



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 8 November 2024.

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

Blessings.

### Events

**Free at Heart Wellbeing Events** 2nd Wednesday every month from September to December 2024 at Christ Church Newham

**Old Testament Prophets used in Year C Lectionary** on Saturday 9 November 2024 10:30 – 12.30pm at Lumen. Contact Ola Lawal at [lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Transforming your Church Building and its Land** Tuesday 12 November 2024 11:30am-1pm [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk)

**Inter Faith Theological Advisory Group** conference on Thursday 14 November 2024 at 11am at EC4V 5DE <https://ctbi.org.uk/conference-dancing-with-diversity-14-nov-2024/>

**Introduction to Godly Play** on Saturday 16 November 2024 at 10am Contact Lorraine at [cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**Man Talk Eat & Connect** Saturday 16 November 2024 11am-3pm Christ Church Newham E13 9EX

**The 2024 Congregational lecture** on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 5:30pm at Westminster College, Cambridge

**Spiritual Abuse Webinar** Wednesday 27 November 2024 1:00-3:00pm Register [here](#).

**Discipleship Matters** Thursday 28 November 2024 3pm or 7:30pm

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

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

[disc@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:disc@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

**St Albans URC Greenwood Open Day** 30 November 2024 10:30am at Watford Road, AL2 3HG [St Albans URC](#)

## St Albans URC



On Sunday the Moderator led worship at Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church who were joined by friends from Palmers Green URC. There was some very vibrant singing from the united congregation.





*Church House welcomed ten new ministers yesterday. The new ministers included: Joseph Amoah (previously a Thames North student), Siobhan Antoniou, Stephanie Atkins, Simon Cross, Julie Jefferies, Maria Lee, Kate Wolsey, Stanslous Chatikobo (Thames North Synod), Alecia Johnstone, and Helen Snashall, a CRCW.*

## **URC relaunches its Gaza appeal with Methodist Church**



The United Reformed Church (URC) is relaunching its Gaza Appeal to support urgent humanitarian work in the region, with an expanded scope to include Lebanon.

We are pleased to announce that this effort is being undertaken in partnership with the Methodist Church in Britain, under the name Gaza/Lebanon Justice Appeal.

By collaborating with our partners on the ground, we aim to provide critical aid and pursue a shared mission of relief and justice for the people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The Revd Philip Brooks, URC Deputy General Secretary (Mission), explains: "Given the desperate humanitarian crisis experienced by the people of Gaza and Lebanon, it is good for the URC and its global justice programme, 'Commitment for Life', to join with our Methodist ecumenical partners and All We Can in support of this vital appeal.

"In the face of overwhelming force and deep injustice, we hope to bring ecumenical solidarity and practical support to help alleviate the plight of so many people who are enduring conflict in this region."

Jude Levermore, Head of Mission for the Methodist Church, adds: "We are called to be co-workers for God's mission of reconciliation and justice, to act and serve among fragile humanity.

"We believe the crucified Christ is embracing the pain of war affecting people from all parties and backgrounds and we feel compelled therefore

to act together with care and compassion. We wait for sanity to prevail but in the meantime, we stand with our partners in solidarity and give what we can.”

The Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) based in Jerusalem works alongside several partners in Gaza, including the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees which is part of the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre which opened a clinic in Gaza early on during the conflict. The URC is a long-standing partner of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon which is working in the region following IDF airstrikes.

Funds raised will be collected by The Methodist Church World Mission Fund and will be shared direct with partners working in the area.

Visit the [Gaza/Lebanon appeal page](#) to make your donation.

[Learn more about IOPT from Commitment for Life.](#)

*Image by Hosny Salah/Pixabay.*

## What's On

## Vital Signs

**A BRAND NEW RESOURCE**  
FOR CHURCH LEADERS

**Assessment tool**

**Book**

**Videos**

It was good to be able to share a brief introduction to 'Vital Signs' at our recent Synod meeting. I am pleased that a number of churches have begun to show an interest in this hopeful, accessible and free resource. At

our Discipleship Matters online meeting this week the attendees did the online assessment tool during the meeting. I have therefore decided to devote our November Discipleship Matters to give more people the chance to explore Vital Signs BUT I have changed the date to THURSDAY 28th November at 3pm OR 7.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09> in case there are some that find Wednesday difficult.

Please contact me if you want to find out more or go to <https://licc.org.uk/vital-signs> and you can also watch an introductory 2 minute trailer at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTKxEZ50IPo&list=PL2o5B72VKerMJrHPyRAC1xm0amUr10IHZ&index=2&ab\\_channel=LICC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTKxEZ50IPo&list=PL2o5B72VKerMJrHPyRAC1xm0amUr10IHZ&index=2&ab_channel=LICC)

I would love your church to be involved in this

*Eddie Boon*  
*Synod Discipleship Enabler*  
[www.discipleseveryday.com](http://www.discipleseveryday.com)



## An Introduction to Godly Play

### Exploring Childhood Spirituality



An opportunity to experience a whole Godly Play session, followed by two sessions each exploring a different Godly Play story genre.

There will be ample opportunity to discuss key elements of the Godly Play approach to childhood spirituality. The group size will be small, which is ideal for exploring all your questions.

This day is open to anyone and is especially designed for those who have little or no previous experience of Godly Play. Suitable for children's leaders, youth leaders, teachers, ministers, chaplains, or anyone interested in childhood spirituality.



This event is free of charge to anyone connected with The United Reformed Church or LEP Congregation.

Please let us know of any access requirements you have when booking. Tea, Coffee, and light refreshments will be available, please bring your own lunch. You may also like to bring a cushion to sit on, as wherever possible we like to sit on the floor for Godly Play, although this is not essential.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Downer

[cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

07716 640 575

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place, London  
WC1H 9RS.

10am arrivals & refreshments for a prompt 10.30am start.

The event finishes at 3:30pm.

**Saturday 16th November 2024**  
**The Lumen Community, 88 Tavistock Place, London**

**WC1H 9RS.**

**10am arrivals & refreshments for a prompt 10.30am start.  
The event finishes at 3:30pm.**

An opportunity to experience a whole Godly Play session, followed by two sessions each exploring a different Godly Play story genre.

There will be ample opportunity to discuss key elements of the Godly Play approach to childhood spirituality. The group size will be small, which is ideal for exploring all your questions.

This day is open to anyone and is especially designed for those who have little or no previous experience of Godly Play. Suitable for children's leaders, youth leaders, teachers, ministers, chaplains, or anyone interested in childhood spirituality.

This event is free of charge to anyone connected with The United Reformed Church or LEP Congregation.

Please let us know of any access requirements you have when booking. Tea, Coffee, and light refreshments will be available, please bring your own lunch. You may also like to bring a cushion to sit on, as wherever possible we like to sit on the floor for Godly Play, although this is not essential.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Downer  
[cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)

---

**Thames North Preachers' Circle Presents:  
Old Testament Prophets used in Year C Lectionary**



**Led by  
Revd Dr Janet Tollington**

A retired URC Minister and former tutor at Westminster College, Cambridge, who taught Old Testament and Hebrew at every level from church groups up to PhD students. She is still active in teaching and passionate in helping people understand ancient Hebrew texts and their relevance for Christians in today's world. She also preaches most Sundays in a wide range of churches

**Venue: Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place London WC1H 9RS**

**Date: 09.11.2024**

**Time: 10:30 – 12.30pm**

The whole session will be interactive, allowing opportunity for plenty of questions, and it will fall into three sections. Some general background information about the prophetic books and their historical context; some discussion about their interpretation in relation to the Christian seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; and more detailed focus on Jeremiah.

Please bring a copy of the Bible with you (any translation will be OK), so that we can look at actual texts during the session.

***Lunch 12.30 -1.30pm followed by Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders***

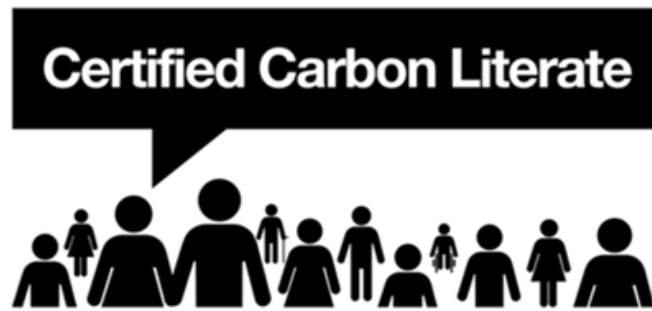
***Annual Meeting from 1:30 - 2:30pm.***

To book your place at this free event, please email, Ola Lawal, [lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk](mailto:lpcomm@urcthamesnorth.org.uk)



# STARTING THE COUNT

## An Online Taster Evening



**On Monday 25 November 2024 at 7:30pm**

Come and meet the Synod Green Team. Bring your questions and ideas on Carbon Counting, Net Zero, the Synod and URC Environmental Policies etc.

Maggie Hindley and Anna Barrett who have done training in Carbon Literacy will share their experience and plans for in person and online training to start next year.

**Email** Terry Hinks (Synod Green Team Convener)  
[minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com](mailto:minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com)  
for link or more information

**AND A DATE FOR YOUR NEW DIARY:  
2025 SYNOD GREEN DAY  
on 7 June at St Albans Greenwood**



# JOIN US AT **MAN TALK** EAT & CONNECT

Limited spaces



Scan to Register for  
**Free** now!



**Free Therapy Session**



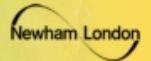
**Free Lunch**

**SAT. 16TH NOVEMBER 2024**  
**11AM - 3PM**

**CHRIST CHURCH NEWHAM**  
**663 BARKING RD, E13 9EX**

[WWW.AYATIMIND.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.AYATIMIND.COM/EVENTS)

**SPONSORED BY:**



# FREE YOUNG AT HEART WELLBEING EVENTS

2ND WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH FROM  
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2024



**Funded by:**



**People  
Powered  
Places**

**Organised by:**



AYATI MIND



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**ChristChurch Newham URC**

**TO REGISTER, SCAN:**



**OR Call 03333 056 518**



# rural

mission and ministry

# course

£300

Book online:

[www.tinyurl.com/RMMC25](http://www.tinyurl.com/RMMC25)

CIRENCESTER 20-21 MAY '25

WYDALE HALL 24-25 SEPT '25

---

## Information

---

# London Churches Refugee Fund Christmas Cards & Gifts 2024

Registered Charity 1121108

*A Christmas Rose*

**'A Christmas Rose'**  
painted by artist Rozhan  
from Iran



**'Holy Family with Guardian  
Angel'** by artist Cathy Young  
From 12C Psalter

- ❖ Two beautiful Christmas cards – images as above
  - ❖ A stunning Art Print: *"The Flight to Egypt"*
  - ❖ **Welcome Gift Cards:** These are purchased by you with a donation to LCRF. You then send the card to family, friends, or colleagues in lieu of a traditional present. The card says: *"My Gift to you this Christmas is a donation to the London Churches Refugee Fund"*  
**CLICK HERE to view and buy safely online**  
at [lcrf.onlineweb.shop](http://lcrf.onlineweb.shop)

# Cut your carbon – 30 actions for 2030

## CUT YOUR CARBON BY 2030

UK average 7.7 tonnes  
CO<sub>2</sub>e per person

### TARGET: 1 TONNE PER PERSON

- Safe place for humanity • Stops climate crisis
- Our challenge: cut carbon by 50% by 2030

Choose one new behaviour per year | Start where you feel comfortable  
After one year, select another | Tell someone else

### THE GOOD LIFE IS 7 THINGS

Healthy food • Togetherness • Connected to nature  
Physical activity/mobility • Personal growth & learning  
Ethical/spiritual framework • Sustainable consumption

### THE GOOD LIFE IS LOW-CARBON

- Local & national governments and businesses have key role to play

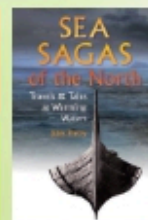


[www.julespretty.com](http://www.julespretty.com)

@JulesPretty1

[jpretty@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jpretty@essex.ac.uk)

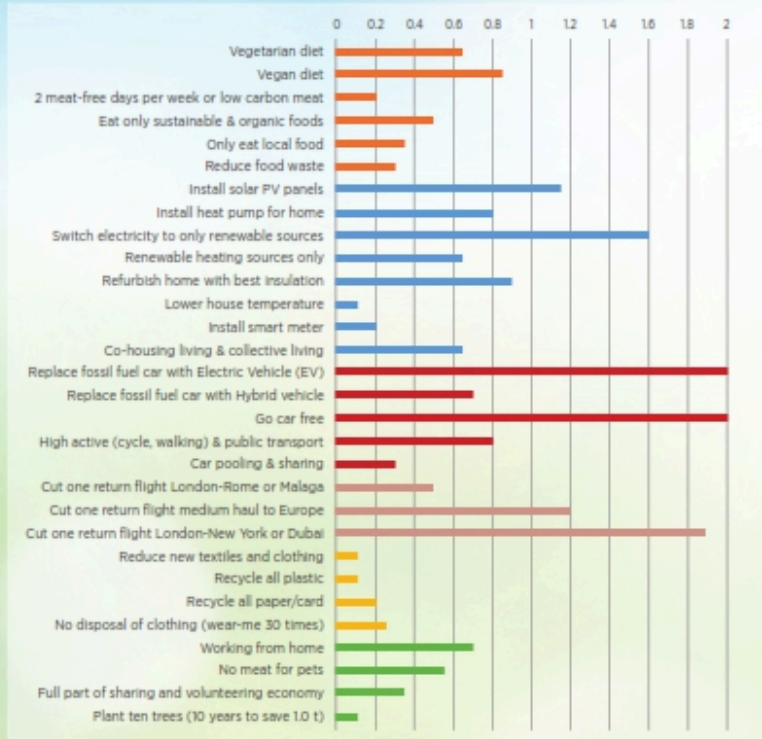
Podcast and Films host



# THIRTY FOR 30: CUTTING YOUR CARBON

Thirty for 30:

Thirty personal behaviours to reduce your annual carbon footprint for 2030 (tonnes C saved per person per year)



The data is adapted from key references on carbon by behaviours: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Aalto University and D-mat ltd. 2018. 1.5-Degree Lifestyles: Targets & options for reducing lifestyle carbon footprints. <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/15-degrees-lifestyles-2019/en>; Ivanova D et al. 2017. Mapping the carbon footprint of EU regions. *Environ Res Letters*, 12(5), p.054013; Ivanova D et al. 2018. Carbon mitigation in domains of high consumer lock-in. *Global Environ Change*, 52, 117-130; Ivanova D & Wood R. 2020. The unequal distribution of household carbon footprints in Europe and its link to sustainability. *Global Sustainability*, 3; Ivanova D et al. 2020. Quantifying the potential for climate change mitigation of consumption options. *Environ Res Letters*, 15(9), p.093001; Project Drawdown. 2020. *The Drawdown Review*. <https://www.drawdown.org/drawdown-review>

Here is a useful way to make it clear that we can all make small changes to make a difference (although of course we are looking for changes in industry, farming and society beyond the home and lifestyle too).

Jules Pretty is a lecturer at the University of Essex. His website is well worth a look too, especially if you like reading papers about climate – [www.julespretty.com](http://www.julespretty.com)

## Vacancies

## Head of Governance



## Head of Governance Services London

Permanent, Full time 35 hours per week  
£74,880 – 76,650 per annum

**Are you ready to help the Church deliver effective governance and compliance during a time of significant change?**

This role will be pivotal in horizon scanning as the Councils of the Church and the Church House team (as the Office of General Assembly) seek to manage risk and ensure sound governance, whilst enabling and supporting the flourishing of synods and local churches.

You will hold a law degree (or equivalent conversion) and are already working within a charity context with complex governance structures. You will be able to develop a broad overview of governance and its risk profile and design and run complex processes, including fitness to practice processes. You have excellent interpersonal skills with the proven ability to persuade and advise senior leaders.

We can offer you a flexible and friendly working environment with hybrid working from Church House in London and from home.

**If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please send your application form to:**

**Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT**

**020 7691 9871 [recruitment@urc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@urc.org.uk) [www.urch.org.uk/jobs](http://www.urch.org.uk/jobs)**

**Closing date: 9am, Monday 25 November 2024    Interviews: Thursday 5 December 2024**

In accordance with the Equalities Act 2010: part 1, schedule 9, there is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian and a member of the United Reformed Church or member of a Church which belongs to one or more of World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council (DECC), the Council for World Mission (CWM) Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), Churches Together in England (CTE), Churches together in Wales (Cytun), Free Churches Group (FCG) or Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)\*

**Job Title** Head of Governance Services  
**Area/Department** Governance & Legal  
**Reporting to** General Secretary  
**Direct Reports** Personal Assistant (Governance and Legal)  
**Location** Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT  
**Travel** Occasional travel in UK  
**Working Hours** 35 hours per week

**Job Summary:** The Head of Governance Services is a senior strategic role to ensure effective governance and compliance during a time of significant change within the denomination, but to do so in a way which enables the mission of the church. The role is pivotal in horizon scanning as the Councils of the Church and the Church House team (as the Office of General Assembly) seek to manage risk and ensure sound governance whilst enabling and supporting the flourishing of synods and local churches.

This role will have some oversight of safeguarding in terms of compliance, but the safeguarding function will remain part of the discipleship team. For full job description see [Head-of-Governance-Services-Final.pdf](#)



# Volunteer Opportunity: Chair of Retired Minister's Housing Society



## About You...

We are seeking immediate applications for Chair of the Board of the Retired Ministers Housing Society, which is an opportunity to provide a leadership role in a Christian housing environment seeking to provide quality housing to retired United Reformed Church Ministers. While RMHS is a Society, it is not a regulated provider of housing and is not subject to the requirements placed on regulated providers.

Do you have experience from the housing sector? Do you value good governance? Do you want to offer your professional skills in a different environment?

## Interested?

The role description is available here but if you want more information about the role please contact Victoria James on [victoria.james@urc.org.uk](mailto:victoria.james@urc.org.uk).

**To apply** please send a CV by email to [katia.crowley@urc.org.uk](mailto:katia.crowley@urc.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications: noon 6th December 24.**

Applications will be screened by the URC Chief Operating Officer and CEO of RMHS. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend a short meeting with them. References for all volunteers will be sought prior to positions being confirmed.

---

## Volunteer Opportunity: Board Members of Retired Minister's Housing Society



### About you...

We are seeking immediate applications for two positions on the Board of the Retired Ministers Housing Society, which is an opportunity to provide a leadership role in a Christian housing environment seeking to provide quality housing to retired United Reformed Church Ministers. While RMHS is a Society, it is not a regulated provider of housing and is not subject to the requirements placed on regulated providers.

Do you have experience from the housing sector? Do you value good governance? Do you want to offer your professional skills in a different environment?

### Interested?

The role description is available here but if you want more information about the role please contact Victoria James on [victoria.james@urc.org.uk](mailto:victoria.james@urc.org.uk).

**To apply** please send a CV by email to [katia.crowley@urc.org.uk](mailto:katia.crowley@urc.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications: noon 6th December 24.**

Applications will be screened by the URC Chief Operating Officer and CEO of RMHS. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend a short meeting with them. References for all volunteers will be sought prior to positions being confirmed.

---

## Safeguarding Training

# UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

Make your booking by emailing: [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event	Second date
17 January, 2024 1:30pm	Domestic abuse	4 June, 2024 6:30pm
25 January 1:30pm	Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting survivors	11 June 6:30pm
30 January 6:30pm	Modern slavery	8 October 1:30pm
31 January 1:30pm	Elders as Trustees	14 May 7:00pm
8 February 1:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	23 May 6:30pm
27 February 6:30pm	Substance abuse	3 October 1:30pm
6 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers	17 September 6:30pm
18 March 6:30pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting survivors	25 September 1:30pm
18 April 6:30pm	Adult safeguarding	15 October 1:30pm
8 May 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse	11 November 7:00pm
28 October 6:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	4 December 10:00am
19 November 1:30pm	Online safety	

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub  
[bit.ly/3Txldm4](https://bit.ly/3Txldm4)



[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)



From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee

# UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2025

Make your booking by emailing: [Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk)

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event
<b>14 January, 2025</b> 1:30pm	<b>Domestic abuse</b>
<b>23 January</b> 7:00pm	<b>Supporting survivors</b>
<b>4 February</b> 7:00pm	<b>Modern slavery</b>
<b>13 February</b> 1:30pm	<b>Elders as Trustees</b>
<b>4 March</b> 7:00pm	<b>Substance abuse</b>
<b>18 March</b> 1:30pm	<b>Refugees and asylum seekers</b>
<b>27 March</b> 7:00pm	<b>Adult safeguarding</b>
<b>24 April</b> 1:30pm	<b>Spiritual abuse</b>
<b>13 May</b> 7:00pm	<b>Online safety</b>

Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub  
[bit.ly/3Txldm4](https://bit.ly/3Txldm4)



[www.urc.org.uk](http://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  
<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



[Unsubscribe here](#)

© 2018 URC Thames North