

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 3 July 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

Chill Out with Pride on Saturday 5 July 2025 from 6pm at Wanstead URC E11 2HD

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

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions - Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training on 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=oddtdtcreator Youth Mental Health First Aid 22 sept - 1 October www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa

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

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) 24-26 November 2025 at the Hayes Centre training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

News

Church Open for Prayer - Friday 27 & Saturday 28 June 2025









Lancaster Road URC Church Open for Prayer - Friday 27th & Saturday 28th June 2025

The event was supported in prayer by our ecumenical partners and local church leaders some of whom visited over the weekend. We had over 150 people visit from across Enfield. The feedback given by several visitors was very positive and many found it a very moving experience.

Prayer ministry was offered to several people who came in because they were passing, and not because they attended a church, which was a blessing to us and them. Several people who attend various activities associated with the church, also visited during the weekend.

There were thirteen prayer stations around the church, each with a particular theme and focus using a variety of resources including activities, like bubble prayers for all ages. There was a selection of prayer material available free of charge. Refreshments were available through out the two days provided by members of the North Enfield Pastorate.

The resources were supplied and organised by Claire Harris with the help of Rev Ruth & Stuart Dewis. The weekend ended with the North Enfield Pastorate joining together for morning worship being led by Claire Harris with many of the prayer stations open.

Above are some photos of the prayer stations.

Amersham Free Church's successful and enjoyable Eco-Talks and Cream Teas









Amersham Free Church had a successful and enjoyable Eco-Talks and Cream Teas day on June 21st, and here are some photos!

Lower right: their speaker telling them how they can welcome wildlife in their gardens. In the background, kitchen volunteers are getting ready to serve cream teas!

Top left: three speakers, whose subjects included ethical investment and the Repair Cafe as well as garden wildlife, together with their minister and members of their group. The bottom left picture is of their nature table in the vestibule - a regular feature but refurbished for the occasion. The third picture is of the church garden, with one of the gardeners.



Amersham are also proud to have been given a certificate of Recognition by Amersham in Bloom, who work hard to make the town environmentally sustainable as well as beautiful.

A note from the Green Apostles



An Idea for the Season of Creation

Does your church have a garden? Could you create a garden? You may

recall Bible Society having a Psalm 23 garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. It has since inspired some churches to create their own Psalm 23 gardens. Bible Society offer free online resources to help anyone interested in giving it a go. One church featured in their latest magazine is benefiting from closer links with their local community, as several groups make use of their Psalm 23 garden. Their garden has also become a place where individuals relax and worship as they enjoy a beautiful and peaceful space. If you'd like to have a go at creating a garden here is the link to Bible Society resources.

The link to Season of Creation is here https://seasonofcreation.org

Information

Ministry and Mission Fund

All church treasurers have been asked to complete a proforma, giving some information regarding their church's income in 2024, with the request that these should be returned by 31 May 2025. We are still waiting to receive a substantial number of these forms and would request that these are returned to mmfund@urcthamesnorth.org.uk by the 14 July 2025 so the calculations for next year's contribution can be finalised. Could you please check with your church treasurer to make sure your church is not one of the ones we are still waiting to hear from.

National Churches Trust survey: a reminder



The National Churches Trust survey of places of churches has been extended to close on Sunday 13 July. <u>The survey is here</u> – it takes about 30 minutes to complete.

The purpose of the survey is to demonstrate to Government and policymakers the important role that churches play in their communities. It is particularly timely, given the current pressure on public spending and, in particular, the recent cuts to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The more individual churches that complete it, the more robust and valuable the overall data will be.

What's On

Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training





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 with a mentored Learning by Doing module.

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 book your place, including lunch on 12 July, contact: Julian Templeton Training and Development Officer training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Or write to: 102 St Georges Road

London E10 5RQ



This is an exciting opportunity for the United Reformed Church to come together and talk about growth! We will work through the Leading your Church into Growth material, encouraging, sharing and praying as we go.

Each Synod has been allocated 10 places at this conference in Swanwick, Derbyshire. 3 places from Thames North Synod have been taken so far, leaving 7 yet to be filled. The Synod will pay the conference fee; participants pay the £10 deposit plus cost of travel.

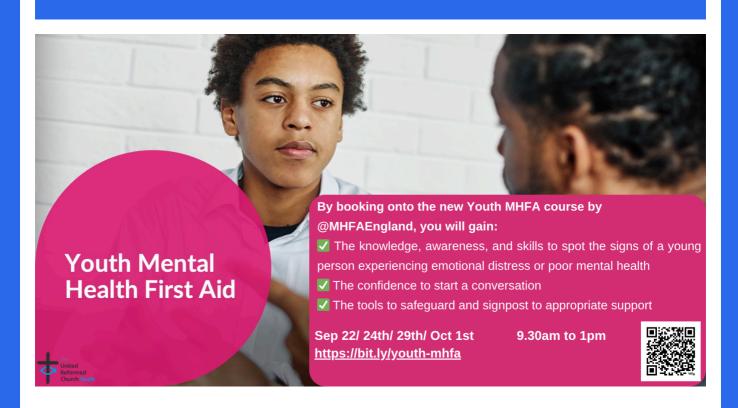
To express your interest in attending this conference with the support of your church, please email:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

"God is our Sanctuary" Book

The Reverend David Atkinson has recently published a second book of sermons called "God is our Sanctuary". It contains 34 sermons covering a wide variety of subjects and Biblical passages. The subjects include prayer, suffering and doubt. The book costs £10 and all proceeds from the sale will go to St John's Hospice, Lancaster.

Copies can be purchased from: David Atkinson, 13 Ashford Close, Lancaster, LA1 4QH. Tel: 01524 572702. email: davidatkinson437@gmail.com

David says: "I spent about 18 years of my ministry in the Thames North Synod retiring in 2013. So there may be people who know me and are interested in buying a book."



We wanted to share an opportunity to participate in upcoming Youth Mental Health First Aid online course taking place this September.

September Online Morning Course – Sessions run 09:30-13:00

Session 1 - Monday 22nd September

Session 2 - Wednesday 24th September

Session 3 – Monday 29th September

Session 4 – Wednesday 1st October

(Participants must attend all 4 sessions in full.)

Register at www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa

MHFA England has recently launched a brand-new, updated Youth MHFA Course, designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to:

- Recognize the signs of emotional distress or poor mental health in young people.
- Gain confidence in starting supportive conversations.
- Understand how to safeguard and signpost to appropriate support.

This is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your awareness and skills—and for URC participants, spaces are offered at a Subsidised rate of £35 (usual cost £325 per person)!

The course is aimed at anyone who engages with young people aged 8-18, and the skills learnt are transferable to other age groups. This fully updated course is also suitable for those who have previously completed the Youth MHFA course and are looking to refresh their knowledge.

Please share this opportunity with others linked to your local church community. Don't miss out—secure your place today!

Register now: www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa



FOLLOW QR TO REGISTER

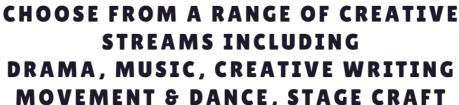


THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD

GREATIVE MEEK

TUES 5TH – SAT 9TH AUGUST 2025 LUMEN, LONDON – WC1H 9RS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL (AGE 11-16)





REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BIT.LY/CW-REGISTRATION DEADLINE 6TH JULY



COME AND WATCH OUR SHOWCASE

PERFORMANCE ON

SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST AT 4PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

Register online at www.bit.ly/cw-registration **NB Deadline** is 6 July 2025



CHILL OUT WITH PRIDE

Saturday 5th July from 6.00 pm

Catch up with Pride London food, music and more...



Wanstead United Reformed Church E11 2HD
You are more than welcome here

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 flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

THE APPLICANT

We seek 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. A committed Christian with a passion and ability to share the gospel with children and young people. This post may suit someone seeking flexible, part-time hours, wishing to develop their skills or changing career.

EXPERIENCE

We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting. The age group is currently 9-15.

Location

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

THE POSITION

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

The postholder will focus on carrying out their role at Broxbourne URC, while gradually developing a model that the other two churches in our pastorate could adapt in their future work with children and youth.

We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts.

Hours

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

Contract and salary

Three-year fixed term. £16 per hour. 20 days paid leave and 8 days paid statutory holidays per year pro rata. Workplace pension scheme offered. Responsible to the Minister and supported by him 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 our Minister, the Revd. Mark Robinson revdmarkr@gmail.com.

Visit our website: www.nlvg.org.uk

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 18 August**.

Interviews will be held after Monday 25 August.



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

Saturday 2nd August 2025 - 10.30am - 1.00pm

Advanced Safeguarding Training

Part 1 - Tuesday 16th September 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm Part 2 - Tuesday 23rd September 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm

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