



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 19 June 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.

Events Diary

Jazz Vespers 25 June 2025 19:00 at the American Church in London
music@amchurch.co.uk

The Theology, Rhythm and Feeling of Hymns in Worship on
Saturday 28 June 2025 10:30 to 12:30 at The Lumen Community WC1H
9RS lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

**Watch the film "Light" showing the work of Community
Peacemaker Teams** in Hebron, West Bank Palestine with Revd Maggie
Hindley at St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH on Sunday 29th June
2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Vision Evening at St Andrew's, Kimbolton Road, MK40 2PF
Date: Tuesday 1st July 2025 Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Bradwell Pilgrimage Saturday 5 July 2025 10am-3:15pm
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

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025


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>

Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate
House, London University.



On Saturday Revd Packiaraj Asirvatham was inducted to the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group with responsibility for Palmers Green, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill URC's (The South and East Enfield Pastorate). Packia was ordained in the Church of South India and has been living in the UK since 2020. He did a placement at High Cross Church, Camberley, a URC/Methodist Church. Revd Mike Thomason, the minister at High Cross preached at the service. Welcome to Packia, his wife and son.





Congratulations to the Revd Jennifer Mills-Knutsen, Senior Pastor of the American International Church — a United Reformed Church in the Thames North Synod — who has been announced by the Bishop of London as a new Honorary Ecumenical Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. To learn more about Jennifer's new role, see <https://ow.ly/TWIY50W8U2W>



80 years on: A service of thanks and hope
Catch up on Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey [here](#).

Information

What's On



THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD

CREATIVE WEEK


TUES 5TH – SAT 9TH AUGUST 2025
LUMEN, LONDON – WC1H 9RS

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SECONDARY
SCHOOL (AGE 11–16)**

**CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF CREATIVE
STREAMS INCLUDING
DRAMA, MUSIC, CREATIVE WRITING
MOVEMENT & DANCE, STAGE CRAFT**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.BIT.LY/CW-REGISTRATION
DEADLINE 6TH JULY**

**COME AND WATCH OUR SHOWCASE
PERFORMANCE ON
SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST AT 4PM
ALL ARE WELCOME**

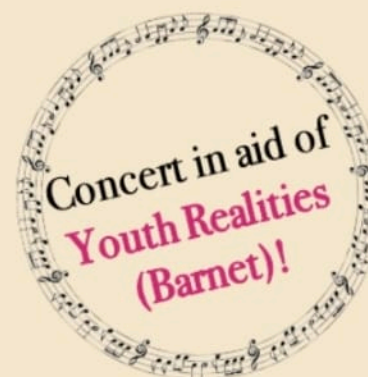


Another afternoon of beautiful live music...

TRINITY
SUMMER
music

CONCERT

3pm
5th July 2025



100 The Broadway, London, NW7 3TB

Refreshments Available!



Please contact Anna on 07956 913 034 for discounted early bird tickets and for more information

A Jazz Vespers you won't want to miss!

Duke Ellington's Second Sacred Concert

Register now
for a free
ticket



Wednesday 25th June
19:00

URC Festival Choir
and big band

Free and Open to All



American
International
Church



A very special conclusion to our Jazz Vespers season with Duke Ellington's Second Sacred Concert featuring 15 musicians and 40 voices, under the direction of Scott Stroman.

Wed 25 June
19:00-20:00

Door & Drinks at 18:00

American International Church
79a Tottenham Court Road, W1T 4TD

What is Jazz Vespers?

Jazz Vespers began in New York City in the late 50s, gravitating to St. Peter's Lutheran Church when Pastor John Gensel invited jazz musicians to provide the music at afternoon "Vespers" services. Attendees and performers included Ellington, Monk, Coltrane, Gillespie and many others and the style stretched from traditional jazz to gospel, rock, folk and more. In 1984 Scott Stroman began leading monthly JV services at St. Annes Lutheran Church in London, moving to the American International Church in 2022.

The word Vespers comes from the Latin for "evening" and it's simply an evening prayer service. We use the word because of the spiritual nature of the service and continuing the tradition of Jazz Vespers services.

[Click here to register free](#)

**Lancaster Road United Reformed Church
Enfield**

Church Open For Prayer

Friday 27th June

10am-8pm

Saturday 28th June

10am-8pm



Come and revitalise

Go deeper with God



Come when you can go when you must.

Quiet space in the church.

All Welcome

Light refreshments available until 7.30 pm

Film 'Light'



You are warmly invited to St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH on Sunday 29th June 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm to watch the film "Light" showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.

Rev Maggie Hindley, retired minister from Thames North Synod, has done several spells with the Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron over the years. She was unable to visit in 2024 due to the security position, but this film made then allows us insight into the Hebron situation and the work of the Peacemakers.

Maggie will be introducing the film, which focuses on two stories, Nisreen from Hebron city and Tareq in Masafer Yatta, South Hebron Hills, a pair who embody non-violent resistance and resilience. It is equally suitable for newcomers to the topic of Israel-Palestine and for those who are already familiar with the background.

All are welcome, and admission is free (donations to CPT are welcome) We should be delighted if you and others from your church can join us for the evening. Doors open with tea/coffee at 1815 and after the film there will be refreshments available before a Zoom link up to the film director in Hebron for a Q&A session.

Watch the trailer at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjI>

Do get in touch if you have any queries. There is plenty of parking at the church and we can advise on access by public transport or lifts from the

station. RSVPs are helpful so we can plan refreshments! We look forward to hearing from you. A poster is attached, do share with others.

Thank you from
Philip Nixon and Hilary Tyrrell,
Members of St Albans URC
tyrrellnixon@btinternet.com
07849 041285

**You are warmly invited to
St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH
Sunday 29th June 2025, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

“Light”



**A film showing the
work of Community Peacemaker Teams in
Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

**“Where all other elements are controlled and
rationed, perhaps our light is the one thing that
cannot be taken.”**

**All are welcome. Free admission with
donations to CPT invited.**

Watch the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>

1815 Doors open, tea/coffee

**1830 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley who has spent
time with CPT in previous years**

1835 the film (60 mins)

**1935 – tea/coffee/refreshments and our opportunity to
share comments and reactions with the film director,
Ahmad Abu Monshar, by Zoom from the West Bank.**

**The Theology, Rhythm and Feeling of Hymns
in Worship**

A Workshop led by Julian Templeton and Francis Ackroyd

Saturday 28 June 2025, 10:30 – 12:30

The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS



The number and type of hymns available to worship leaders and worshippers today is vast. What criteria does a worship leader use to select hymns? This workshop will include a discussion, with sung examples, of hymns that might be selected for their theology or rhythm or feeling, and how these hymns shape the moments of worship.

Participants are invited to select 3 hymns, 1 in each category:

- A hymn selected for the theology/message of its words
- A hymn selected for the rhythm of its music
- A hymn selected for the feeling it evokes

and to email the selected hymns to Julian training@urchthamesnorth.org.uk by 21 June.

Julian and Francis will note all the hymns submitted, and from these will choose some that we will sing together in the workshop. Hymns can come either from published hymnals or from online videos, so long as you identify their source. If you don't wish to select hymns yourself, please come to the workshop anyway.

To attend this free Thames North Synod Preachers' Circle Event
Please email Ola Lawal, Lay Preaching Advocate,
lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

The Reverends Francis Ackroyd and Julian Templeton are both musically trained and have made congregational and choral singing a significant feature of their ministries.

URC Holiday Forum

Two requests please

Firstly - This is a request for the Songs of Praise service at Forum this year.

Angela is seeking hymn / song requests to create the service, and as ever, preference will be given to theme related ones, and the theme this year is 'All of me loves all of you'. Please indicate if you'd like to share briefly in the service why you've chosen your contribution. (Alternatively, let me know why if you'd rather not speak, and I can share it on your behalf). (Please also indicate the book from which you've chosen it, or the tune to which you'd like it sung, especially if it's not an obvious one). She can take requests up to and including Friday 27 July, which gives her the opportunity to pull everything together into a service in time for Forum. Her email is angela.storer@ntlworld.com



Secondly, as you may know, our Bursary Fund helps support people to come to Holiday Forum. It's a wonderful resource that we're incredibly proud of and which has helped a lot of people.

This year, we are seeing extremely high demands on this fund. We want to continue to be able to make Forum available to anyone who would like to come.

We can only do this through the wonderful generosity of those are able to donate to the fund. While we happily receive monetary donations themselves, it may be that you have skills to offer instead that could be utilised to generate some money for the Bursary Fund; for example,

making knitted poppy/flower brooches, handmade soaps, keyrings, cake sales etc that could be sold at your Churches/ Groups instead.

If you have already donated, thank you deeply for your generosity. If you haven't, we would welcome donations from anyone who can spare some extra cash or loose change so that more people can enjoy what Forum offers.



Hi Everyone!

Just under 2 months to go until Holiday Forum 2025! A key part of the week are our brilliant Children and Young People's sessions, run each morning by Ruth White and Leo Roberts

Every year we need some helpers to support the delivery of these sessions. If you're joining us at the Hayes 17th - 22nd August and would be up for helping out (as much or as little as you like), we want to hear from you!

All you need is enthusiasm and an up to date DBS check (we'll complete this for you).

Please get in touch if you can help.

Thanks,

Wendy and Abi.

Joint Chairs

Act Now, Change Forever

**ACT
NOW
CHANGE
FOREVER**

**TOGETHER FOR PEOPLE
CLIMATE AND NATURE**

JPIT hopes for 'a planet where our environment is renewed'. The Climate Coalition is organising a mass lobby at Westminster on the 9th of July. We will be there – will you? Click here to be a part of the mass lobby. If you join the lobby, come visit our stall in the faith area at the QEII.

[Click here to be a part of the mass lobby](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON 9TH JULY?

On Wednesday 9th July 2025, thousands of people from every corner of the UK will come to Westminster to tell our MPs: this is a moment for leadership that protects what matters most — our health, our nature, our communities, our climate, and our future.

Surrounding these meetings will be an vibrant programme - from powerful speaker sessions at a nearby venue, to nature walks led by WWF-UK, and even a photocall across from the Houses of Parliament! This is more than a lobby. It's a moment to come together, connect with others and remind ourselves of the shared future we're united for.

Whether you join an interactive discussion, share stories over a cuppa, win a commitment from your MP or even just take a moment to soak it all in - this is a day to feel the power of community - and the hope that comes from showing up, together.

We're asking MPs to back bold, practical action by committing to:

- 1. Deliver vital funding to communities hit hardest by climate change here and around the world**
- 2. Cut bills, back UK jobs, and secure a greener fairer future for all**
- 3. Restore nature to create a safer, healthier future**
- 4. Support the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty Initiative**

Vacancies



Adeyfield Free Church

Adeyfield Free Church, Hemel Hempstead
a place where lives are transformed by Jesus

We have 2 vacancies in our church ministry
and welcome applications for a

Youth worker and a Families' Worker

For a job description please email admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk
Closing date 17th July 2025

 CharityJob

**Apply via
CharityJob**

Deputy Head of Heathrow Multi Faith Chaplaincy
Heathrow Multi Faith Chaplaincy
Hounslow, Greater London (On-site)
£47,000 per year
Full-time
Permanent

NB Closing Date 25 June 2025 at 23:30

To apply



Mersey Synod Clerk

Part time, permanent post up to 30 hours per week.
£32,500-£44,000 pa. FTE.

Mersey Synod seek to appoint a new Synod Clerk. The person will be an excellent administrator, strong team player and be committed to seeing Mersey Synod grow into the future.

Duties and responsibilities include:

1. Working with the Moderator, staff team and volunteers to ensure the smooth running of Mersey Synod.
2. Representing and connecting Mersey Synod to the national church.
3. Line managing members of the Synod staff team.
4. Providing leadership on governance and GDPR across the Synod.

For further details download a job pack from the website: www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/job-vacancies

Closing date for applications 26th June. Shortlisting 30th June. Interviews 16th July appointment to start as soon as possible.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.

Safeguarding Training

Synod Training Dates 2025

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email 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

Saturday 2nd August 2025 - 10.30am – 1.00pm

Advanced Safeguarding Training

Part 1 - Tuesday 16th September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Part 2 - Tuesday 23rd September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm

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<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



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