



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 30 June 2023.

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

Blessings.

Events

Events Calendar

General Assembly 30 June - 3 July 2023

Bradwell Pilgrimage 1 July 2023 10:30am Bradwell St
Thomas' CM0 7OJ

Enabling Resilience (making safe spaces) 6 July 2023
19:15pm Zoom

Synod Green Day 8 July 2023 10:30am Cores End URC

Leading Funerals and Memorial Services 20 July 2023
8pm Zoom and 22 July 2023 2pm Lumen

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

Appreciating the Tough Stuff 30 September 2023
Birmingham and Zoom

General Assembly 30 June - 3 July 2023

Live streaming: The business sessions of General Assembly, as well as the Sunday morning worship at 11:30am, will be live streamed on the URC website, YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Please note Sunday morning worship will be live streamed at 11:30am.

Here is the link to the YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@URCUK>

Leading Funeral and Memorial Services

Either: **via Zoom, Thursday 20 July, 8:00–9:30pm**

Or: **In person, Saturday 22 July, 2:00–4:00pm**
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RS



Led by Julian Templeton
Training & Development
Officer

To book your place at this
free event, indicating your
preference for one or other
date, email:
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



This event is for Elders and Lay Leaders asked to lead Funeral or Memorial Services who have had little or no experience in doing so. It is also offered to those with some experience who want a refresher.

- This will be a practical session about planning and leading a service that balances the requests of a bereaved family with the Church's tradition and one's local context
- We'll look at Funeral, Committal, and Memorial liturgies and discuss the different functions of each
- We'll also consider recent cultural shifts in marking death rites, including the expectation that some events ought to be celebratory

Synod Green Day

A representative from ARocha UK Eco Church is going to be present on the day, and available to talk to about anything to do with Eco Church. There'll be leaflets to collect on different aspects of ecochurch too. So make the most of this opportunity to begin, or extend, your eco church journey!



SYNOD GREEN DAY



Celebration – Reflection – Action

at Cores End URC, Buckinghamshire SL8 5HZ

on Saturday 8 July 2023

A day for all ages to reflect on the wonders of God's creation – and our care for it



10.30 am
11 am
1 pm
2 pm
3.30 pm
4 pm

Arrivals and refreshments
Worship, sensory walk and bible exploration
PICNIC LUNCH
Workshops and Activities (around 5 Eco themes of teaching, land, buildings, engagement and lifestyle)
Worship in the Meadow and Tree Planting
Tea and departures



Limited places – book at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

I hope all is good with you and you are enjoying the natural world in this Spring time of new growth.

Above is our notice about the Synod Green Day on 8 July – at Cores End URC here in leafy Buckinghamshire (post code SL8 5HZ). It will be a great opportunity to enjoy nature together – to celebrate creation, reflect on our care for it and to learn or do some practical actions to protect its life. The outline of the day is:

10.30 am Arrivals and refreshments (provided by the local church)
11 am Worship, sensory walk and bible exploration
1 pm PICNIC LUNCH (bring a picnic with you)
2 pm Workshops and Activities (around 5 Eco themes of teaching, land, buildings, engagement and lifestyle)
3.30 pm Worship in the Meadow and Tree Planting (Synod Moderator taking part in this)
4 pm Tea and departures

Do come if you possibly can – and encourage others to do so. It will be a lovely day out – whatever the weather! (though we're hoping for good weather so people can enjoy the unique Cores End church grounds).

You can book places at the Synod Office, contacting Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for a booking form or to send questions to.

Do also keep in touch about any actions you are involved in to care for creation.

Westminster College Open Day



Westminster College has another Open Day coming up, this time on 18th July (10:00 – 13:00). To book a place at the Open Day click [here](#).

Listed Places of Worship

Those of you managing the repair and maintenance of Listed Places of Worship need to be aware that the £42 million Government Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has undergone a digital transformation with the development of a new website and application portal.

- o The new website makes it easier to navigate and find the information - from scheme eligibility to application guidance. The website sits on the gov.uk domain, providing reassurance this is an official and trusted website.
- o The new application portal will enable applicants to apply

online. This will follow the same familiar format as the PDF form, but will be easier to process than downloading and completing a physical document.

The option to use the old PDF will remain, but the application portal is planned to be more efficient - with all the information and attachments uploaded and submitted in one place.

For more information see: [Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme](#)

Synod Vacancy

Lumen Caretaker Team Member - Weekends Only

The United Reformed Church Thames North Synod Church Caretaking Team Member Part Time Role

Previous Applicants Need not Apply.

- £9321 per annum (Pro Rata, Fulltime equivalent £21749pa)
- Member of a two-person team

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. You will be part of a caretaking team consisting of two posts, working flexibly for 15 hours at weekends.

Usual working hours will be flexible according to service needs: (for guidance only)

Tuesday 1800 -2130 (or 0530 - 0900)

Wednesday 1800 -2130 (or 0530 - 0900)

Saturday 0900 - 1630.

The caretaking team 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, providing weekend cover
- Cleaning
- Event preparation
- Simple repairs

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

Closing Date 1200 Midday 07 July 2023

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

Part-time Clerical Assistant - Christ Church Uxbridge

The main duties will involve:

- Assisting in co-ordinating the day-to-day running of the church
 - Keeping the church diary up to date with room bookings and exploring avenues for increasing income through room bookings and creative use of the church premises.
 - Respond to enquiries and visitors to the church office
 - Assist with providing admin support to the Church Administrator, minister (when in post) and elders, including producing publicity materials and papers for meetings.
- Applicants are sought with relevant experience, computer literacy and sympathy with the aims of the Church.

The post is for 15 hours a week (worked Monday - Friday)

Proposed start date: August 2023

Salary £9,350 - £10,300 per annum depending on experience

An application pack is available from the Resources coordinator e-mail: resources@christchurchuxbridge.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 5pm on Friday 30th June 2023

Moderator - National Synod of Wales

**Full-time, seven-year termed appointment
Minister's Stipend**

General Assembly wishes to appoint a United Reformed Church minister to serve as Moderator of the National Synod of Wales from January 2024

The National Synod of Wales are looking for a new Moderator to play a key role in the Synod Support Team as we work to support our churches in their mission and encourage members to consider and develop their part in the Whole People of God. As a synod we work with an Appreciative Inquiry mindset, valuing collaboration, mutual support and mutual accountability.

Our next Moderator will be able to think strategically and implement locally, working with churches to understand and respond to their communities. You will be someone who understands the specific context of a National Synod and is

willing to engage with the culture and language of Wales and its distinct regulatory and compliance frameworks. You will be comfortable representing the United Reformed Church at high profile events in Wales.

Having invested significant time and resources building a collaborative team dynamic, we are looking for someone who is a team player, who trusts their colleagues and values their passions. You must be empathetic, caring and, very importantly, like to have fun!

An information pack and application form can be found on the jobs page of the website: www.urc.org.uk/jobs
If you wish to nominate a Minister for this post, please write to: Deepti Upadhyaya at recruitment@urc.org.uk by Sunday 23 July 2023.

If you wish to apply for this post, please complete an application form and send it to: Human Resources, United Reformed Church,
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT 020 7691 9871;
recruitment@urc.org.uk by 12 noon, **Monday 21 August 2023**

Interview date: Wednesday 27 September 2023

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 Part1; Schedule 9 there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a Minister of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church.

This post also requires an enhanced DBS certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Safeguarding Training 2023

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)

10th July 6pm - 8pm at at Wigmore Church(Crawley Green Rd, Luton LU2 9TE) Parking available. ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

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
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

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).

11th July 6pm - 8.30pm
TRAINING*

***IN PERSON**

at at Wigmore Church(Crawley Green Rd, Luton LU2 9TE)
Parking available.

6th September 6pm- 8.30pm
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

12th September 10am- 12.30pm
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

19th September 1pm - 3.30pm
TRAINING*

***IN PERSON**

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

9th November 6pm - 8.30pm
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

5th December 6pm - 8.30pm
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.

5th October 6.30pm - 8.30pm
TRAINING*

***ONLINE**

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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