



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 9 June 2023.

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

Blessings.

Events

Events Calendar

Stepwise Faith Filled Life 12 June 2023 19:00pm
Zoom

Lumen Poetry Series 13 June 2023 1:30pm The
Lumen Community WC1H 9RS

Synod Prayer Wednesday 14 June 2023 10am Lumen
and Online

Glorious Grandparenting 15 June 2023 19 June 2023
10:30am 19:00pm Online

Refugee Week 19-25 June 2023

Self-Care and Resilience 22 June 2023 19:15pm
Zoom

Introduction to Godly Play 24 June 2023 10:30am
High Cross URC

Gaelic Service 25 June 2023 All Saints Church,
Fulham SW6 3LA

Resilience and community-care 29 June 2023
19:15pm Zoom

Bradwell Pilgrimage 1 July 2023 10:30am Bradwell
St Thomas' CM0 7OJ

Enabling Resilience (making safe spaces) 6 July
2023 19:15pm Zoom

Synod Green Day 8 July 2023 10:30am Cores End
URC

Appreciating the Tough Stuff 30 September 2023
Birmingham and Zoom

Synod Prayer Meeting



You are invited, if you are able, to come together for prayer on Wednesday 14th June 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.

Photo by Photo by Ruben Hutabarat on Unsplash.

Synod Green Day

SYNOD GREEN DAY 

Celebration – Reflection – Action

at Cores End URC, Buckinghamshire SL8 5HZ
on Saturday 8 July 2023

A day for all ages to reflect on the wonders of God's creation – and our care for it

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

Limited places – book at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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).

You can book places at the Synod Office, contacting Colleen at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for a booking form or to send questions to.

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

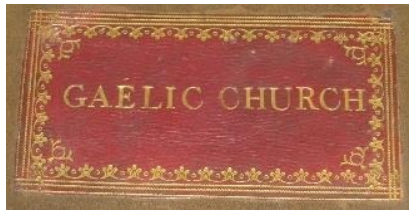
Hello Everyone!

I'm a member of the Green Team and I'm very excited about our Synod Green Day on the 8th July. I'm looking forward to being able to get outside and explore the wildflowers at Cores End. It will be great to be involved in some practical activities too, and I hope to help build the Bug Hotel to enrich the environment for the lovely bugs that live there. If you have space to add even a small bug hotel outside your church it will be a great help to protect our sadly dwindling insects and maintain the all important biodiversity, so come along and be inspired.

But if you cannot make it on the 8th, here's how: [Build a bug hotel | The RSPB](#)

Anna Barrett

Seirbheis-Chuimhneachaidh an Còigeamh Là air Fhichead dhen Òg- mhios (25mh Ògmh.)



25mh Ògmh. 2023: Bidh seirbheis ghoirid Ghàidhlig ann aig 3.30f ann am Fulham, Eaglais nan Naomh Uile (All Saints Church, Fulham SW6 3LA) leis an U. A. Smith airson a' chiad chomharrachadh air an Eaglais Ghàidhlig ann an 1809.

Ma bhios i tioram, tachraidh an t-seirbheis seo ri taobh uaigh Robasdan ann an Eaglais nan Naomh Uile. Ma bhios droch shìde ann, tachraidh an t-seirbheis ann an talla na h-Eaglaise (an togalach ri taobh na h-eaglaise), far am bi suipeir bheag ri faighinn an deigh na seirbhis.

Bidh an t-seirbheis seo mar chuimhneachan air na rinn Donnchadh Robasdan, fear a stèidhich coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig an Lunnainn an 1808 (agus Eaglais Ghaidhlig ann an Lunnainn an 1809) agus na rinn mòran daoine eile tro na linntean gus aoradh Gàidhlig a chur air dòigh ann an Lunnainn. Comharraichidh sinn ath-ùrachadh na litreach air a' chlach-uaighe (a rinn Phil Surey).

Tha Eaglais Naoimh Uile air ceann tuath Drochaid-Rathaid Putney, ri taobh lùchairt Easpaig Fulham agus mu

choinneamh a' Phremier Inn air an drochaid. (Aire: tha eaglais eile air ceann deas na drochaid.)
Stèisean-Tiùib as fhaisge: Putney Bridge
Busaichean: stad-bus Putney Bridge Station, Gonville Street, busaichean 14, 220, 430, 22, 378, 424, 430 (a' dol gu tuath); 220, 270 (a' dol gu deas)
Fàilte! Bidh fàilte chridheil air a-huile duine

Special Gaelic Service at All Saints Church, Fulham, 25 June 2023

25/6/2023: The Rev. Angus Smith will lead a short Gaelic service at 3.30 pm in Fulham (All Saints Church, Fulham SW6 3LA) to commemorate the founding of the London Gaelic Chapel on the same day in 1809.



Unless it is raining, the service will be held outside beside Rev. Robertson's gravestone in the churchyard of All Saints Church. If the weather is bad, the service will be held inside, in the hall and offices beside All Saints church, and there will be a light supper there after the service.

Unless it is raining, the service will be held outside beside Rev. Robertson's gravestone in the churchyard of All Saints Church. If the weather is bad, the service will be held inside, in the hall and offices beside All Saints church, and there will be a light supper there after the service.

All Saints Church is on the north side of Putney (road) Bridge, beside the Fulham Bishop's palace and opposite a 'Premier Inn' on the bridge (Note: there is another church on the south side of the bridge).

Nearest Tube Station: Putney Bridge

Buses: Putney Bridge, Gonville Street bus stop: buses 14, 220, 430, 22, 378, 424, 430 (going north); 220, 270 (going south)

Fàilte! All are welcome



THE CONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN RACIAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE.....

I am sure you will agree that all of us as people of Faith need to grapple with the close connection there is between the challenges of racism and climate change and how they are very much inter-connected. We may also realise that there is a growing understanding of the fact that all of us have responsibilities in getting rid of racism in our churches and communities. The role of white people, requiring us to speak out and act for justice and not to remain silent while others are suffering is of paramount importance. It is good to see that there are many initiatives for climate change happening in our synod. At the same time we need to hear more voices and see more initiatives for racial justice. Let us work towards building an anti-racist church and world as well as developing a more sustainable future for our world. (Sandra Ackroyd)

Please read this article written by Rev. Nancy Babarinde for the 'Synod Church and Society Newsletter in 2022'.

Thames North Church and Society Newsletter - Spring 2022.

A theological Reflection written by Rev. Nancy Babarinde - interconnection between climate change and racism.

What is classified as Racism ? It is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial/ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalised. It can also be a belief that different racial groups possess distinct characteristics, abilities or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.

There is indelible proof that climate change and racism are inextricably linked. Racism is destroying our planet and how we treat each other is essentially structural violence against our natural world. There are fewer trees in low income areas and racially minoritized neighbourhoods. A lack of shade is detrimental to plants and animals, promotes pollution and aids survival of pests like rodents and mosquitoes that scientists know decrease the quality of human life.

Climate change may affect us all, but it affects you differently depending on where you reside and your status in community. In order to discover a biblical link or theological reflection, we need to revisit the beginning. Making reference to Genesis 1 v 26 we note that Racism is a problem we can't ignore or shy away from. It is an issue today, it was an issue through history, including different times when the Bible was written. When land is abused a tendency to neglect or dump on poor areas or countries, is a form of racism which will cause climate change which was

inflicted by human conditions. There are no easy answers but this calls for a serious debate from all ages and across a spectrum of individuals.

Racial discrimination in environmental policy and the enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of people, communities for toxic waste facilities, the official sanction of life-threatening presence poisons and pollutants in our communities and the history of excluding ethnic minorities from leadership in the environmental movements. Referring to Genesis ch 1 v27, we are reminded that God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God, he created them, male and female he created them. If humanity is created in the image of God, why are racism, classism, gender violence, sexism, stereotypes and behaviours which are against the moral consciousness of humanity, thriving in the community, including in churches today.

In 2022, we would expect the suffering of humanity to subside but racism like climate change is with us. The powerful oppressing the powerless.. Like the church, those thought weak are cut down to make room for more sustenance of the system.it is an unequal yoke, a burden that lingers and the voices are silent.

Sadly Russia is now bombing Ukraine , people are dying and suffering. The impact of this is on people, it is beyond description. The impact on the environment will also take its toll. Some are treated with immense prejudice

Commenting on Genesis ch 8 v 22, we remind ourselves that 'As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease'. Does this Scripture give us hope, theologically or as people who love God? Or is it a tipping scale in the presence of adversity. The intersectionality of oppression based on race , class, gender, have all contributed to the myriad issues that exist in environmental racism and the global climate crisis today. Despite all, is there hope for the earth and minoritized people of this earth ?

Rev. Nancy Babarinde (has also drawn on the writings of Lynn White, an American Historian who describes the historical roots of the ecological crisis and has published 2 major studies, 1. Medieval Technology and Social Change - 1962 and 2. Medieval Technology and Religion- 1978

Some questions to deliberate on

- What aspects of racism and climate change do we need to highlight in our settings ?
- Do we need to challenge the impact of racism and climate change ?
- How can we be pro-active in discussing these issues within our gatherings ?

Certificate in Theology & Discipleship for Mission



Urban Theology Union (UTU) announces the 23-24 Certificate in Theology & Discipleship for Mission (CTDM)

Session Dates

9 & 23 October 2023
6 & 20 November
4 December
15 & 29 January 2024
12 & 26 February
11 March
29 April

13 May
3 & 17 June
1 July

Join our 23-24 Cohort for the CTDM to participate in:

- *scholarly readings of Mark's Jesus movement led by the founder of UTU, Rev'd Dr. John Vincent sharing of stories in faith journey, evolution, change and discovery
- *perspective building through liberation theologians, including Black liberation and Indigenous theologians.
- *gain insight from guest speakers who are embedded in mission provide practical insight into what works, how to adapt, and how to flourish as a Kingdom Community.
- *Our 15-sessions culminate in student led plans for local mission.

We meet by Zoom about twice a month between October and July. Sessions last for 3 hours and include a mid-session break.

What's the style? Classes are highly relational, with brief presentations from guests/course leader, but dialogue based.

How are students assessed? We do not "assess" work in the traditional sense, but encourage and facilitate dialogue, personal, spiritual, and intellectual growth.

What is the work load? Fortnightly assignments (about 1 or 2 pages of A4, double spaced).

Course Leader: is UTU's Director of Theological Exploration, Revd Dr Rob Hoch, who serves as the lead instructor for the CTDM.

For more information on course details and a registration form please contact office@utusheffield.org.uk.

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**

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)

20th June 6.30pm - 8.30pm

***ONLINE**

TRAINING*

10th July 6pm - 8pm at at Wigmore Church(Crawley Green Rd, Luton LU2 9TE) Parking available. ***IN**

PERSON TRAINING*

19th September 10am - 12pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

at Maidstone URC (67 Week Street, Maidstone ME14 1QU)
Parking available at Maidstone East station

2nd October 6.30pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

7th November 6pm - 8pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 10am - 12pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

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).

11th July 6pm – 8.30pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

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

6th September 6pm- 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

12th September 10am- 12.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

19th September 1pm – 3.30pm ***IN PERSON TRAINING***

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

9th November 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th December 6pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training.

22nd June 6.30pm - 8.30pm ***ONLINE TRAINING***

5th October 6.30pm – 8.30pm ***ONLINE**

TRAINING*

To book on to this training, please email your **name, church role, church and preferred date** to safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk



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**

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