation."

Easter often falls on different dates because the Western and Eastern churches use different calendars.

You can [read the full text of the letter on our website at cte.org.uk/Easter2025](#). You can also watch and listen to His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, CTE President for the Orthodox Churches, and

Archbishop of the Oecumenical Patriarchate (Diocese of Thyateira and Great Britain) reading the joint letter.

We invite you to share this pastoral letter with your networks.

The CTE offices will be closed on the upcoming bank holidays but is otherwise open.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Easter/Pascha/Resurrection Sunday.

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## What's On

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**FaithTalk: everyday evangelism in the URC**





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# FaithTalk webinar

Practical tips for  
everyday evangelism  
Join us!

## **FaithTalk: everyday evangelism in the URC**

The next webinar, An Evening with Trey Hall, is at 7pm on Wednesday 7 May. Trey is the Director of Evangelism and Growth at the Methodist Church and will be helping us to grapple with the question: Faith Talk and Church Growth: How does prayer make a difference? Come and join us for a relaxed conversation praying and talking about our faith with others.

Please email [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk) for the link.

Save the date for the next webinar, on Tuesday 23 September at 7pm.

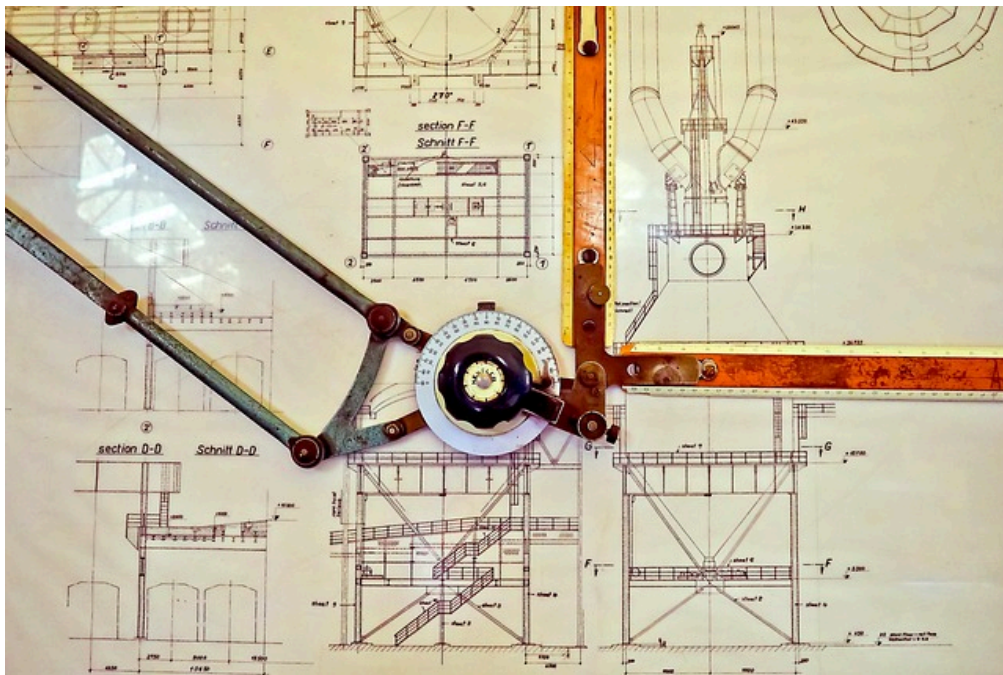
# Holy Communion Presidency Training



For Elders seeking first-time authorisation to preside  
at the sacrament of Holy Communion

**via Zoom**  
**Monday 9 June 2025**  
**7:30 to 9:30 pm**

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



## Buildings for Mission Forum Webinar: Inventive Use of Spaces

The next webinar, Inventive Use of Spaces, is on Tuesday 20 May at 7.30pm. If you have examples that you would like to share with us, or would like to register for the link, please email [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk). Save the date for the next webinar, on Thursday November 20 at 11.30am.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

# **JAZZ VESPERS**

URC Festival Choir to sing

**Duke Ellington's  
Second Sacred Concert**

*accompanied by a big band*

**25 June 2025, 19:00**

American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London



**Calling all singers!**

*All ages and abilities welcome.*

**Rehearsals Wednesdays**

**11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June, 19:00-21:00**

For details or questions contact

[music@amchurch.co.uk](mailto:music@amchurch.co.uk)



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



American  
International  
Church

[Free Tickets here:](#)



Sponsored by Thames North Synod Discipleship Committee

**Invitation to Christian Aid's 80th  
anniversary service at Westminster**

# Abbey



**THE UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF HOPE**

**actalliance**

Christian Aid is a member of ACT Alliance.

You are invited to join us at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 12th June at 12pm for a special service of thanksgiving and reflection to mark the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid.

We're pleased to be joined by Rev. Jerry Pillay, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), who will deliver the address – as well as the Kingdom Choir, who with the Sacred Choir from Twyford CofE school and Emmanuel Smith, will sing a newly commissioned version of "When I Needed A Neighbour".

The service will offer an opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey we've taken together working closely with our global partners, to thank our supporters for their ongoing action and support, and together to renew our commitment to ending poverty and injustice.

Please do feel free to spread the word about this service and to invite your church, your family, and your friends to join us. The invitation is open to all, and we'd love to be joined by people who have supported Christian Aid over the past eight decades. [To join us at the service, go here.](#)

I do hope to see you at Westminster Abbey on 12th June.

## 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](mailto:Amanda.Harwo@outlook.com)



The University of Bedfordshire Ecumenical Chaplaincy Trust (UBECT) seeks to appoint a Deputy Lead Chaplain (part-time 30 hours per week over five days) to work alongside the Lead Chaplain(s) to co-ordinate and oversee the development of a vibrant Chaplaincy for the University, working closely with its Community and Faith team, Student Services and Human Resources on initiatives to support student and staff well-being.

[Find out more.](#)

**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 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

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)

