



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 27 February 2025.

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

### Events

**Talking about...Holiday Clubs** 27 February 7-8pm Online Book [here](#)  
**URC Youth Assembly** 7 - 9 March 2025 Kings Park Conference Centre  
NN3 6LL [Book here](#)

**Holy Communion Presidency Training for Authorised Elders**  
via Zoom, 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Monday 10 March 2025.

Contact: Julian Templeton, Training and Development Officer

Email: [training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Discipleship Matters** Tuesday 25th March and Monday 28th 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](mailto: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](http://www.bit.ly/reform-live)

**Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential** 29 May-1  
June 2025 [www.bit.ly/residential2025](http://www.bit.ly/residential2025)

**IOPT in Focus: Antisemitism** Wednesday 18 June 2025. For the Zoom  
link [commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

## News

# Faith Matters: Windrush Awards – by the community, for the community



Thanking, praising and glorifying God for everything, the Windrush Awards 2025 Ceremony was held in a glittering and glamorous community-owned showcase event open to the Windrush generation and the general public at Venue 360. It was about honouring Windrush Generation and their contributions, in the making of Great Britain.

Pas Trevor Adams reflected on why the Windrush Generation is here. He explained when Britain 'underdeveloped the Caribbean', as highlighted by the Royal Inquiry, there were riots and disturbances in the Caribbean. To build their nation and to take control of their economy, Caribbean leaders wanted 'development funded'. Instead, Britain gave aid and created dependency.

Later, resources were taken back from the Caribbean to fund Britain's war efforts, and after the Second World War, to rebuild Britain, Caribbean people were told Britain was the land of opportunities for a better life, but when they arrived, there was no respect, dignity or honour for them and their families.

It is therefore important that we now celebrate, and honour the Windrush Generation, who despite the setbacks, racism, discrimination, humiliation, and shedding their blood, sweat & tears, demonstrated what Maya Angelou captured it perfectly, "...and still we rise".

Pas Adams concluded that in celebrating the Windrush pioneers, let us acknowledge that "We stand on the shoulders of giants". Echoing these sentiments, the event organiser Bob Baker of Heritage Associates said, if it wasn't for the Windrush pioneers paving the way, we wouldn't be here, and that is why it is a huge privilege to welcome everyone to the Luton & Bedfordshire Windrush Awards 2025 – it is by the community, for the community.

Windrush Awards highlighted the outstanding achievements, milestones and key contributions of individuals and organisations in music, education, health & social care, sports, performing arts, journalism, business, community development, charitable efforts and pastoral care.

Applauding and thanking the Windrush Generation for their efforts, several dignitaries, including the Deputy Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire, and the Deputy Mayor of Luton, all highlighted the importance of being where we are but never forget where we have come from. They said we owe a great deal to the Windrush Generation. Let's stay determined to live out the values of fairness, safety and equality for all.

## Service for Ukraine



On Monday 24th the Moderator had the privilege of attending an Interfaith Prayer Service on the 3rd Anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Poignantly the children's choir from the Ukrainian school sang 'We want peace, we need peace...'. A military chaplain based in Lviv talked about how nearly every day starts with funerals of soldiers with wives, children and parents gathering to grieve. Heartbreaking that 3 years on this madness continues.

## Information Required

Eddie Boon, our Synod Discipleship Enabler, would be pleased to hear from any person or church that has had contact with an Enneagram practitioner in any way. Please let Eddie know via [disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

## What's On

### Opportunities for Partnership



#### **Opportunities for Partnership – online gathering 3 April 2025, 19:00-20:30**

The URC has a long-standing Covenant of Pulpit and Table Fellowship with the Protestant Churches in the Palatinate region of Germany, the 'Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz' and around twenty local URCs are twinned with partner German churches from the region. We also have close links with the Waldensian Church in Italy and the United Protestant Church of France, among others.

Celebrating and nurturing unity is especially important now in the changing political landscapes.

It is hoped that this meeting will:

- Proclaim a narrative of unity and partnership
- Give an opportunity for churches with existing partnerships to share their stories
- Inspire other churches to get involved and develop their own partnerships.

You are very welcome to join this meeting using the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84222451396?pwd=4m5bFx4bBn1TTJcW60rzQij7zyyPQI.1>



## Rejoice and Sing Live



A hymn-filled, songful celebration of the URC's hymn book, Rejoice and Sing, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Join the URC and Reform magazine at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May. As well as lots of hymn singing from 2pm, there will be talks, a panel discussion with those involved with the creation of Rejoice and Sing, an exhibition, the URC Bookshop, talks from David Thompson and Stephen Orchard, contributions from Dominic Grant, Anne Sardeson, Steve Tomkins, David Williams, Roo Stewart and many more. A scratch choir is also being created for the event.

### **What's your favourite hymn?**

Reform magazine wants to know what your favourite hymn is and why. Email [reform@urc.org.uk](mailto:reform@urc.org.uk) with the title of your favourite hymn (and tune if needed), the reason why you like it, along with your name and the name of the church you attend if you're happy to share it. These will be used to help select the hymns for the event and will be featured in Reform magazine too.

**Tickets are free and are available from [www.bit.ly/reform-live](http://www.bit.ly/reform-live). The café at the hall will be open for lunch, which can be pre-ordered.**

# New Beginnings



URC Spirituality is offering a FREE online one-day retreat via Zoom, based over three short sessions during the day – on Saturday 22 March 2025.

We will be thinking about Lent using a variety of approaches.

The sessions are:

10.00am for around 45mins - led by Jane Weedon

12.30pm for around 45mins - led by Kathryn Price

3.30pm for around an hour - led by Ann Barton and concluded by Jane Weedon

There will be takeaways that you may like to do during the day and there will be the opportunity to share with each other in the final session.

Following our sharing of thoughts and experiences, Ann will then lead us in a short meditation based on two verses from the well-known hymn 'Now the green blade riseth', written by John Macleod Campbell Crum. It is sometimes known as 'Love is come again'.

We will then conclude with prayer.

Please book via the URC Spirituality website at:

<https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/events-and-retreats>





**Thames North & Southern Synod Youth Residential**  
Thursday 29 May - Sunday 1 June 2025  
Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire  
Cost: £75 (£30 deposit required at booking)  
Age: 11 (must be in Year 7) to 16 years  
Book by Feb 28th [www.bit.ly/residential2025](http://www.bit.ly/residential2025)



A time of **FUN**, **LAUGHTER**, and **FELLOWSHIP** exploring the theme '**All Are Welcome**', through creative arts, bible stories, discussion and worship. Outdoor activities to include, zip wire, climbing, kayaking, raft building, team games. Come and enjoy, All are Welcome! Final few spaces available.



A date for your diary  
Get ready to join with pilgrims of all denominations  
as we join together on 5<sup>th</sup> July for the

## Bradwell Pilgrimage

*'People of Hope'*

- Commissioning at St Thomas' Church
- Walk to St Peter's Chapel
- Worship on the field
- Refreshments
- Children's activities
- Walk along the seashore
- Salvation Army Band
- Worship group
- Quiet space in the Chapel
- Mini bus to and from village (if required)

We would love to see you there on  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
from 10:30am – 3:15pm

Everyone is welcome to join,  
the event is free of charge  
and no booking is required.

Visit [www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk) for more details

## Information

# How good is your church magazine?





*Photo of ACE Awards Winner 2024 – from left Duncan Matheson (husband) of Editor of Ho+Pott magazine from Cheshire, Kath Matheson, Sally Churchus Chair of ACE.*

The search is on for Britain's best church magazine. Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE), which is an independent, not for profit organisation.

"Judging from the number of brochures and leaflets that land on our doormats and the array of magazines in newsagents, other organisations still value printed material" says Sally Churchus, Chair of the national organisation, "so we are keen to encourage church editors everywhere".

For the coming 2025 competition, which closes on Tuesday 8th April, awards will be made for any size of magazine using just black and white printing. (Coloured paper is allowed). The Gold Award winner will receive the John King Trophy, a silver baptismal shell to be held for one year, while Silver and Bronze Award winners will receive an inscribed trophy to keep, together with a Certificate of Excellence for display.

A panel of judges assesses each magazine, giving points for various aspects including clarity of the Christian message, cover design, headlines, overall layout and structure, use of graphics and appeal to intended readership. The prize-giving will take place at our annual meeting in September, which is open to everyone and includes talks about how to improve your magazine.

<https://churchmag.uk>

## Vacancies



**WELWYN  
GARDEN  
CITY  
UNITED  
REFORMED  
CHURCH**

## **WE ARE RECRUITING**

### **AVAILABLE POSITION**

Mission Developer

18 hours per week

£30,000 pro rata

We are looking for an individual to carry out community projects; if you have a heart for mission and outreach, it is you we're interested in; contact us for a job description and application form at:

**[WGCUNITEDREFORMEDCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:WGCUNITEDREFORMEDCHURCH@OUTLOOK.COM)**

Closing Date: 26/2/2025

Interview Date: 14/3/2025

## **URC Roles**

For all URC Roles see here <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

# Safeguarding Training

## Synod Training Dates 2025

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email [safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto: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



# ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



## Who is this for?

Youth and Children Workers including volunteer leaders  
Adult Workers including volunteer leaders  
church Safeguarding coordinators  
Ministers  
Anyone else with an interest

## What does it cover?

Exploring unconscious bias  
Understanding how grooming occurs  
Supporting those who may pose a risk to children or adults,  
Managing allegations against people in the church,

## Training Dates

March 5th 10.30am-3.00pm  
Church House  
Tavistock Place

### REGISTRATION



[safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk)

### ANY QUERIES?



[carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk](mailto:carrie.kaunda@urc.org.uk)

# UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

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
<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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