



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 20 March 2025.

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

Events

Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs Monday 24 March at 7.30pm only and Monday 28 April 3pm or 7.30pm The link is the same as ever
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)

[pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)

Opportunities for Partnership – online gathering 3 April 2025, 19:00-20:30 [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1)

[pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1)

Meeting ID: 842 2245 1396

Passcode: 726105

Time for Jesus - the Musical Saturday 12 April and Sunday 13 April 2025 at 7pm St Mary's Church, Church End, Hendon NW4 4JT

IOPT in Focus: Exploring Apartheid & the Occupation Wednesday 30 April 2025. For the Zoom link commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

Rejoice and Sing Live at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May 2025 www.bit.ly/reform-live

Spiritual Abuse Training on Thursday 1 May 2025 contact emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

Dinner Dance at Grange Park URC on 3 May 2025 4-9pm

Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential 29 May-1 June 2025 www.bit.ly/residential2025

IOPT in Focus: Antisemitism Wednesday 18 June 2025. For the Zoom link commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

Bradwell Pilgrimage Saturday 5 July 2025 10am-3:15pm
www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025

News

Repeatedly taking the easy choice on welfare



JPIT's Paul Morrison responds to potential disability benefit cuts.

In the November 2024 budget the Chancellor decided to keep the last government's £3bn of disability benefit cuts which were pencilled in for the next three years. This was called a "difficult decision". Over the past week, the government was busily spinning that because "the world has changed" there are to be more difficult choices in the March 2025 financial statement. The world may have changed, but the difficult choice offered is remarkably similar – additional reductions in the living standards of the disabled. This time with cuts of between £2Bn and £7Bn.

Read more [here](#).

Moderator Preaches at Seven Kings URC



Last Sunday the Moderator received a warm welcome as he led worship at Seven Kings United Free Church (URC/Baptist). Just to be clear they only worship one King - Jesus.



CTE Forum 2025



If you didn't get a place at #CTEForum2025 you can watch live (and catch up) with keynote speakers including:
Cardinal Vincent Nichols from Catholic Bishops' Conference (England and Wales)
Archbishop Nikitas from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira & Great Britain
Rev Canon Helen Cameron from Free Churches Group
Bishop Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman from Council of Lutheran Churches in Great Britain
Rt Rev Anderson Jeremiah from The Church of England
...and many more

All on our YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@ChurchesEngland>

Information

A Lent Note from the Green Team



The Buzz Club is run by scientists at the University of Sussex. It offers an opportunity to get involved in citizen science. And it's a good way to learn more about wildlife in your outdoor space, whether at home or at church. Additionally it contributes to providing data that helps scientists understand changes in insect biodiversity and suggest ways to improve biodiversity. Two members of the Green Team took part in a bee survey in 2024 and learnt about the amazing variety of bees that visit our outdoor spaces. At any one time there are various projects from which to choose, at present it could be hoverflies, earwigs or bees. Adults and

JPIT Internship Applications open!



The graphic features a green and blue background with a white JPIT logo in the top left. The text 'Are you a young Christian passionate about issues of justice and peace?' is in the top right. A large orange megaphone icon is on the right. The main title 'Apply for the JPIT Internship 25/26!' is in the center. Below it are two rounded rectangular boxes: 'Communications' (start asap, running social media and comms) and 'Constituency Action Network' (start in September, supporting churches). To the right, text states 'Two full-time, paid roles for young adults aged 21-30' and 'Apply by Tues 22 April'. A bottom right box contains the link 'For more info: jpit.uk/internship'. There are also two cartoon eyes on the left and a yellow zigzag line at the bottom left.

Are you a young Christian passionate about issues of justice and peace?

Apply for the JPIT Internship 25/26!

Communications
Start asap
Running JPIT's social media and comms

Constituency Action Network
Start in September,
Supporting churches engaging with their MPs

Two full-time, paid roles for young adults aged 21-30
Apply by Tues 22 April

For more info: jpit.uk/internship

We are pleased to announce that we are about to open applications for our JPIT internships, with two full-time paid roles for young adults aged 21-30.

One role is in Communications to start ASAP, and the second role is supporting our Constituency Action Network starting in September. Do consider applying if you are eligible, or share this opportunity with any young adults that come to mind. Follow the link below for more information.

[JPIT Internship 25/26](http://jpit.uk/internship)

Heaton Way URC - Memories and Lessons Learned



The Heaton Way Memories and Power Point was well received at Synod and 70 copies were taken. Please ask for more and tell us if the Power Point is planned to be used. A sincere thank you to Paul Skipp for the production of such an excellent booklet.

It can be sent to you free of charge if you contact Revd. Francis Ackroyd on email ackroyds22@gmail.com or phone 020 8558 5270.

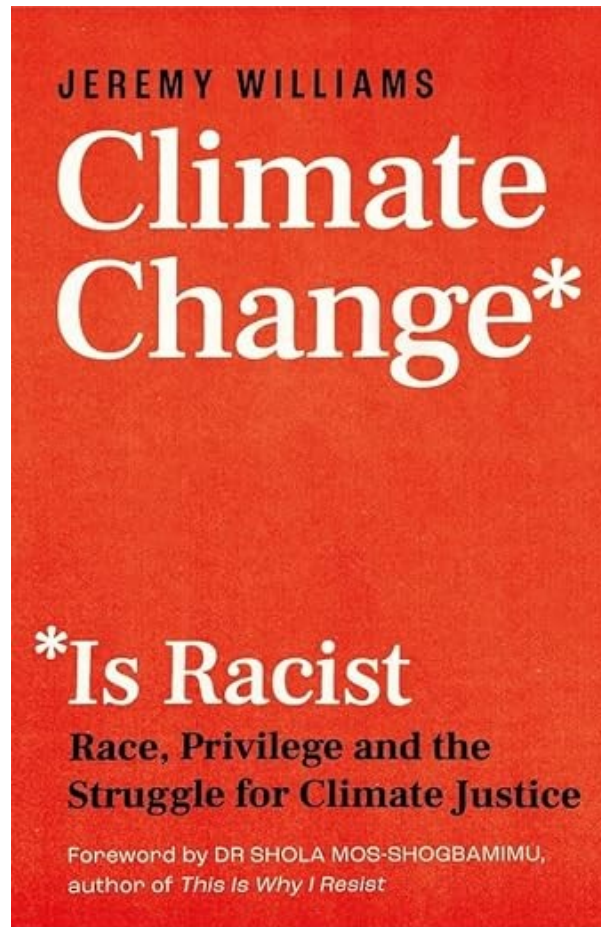
This project was started by a small group following the closing service for Heaton Way Church on October 1st, 2023. It started as a booklet to share memories of the church that had meant so much to them over the years. The purpose of the project grew as it was felt that there were lessons that could be learned by all churches as we fight to keep our churches viable in a changing world.

The Moderator says of it 'It is always sad when a church closes. But what a wonderful testimony this account provides of the faithfulness of individuals in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and in action. Through the witness of the church, lives were touched and transformed. It is important that the story is shared to encourage disciples today and to give God the glory.'

A PowerPoint presentation on lessons learned from the closure of Heaton Way will be shown at synod on Saturday and is also available for download here. We hope the PowerPoint presentation will be useful in local Area Groups, individual churches or in Training Sessions. The seven

members of the Group have expressed their willingness to come and be part of any such training or discussion sessions if invited.

Climate Change and the URC Policy to Become an Anti-Racist Church



At Synod on 15th March, the book 'Climate Change is Racist' was recommended. The author Jeremy Williams was the main speaker at last June's exciting ECO Day held at Vine Church Ilford and attended by 100 people. He showed powerfully the difference between the countries of the North and those of the South, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa. In general those in the North, predominantly white, have caused much of the climate problem, and are suffered by the predominately black South Sub-Saharan countries. He describes this as structural racism - inequality laid down over the years by slavery, colonisation and imperialism. For example, page 15 shows that electricity consumption for a year, by the average person in Britain is 4,496 KWH, while in Madagascar the average person's consumption is 78 KWH. Droughts, famine, fires and floods have always occurred but the heavy production of carbon dioxide in the North

has greatly increased their severity in areas prone to such disasters, mainly in the South.

We encourage Synod members to read the book especially the strong case Jeremy makes for Reparations or Restorative Justice. It was clear at Synod that we as Thames North Synod are committed to both Climate Change issues and Racial Justice Reparations.



Eddie Boon our Synod Discipleship Enabler has shared an update with us which you can access at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d3Y8ZSp4SJFCdBiMdR8Ch8scCnQUpPMd/view?usp=sharing>

URC Childrens and Youth Work



National Literacy Trust
Change your story

Talking about toddlers

Find out more about the National Literacy Trust and how their resources can support you, to support local families.
Tuesday 25 March
7:00 - 8:00pm, online

Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout

The National Literacy Trust produce a variety of physical and online resources which can help parents to become more confident with sharing books and developing communication skills, which have been translated into a variety of home languages. They offer support in the planning and development of new projects as well as existing sessions and one-off events for families.

The National Literacy Trust are keen to partner with faith groups who are working with families, and would like to share how they can help support your work in this one hour session on Zoom, on Tuesday 25th March at 7-8pm. Book your place at www.bit.ly/URCTalkingAbout

You can use following link to explore resources they offer to support families and young people - [Resources for early years, primary and secondary schools](#). | National Literacy Trust S

What's On



Annual Forum

Wednesday 7th May 2025

6pm Buffet

7pm AGM

7.30pm Speaker - Ruth Robb CEO Azalia

“Does Jesus love all in Bedford, who involved in commercial sexual exploitation?”

**At Sandy Methodist Church St Neots Road,
opposite Engayne Avenue,
Sandy SG19 1BP**

**If you are attending the buffet please email
secretaryctbeds@gmail.com**



You are invited to the Annual Forum of Churches Together in Bedfordshire on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at Sandy Methodist Church.

We are very excited to be welcoming Ruth Robb from the Azalia as our keynote speaker. Here is a link to the website [Azalea Luton | Registered](#)

This will also be a chance to meet Dawn Savage who is the Ecumenical Facilitator for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

If you are attending it would be great if you could let me know for catering purposes, or if you have any dietary requirements.

Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs Meetings

Please note that Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs **Monday 24th March will be at 7.30pm only**. Monday 28th April 3pm or 7.30pm The link is the same as ever <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>

Godly Play



Core Training

More than 1500 people have completed an accredited training course with Godly Play UK.

Certificated three-day courses are led by members of the College of Trainers of Godly Play UK. This training enables you to use the Godly Play method and understand its principles. The training follows an action/reflection model of learning, through hands-on experience and reflection, rather than lectures.

Find out more here

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/training/#core-training>

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/events/london/>

To apply please contact Lorraine at cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



Dear Church Community,
Grange Park URC is working to upgrade our church building and are holding fundraising events throughout the year.

Tickets for our upcoming event on the 3rd of May 2025 are available for purchase.

If you are able to support or would like more details of our mission and how to support us, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your involvement is greatly appreciated.

Hilda Darkwah

(my contact details can be obtained via Thames North Synod and the Year book).

Vacancies

PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER

Broxbourne URC



ABOUT US

We are a United Reformed Church in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming church, proud of our heritage, but forward looking and innovative. Everyone is welcome in our church.

As a church family we are offering a rare and flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

THE APPLICANT

We are seeking a motivated and enthusiastic Children's and Youth Worker who can help us nurture and grow the existing work with our young people, working with our children's team volunteers. We will welcome your ideas.

EXPERIENCE

We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting, with the ability to engage young people through creative and age-appropriate teaching methods.

THE POSITION

This position is essential for the spiritual development of children and youth, supporting their faith journeys and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment for all families.

Over time, the role will extend across our pastorate: Broxbourne and Hertford United Reformed Churches and Cheshunt Free Church. We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts.

Location

Broxbourne United Reformed Church, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ

Hours

16 hours a week – negotiable and flexible, including some Sunday mornings and mid-week and evening events.

Contract and salary

Three-year fixed-term, £16 per hour. Responsible to the Minister, working with him, Elders and volunteer members.

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply for an application pack to our Pastorate Administrator, Mrs. Stepanka Moysey at urcnlvg@gmail.com
For informal inquiries, please contact revdmarkr@gmail.com.

The closing date for applications is **noon on Wednesday 23rd April**.
Interviews will be held in the week beginning 28th April.

URC Business Committee Convenor Role

We are seeking immediate nominations and applications for the convenor of the Business Committee, as the current convenor will complete their term in the role at the July 2025 General Assembly.

As the Church Life Review gathers pace, the United Reformed Church is at a watershed moment, with an interesting and exciting journey of change ahead. Given its strategic and operational oversight of the work of General Assembly and Assembly Executive, including at times working under its delegated authority, Business Committee will play a vital part in shaping and equipping the church for a fresh chapter in the life of URC. Being convenor of Business Committee at this seminal time is therefore an opportunity to make a significant contribution.

Please click on the link below for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email samantha.bircham@urc.org.uk for an application form.

Applications and nominations close on 31 March 2025

[Role Description](#)

For all URC Roles see here [_https://urc.org.uk/jobs/_](https://urc.org.uk/jobs/)

Safeguarding Training

Spiritual Abuse Training

Thursday 1st 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



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

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 25th March 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm

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

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event
14 January, 2025 1:30pm	Domestic abuse
23 January 7:00pm	Supporting survivors
4 February 7:00pm	Modern slavery
13 February 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees
4 March 7:00pm	Substance abuse
18 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers
27 March 7:00pm	Adult safeguarding
24 April 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse
13 May 7:00pm	Online safety

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub
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](#)