



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 17 July 2020.

If you would like to keep your inbox clear, feel free to unsubscribe at the bottom of the page. Please circulate this widely so that these great events and opportunities can benefit as many as possible. Blessings.

BE STILL AND KNOW



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When all is calm,
and life is still,
we sense something greater than ourselves.
We see things reflected,
we see things from a different perspective,
a new angle.
Suddenly the world is twice as big
as we see the whole picture,
reflections reminding us that there is more to creation.

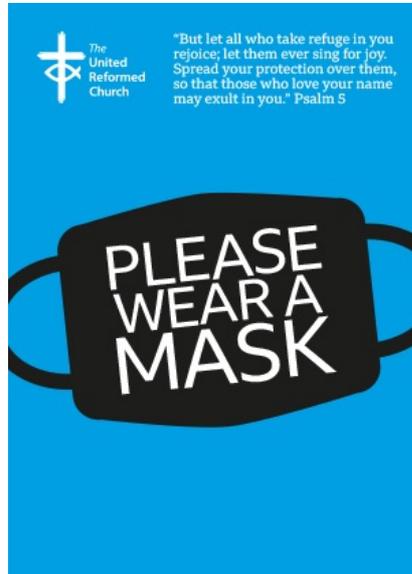
When the world is in turmoil,
and life is chaotic
and nothing is as it should be,
when our hold on life feels fragile
and we worry for family and friends
let us rest awhile in that still place,
held in the oneness of creation,
held in the love that is God.
In the stillness, may our hearts be calm for a moment,
our fears subside
and our hope be restored.

Let us be still and know God.

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From the URC Luton and Dunstable website. Click [here](#) for more reflections.

URC guidance around face coverings



In light of the various guidance issued by the Governments in England, Scotland and Wales, the Synod Moderators strongly encourage the use of face coverings for all people attending worship and other URC events that involve face-to-face meeting.

We recommend that these do not need to be surgical-type masks but should have at least three layers of material, in line with World Health Organisation guidance.

However, we note that there may be issues of inclusion if the mouth and facial expressions are hidden from view – for example, if you are leading worship, and someone is lip-reading what you say. Where you expect this might be an issue, we would commend careful consideration to using the types of mask with a transparent “window” or a face shield/visor.

As with all situations where face covering is recommended this is primarily to protect others should you unknowingly be carrying Coronavirus. The scientific evidence suggests that there is some degree of protection from infection for the wearer, but they tend to be more effective at preventing transmission from the person wearing the mask...

Click [here](#) for the full guidance on the URC website.

URC holds its first digital General Assembly and Mission Council



For the first time in its history, the United Reformed Church (URC) live-streamed its General Assembly – the URC’s main decision-making body – on YouTube on 11 July. The main business of this Assembly was worship and the inductions of Assembly-appointed officers. Namely, the Revd Dr John Bradbury as URC General Secretary, and the Revd Clare Downing and Peter Pay as Moderators of the General Assembly. The event included contributions from ecumenical partners.

A digital version of Mission Council – the executive body of General Assembly was held on 10 July. Items discussed included: the URC’s safeguarding strategy 2020-2025, pastoral supervision following the outcomes of the Past Case Review Learning Report, and the future of Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today, the URC’s focus of lifelong missional discipleship. A round up of General Assembly can be found [here](#), and a round up of Mission Council [here](#) on the URC website.

"Let's Get Right To The Point" John 8 verses 2-22



URC Children's and Youth Work team are delighted to bring you **Week 15** of this exciting new resource. This is available on the URC website <https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth> or from [here](#).

Families on Faith Adventures @ home is designed to support families of all generations as they experience, explore and express faith together through the week. It is a 'pick and mix' of activities, games, prayers and challenges based around a story from the Bible and draws on materials from our non-uniformed children's groups Pilots and FOFA.

Advice to churches about coronavirus

The United Reformed Church (URC) is offering advice and resources from a variety of sources about the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Follow this link for the latest advice and resources: <https://urc.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

Thames North Synod Office Plans

The Synod and Trust office staff will be working from home from now until further notice. Someone will go in a couple of times a week to deal with any post coming in, but we need to be aware that even this may not be possible in the future, depending on government advice.

We ask therefore that you contact us by email only where possible. We are still able to pick up your phone calls, but only if you leave a voicemail message, which is forwarded to us at home, from where we will get back to you as soon as possible. In the event that you do need to send documents by post, please contact either Muna Levan-Harris or Keith Berry at trust@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for all Thames North Trust matters, or Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for any Thames North Synod matter.

We will be keeping in touch with you from home, via email, the website and our newsletter, so keep a look out for our updates and messages.

You may follow this link for a number of items of information relating to Covid-19

http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/_home_/advice-and-information-corona

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