



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 18 October 2024.

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

Blessings.

### Events

**Discipleship Matters** Wednesdays 23 October and 27 November 2024  
3pm or 7:30pm [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)  
[pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)  
[disc@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:disc@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Youth Get Together** 26 October 2024 10:30am to 4:00pm at The Lumen Community [cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Employed and Volunteer Children's Workers Event** Ripon College Friday 1 November to lunchtime Sunday 3 November 2024. Contact Lorraine at [cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Old Testament Prophets used in Year C Lectionary** on Saturday 9 November 2024 10:30 – 12.30pm at Lumen. Contact Ola Lawal at [lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Inter Faith Theological Advisory Group** conference on Thursday 14 November 2024 at 11am at EC4V 5DE <https://ctbi.org.uk/conference-dancing-with-diversity-14-nov-2024/>

**Introduction to Godly Play** on Saturday 16 November 2024 at 10am Contact Lorraine at [cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Spiritual Abuse Webinar** Wednesday 27 November 2024 1:00-3:00pm Register [here](#).

### News



Rev Melanie Smith is being inducted on Saturday 19th October as the Training and Development Officer and Pastoral Consultant in West Midlands Synod.

Rev Mark Meatcher is being inducted as Minister of the East Birmingham and Solihull Pastorate on Saturday 9th November at Digbeth in the Field URC at 3pm.

Our new address (from 25th October 2024) will be 5 Bramble Drive, Birmingham B26 2QQ. We will have new phone numbers and new email addresses but our existing personal email addresses and mobile phone numbers will remain unchanged.

## **Retired Ministers Lunch – October 2024**



For many years now (with the exception of 2020 – when Covid loomed large), the Synod has hosted a get together for retired ministers, their spouses and widows. This year's gathering took place at Lumen on Thursday, 17th October. Nearly thirty people gathered for the event. As always, the day started with devotions led by Carole and Derek Lindfield. An address entitled "The world, the Church and the United Reformed Church heading into the mid-21st century" was given by the Revd Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church. He started by thanking those present for their continued ministry, commenting that the URC is most indebted to ministers who continue helping out in the churches even though they are retired. John made the most helpful comment that it is sometimes right to retire and that ministers need to realize that.

John's stimulating address used some of the ideas of the philosopher Charles Taylor. He contrasted the situation 500 years ago when it was normal to believe in God and attend church with that which applies now when the opposite is largely true in the West. It is against that backdrop the URC has to operate. He then briefly touched on the ongoing Church Life Review making the point that we are fortunate in having financial resources to engage in change.

A delicious lunch followed and attendees both enjoyed the excellent food and the table fellowship.

Time was running short at the end of lunch. It was good to welcome George Watt, our Moderator, 'hot foot' from having hospital tests. He briefly spoke about his health and then about his recent sabbatical. Nneoma Chima, our Synod Clerk, then gave a brief description of the recent General Assembly.

The day concluded with Holy Communion during which the names of ministers and others who have served in Thames North and who died in the previous twelve months were read out and remembered.



## What's On

**A BRAND NEW RESOURCE**  
FOR CHURCH LEADERS



Assessment tool



Book



Videos

Next Wednesday 23rd October Eddie Boon's 'Discipleship Matters' online gathering will be devoted to the brand new 'Vital Signs' initiative. For a maximum 60 minutes at either 3pm or 7.30pm Eddie will explain more, answer questions and you will actually have the opportunity to complete the assessment tool during the meeting with Eddie's guidance.

Meeting details are: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?>

pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09 Please join him if you can!

Revd. Eddie Boon  
Synod Discipleship Enabler

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London  
Churches  
Refugee  
Fund

Charity number  
1121108



## CAROL SINGING with LCRF

*“Peace on earth & Mercy mild”*

This year we have booked:

**Highbury and Islington Station**

but hope to sing outside as well if the weather allows.

**Wednesday 4th December 2024**

**3pm - 7pm**

Please, if possible, let us know when you plan to come:

(any time between 3-5, and/or 5-7)

and whether you can bring a nice loud instrument.

[carols@crcw.org.uk](mailto:carols@crcw.org.uk)

We need non-singers to collect the money too!

Santa hats provided - and dress up to help attract attention!

We hope to raise two or three thousand pounds for  
London Churches Refugee Fund: [lcrf.org.uk](http://lcrf.org.uk)

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US  
CAR BOOT AND TABLE TOP SALE  
FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**at 37 GRANGE PARK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
LEYTON E10 5EP**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024  
12-5pm**



**PLANTS**



**FOOD & DRINKS**



**CHRISTMAS**



**BRIC-A-BRAC**

**8 cars only allowed in the car park (£5 per car) Tables (£10 per table)**

**Register for a free webinar to find out about our latest The House of Good research**



In cities, towns and villages across the UK, churches have served people for centuries. From establishing some of the earliest hospitals and schools to hosting warm spaces and foodbanks, they are vitally important buildings.

In 2021, our The House of Good update calculated that churches provide £55 Billion of social value to the UK every year.

We are excited to be launching the latest report from The House of Good research series in the House of Commons on Tuesday. Looking in depth at one dimension of the support churches offer society, the report is another piece of evidence that will show policymakers how important these buildings are.

More details of the report will be published on our website next week, including what you can do to help.

Another way that you can find out more is by [registering for our free online event from 5:30-6:30pm on Wednesday 13 November](#). You will hear from our team about the findings of the report and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions.

See next week's letter for more from the National Churches Trust.

## United Nations Conferences COP16 and COP29





A new guide explaining how Christians can get involved in the United Nations Conferences COP16 and COP29 has been published by the Church of England.

The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) is being held in Colombia (21 October - 1 November) and the UN climate change conference (COP29), is being held this year in Azerbaijan (30 November to 12 December). The online guides include information on what will happen at both conferences, how the Church of England is getting involved and what you can do from home to support.

Jo Chamberlain, National Environment Officer at the Church of England, said: "Climate change and big international conferences like this can be hard for any of us to get our heads round. People can also feel slightly helpless and unsure of how they can contribute from home but there are many ways we can all do our bit.

"As Christians we can pray, and we can share our concerns with our local MP and also raise awareness through our churches. This handy guide offers lots of useful tips on the best ways to ensure your voice is heard at this international climate event."

[Short Guide to UN Conferences 2024 \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org)

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## Breaking News! Roz Savage has Picked the Climate and Nature Bill

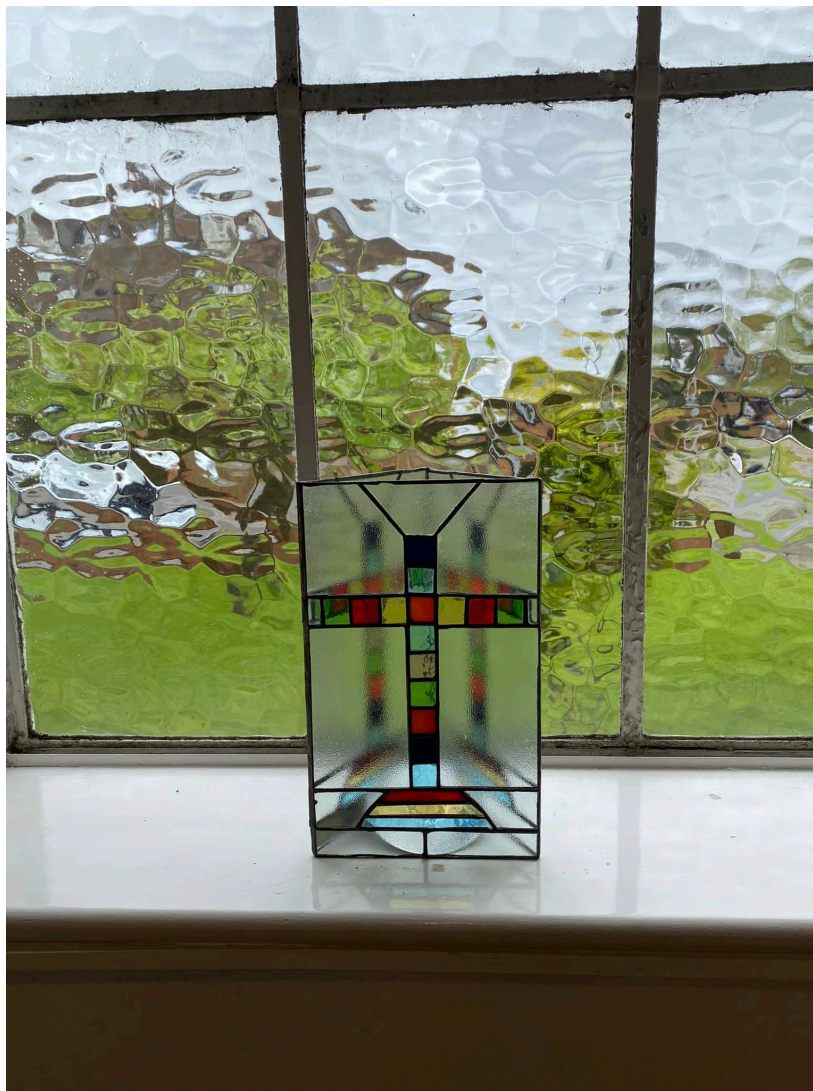
Roz Savage MP—environmental campaigner and record setting ocean rower—is championing the landmark Climate and Nature Bill in parliament... And this time we can take it all the way! This is our chance to make history.

But we need YOUR help! We need 100 supporting MPs to attend the CAN Bill's critical Second Reading—will you make sure your MP is one of them?

[Zero Hour - Join the campaign for the Climate & Nature Bill](#)

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## Discipleship Matters



**Wednesdays** 23rd October, 27th November 3pm or 7.30pm

The link is the same as ever <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtlK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>

All our welcome to come for some conversation and encouragement

*Yours*

*Eddie*

*Revd. Eddie Boon*

*Synod Discipleship Enabler*

*www.discipleseveryday.com*



50 stackable chairs with hymn book box and communion glass holders, and communion table and chairs. Free to any Church able to arrange collection from Luton. Please contact [marthur.tott13@gmail.com](mailto:marthur.tott13@gmail.com).

Four high back chairs are also available.

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## Safeguarding Training

# UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

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	Second date
17 January, 2024 1:30pm	Domestic abuse	4 June, 2024 6:30pm
25 January 1:30pm	Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting survivors	11 June 6:30pm
30 January 6:30pm	Modern slavery	8 October 1:30pm
31 January 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees	14 May 7:00pm
8 February 1:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	23 May 6:30pm
27 February 6:30pm	Substance abuse	3 October 1:30pm
6 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers	17 September 6:30pm
18 March 6:30pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting survivors	25 September 1:30pm
18 April 6:30pm	Adult safeguarding	15 October 1:30pm
8 May 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse	11 November 7:00pm
28 October 6:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	4 December 10:00am
19 November 1:30pm	Online safety	

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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<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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