



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 28 July 2023.

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

Blessings.

Events

Events Calendar

Newland Church Inaugural Service 30 July 2023 at 3pm
at Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 9JB

Come As You Are on 6 August 2023 at Wanstead URC E11
2HD at 2-4pm.

URC Holiday Forum 19-25 August 2023 at The Hayes and
via Zoom.

**Society for Liturgical Study Day: Marking the Queen's
Death** on Saturday, 9 September 2023; Westminster Abbey

Disability Awareness Sunday, 17 September 2023

Liturgy as Proclamation of the Gospel 28 Sept 2023
11am Llanduff Cathedral

Appreciating the Tough Stuff 30 September 2023
Birmingham and Zoom

Act for Nature events 14 October 2023 at Wolf Fields in
West London and Nettle Hill in Warwickshire.

Festival of Church Music Saturday 14th October 2023
7.00pm

News from around the Synod

St Ninian's Building Closing Service



On Sunday the Moderator preached at St Ninian's URC, Luton for the closing of the building after over 80 years of witness and worship. Memories were shared from the founding of the Church as a Presbyterian church through to the present day. The congregation will be joining with 4 other churches to form Newland Church in Luton and Dunstable.

During his sermon George said "As we meet today we celebrate that this is a place where people have been able to find God, where faith has come alive and grown. We often speak of our churches as being God's buildings, but God has a vision that his building will be people rather something made of bricks and stone. You are God's building. And so as you look to the future, remember that God is not confined or defined by this building, as significant as it may have been to many. We are called to go and be God's building as living stones, in our workplaces, in our schools, in our families and in our leisure activities. We are not called to be rooted in one place, but we are sometimes called to pull up our tent pegs and move on in our pilgrimage."

The Newland Church Inaugural Service is to be held at Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 9JB on Sunday 30th July 2023 at 3pm. All are warmly invited to attend.



Eco Church Connect

An A Rocha UK Project



Dear friends,

During one of our weekly A Rocha UK team prayer times, we reflected on some of the challenging headlines we have been reading recently. Like us, you may be feeling a mixture of anxiety, overwhelm and possibly grief as we witness many countries on fire, in what is likely to be another record-breaking summer across the globe.

As we wrestle with this, and as you spend time in nature this summer, may you find solace, joy and hope once more, appreciating the precious and important spaces around us whilst continuing to act meaningfully to protect nature. Keep courage and faith. And, whether at home or away, we hope you can also take time to rest.

Rev Lucy Foster, Eco Church Officer for Northern England, reminds us how important rest is in her reflection here.

There are now over 6,300 Eco Churches in England and Wales, and more than 2,600 have achieved an award, including 37 gold-awarded churches! Congratulations to Clitheroe United Reformed Church in Lancashire, St Mark's Church, Broomhill and Broomhall in Sheffield, and Mortimer Methodist Church in Reading, who have all achieved their gold awards - Mortimer Methodist Church just yesterday! Also, to the Diocese of London and the URC's Eastern Synod for achieving their bronze Eco denominational awards. We celebrate with renewed vigour your and every action towards a greener future for all.

This Eco Church Connect edition offers useful resources to help you and your church keep up creation-care momentum, as well as some events to come along to in the autumn. These include our next Eco Church online prayer forum and in-person Act for Nature days at Wolf Fields, A Rocha UK's urban nature reserve in West London, and Nettle Hill in Warwickshire.

We wish you every blessing for the rest of the summer and look forward to connecting again in the autumn,
The Eco Church team

Watch this Thames North Newsletter for details of upcoming events.

Act for Nature Events



Act for Nature events at Wolf Fields Nature Reserve on 16 September and Nettle Hill on 14 October 2023.

Our series of Act for Nature days continue into the autumn. Join us for some practical conservation work, to learn about - and do some - campaigning, and to meet other A Rocha UK supporters, staff and trustees.

So far this year, supporters and the team have enjoyed fun and inspiring Act for Nature days at Scargill House in North Yorkshire, Emmanuel Church in Bungay and Highgrove Church near Bristol. So, if you live within reach of our upcoming ones, why not join us, and bring a friend or two?

Register for free for our events at [Wolf Fields in West London](#) and [Nettle Hill in Warwickshire](#).

Coming Up

Newland Church Inauguration Service

The Thames North Synod Moderator, Revd George Watt, sent this message for the inaugural service of Newland Church in Luton and Dunstable on Sunday 30 July 2023:

Dear friends,

I am really sorry not to be able to be with you for the inauguration service of Newland Church in Luton and Dunstable. It has been a privilege to have been on part of the journey with you so far, having preached at the closing services for the Edward Street, Bury Park and St Ninian's buildings. I am disappointed not to be with you for the start of your new life together. I will be with you in spirit if not in body.

You have been very bold taking this step of faith as you have responded to God's leading. I believe that God will be travelling with you as you begin your new future.

With all good wishes and prayers from myself and Thames North Synod.

The Newland Church Inaugural Service is to be held at Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 9JB on Sunday 30th July at 3pm. All are warmly invited to attend.

Come As You Are
You're more than welcome here



OPEN TABLE

Wanstead United Reformed Church,
East London, is planning to host a
Christian worship community that
genuinely welcomes and affirms
Lesbian, Gay, Bi, & Trans (LGBT+)
people, as part of the **Open Table**
Network *



We'd love you to join us for a meeting to reflect together on the kind of
experience we want to create, so everyone feels welcome, included,
affirmed, and empowered in this community.

Open Table Network Coordinator Kieran Bohan, and Revd Dr Tessa
Henry-Robinson, Minister at Wanstead United Reformed Church, will
guide the conversation.

Sunday 6th August 2023

2-4pm @ Wanstead United Reformed Church

Nightingale Lane, London E11 2HD

For more info, email Grace: graceandlen@aol.com.

* Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1193868 registered in England & Wales: www.opentable.lgbt

Study Day: Marking the Queen's Death



Society for Liturgical Study
Study Day: Marking the Queen's Death
Saturday, 9 September 2023; Westminster Abbey

The Society for Liturgical Study are delighted to host a one-day Study Day on Saturday, 9 September 2023 (9.30am–3pm, followed by Evensong). One year after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, this special Study Day offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the liturgies used to mark this momentous occasion.

The Study Day will include a visit to Westminster Abbey, allowing participants to visit one of the central “sites” in the Queen’s staged funeral rite, and there will be an opportunity to hear first-hand reflections from Abbey clergy involved with the funeral service.

A selection of short research papers hopes to encourage discussion on:

- o the role of funerary liturgies in the public and private, national, local and international mourning of the late Queen;
- o the design of such liturgies; as well as the considerations, practical and theological, which guided their construction;
- o the challenges and opportunities posed for parochial practice by such public liturgies.

Up-to-date information about the Study Day, including a draft programme, can be found on our website (<https://www.studyliturgy.org.uk/study-days>).

For any queries, please email:
secretary@studyliturgy.org.uk.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/wEHwrwuyBqAmpkJ6A>

Registration fee: £30 (£15 for unwaged participants), including entry to Westminster Abbey and sandwich lunch. Registration closes Friday, 14 August 2023.

Festival of Church Music



The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban

Saturday 14th October 2023 7.00pm

Choirs from across the country

The Officiating Minister
Revd Dr Mary Cotes

Festival Conductor - Peter J Williams
Organist - Rufus Frowde

Visit the website <http://www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk>
ADMISSION FREE

Part Time Church Cleaner Role

The United Reformed Church Thames North Synod Part Time Church Cleaner Role

- Previous Applicants Need not Apply.
- £9321 per annum (15 hours per week)

The Lumen Community is a contemporary Christian community space provided by the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church in the heart of London.

We offer you the opportunity to support the development of an exciting service to residents, guests, and various ministries of the Synod.

Usual working hours: (for guidance only)

- 15 hours according to service needs
- Monday to Friday daily 0600-0830
- Saturday or Sunday 3 hours

Your role will ensure that the Lumen building is maintained to the highest standard, and will help provide our guests with a safe, comfortable, and pleasant experience while using our facilities. You will also be responsible for maintaining all records in accordance with Synod policies, procedures, and guidelines.

The main duties of the role are:

- Opening and locking the building daily, with some occasional weekend cover
 - Cleaning
- Event preparation

The above list of duties is not exhaustive and may change according to service needs. Proven experience as a cleaner within a similar environment would be a strong advantage.

Closing Date 1200 Midday 03 August 2023

To apply for an application pack and Job Description please contact Colleen Fraser at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

American International Church Vacancy

Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator

Pay: £32,000-£35,000 dependent on experience

Overview

We are seeking a Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator with passion and experience in community engagement, volunteer and program management to lead our community service programs, share our message of welcome and inclusion, and support new and existing relationships and partnerships.

The American International Church is a community of many races, languages, cultures, faith traditions, nationalities, ages, genders, abilities, financial circumstances, and sexual identities, and we seek candidates for this position who reflect that diversity.

Candidates must have the right to work in the UK and will be required to complete enhanced DBS screening.

For a Job Description please contact info@amchurch.co.uk

How to Apply

Please submit resume/CV and cover letter by 4 August 2023 to info@amchurch.co.uk. First round interviews will be held via Zoom in mid-August, second round at the church in late August or early September.

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part 1; Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Christian.

National Safeguarding Training 2023



Refugee and Asylum Seekers
May 30th 7pm-9pm

Substance Abuse and the impact on
Safeguarding
June 26th 7pm-8.30pm

Suicide Awareness
September 11th 2pm-3.30pm

Domestic Abuse
September 19th 1.30pm-3.30pm

Modern Day Slavery
September 25 7pm-9pm

Safeguarding for Ministers Supporting Survivors
October 9th 2pm – 4pm

Adult Safeguarding
November 21st 7pm – 9pm

**All training will take place via zoom.
Bookings can be made by emailing
Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk**

Thames North Safeguarding Training 2023

Below are the dates for safeguarding training this year. Please do share more broadly amongst your teams and networks and get back in touch with me to book on to the training date you prefer.

Foundation Safeguarding Training (Approx 2 hours)

19th September 10am - 12pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)
Parking available at Maidstone East station

2nd October 6.30pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

7th November 6pm - 8pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 10am - 12pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

E-Learning

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

The link is here:

Standard Course for a Laptop or Desktop Computer

[Safeguarding Foundation E-Course](#) (canva.com)

Standard Course for a phone or laptop [Safeguarding](#)

[Foundation E-Course](#) for phone and tablet (canva.com)

Narrated version of the course with a voice over each slide

[Safeguarding Foundation E-Course narrated version](#)

(canva.com)

Intermediate Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).

6th September 6pm- 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

12th September 10am- 12.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

19th September 1pm – 3.30pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone
ME14 1QU)

9th November 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.

5th October 6.30pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

To book on to this training, please email your **name, church role, church and preferred date** to safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING FOR ELDERS AS TRUSTEES 2023

Webinar

Please join one of the dates below to gain vital information on your specific safeguarding role in the URC. This session is for all Serving Elders with Trustee Responsibility in their church.

From the webinar you will

- Gain an understanding of URC policies and how they underpin your role in relation to Safeguarding.
- Understand your role as a trustee for the church and how this links to safeguarding.
- Understand the 5 safeguarding actions outlined by the government for churches as charities.

PLEASE NOTE THIS TRAINING IS IN ADDITION TO THE FOUNDATION AND INTERMEDIATE TRAINING AND COVERS SEPARATE INFORMATION

March 14th 2023 7pm-9pm



October 20th 2023 2pm-4pm

**TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT
CARRIE.KAUNDA@URC.ORG.UK**

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