



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 19 April 2024.

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

Blessings.

Events

Closing Service - The Hyde Colindale on Saturday 20 April 2024 at 2pm. RSVP Titus Theuri gktheuri@yahoo.co.uk

Celebrating 850 Years of the Waldensian Movement Thursday 18- Saturday 20 April 2024 g.morton50@ntlworld.com

Young Adults' Gathering Saturday 27 April 2024 10:30am- 4pm
Lumen Community

Godly Play Wednesday 1 May to Friday 3 May 2024
trainingpa@urc5.org.uk

FaithTalk webinar Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 7.30pm
mission@urc.org.uk

50 Hymns for 50 Years Book Date: Saturday, 11th May 2024
Time: 10:30am -12:30pm at The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS

Hounslow United Reformed Church 200th Anniversary on Sunday 12 May 2024 at 11:00am TW3 1UF

Thames North & Southern Synod's Youth Residential Thursday 30 May - 2 June 2024 Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas

Living Stones for a Living Church on Monday 21 May 7:30pm and Monday 4 June 7:30pm. Email mission@urc.org.uk

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal & other speakers on Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 6:30pm at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. Email: info@lcrf.org.uk

Thames North Eco Day Saturday 8 June 2024 10am - 4pm at Vine Church Ilford

Envisioning Worship Conference Saturday 11am 6-7 July 2024 at Luther King Centre, Manchester

<https://northerncollege.co.uk/envisioning-worship-2024/>

Free to Believe Conference Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th September 2024 at The Hayes Conference Centre

News



Last Sunday the Moderator led worship and celebrated Communion at the Church on Fairford Leys (Aylesbury), an LEP made up of Anglican, Methodist, URC and the Roman Catholic Church.

What's On

Hounslow United Reformed Church 200th Anniversary



**12th May 2024 11.00am
Service of Thanksgiving**

We are celebrating 200 years of
"Chapel" Worship in Hounslow.
You are cordially invited to join us for this
Celebration Service
Led by Rev. George Watt, Thames North Moderator,
United Reformed Church

Service to be held at:
Hounslow United Reformed Church,
114 Hanworth Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex,
TW3 1UF.

Do please join us for the celebration lunch.
There will also be a display available showing the history of the last 200
years of the life of this Hounslow Church.

R. S. V. P. (by 28th April 2024 please) to hurc114@outlook.com

Discipleship Matters

The next Discipleship Matters online conversations are on Wednesday 15th May 3pm or 7.30pm and Wednesday 26th June 3pm or 7.30pm

The link is the same as ever <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>

London
Churches
Refugee
Fund

Charity number
1121108

LONDON CHURCHES REFUGEE FUND

Save the Date!

Tuesday June 4th @ 6.30pm

LCRF 2024 Speaker Meeting

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal

*Founder and President of
City of Sanctuary*

and speakers from some of the frontline charities
supported by the London Churches Refugee Fund)

Email: info@lcrf.org.uk **Website:** lcrf.org.uk

**Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftsbury Avenue WC2H 8EP**

STARTS: 6.30pm f/b Meeting & Greeting w Refreshments



THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNODS YOUTH RESIDENTIAL

Thursday 30th May – Sunday 2nd June 2024

Join other young people for 4 days of outdoor activities, games, creative workshops, and biblical discussions.



Venue: Whitemoor Lakes Alrewas Staffordshire.

Cost: £65

Age: 11 (must be in Year 7) – 16 years.



Including transport available from London.

Limited spaces available until Friday 3rd May 2024

Register online at: <https://bit.ly/residential-2024>

Further information: cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



✝ Thames North Synod Eco Day 2024

Our Shared Climate

Celebration and action for justice

8th June 10.00 am—4.00pm

Vine Church Ilford

Exploring actions we can take to preserve human and bio diversity

Activities for all ages - Children very welcome

From more information please email: modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Full itinerary for the day will be sent to attendees by end of May

Update

As you know our Synod, together with the whole URC, is committed to becoming 'Net Zero' by 2030. To achieve this ambitious target, it will be very useful if as many church members as possible become Carbon Literate. Carbon literacy means you understand what a carbon footprint is and how you can play your part in reducing your own and your church's.

Hopefully full Carbon Literacy Courses will be rolled out across the Synod later this year but, meanwhile, one of our afternoon workshops is 'The ABC of Carbon Literacy' – come along and make a start.

URC THAMES NORTH SYNOD ECO DAY 2024 - PROGRAMME

Saturday 8th June, 10am – 4pm Vine Church, Ilford

Our Shared Climate – Celebration and Action for Justice

- 10am Tea, coffee and snacks
- 10.30 Welcome and Introduction followed by worship - a celebration of diversity in our Synod and the world.
- 11-1 Children and young people's activities
- 11.00 Keynote Speaker - Jeremy Williams author of 'Climate Change is Racist'.
- 12.00 Progress towards Net Zero at the Vine and across our Synod
- 1-2 Lunch break
- 2.00 Introduction to afternoon activities
- 2-4 Children and Young Peoples' Eco-Activities with Vine Pilots
- 2.10 – 3 and 3 – 3.45 Small group sessions on a variety of subjects including: How to apply for Synod Eco grants, Global climate issues, The ABC of carbon literacy, Getting started as Eco Church, Practical Green activities -Using urban church land as spaces for wild friendly plants and insects, Energy café, Speaking up for the planet.
- 3.50 Plenary and closing Worship.
- 4.00 Tea, cake, conversation

To book to attend the day – please email modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Colleen Fraser

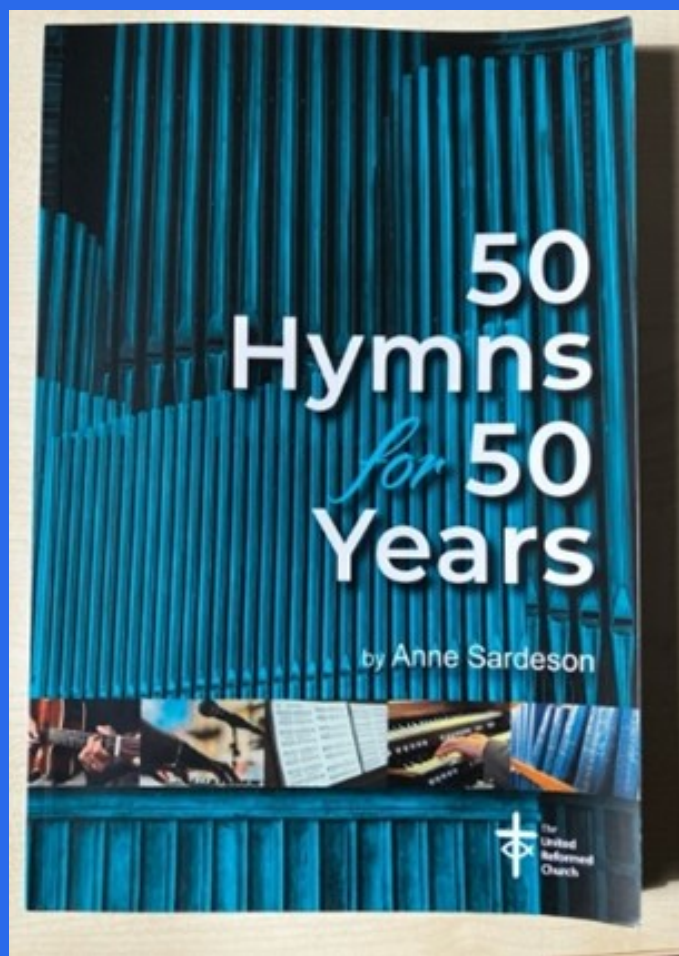
PA to the Moderator and Synod Clerk

URC Thames North Synod

St Paul's URC, Newton Road

Bayswater, LONDON, W2 5LS

50 Hymns for 50 Years Book



**Thames North Synod Preachers Circle invites you to our event on
50 Hymns for 50 Years Book
Written to celebrate URC 50 Years Anniversary.**

Led by:

Revd. Anne Sardeson

The Author

Former Thames North Synod Training Officer, Singer and Songwriter, and Minister to churches in Maldon, Burnham-on-Crouch, and Southminster
Contributing to the event are some writers of the hymns used in the book

Revd. Dominic Grant, Revd. Sue McCoan, David Williams, and Revd. Heather Whyte

Date: Saturday, 11th May 2024

Time: 10:30am -12:30pm

Venue: The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS
You will learn about the process of how the book was created, meet, and hear from some of the hymn contributors, have conversation about hymn singing and sing some of the hymns in the book. It should be an interesting, historical, joyful event not to be missed.

To book your place, please email, Ola Lawal,
lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



Free to Believe Conference 2024

Coming to our Senses

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick
Wed 4th to Fri 6th September 2024

Free to Believe Conference 2024

The Hayes Conference Centre

Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th September 2024

Cost £275 (Booking Form Attached)

Coming to our Senses

*'The Word made flesh is here made word again' (Edwin Muir, The Incarnate One).
A focus on embodiment, a continuing challenge for churches, and worldwide.*

Speakers:

Kathy Galloway

Former Leader of the Iona Community, and former Head of Christian Aid Scotland.

Victoria Turner

Editor - 'Young, Woke and Christian'

Worship Leaders:

Fiona Bennett

Minister of Augustine URC, Edinburgh

Kathy Galloway



For details and booking form contact Colleen
modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

News from Edwards Insurance

We have joined Congregational owner Integra Insurance Solutions. We are excited to announce that we have joined Integra Insurance Solutions and owners of the Congregational insurer brand. We have worked closely with them over the last 20 years to provide insurance solutions within the Church and associated commercial business market. Over this time, we have come to recognise that we share the same values and ethics, and this closer partnership is a natural step forward that strengthens our business in providing a high level of service and support to our clients.

Nothing changes in our mission as a Chartered Insurance Broker, focusing on church, charity, not for profit and owner managed commercial clients, ensuring we provide access to the best insurance solutions in the marketplace and provide ongoing independent advice.

We remain committed as ever to our customer service first ethos and our staff, clients and business partners will greatly benefit from our new ownership into the future.

About Congregational

Congregational have provided specialist church and related commercial insurance for over 130 years. Focus is on improving and refining the cover offered to meet the evolving needs of churches and associated properties across the UK.

Christopher Edwards Managing Director at Edwards Insurance Brokers "As we celebrate our first 20 years of trading we are delighted to announce the strengthening of our business through much closer ties with Integra Insurance Solutions. We see this news as a platform to further grow our commitment to the Church, Charity, not for profit sectors and to owner managed businesses. This a very positive step for the future growth and development of Edwards Insurance Brokers."

Is my property in danger from RAAC?

The vast majority of people were unfamiliar with RAAC until recently, when headlines of sudden school closures linked to the material brought it into public awareness for the first time. Now, people are wondering what RAAC is and why it might be so dangerous.

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) is a building material that was primarily used in the UK from the 1960s to 1990s. Similar to traditional concrete but much lighter due to its aerated structure – meaning it's filled with tiny holes – RAAC was mainly used in the construction of public sector buildings, like schools and courts of law, but can be found in other buildings, too. It was primarily used to build roofs, but can be found in walls and floors as well.

While it was initially favoured because of its lightweight and thermal insulating properties, as well as the fact that it was cheaper to

manufacture than traditional concrete, RAAC's one big drawback is its shelf life of just over 30 years. Its premature expiry date is due to RAAC's aerated composition, which absorbs moisture over time which then rusts adjacent metal structures. Over time, this means that buildings which contain RAAC are vulnerable to collapse. Buildings that are particularly at risk from collapse caused by RAAC are those with flat roofs.

Continue reading our article by clicking [here](#).

Under Insurance

Due to rising construction costs, inflation and other factors, underinsurance is more prominent than ever. Your account handler is available to speak with to ensure your cover is right. We've also created a document which helps explain underinsurance in more detail. Please contact us to discuss a quote for Rebuild Cost Assessment for your premises.

Safeguarding Training

Thames North & Southern Synod Safeguarding Training- 2024
Foundation and Foundation Refresher Safeguarding Training (Approx 2 hours).

14th June *IN PERSON TRAINING*

at St Andrew's Canterbury URC (Southern Synod) 10am-12pm

22nd July *IN PERSON TRAINING*

at Bromley by Bow URC- 41 St Leonard's St, London E3 3DH (Thames North Synod) 10am-12pm

3rd August *IN PERSON TRAINING*

at Lancaster Road- Lancaster Rd, Enfield EN2 0BS (Thames North Synod) 10am-12pm

September *IN PERSON TRAINING* location TBC

21st October 10am- 12pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

21st November 7pm – 9.30pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

Foundation E-Learning module

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

The link is here:

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24>

To book on to this training, please email your name, church role, church and preferred date to

safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk or

safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Intermediate Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).

14th June *IN PERSON TRAINING*
at St Andrew's Canterbury URC- Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UA
(Southern Synod) 1pm-3.30pm

22nd July *IN PERSON TRAINING*
at Bromley by Bow URC- 41 St Leonard's St, London E3 3DH (Thames
North Synod) 1pm-3.30pm

3rd August *IN PERSON TRAINING*
at Lancaster road- Lancaster Rd, Enfield EN2 0BS (Thames North Synod)
1pm-3.30pm

September *IN PERSON TRAINING* location TBC

25th October 10am-12pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

29th November 7pm – 9.30pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).

12th June 6.30pm - 9pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

13th September 6.30pm – 9pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

Advanced Safeguarding Training (Approx 4 hours).

Saturday 13th July 10-3pm *IN PERSON TRAINING*- location TBC

13th December 5pm- 9pm *ONLINE TRAINING*



UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub bit.ly/3Txldm4

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	



www.urc.org.uk



● From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee ●

Vacancies



URC Youth Intern - Communications

Home based
12 month fixed-term contract, 8-30 hours per month
Living Wage rate

Are you passionate about communicating with young people and young adults?

URC Youth is an organisation for all young people aged 11- 25 with a connection to the United Reformed Church. URC Youth elect a Youth Executive each year to run an annual Youth Assembly, to be the voice of young people, enact resolutions, and promote young people's engagement in the life of the church. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion, diversity, mental health, social justice, and environmental issues.

During this Internship you will support the work of URC Youth to increase connection and engagement with young people across England, Scotland and Wales in conjunction with the URC Children's and Youth Work team.

You will work as part of a team; to create and post promotional material on social media, manage a schedule for communication and assist in production of press releases and web content.

You will be aged 17-25, educated to at least National Fives & Highers / GCSE level standard, with experience in communication through social media and wider channels. You will have good design and communication skills. You will be able to manage a fluctuating workload and attend meetings online as required. There is the opportunity to attend URC Youth Assembly 7-9 March 2025.

We will offer appropriate training and development opportunities to increase your skills and knowledge in communication.

**If you are interested in this new opportunity and can meet the above requirements, please provide a CV and covering letter to:
Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
020 7691 9874 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/jobs**

Closing date for CV's: 12 noon, Tuesday 28 May 2024 Interview date (online): Friday 14 June 2024

This post requires an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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