



## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 3 April 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

**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

**Induction of Revd Dr Tessa Heny-Robinson** on Palm Sunday (13 April) at 6.30pm at the American International Church. Book [here](#)

**IOPT in Focus: Exploring Apartheid & the Occupation** Wednesday 30 April 2025. For the Zoom link [commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

**Spiritual Abuse Training** on Thursday 1 May 2025 contact [emma.pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:emma.pearce@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)

**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](http://www.bit.ly/residential2025)

**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.

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

**Bradwell Pilgrimage** Saturday 5 July 2025 10am-3:15pm [www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk](http://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](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**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>

## News



Last Sunday the Moderator led worship at Romford URC for Mothering Sunday. It was a joint service with Chadwell Heath, Nelmes and Upminster URC's. The theme was Outrageous Love based on the parable of the Lost Son.



## CTE Forum 2025 - Session 7 - Racial Justice and Reparations

### Racial Justice and Reparations

**REV DR TESSA HENRY-ROBINSON**  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH &  
MODERATOR-ELECT OF THE FREE  
CHURCHES GROUP



A powerful presentation on Racial Justice and Reparations by Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, former Moderator and Thames North Synod Minister.

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



Photos are needed for the URC 2026 Calendar - Seeds of hope. Based on "I am the vine, you are the branches", the 2026 URC Calendar will feature images of people and plants connected to the URC. For all you need to know, including submission guidelines, see [bit.ly/URC2026calendarsubs](https://bit.ly/URC2026calendarsubs).

## Information

### Green Team Message

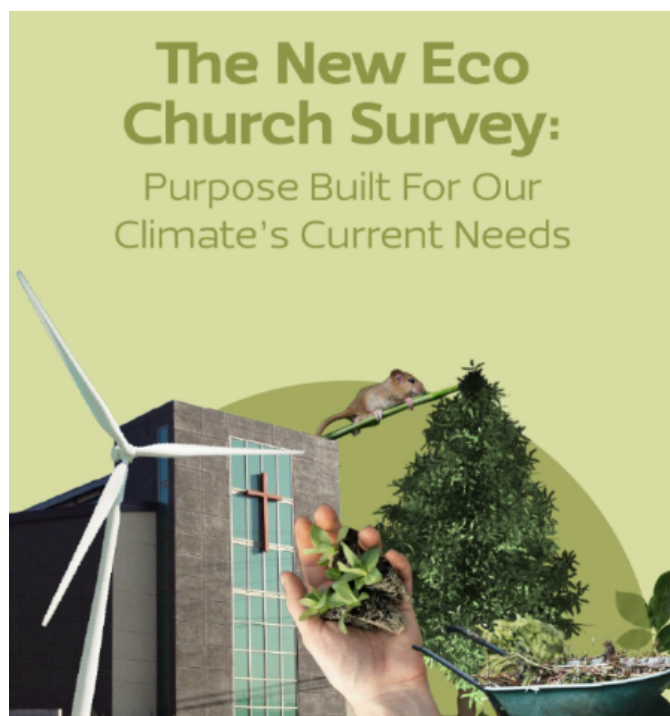


'Operation Noah' is a Christian charity working with the Church to inspire action on climate change. At present they are campaigning for churches to encourage more sustainable land use, particularly on church owned land. Here is a link to their recent webinar 'Growing Hope'.

## Growing hope: Church action for sustainable land use

It has some very useful information on how to make better use of any land that belongs to your church, however big or small. If you would like to learn more about the work of Operation Noah come along to the Synod Eco Day on 7th June at St Albans URC. The key speaker is David Britton who is the Campaign Officer at Operation Noah. There will also be practical activities and workshops on a variety of environmental themes.

## **New Eco Church survey**



A Rocha UK has launched a new version of its Eco Church Survey, a framework for action to help us respond faithfully to the climate and nature crises. The Eco Church survey is a self-assessment tool for churches to connect environmental issues with their Christian faith and mission and respond with practically. Take the [Eco Church Survey](#).

**Download or Print URC News Update**



A downloadable version of News Update, formatted for print, and for churches to copy and paste into newsletters, service sheets or magazines, will be available within a few days of this edition. [Download your printable version of News Update.](#)

## London Churches Refugee Fund

Charity number  
1121108

LCRF awards grants of up to £1,000 every Spring and Autumn to multiple refugee projects across London for the relief of destitution such as by the purchase of phone credit, travel cards, hygiene items, nappies, and food, and for emergency payments, to give to the thousands of destitute asylum-seekers in London who come to them for help. LCRF grants cannot be used for course fees, rent, or ongoing costs. LCRF does not make grants directly to individuals.

**For Spring 2025 applications,** the maximum grant an organisation can apply for is £1,000. As before, applications may be scaled back if

resources are insufficient. The Fund's Objects require us to support only work with destitute refugees and asylum-seekers in the London area.

**Round 38 (Spring 2025) Our Spring round is now open.** You may also sign up for our email list to receive information including when the grants round is open. **The application closing date is Monday 5 May to be sent to [grants@lcrf.org.uk](mailto:grants@lcrf.org.uk). Please DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEES.**

Please download and read the Guidance Notes and Terms & Conditions carefully before completing your downloaded application form.

The forms can be accessed via the link below, and you must use our latest form to apply. Please note that we require Safeguarding Policies to be submitted for review at least every TWO years. If the last time you sent us your policy was before the Spring 2022 application round, you must send an updated one this time. If you have updated your safeguarding policy in the last two years, please send us the latest one.

Applications should be emailed to [grants@lcrf.org.uk](mailto:grants@lcrf.org.uk), as shown on the form.

<https://www.lcrf.org.uk/grants>

## What's On

**SAVE THE DATE!**

# **JAZZ VESPERS**

URC Festival Choir to sing

**Duke Ellington's  
Second Sacred Concert**

*accompanied by a big band*

**25 June 2025, 19:00**

American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London



**Calling all singers!**

*All ages and abilities welcome.*

**Rehearsals Wednesdays**

**11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June, 19:00-21:00**

For details or questions contact

[music@amchurch.co.uk](mailto:music@amchurch.co.uk)



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church



American  
International  
Church

[Free Tickets here:](#)



Sponsored by Thames North Synod Discipleship Committee

For details or questions [see here](#).





# BREWING *for good*



A Beans On Board Benefit Evening

**15.5.25**

Location: Bedford Swan Hotel  
The Embankment, Bedford, MK40 1RW.

An evening of connecting for a good cause!

RSVP to Pippa Owens: [pippa.owens@azalea.org.uk](mailto:pippa.owens@azalea.org.uk)

**Tickets: £45**

Formal attire. Arrival: 7 PM.  
Ticket price includes dinner.



Hey there,

We all know the power of a simple cup of coffee—it brings people together, sparks conversations, and offers a moment of comfort. At Azalea, we believe it can do even more.

If you're not familiar with Azalea, we are a charity dedicated to supporting survivors of sex trafficking, empowering individuals, and fostering sustainable change. Our work is rooted in the belief that every person matters, and we're committed to equipping others to join us in making a real difference.

One of the biggest challenges survivors face is finding and keeping work. That's why we have a plan—a mobile coffee van. Run by survivors and Azalea staff together, this van will provide vital training and work experience, helping survivors gain independence and build a fresh start.

We'd love for your church to be part of this journey. Your support in funding the purchase and conversion of the van will help turn this vision into a reality.

We'd also love to invite you to a fundraising dinner, where we'll share more about this exciting project:



**Date:** 15th May 2025



**Venue:** The Swan Hotel, Bedford



**Time:** 19:00

 **Includes:** Dinner

 **Ticket:** £45

You can find the invitation in my email banner above—please feel free to share it with anyone who might be interested!

Additionally, we'd love to explore ways we can support and partner with your church, whether that's through awareness-raising, training, or serving alongside you. Could you let us know the best person to liaise with regarding this initiative?

If you have any questions or just want to chat, feel free to reach out—we'd love to hear from you!

 Rebecca: [rebecca@azalea.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@azalea.org.uk)

 Pippa: [pippa.owens@azalea.org.uk](mailto:pippa.owens@azalea.org.uk)

Hope to see you there!


## Induction of Tessa Henry-Robinson as Free Churches' Group Moderator



On Palm Sunday (13 April) at 6.30pm, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson will be inducted as Moderator of the Free Churches' Group at the

American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London.

Tickets are free (but required because of the venue), and can be reserved here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1277875783869?aff=oddtcreator>



# Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
Thames North Synod

## 2025-2026 Course

Thames North Synod is recruiting people who want to learn more about the Bible, theology, worship leading and preaching, beginning in September 2025 for 15 to 18 months.

Aspiring to More is a free part-time course delivered via Zoom on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, with 5 in-person Saturday Study Days. It can be done either for interest or to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader.

## Taster Sessions

**Saturday 12 July 2025**

**10:30 to 15:30**

The Lumen Community  
88 Tavistock Place  
London WC1H 9RS

**Tuesday 2 September 2025**

**19:30 to 21:30**

via Zoom

To express interest, contact:  
Julian Templeton  
Training and Development Officer  
[training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

Or write to: 102 St Georges Road  
London E10 5RQ



The Life and Mission Choir



joyfully presents

# TIME FOR JESUS

The Musical

Music and Lyrics

PAUL WARDROP-DAY

Script

JOHN COX

25th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATIONS

**Saturday 12th April 2025 7PM**

St James' Church, East Barnet Road, EN4 8RN

**Sunday 13th April 2025 7PM**

St Mary's Church, Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT

**ADMISSION FREE**

[lifeandmissionchoir.com](http://lifeandmissionchoir.com)

**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](mailto:urcnlvg@gmail.com)  
For informal inquiries, please contact [revdmarkr@gmail.com](mailto:revdmarkr@gmail.com).

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

## Safeguarding Training

# Spiritual Abuse Training

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)**



[www.urc.org.uk](http://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](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 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](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)



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](#)