



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 6 March 2025.

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

Events

URC Youth Assembly 7 - 9 March 2025 Kings Park Conference Centre NN3 6LL [Book here](#)

Holy Communion Presidency Training for Authorised Elders via Zoom, 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Monday 10 March 2025.

Contact: Julian Templeton, Training and Development Officer

Email: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs Monday 24 March at 7.30pm only and Monday 28 April 3pm or 7.30pm The link is the same as ever [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)

[pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09)

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

IOPT in Focus: Exploring Apartheid & the Occupation Wednesday 30 April 2025. For the Zoom link commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk

Rejoice and Sing Live at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May 2025 www.bit.ly/reform-live

Spiritual Abuse Training on Thursday 1 May 2025 contact emma.pearce@urc.org.uk

Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential 29 May-1 June 2025 www.bit.ly/residential2025

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

Bradwell Pilgrimage Saturday 5 July 2025 10am-3:15pm

www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

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

News

Thames North Synod wins Eco Church Bronze Award



Eco Church at A Rocha writes: *'Congratulations to you and all at Thames North Synod for gaining a bronze Eco Synod award.'*

Your application showed that there is lots of good work happening within the synod around championing the environment - from annual Green Days which in 2024 had a nature focus, to a comprehensive Environment Policy which includes references to net zero, protecting and encouraging biodiversity, and engaging and supporting young people about the climate and nature crises. It was also great to see that there is an Eco Fund available to support local churches in environmental projects, and that Synod investments are fully divested.

It's encouraging to see that as of today out of 105 churches in your Synod (the latest figure from your list of churches on your website) there are 54 local churches registered (50%) and 27 churches have achieved an Eco Church award (25%) (20 are at a Bronze Eco Church level and 7 are at a Silver Eco Church level). So you have surpassed the Bronze Eco Synod threshold of 10% of local churches registered; and 5% of local churches awarded!

Many thanks for your very generous donation to Eco Church that accompanied your application.

Finally, a note to acknowledge Revd Terry Hinks' upcoming retirement and our thanks for all that he has done to champion the environment over the years too - we look forward to connecting with the incoming Green Apostle in due course.'

Thames North is looking at setting up a green page on their website similar to those of other Bronze awarded Synods: North Western, Mersey and Southern Synod.

Prayer Vigil





Some of the Synod Green Team attended the Ash Wednesday vigil at St John's Waterloo and then outside Dept of Energy and Net Zero to oppose more fossil fuel exploration.

What's On

URC Buildings Forum



Upcoming webinars in the URC Buildings for Mission Forum series takes place on 20 May at 7.30pm and Thursday 20 November at 11.30am. The URC Buildings Forum is primarily focused on developing and linking to resources that can help churches to have a mission-based focus on buildings and has identified online networking as one important way of bringing churches into contact with one another. [Learn more about URC Buildings Forum.](#)

Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs Meetings

Please note that Discipleship Matters/Vital Signs **Monday 24th March will be at 7.30pm only**. Monday 28th April 3pm or 7.30pm The link is the same as ever <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtlK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>

Invitation to join the Season of Creation 2025

“Peace with Creation”



SEASON OF CREATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are delighted to invite you to join as we prepare to celebrate the Season of Creation 2025.

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. The “Celebration” begins 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for Creation or Feast of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The Theme for 2025: Peace with Creation

The theme for Season of Creation this year is Peace with Creation. Our Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18.

[Here](#) you can find an in-depth theological explanation of this year’s theme and symbol.

Prepare for the Season of Creation

Go to SeasonOfCreation.org where you will find the Faith Leaders' Invitation video calling us to join the celebration. The official Celebration Guide will be available in several languages on the website in the month of June. Make sure to include in your calendar these key dates for the Season of Creation 2025:

- September 1: Season of Creation Opening Prayer Service with global faith leaders
- October 4: Season of Creation Closing Event with youth voices from around the globe



Tuesday, 10 June 2025, Coventry Cathedral

Being Missional Today

Disruption, Liminality & Reconciliation

A festival of ideas on missional thinking, with experiential learning opportunities, in dialogue with 22 different speakers and practitioners.



Keynote speakers:

Rt Revd Dr

Guli Francis-Dehqani

Bishop of Chelmsford, and

Revd Dr

Al Barrett

Rector, Hodge Hill Church



[Find out more here](#)

Confirmed seminar speakers and workshop leaders:



Revd Dr
Al Barrett



Revd Dr
Alastair McKay



Revd Canon Dr
Carlton Turner



Revd Canon Dr
Catherine Okoronkwo



Revd
Charlotte Gale



Dr
David Brubaker



Emma Griffiths



Revd Canon Dr
Gale Richards



Revd
Graham Adamson



Dr
Harvey Kwiyani



Very Revd
John Witcombe



Dr
Martin Robinson



Revd
Mina Munns



Revd Canon Dr
Peniel Rajkumar



Prof.
Robert Beckford



Revd
Rosy Fairhurst



Revd
Ruth Harley



Revd Canon Dr
Sharon Prentis



Vicki Adamson



Dr
Victoria Turner



Recruiting Singers for the Festival of Church Music at Coventry Cathedral Saturday 11th October 2025

**Festival Conductor - Peter J Williams
Organist - Rufus Frowde**

**Anthem Books available from January 2025
from Adrian Prisk, 15 Parklands Great Linford, MK14 5DZ
Tel: 01908 605815; Email aprisk@doctors.org.uk
Further details on the website
www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk**

Anthem books for the Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025 are now available.

The theme this year appropriately is 'Justice and Freedom'.

We are looking for individual singers as well as choirs to join us. It is always a memorable experience to be able to sing with a large choir in a cathedral.

Please can you help us spread the word by displaying the attached poster on notice boards, adding it and the information above to any notice sheets or PowerPoint notices displayed in your church services.

For further information about rehearsals and where the books can be ordered please visit the website www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk.

Westminster Abbey

39th Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture



Writing in good faith: a pilgrimage in fiction, film and thought



Thursday 22nd May
at 6.30pm
Westminster Abbey

Friday 23rd May
at 5.30pm
Keble College, Oxford

Speaker:

Rhidian Brook - Writer and broadcaster

Further information:

The Dean's Office, King's College London
020 7848 2333 | dean@kcl.ac.uk

To book for the Westminster Abbey event (free):
[westminster-abbey.org/events/
eric-symes-abbott-memorial-lectures](https://westminster-abbey.org/events/eric-symes-abbott-memorial-lectures)

Booking not required for the Keble College event

westminster-abbey.org/events

All are welcome to either event, although tickets for the lecture at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 22 May must be booked in advance via <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/events/eric-symes-abbott-memorial->

lectures (please note that the red 'Book tickets' button towards the top right of that website is for tickets to visit Westminster Abbey; the link for tickets for the Lecture is just above the picture of Eric Symes Abbott).

Open House

Coffee, cake & a catch-up at Azalea

Drop in any time between

10am-12pm

Friday 14th March 2025

3A Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2QX



CIO 1190508

Information

Vacancies

Congregational Memorial Hall Trust



The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust is seeking to appoint a Clerk to the Trustees to succeed the current postholder on his retirement. The role involves overseeing the general administration and financial affairs of the charity.

Hours : In the region of 35 to 40 hours per month, worked flexibly

Remuneration : £17,000 - £19,000 plus pension

The position will be home based with some meetings in Central London and Cambridge.

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust maintains the Congregational Library and makes grants to fund the work and mission of Congregational and United Reformed Churches.

For further information see the Trust's website www.conglib.ac.uk

Applications by email to willie.duncan@conglib.ac.uk

or in writing to

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust (1978) Limited, 17 Springfield Park, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2NH

Closing date for applications May 15th, 2025.

Interviews will be held in London on June 5th, 2025

URC Roles

For all URC Roles see here <https://urc.org.uk/jobs/>

Safeguarding Training

Spiritual Abuse Training

Thursday 1st 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



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

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 25th March 2025 - 6.30pm - 9.00pm

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

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



www.urc.org.uk



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](#)

Information Required

Eddie Boon, our Synod Discipleship Enabler, would be pleased to hear from any person or church that has had contact with an Enneagram practitioner in any way. Please let Eddie know via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk