



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 5 June 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

Synod Eco Day on Saturday, 7 June 10:30am – 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

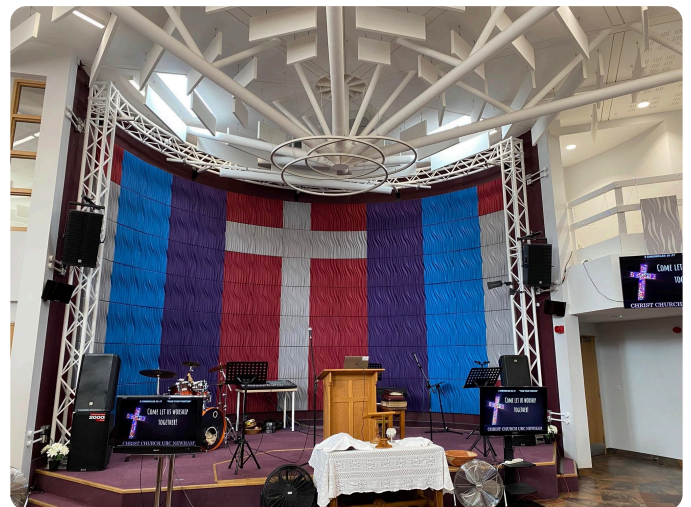
Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025

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



Last Sunday the Moderator preached and presided at Communion at Christ Church, Newham in East London. The church is one of the larger churches (and growing) in the Synod. There are about 19 different nationalities represented in the Congregation. He was able to meet with the Local Leader and the church Elders after the service. At the end of last week the church hosted a three day worship and teaching event drawing people from across the country and the world. The Moderator was pleased to attend one of the sessions and speak at it.

Information

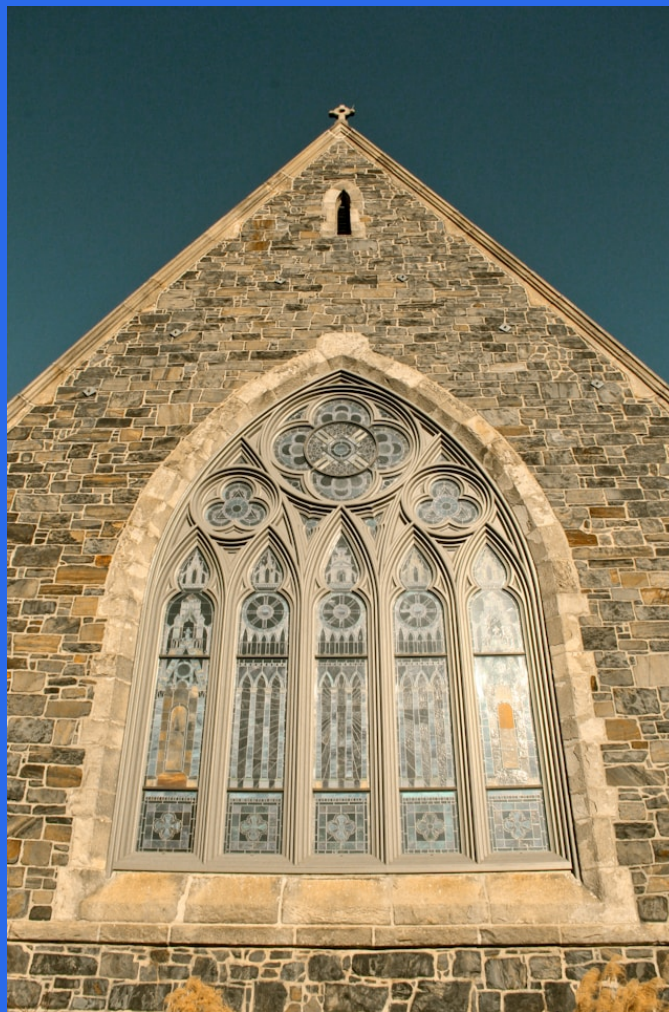
Ministers wishing to transfer to the United Reformed Church

Ministers of other churches wishing to transfer to the United Reformed Church can seek a Certificate of Eligibility to come on to the Roll of Ministers of the United Reformed Church. Applications should be received by 31st July 2025, with initial interviews via Zoom in August. Successful candidates will be invited to attend an in-person Assessment Conference from 30th October – 1st November 2025 in Cambridge, UK.

Applications are welcome from ministers who are members of churches that are either a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the Council for World Mission, the World Communion of Reformed Churches. Your application should evidence experience in local pastorate ministry (minimum 5 years) in a leadership role; intercultural competence; understanding/experience of working in multi-church pastorates/settings and a readiness and willingness to serve in any part of the UK.

Those interested should contact the Ministries Office (ministries@urc.org.uk 020 7916 8649) for an application pack.

5 Tips for Choosing Reliable Contractors – A Landlord's Guide



5 Tips for Choosing Reliable Contractors – A Landlords guide

Keeping your property safe and well-maintained isn't just good practice—it's a legal responsibility. Whether it's a gas safety check or an emergency repair, hiring the right contractor is essential. Poor workmanship can lead to delays, tenant complaints, or worse—legal trouble.

Here are five simple tips to help you find trustworthy professionals:

1. Ask for References and Insurance

Always ask for recent references from past clients and check that the contractor has the right insurance cover—public liability insurance is a must. Many reputable tradespeople also offer guarantees on the work carried out, giving you added peace of mind.

2. Always Check Credentials

Ask for proof of qualifications.

- ✓ Gas engineers must be registered with the Gas Safe Register
- ✓ Electricians should belong to NICEIC or NAPIT
- ✓ Reputable builders may be members of the Federation of Master Builders

Don't be afraid to ask for ID or certification numbers—good professionals will expect it.

3. Book Early

Tradespeople, especially electricians and roofers, often get booked up

months in advance—especially during busy seasons. For example, electrical safety checks are required every five years in England, so plan ahead to avoid delays or non-compliance.

4. Understand the Law on Fees

In commercial private lets you can't charge tenants for general upkeep like cleaning or gardening during their tenancy. It's illegal under the Tenant Fees Act 2019 in England. Instead, include these costs in the rent from the start.

5. Give Proper Notice for Access

Landlords must give at least 24 hours' written notice before entering a rented property, unless it's an emergency.

Sacha McArdle

Assistant Property Officer | 07708 470 576

Photo by [Yiran Yang](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What's On

Synod Eco Day Saturday 7 June 2025



Don't forget the Synod Eco Day this Saturday in St Albans. There are still spaces so do come. Book with Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk or [here](#).

Photo by [Erda Estremera](#) on [Unsplash](#)

A Rocha Events



A Rocha has a series of free practical workshops on climate resilience being run at their nature reserve, Wolf Fields, in west London over the next few months. There is also a family-friendly Act for Nature day on the 21st June.

The training: A Rocha UK's project will provide free training for West Londoners in a series of half-day outdoor workshops at Wolf Fields nature reserve, covering subjects such as food growing in small spaces, wildlife-friendly gardening, water management, and creating cool spaces with tree planting. [Here](#) is a link to the web page with full details of subjects and dates for the first series of events. People can [book](#) to participate for free in any or all of the events there.

A little more background: As most in your church will be aware, accelerating climate change is posing increasing challenges to people and nature alike. We face growing climate change impacts from increasing food prices, through water shortages and floods and dangerous heat waves, to greater vulnerability to anxiety and depression. These will increasingly pose practical and pastoral challenges to churches. Happily, regular access to nature and managing small pieces of land, such as gardens, can help people and nature become more resilient to these shocks. But this will require new habits and skills for many of us.

If you would like to discuss anything further about these events, please get in touch with our reserve manager at andrew.samuel@arocha.org. Our prayer is that these events help equip individuals and households and also support local churches in their mission in these challenging

times.

*Helen Stephens
Church Relations Manager
A Rocha UK*

Film 'Light'



You are warmly invited to St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH on Sunday 29th June 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm to watch the film "Light" showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.

Rev Maggie Hindley, retired minister from Thames North Synod, has done several spells with the Community Peacemaker Teams in Hebron over the years. She was unable to visit in 2024 due to the security position, but this film made then allows us insight into the Hebron situation and the work of the Peacemakers.

Maggie will be introducing the film, which focuses on two stories, Nisreen from Hebron city and Tareq in Masafer Yatta, South Hebron Hills, a pair who embody non-violent resistance and resilience. It is equally suitable for newcomers to the topic of Israel-Palestine and for those who are already familiar with the background.

All are welcome, and admission is free (donations to CPT are welcome)
We should be delighted if you and others from your church can join us for the evening. Doors open with tea/coffee at 1815 and after the film there will be refreshments available before a Zoom link up to the film director in Hebron for a Q&A session.

Watch the trailer at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjI>

Do get in touch if you have any queries. There is plenty of parking at the church and we can advise on access by public transport or lifts from the station. RSVPs are helpful so we can plan refreshments! We look forward to hearing from you. A poster is attached, do share with others.

Thank you from
Philip Nixon and Hilary Tyrrell,
Members of St Albans URC
tyrellnixon@btinternet.com
07849 041285

**You are warmly invited to
St Albans URC, Homewood Rd, AL1 4BH
Sunday 29th June 2025, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

“Light”



**A film showing the
work of Community Peacemaker Teams in
Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

**“Where all other elements are controlled and
rationed, perhaps our light is the one thing that
cannot be taken.”**

**All are welcome. Free admission with
donations to CPT invited.**

Watch the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>

1815 Doors open, tea/coffee

**1830 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley who has spent
time with CPT in previous years**

1835 the film (60 mins)

**1935 – tea/coffee/refreshments and our opportunity to
share comments and reactions with the film director,
Ahmad Abu Monshar, by Zoom from the West Bank.**

LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH

DETAILS ON HOW TO
BOOK YOUR PLACE
ON THE BACK



The
United
Reformed
Church

Conference

24 - 26 NOVEMBER, THE HAYES CONFERENCE CENTRE

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SYNOD REP TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

YORKSHIRE : MEGANCYP@URCYORKSHIRE.ORG.UK

EASTERN : TRAINING@URCEASTERN.ORG.UK

MERSEY: MDE@URCMERSEYSYNOD.ORG.UK

WEST MIDLANDS: MDOSALLY@URCWESTMIDLANDS.ORG.UK

EAST MIDLANDS: MISSION@URCS.ORG.UK

NORTHERN: LUCY.COOKE@URC-NORTHERNSYNOD.ORG

NORTH WESTERN: LIZ.DELAFIELD@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK

SOUTH WESTERN : BRISTOLSPA@URCSOUTHWEST.ORG.UK

SOUTHERN: MDO@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK

SCOTLAND: TRANSITION@URCSCOTLAND.ORG.UK

WALES: JASON.ASKEW.URCWALES@URC.ORG.UK

WESSEX: DSO-N@URCWESSEX.ORG.UK

THAMES NORTH: DISC.ENAB@URCTHAMESNORTH.ORG.UK

CHURCH HOUSE: LINDSEY.BROWN@URC.ORG.UK

THE HAYES, SWANNICK, ALFRETON, DESS 1AU



Please note that the Thames North Synod representative to contact regarding this will be Julian Templeton not Eddie Boon disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk as advertised above. To book and find out more you can contact Julian here training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Synod funding is available.

The URC Leading Your Church Into Growth Conference for 2025 is an exciting opportunity for the URC 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. There are 80 places available, and they are expected fill up fast. We respectfully ask that you do not book more than 10 places per Synod.

The total cost per delegate is £315. This includes accommodation, breakfast, lunch and evening meals and all conference materials. We request that the Synod Contact Person (you, or a nominated other) books people onto the course, or at least knows who is coming from your Synod. When booking there is a £10 non-returnable deposit per person. The Synod will then be invoiced for the total remaining cost per delegate.

Remember, places will go fast - so do not leave it too late!
Blessings from the URC LyCiG Team.

Stuart Radcliffe
Megan Tillbrook
Louise Franklin
Emma Jackson
Emma Howarth



Sunday 8th June
at 6.00 pm

Pentecost

Communion Service

**Join us at Open Table on the SECOND Sunday
of every month**

**Open to LGBTQIA+ people and allies of any
Christian tradition and none.**



**Wanstead United Reformed Church
is an inclusive church.**

You are more than welcome here

**The Theology, Rhythm and Feeling of Hymns in
Worship**

Saturday 28 June 2025, 10:30 – 12:30
The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS



The number and type of hymns available to worship leaders and worshippers today is vast. What criteria does a worship leader use to select hymns? This workshop will include a discussion, with sung examples, of hymns that might be selected for their theology or rhythm or feeling, and how these hymns shape the moments of worship.

Participants are invited to select 3 hymns, 1 in each category:

- A hymn selected for the theology/message of its words
- A hymn selected for the rhythm of its music
- A hymn selected for the feeling it evokes

and to email the selected hymns to Julian.training@urchthamesnorth.org.uk by 21 June.

Julian and Francis will note all the hymns submitted, and from these will choose some that we will sing together in the workshop. Hymns can come either from published hymnals or from online videos, so long as you identify their source. If you don't wish to select hymns yourself, please come to the workshop anyway.

To attend this free Thames North Synod Preachers' Circle Event
Please email Ola Lawal, Lay Preaching Advocate,
lpa@urchthamesnorth.org.uk

The Reverends Francis Ackroyd and Julian Templeton are both musically trained and have made congregational and choral singing a significant feature of their ministries.

Vacancies

Accreditations Sub-Committee Convener



Do you have a passion to support people who release the church in its local community to flourish in faith, hope and love? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

Ministries Committee is looking for a convener for its Accreditations Sub-Committee to replace its current convener who will complete their term at the July 2025 General Assembly. The convener will need to have working knowledge of the formal ministries of the United Reformed Church.

The Accreditations Sub-committee plays a vital role in supporting and creating new opportunities in shaping posts to be recognised as Church Related Community Work projects or Pioneering posts including current Special Category ministries, in approving certificates for ministers from partner churches both at home and abroad to serve with us, and in analysing trends in the Rolls of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Church Related Community Workers, Elders, Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Assembly Accredited Lay Pioneers.

Please click the link for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email ministries@urc.org.uk for an application form.

<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ASC-Convener.pdf>



Mersey Synod Clerk

Part time, permanent post up to 30 hours per week.

£32,500-£44,000 pa. FTE.

Mersey Synod seek to appoint a new Synod Clerk. The person will be an excellent administrator, strong team player and be committed to seeing Mersey Synod grow into the future.

Duties and responsibilities include:

1. Working with the Moderator, staff team and volunteers to ensure the smooth running of Mersey Synod.
2. Representing and connecting Mersey Synod to the national church.
3. Line managing members of the Synod staff team.
4. Providing leadership on governance and GDPR across the Synod.

For further details download a job pack from the website: www.urcmerseysynod.org.uk/job-vacancies

Closing date for applications 26th June. Shortlisting 30th June. Interviews 16th July appointment to start as soon as possible.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.

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

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

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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](#)