

# THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 8 May 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**

Latte, americano or expresso? Exploring God through café style worship.' Tuesday 20 May 2025 7:30pm via Zoom <a href="mailto:rgoldring23@gmail.com">rgoldring23@gmail.com</a>

Buildings for Mission Forum Webinar: Inventive Use of Spaces Tuesday 20 May at 7.30pm. <a href="mailto:mission@urc.org.uk">mission@urc.org.uk</a>

From Lament to Action: Church service five years after George Floyd's death on Sunday 25 May 2025 15:00-16:30. Doors at 2pm.

Location: St John's Church, Waterloo

Waterloo Road London SE1 8TY. Book here

Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential 29 May-1 June 2025 <a href="https://www.bit.ly/residential2025">www.bit.ly/residential2025</a>

**Synod Eco Day** on Saturday, 7 June 9:00am – 4:00pm Location: St Albans Greenwood AL2 3HG. Please check the news each week for more on what's on.

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 <a href="maining@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>
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

**Jazz Vespers** 25 June 2025 19:00 at the American Church in London <a href="music@amchurch.co.uk">music@amchurch.co.uk</a>

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 <a href="mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>

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: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1257520550819?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1257520550819?aff=oddtdtcreator</a> Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

#### News



Last Sunday Ickenham United Reformed Church and St Giles celebrated the 40th Anniversary of their Covenant. The service was led by Revd Christine Britton (St Giles), the preacher was Revd Wilbert Sayimani (Ickenham URC) and the Moderator presided at communion. Also present at the service were the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Colleen Sullivan and Mr Danny Beales, MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. Wilbert preached about walking together and realising that Jesus walks with us giving us courage to face challenges, based on the Road to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel. In the covenant the Churches have committed to 'Seek never to do in separation those things which could be done better together.'



## **A Note from the Green Apostles**



### Planting for climate change Part 2

Here are some more ideas for sustainable planting which take into account the effects of climate change and help to increase biodiversity. An arrangement of alpines is immediately attractive, and also helpful to wildlife. Examples of easy-to-look-after alpines include sedums, saxifrages, aubretia, dianthus, campanula, poppies and primula. If you have sufficient space available consider constructing a rock garden and inserting the plants in between the rocks. The extra height assists insects on the wing in locating the flowers.

Many herbs are hardy and can very easily be grown in containers, which can then be moved around according to the space available. Easy herbs include chives, coriander, marjoram, thyme and lavender. It also means you can harvest the herbs of course. You can grow some easy food crops in both small and large spaces, for example, spinach, rocket, chard and mizuna. Runner beans are fun to grow and only take up space where they can climb. If you have children in your church you can involve them in planting – using easy, hardy plants means children are likely to be more successful and learn more about environmental issues too.

If you are interested in sustainable flower arranging, there is a workshop at the Synod Eco Day, 7 June at St Albans URC, that is being led by St Albans Abbey Flower Guild.

# 2026 Ministry and Mission Fund contributions

A letter has been emailed to all church treasurers regarding the 2026 Ministry and Mission Fund contributions with a proforma to complete detailing the church's income for 2024. It is important that these proformas are returned by the 31st May 2025.

Could you check with your church treasurer thaat these have been received as in the past some have found their way into the spam folder on some treasurers' computers and much time is wasted in chasing the information. Please encourage your treasurer to complete and submit the proforma even if your accounts are still awaiting external examination or acceptance by your elders/church meeting. If you require a copy of the letter and proforma please email <a href="mailto:mmfund@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">mmfund@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>

#### What's On

### **SYNOD ECO DAY 2025**



Theme: Indoor and Outdoor

Key Speaker: David Britton, Campaign Officer, Operation Noah

7 June 2025 10.30am-4.00pm

St Albans United Reformed Church, Watford Road, St Albans AL2 3HG

Contact: Colleen modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Save the date! For more information and booking contact Colleen at <a href="modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>

**Lunch** will be provided so please book and let us know if you will be joining us.

There will be a wide range of workshops for those on, or considering starting, the Eco Church Journey.

If you have any particular topics you would like information on, please let us know. If you would like to share the story of your Eco Church journey, either as a workshop or a display, we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Thames North Synod - Eco Day 2025** 

**Draft Programme:** 

- 10.30 am Registration and coffee
- 11.00 am Opening worship Outdoors led by St Albans URC worship team
- 11.30 am Key Speaker David Britton Campaign Officer Operation Noah (Including Q&A Session)
- 12.30pm Lunch please let us know when you book whether you will be joining us for lunch
- 1.30pm Gather for Singing
- 1. 40 pm Workshop 1pm
- 2.20pm Comfort break
- 2.30 pm Workshop 2
- 3.10pm Closing worship Revd. George Watt and St Albans Worship Team
- 3.30pm Tea

#### **Workshops:**

- Operation Noah Church Land TBC
- Sustainable flower arranging St Albans Abbey Flower Guild
- Buildings support available from Thames North Synod
- Responses to the Climate Crisis Situation in Bangladesh
- Green Psalm writing
- Sustainable planting -
- Eco church exploring the new survey
- Effective campaigning for the climate by churches and individuals

#### All age activities - Ongoing throughout the day to include:

- Range of activities from The Wildlife Trust
- Carbon counting game
- Outdoor meditation stations
- Games in the meadow quoits, Giant Jenga, boule etc.





THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNOD

# GREATIVE



TUES 5<sup>TH</sup> – SAT 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025 LUMEN, LONDON – WC1H 9RS

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

CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF CREATIVE STREAMS INCLUDING DRAMA, MUSIC, CREATIVE WRITING MOVEMENT & DANCE, STAGE CRAFT





COME AND WATCH OUR SHOWCASE

PERFORMANCE ON

SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AT 4PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

**Creative Week is coming!** Running from Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th August 2025 at Lumen, London (WC1H 9RS), this exciting event is designed for young people aged 11–16 who are in secondary school.

Participants can choose from a variety of creative streams—drama, music, creative writing, movement and dance, or stage craft—and spend the week developing their talents in a fun and supportive environment. The week concludes with a special showcase performance on Saturday 9th August at 4 PM, open to all. Don't miss out—register online now at <a href="https://www.bit.ly/cw-registration">www.bit.ly/cw-registration</a>

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



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

A Workshop led by Julian Templeton and Francis Ackroyd **When**: Saturday 28 June 2025, 10:30 – 12:30

Where: 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 <a href="mailto:training@urchthamesnorth.org.uk">training@urchthamesnorth.org.uk</a> 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, <a href="mailto:lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">lpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>

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

# Forming a new "Community of Pioneering"

We aim to discover, nurture, empower and release a new generation of Pioneers. This will include helping Pioneers connect with new mission contexts, pathways, retreats and coaching. We believe we can go further and deeper in our calling as Pioneers if we connect together well. We will form this 'Community of Pioneers' out of those who currently identify as Pioneers as well as those coming through the 'Certificate in Pioneer Mission.'

#### **Online Taster Event**

An opportunity to connect, find out more and ask questions about the 'Community of Pioneers' and the 'Certificate in Pioneer Mission' programme that is run by the 'Newbigin Pioneering Hub'.

The next online taster event will take place on Thursday 26 June 2025 at 6:30pm, with the opportunity to ask any questions about the pioneering programme on zoom with Rev Dr Ash Barker. Log in on zoom.

#### **Newbigin Pioneering Hub 2025-26 programme**

September 2025 - July 2026. For more information, click <u>here</u>. To apply, click <u>here</u>.

Many thanks

Seedbeds - growing leaders & communities

# Holy Communion Presidency Training



For Elders seeking first-time authorisation to preside at the sacrament of Holy Communion

> via Zoom Monday 9 June 2025 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Contact: Julian Templeton, Training and Development Officer Email: <a href="mailto:training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>

Email: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



# The United Reformed Church History Society



The annual Dr Williams lecture will take place on the late afternoon/early evening of Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University, given by Professor Mary Fairclough on Anna Laetita Barbauld and Dissenting Hymns.

Anna Laetita Barbauld (1743-1825) was a poet, educator and polemicist, celebrated after her death as 'unquestionably the first of our female poets, and one of the most eloquent and powerful of our prose writers'. This lecture will investigate Barbauld's use of the hymn form to debate and celebrate dissenting devotional practices.

Barbauld was born into an Arian Dissenting family and educated by her father John Aikin at Warrington Dissenting Academy. She was made famous by her first publication Poems (1773), which includes a number of hymns. These hymns have often been read as lyric poems for private consumption but I show how they were used in Dissenting congregational worship, and argue that Barbauld encouraged their use and circulation in Dissenting hymnals. Barbauld exploited the flexible generic qualities of hymns, using them as forms of celebration, protest, and community building throughout her career.

Mary Fairclough is Professor in the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York. Her work investigates the intersection of literature, science, politics and religion in the eighteenth century and Romantic period. She is the author of "The Romantic Crowd: Sympathy, Controversy, and Print Culture" (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and "Literature, Electricity and Politics: 'Electrick Communication Every Where' " (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), and a book in progress on Mary Wollstonecraft, Anna Laetitia Barbauld, Mary Hays, reading, and devotion, supported by the Leverhulme Trust.

#### **Vacancies**

adeyfield free church Love Jesus

www.adeyfieldfree.org.uk

01442 260175 admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk

Love our comm

Adeyfield Free Church Hemel Hempstead

We are a church family that believes that church should not only be fun but also a place where lives are transformed by Jesus.

# Families' Worker To oversee our church ministry to children and families

We need an experienced families' worker:

- A permanent, part-time position of 25 hours per week
- To build upon the existing work with our children and families, enabling them to explore the Christian faith in creative ways
- To build relationships with groups meeting within the AFC Centre
- To expand our presence with families in the local community

# Youth Worker To oversee our church ministry to young people

We are looking for an enthusiastic youth worker:

- A permanent, part-time position of 25 hours per week
- To build relationships with our young people, enabling them to explore the Christian faith in creative ways
- To create opportunities to build a positive difference in the youth in our community

For a job description please email <u>admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk</u>
Closing date 31st May 2025



#### The Hive at Basildon URC

6 Honeypot Lane, Basildon SS14 2JZ

Grays URC

31 Bradleigh Avenue, Grays RM17 5XD



## **Community Outreach Worker**

5-year, full time appointment

£24 – 28,000 per annum, depending on experience.

We are seeking an experienced person who is motivated to develop and support initiatives that aim to improve the lives and wellbeing of people in our communities.

The focus of the work is to assist and develop the existing activities, develop relationships with the wider communities, and to lead on local and social media advertising.

The successful candidate does not have to be a committed Christian but would be expected to be caring and empathetic and be comfortable working within the Statement & Nature of Faith of the United Reformed Church.

Church-based, with some working from home permissible.

The regular place of work will be either: The Hive at Basildon URC or Grays URC and reasonable travel expenses will be covered to travel to the other site. The role is shared, and the expected workload is to be 2/3 / 1/3 between Basildon / Grays.

An application pack can be accessed by emailing David Coaker on drcoaker@gmail.com

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.

Closing date for applications is by 5pm on Friday 30th May.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 12th June at Basildon URC.

As part of the interview, you are asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation on your choice of subject to cover the responsibilities of the role and to display the essential experience, skills and abilities listed in the person specification.

# Volunteer Opportunity: Join the Congregational Fund Board as a Trustee

At the heart of the Congregational Fund Board lies a strong commitment to supporting ministers and students in times of financial need. This small yet impactful charity, with an annual income of approximately £20,000, offers vital assistance to aged and/or infirm ministers, ministers in training, and students facing sudden and unexpected financial challenges. The Board also provides annual study grants to students undertaking ministry training or higher-degree studies.

The Board is composed of both lay and ordained trustees and includes representatives from the Union of Welsh Independents, the Congregational Federation, the Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches, the Unaffiliated Congregational Churches Charities, and the United Reformed Church.

The Board is currently seeking a trustee to represent the United Reformed Church.

As part of the Board, this role offers an opportunity to actively contribute to meaningful decision-making and to support the vital work of the charity, shaping its efforts to assist ministers and students across the community.

#### Trustee to represent the United Reformed Church

Purpose: This voluntary role involves contributing to decision-making that directly impacts the lives of ministers and students across the UK.
Responsibilities:

- Participate in two annual meetings: the AGM in London (October) and a virtual Zoom meeting (March).
- Collaborate with Trustees throughout the year via joint email discussions to review applications.
- Ensure data protection and confidentiality in all aspects of the work.
   Requirements:
- Must be a member of the United Reformed Church.
- Commit to a term of 4 years.
- While residing near London is not a requirement, closer proximity may help reduce travel expenses, which are funded by the Congregational Fund Board.

# Independent Examiner Wanted --- Voluntary Role

The United Reformed Church, Broxbourne, is seeking a new qualified Independent Examiner to review and certify our Annual Accounts for submission to the Charity Commission and HMRC.

Our long-serving and much-appreciated Independent Examiner has recently retired, and we are now looking for someone to kindly step into this important role.

**Time Commitment:** Approximately 15-20 hours annually

**Type of Role:** Voluntary (if possible)

If you're able to help, or would like more information, please contact:

Amanda Harwood (Church Treasurer) Email:

Amanda.Harwo@outlook.com





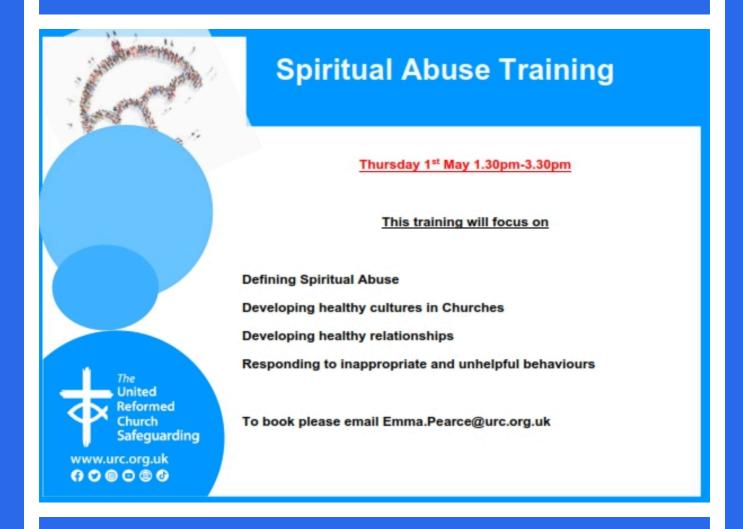


The University of Bedfordshire Ecumenical Chaplaincy Trust (UBECT) seeks to appoint a Deputy Lead Chaplain (part-time 30 hours per week over five days) to work alongside the Lead Chaplain(s) to co-ordinate and oversee the development of a vibrant Chaplaincy for the University, working closely with its Community and Faith team, Student Services and

Human Resources on initiatives to support student and staff well-being.

Find out more.

### **Safeguarding Training**



### **Synod Training Dates 2025**

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email <a href="mailto:safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk">safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk</a>

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**

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



Foundation
Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub
bit.ly|3Txldm4



Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

1	First date	Event
	<b>14 January, 2025</b> 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
	<b>18 March</b> 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers
	<b>27 March</b> 7:00pm	Adult safeguarding
4	<b>24 April</b> 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse
	<b>13 May</b> 7:00pm	Online safety



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.

http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/

