



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 7 July 2023.

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

Blessings.

## Events

### Events Calendar

**Synod Green Day** 8 July 2023 10:30am Cores End URC  
**Synod Prayer Meeting** 19 July 10:30am at Lumen or via Zoom (see link below)

**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

## News from Around the Synod



On Thursday visitors from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Svitavy were welcomed at Lumen to learn more about the Church and the URC. They have been visiting St John's New Barnet with whom they are in partnership.

## New General Assembly Moderator



History was made at the 2023 General Assembly when its first black and ethnically-minoritised Moderator was inducted last weekend.

Ordained in 2018, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson was inducted into the role of Moderator at the annual meeting held from 30 June to July 3 at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Dr Henry-Robinson has responsibility for four congregations in the East London Group, a multi-culturally diverse constituency in our synod.

Dr Henry-Robinson's career spans over 30 years engaging diverse groups through teaching, mentoring, and ministering. She started teaching in the 1990s in Trinidad and Tobago and continued in Brazil and the UK working with students in primary, secondary and further education, before being ordained.

Tessa is a womanist practical theologian with a deep interest in the empowerment of women with particular focus on uplifting ethnically-minoritised women and communities.

She became a member of the URC in 2001 and serves on groups such as the Church Life Review and the Faith and Order Committee. In 2011, Tessa became a founding member of Cascades of Grace, a group set up through the URC's Global and Intercultural Ministries, to network and empower Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women in the churches.

Tessa stands for empowering such women to be present and audible in the Church and is not afraid to be a voice crying out for justice and dignity for all excluded and marginalised communities.

Of Tessa's appointment, the Revd Dr John Bradbury, URC General Secretary, said: "I'm delighted that we will benefit from the gifts and graces Tessa brings to the role of Moderator of the General Assembly. An astute theologian, a passionate advocate

for justice, and a wise pastor, Tessa will challenge, upbuild and inspire during her term of office."

## Thames North Prayer Meeting

You are invited, if you are able, to come together for prayer on Wednesday 19th July at 10am for 45 minutes to pray, to be still, to intercede for the life and mission of our Synod, to listen, and to open ourselves to the Spirit. This prayer meeting will be 'hybrid' and you will be very welcome to attend in person at Lumen at 88 Tavistock Pl, London WC1H 9RS or on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99001654053?pwd=TVFmMjZPVzFPYUtYSXhIMGNIV3JTdz09>  
Meeting ID: 990 0165 4053 Passcode: 936456

The Zoom link is recurring and is used each month unless announced as otherwise

## 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](mailto: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

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

# Synod Green Day

It's not too late to decide to join us at the Synod Green Day - there are still spaces!



The poster for Synod Green Day features a green background. At the top left is a photo of a church building. To its right is the text 'SYNOD GREEN DAY' in large white letters, followed by a blue cross icon and 'The United Reformed Church Thames North Synod'. Below this is the subtitle 'Celebration – Reflection – Action' and the location 'at Cores End URC, Buckinghamshire SL8 5HZ on Saturday 8 July 2023'. A tagline reads 'A day for all ages to reflect on the wonders of God's creation – and our care for it'. A central table lists the day's schedule with two small photos: one of people in a field and one of raspberries. At the bottom, it says 'Limited places – book at [modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)'.

10.30 am	Arrivals and refreshments
11 am	Worship, sensory walk and bible exploration
1 pm	PICNIC LUNCH
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
4 pm	Tea and departures

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).

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

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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)**

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

**19<sup>th</sup> September** 10am - 12pm **\*IN PERSON TRAINING\***  
at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)  
Parking available at Maidstone East station

**2<sup>nd</sup> October** 6.30pm - 8.30pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**7<sup>th</sup> November** 6pm - 8pm **\*ONLINE TRAINING\***

**5<sup>th</sup> 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).**

**11<sup>th</sup> July** 6pm - 8.30pm  
**TRAINING\***

**\*IN PERSON**

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

**6<sup>th</sup> September** 6pm- 8.30pm  
**TRAINING\***

**\*ONLINE**

**12<sup>th</sup> September 10am- 12.30pm**  
**TRAINING\***

**\*ONLINE**

**19<sup>th</sup> September** 1pm - 3.30pm  
**TRAINING\***

**\*IN PERSON**

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

**9<sup>th</sup> November** 6pm - 8.30pm  
**TRAINING\***

**\*ONLINE**

**5<sup>th</sup> December** 6pm - 8.30pm  
**TRAINING\***

**\*ONLINE**

### **Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.**

**5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:CARRIE.KAUNDA@URC.ORG.UK)**

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