



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 29 May 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

Open Prayer Meeting on Wednesday 4th June 11am to 12noon at Lumen

Synod Eco Day on Saturday, 7 June 9:00am – 4:00pm Location: St Albans Greenwood AL2 3HG. Please check the news each week for more on what's on. Book online [here](#).

Love your Burial Ground Week, National Cemeteries Week & Churches Count on Nature Saturday 7th - Sunday 15th June 2025. [Find out more here.](#)

Holy Communion Presidency Training 9 June 2025 7:30-9:30pm via Zoom Contact Julian Templeton training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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

Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary Service at Westminster Abbey 12 June 2025 at 12pm

LCRF Speaker Event Bishop Rose Hudson Wilkin on Thursday 19 June 2025 at 6:30pm At St Pancras Church, Euston Road, NW1 2BA

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

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=oddtcreator>

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

News



On Sunday Wanstead URC celebrated their 160th anniversary. The service was led by their Minister Revd Dr Tessa Robinson with the Moderator, Revd George Watt preaching. The Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Beverley Brewer attended the service along with many members and friends past and present.

The church began meeting in the Weavers' Almshouses. On Pentecost 1865 the church was formally constituted. They purchased the building of

St Luke's Church of England in Euston Road which although only 2 years old was going to be demolished to make way for St Pancras Station. It was moved and rebuilt stone by stone in Wanstead under the oversight of the original architect. Perhaps a unique instance of a church being moved in this way. An amazing example of recycling, faith and hope.

Important Reminder: Pray with the Synod on Mission



It has been said many times that it is not that the church has a mission but rather that the mission of God has a church and we are part of that as we seek use God given resources for mission in our area. You may be aware that we are seeking to progress our vision in Thames North Synod for creating new Christian communities and raising up and resourcing local workers to lead in this work. We have shared at previous Synod meetings about the offer of one of the new SCM pioneer ministers. We are at this stage seeking to look, listen and pray as we discern the way forward in a number of potential places and contexts. You can read more about this in a paper recently sent out by George and Eddie which you can access

at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1II57N4ICgqa7E4bRfejOtsKW19rnHKbk/view?usp=sharing>

We would really like to mobilise the support, prayer, and feedback from all our people, churches, and groups around the synod so please get informed in this way. We are planning an open prayer meeting on Wednesday 4th June 11am to 12noon at Lumen and Refreshments will be provided. It will also be possible for you to join us online for this using

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84357083314?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84357083314?pwd=yYi8hmWVMQf3hv12aCAbpvPPINSNs.1)

[pwd=yYi8hmWVMQf3hv12aCAbpvPPINSNs.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84357083314?pwd=yYi8hmWVMQf3hv12aCAbpvPPINSNs.1)

Meeting ID: 843

5708 3314 Passcode: 133709

We would love this to be a really good number of people to pray so please make every effort to join us!

You can also make comments or suggestions using this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXoWXq0f0aICkgJk0gFUb3XMdE66pVVcFh3WuWeyVUiYG8Cg/viewform?usp=sharing> or by contacting us direct.

Synod Eco Day 7 June 2025



Please pick up your free preserves and jam on the day - all that's needed is a donation!

St Albans URC has an abiding concern for the Palestinian people. For many years one of the members has made delicious preserves (Jam and Chutney), mostly from fruit and vegetables he grows, and offers them to people in exchange for donations to Medical Aid Palestine. He will have some of his products available for those who attend the Synod Eco Day on 7th June. It's worth turning up just for a chance to grab a jar of his Whisky Marmalade! [Book now.](#)

Programme

Lunch will be provided so please book and let us know if you will be joining us.

There will be a wide range of workshops for those on, or considering starting, the Eco Church Journey.

If you have any particular topics you would like information on, please let us know. If you would like to share the story of your Eco Church journey, either as a workshop or a display, we would be delighted to hear from you.

10.30 am – Registration and coffee

11.00 am – Opening worship – Outdoors – led by St Albans URC worship team

11.30 am – Key Speaker - David Britton Campaign Officer Operation Noah – (Including Q&A Session)

Francis Ackroyd will be speaking on the book *Climate Change Is Racist: Race, Privilege and the Struggle for Climate Justice*

12.30pm – Lunch - please let us know when you book whether you will be joining us for lunch

1.30pm – Gather for Singing

1.40 pm – Workshop 1pm

2.20pm – Comfort break

2.30 pm – Workshop 2

3.10pm – Closing worship – Revd. George Watt and St Albans Worship Team

3.30pm – Tea

- Operation Noah - Church Land TBC
- Sustainable flower arranging – St Albans Abbey Flower Guild
- Buildings – support available from Thames North Synod
- Responses to the Climate Crisis Situation in Bangladesh
- Green Psalm writing
- Sustainable planting -
- Eco church – exploring the new survey
- Effective campaigning for the climate by churches and individuals

All age activities - Ongoing throughout the day to include:

- Range of activities from The Wildlife Trust

- Carbon counting game
- Outdoor meditation stations
- Games in the meadow – quoits, Giant Jenga, boule etc.

Photo by [Yulia Khlebnikova](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Jazz Vespers Update

**Duke Ellington's
Second Sacred Concert**

Wednesday 25th June
19:00

**URC Festival Choir
and big band**

Free and Open to All

Register now
for a free
ticket

The United Reformed Church

American International Church

JAZZ VESPERS
Music. Reflection. Improvisation.

Singers Wanted!

Open to all ability levels

Rehearsals: Wednesday 11 June 19.00-21.00

Wednesday 18 June 19.00-21.00

Saturday 14 June 11.15-13.30

Contact music@amchurch.co.uk for more information

What's On

ECO TALKS with CREAM TEAS

at Amersham Free Church

on Saturday June 21st, 4.00 - 6.30pm



Talks in the Hall



These guests will talk for 15 minutes each, with a further time for questions after each one:

4.15pm - Welcome Wildlife in the Garden

John Catton, member of Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trusts

5.00pm - Ethical Investing

Darrell Hannah, from Operation Noah,
a Christian charity which campaigns on climate change

5.45pm - Repair Cafe Stories

John Latchford, from the Amersham Repair Cafe

Also in the Hall will be displays on cleaning materials,
and on recycling. Inside and out there will be fun and
games for children and families

**Cream Teas will be served in the Hall
between and after the talks**



www.amershamfreechurch.org.uk





In a fortnight, we will be welcoming Great Big Green Week 2025, when a million people – just like you and me – will come together to be part of a wave of actions for friends and family, climate and nature.

The theme this year is 'let's swap together for good'. We can all make small swaps, large swaps and swaps that change the system, to make our communities better.

By coming together, we'll also send a message loud and clear to our politicians and decision makers that we need to swap old ways for better ways now.

In this spirit, Faith for the Climate is collaborating with Quakers in Britain for a two-part series of webinars on how we can swap false climate solutions for real climate justice.

[Register for Part 1 \(Thursday, 5 June\): Spotting false solutions](https://faithfortheclimate.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1af7e90f404c19c9e6708fb7&id=ef847a646f&e=4e999e0f89 "Register for Part 1 (Thursday, 5 June): Spotting false solutions")

[Register for Part 2 \(Friday, 6 June\): Swapping false solutions for real climate justice](https://faithfortheclimate.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1af7e90f404c19c9e6708fb7&id=ef847a646f&e=4e999e0f89 "Register for Part 2 (Friday, 6 June): Swapping false solutions for real climate justice")

-manage.com/track/click?
u=f1af7e90f404c19c9e6708fb7&id
=0e76df0dce&e=4e999e0f89"
title="Register for Part 2 (Wednesday, 11
June): Identifying real solutions"
target="_blank"><span
style="color:black;font-
family:"Arial";sans-serif;font-
size:12.0pt;">Register for Part
2 (Wednesday, 11 June): Identifying real
solutions

Join us for the most
impactful climate
and nature lobby in
history to demand
that this government
ACT NOW

**FOR PEOPLE
CLIMATE AND
NATURE**

**ACT
NOW
CHANGE
FOREVER**

WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 2025

Westminster, London

We've already asked you to save the date for the Mass Lobby of Parliament on **Wednesday 9 July**.

But what exactly is a mass lobby? A mass lobby is when lots of people meet with their MPs on the same day to have powerful conversations on issues they care about.

So what is this mass lobby about? On Wednesday 9 July, 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. We want people of faith to contribute to this important intervention. Here are some ways you can get involved:

Register to attend - The Climate Coalition needs to know you're coming so that they can keep you up to date with everything you'll need to know. Register [here](#).

Invite others - Friends, family, colleagues, let's show MPs that protecting people, climate and nature is a top priority. Invite them even if you're unable to attend yourself - never underestimate the power of inspiring others by word of mouth.

Email your MP - We'll be sharing more information on how to invite and meet your MP. Watch out for further updates from us.





The
United
Reformed
Church Youth



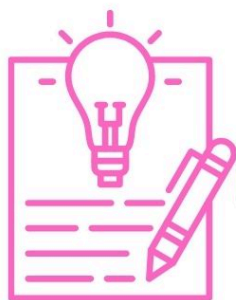
THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD

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



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

Creative Week is coming! Running from Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th August 2025 at Lumen, London (WC1H 9RS), this exciting event is designed for young people aged 11–16 who are in secondary school.

Participants can choose from a variety of creative streams—drama, music, creative writing, movement and dance, or stage craft—and spend the week developing their talents in a fun and supportive environment. The week concludes with a special showcase performance on Saturday 9th August at 4 PM, open to all. Don't miss out—register online now at www.bit.ly/cw-registration

Vacancies

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

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

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



[Unsubscribe here](#)