



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 27 March 2025.

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

Events Diary

Opportunities for Partnership – online gathering 3 April 2025, 19:00-20:30 <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

Induction of Revd Dr Tessa Heny-Robinson on Palm Sunday (13 April) at 6.30pm at the American International Church. Book [here](#)

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

Dinner Dance at Grange Park URC on 3 May 2025 4-9pm

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

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 training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1257520550819?aff=oddtcreator>

News

Farewell to Terry Hinks



Last Sunday the Moderator had the privilege of leading worship for Terry Hinks' retirement service after 39 years in ministry, latterly serving at Cores End and Trinity, High Wycombe. We wish Terry and Elizabeth a happy retirement in the Cotswolds. We pray for Cores End and Trinity as they go into vacancy.

CTE Forum 2025

FORUM 2025



BUT NOT THE SAME

Celebrating diversity • Living with difference

[CTE.ORG.UK/FORUM2025](https://www.cte.org.uk/forum2025)



An overview of CTE Forum. More videos to follow.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DqWSamFZhI

Single
Friendly
CHURCH NETWORK



RESOURCES
FOR
MOTHER'S
DAY

Mother's Day can be a difficult day for many single people. Single Friendly Church Network have free resources to help churches approach services in a way that is sensitive, comforting and even uplifting. All based on research and listening to single people's voices. For more on this, see <https://ow.ly/e7oV50VIXsl>.

Anxiety levels soar among disabled people!



Proposed cuts to disability benefits are causing rising levels of anxiety among disabled people, according to Through the Roof, the Christian charity that works together with churches and people across all disabilities to advance God's kingdom.

Lynda a disabled volunteer calls on churches and the wider Christian community to be more attuned to the needs of disabled people and make adjustments that enable everyone to flourish and use their gifts to build others up:

"Let's listen to one another," Lynda encourages. "Let's hear the worries and concerns of those who are struggling. We must be aware of the resources available through organisations that can offer assistance. As a Christian community, we can provide comfort, encouragement, and hope. In Jesus's name, we are called to offer support and rest, especially in times of distress. As He said in Matthew 11:28, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'"

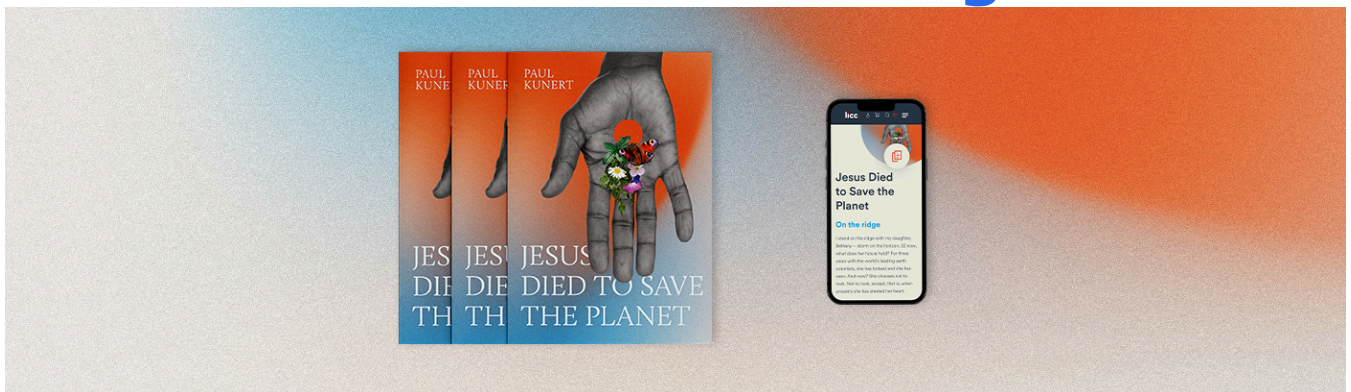
Through the Roof invites churches to nominate their own **Roofbreaker** (Disability Champion) to reflect on the needs of individuals and ensure disabled people can fully Access the Christian life, Belong together as God's family, and use their gifts to make disciples, for God's glory, as part of the Great Commission.

Find out how we can resource your church for the **ABC journey** of disability inclusion at: <https://www.throughtheroof.org/roofbreakers/> or [@TTRChangesLives](#) on social media.

Picture: Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Information

Green Team Message



At the beginning of Lent we sent out a link for a digital copy of Paul Kunert's essay 'Jesus died to save the planet' as a good article to read during lent - here again if you missed it. Jesus Died to Save the Planet | LICC. If you would like to continue your Lent reflection on Creation it would be good to see Paul discussing his work with Andy Atkins (CEO of A Rocha - the charity behind Eco Church). Here is a link to the very interesting and thought provoking webinar Recording now available: The Green Heart of Mission Webinar - A Rocha UK.

The essay is a useful starting point for churches and church leadership groups wondering what place Eco Church has in their mission. It is accompanied by discussion notes to help discern what your response

Heaton Way URC - Memories and Lessons Learned



The Heaton Way Memories and Power Point was well received at Synod and 70 copies were taken. Please ask for more and tell us if the Power Point is planned to be used. A sincere thank you to Paul Skipp for the production of such an excellent booklet.

It can be sent to you free of charge if you contact Revd. Francis Ackroyd on email ackroyds22@gmail.com or phone 020 8558 5270.

This project was started by a small group following the closing service for Heaton Way Church on October 1st, 2023. It started as a booklet to share memories of the church that had meant so much to them over the years. The purpose of the project grew as it was felt that there were lessons that could be learned by all churches as we fight to keep our churches viable in a changing world.

The Moderator says of it 'It is always sad when a church closes. But what a wonderful testimony this account provides of the faithfulness of individuals in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and in action. Through the witness of the church, lives were touched and transformed. It is important that the story is shared to encourage

disciples today and to give God the glory.'

A PowerPoint presentation on lessons learned from the closure of Heaton Way will be shown at synod on Saturday and is also available for download here. We hope the PowerPoint presentation will be useful in local Area Groups, individual churches or in Training Sessions. The seven members of the Group have expressed their willingness to come and be part of any such training or discussion sessions if invited.



Eddie Boon our Synod Discipleship Enabler has shared an update with us which you can access at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d3Y8ZSp4SJFCdBiMdR8Ch8scCnQUpPMd/view?usp=sharing>

Recording now available: The Green Heart of Mission Webinar



It was wonderful to have so many of you join us for our webinar The Green Heart of Mission on 11 March, exploring how creation care is at the heart of mission and how a newly refreshed Eco Church survey helps put this into practice.

We heard from Paul Kunert, author of 'Jesus Died to Save the Planet' and Rev. Lynda Sebbage, Team Vicar of Saffron Walden & Villages, who has championed Eco Church in her previous parishes, as well as A Rocha UK CEO Andy Atkins and Church Relations Manager and Eco Church lead, Helen Stephens.

Recording

If you missed the Webinar or want to watch any of it back, here is the recording, including the Questions and Responses.

[Webinar](#)

What's On

Funeral of Mike Gould

We were greatly saddened this week at the news of the death of Mike Gould. He had given so much to the synod, various churches and trusts over the years. Everyone who knew him said what a lovely person he was. He will be sadly missed by his wife Sonia and Katherine, Anthony and Liz. His funeral has been scheduled for Tuesday, 15 April at 11:30am at Trinity URC Upminster

Induction of Tessa Henry-Robinson as Free Churches' Group Moderator



On Palm Sunday (13 April) at 6.30pm, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson will be inducted as Moderator of the Free Churches' Group at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road, London. Tickets are free (but required because of the venue), and can be reserved here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1277875783869?aff=oddtcreator>

**150th Anniversary of the World
Communion of Reformed Churches**



With roots in the 16th-century Reformation, and particularly in the theology of John Calvin, the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) dates its organisational history to London in 1875, and has been unifying churches over the course of its existence. It now represents 100m Christians from 230+ member churches in 109 countries around the world.

A service to mark its 150th anniversary will be held on 12 July 2:00pm at the American International Church, Tottenham Court Road.

Free tickets can be reserved here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1257520550819?aff=oddtcreator>

Aspiring to More

Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training



The
United
Reformed
Church
Thames North Synod

2025-2026 Course

Thames North Synod is recruiting people who want to learn more about the Bible, theology, worship leading and preaching, beginning in September 2025 for 15 to 18 months.

Aspiring to More is a free part-time course delivered via Zoom on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, with 5 in-person Saturday Study Days. It can be done either for interest or to become a Locally Recognised Worship Leader.

Taster Sessions

Saturday 12 July 2025

10:30 to 15:30

The Lumen Community
88 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RS

Tuesday 2 September 2025

19:30 to 21:30

via Zoom

To express interest, contact:
Julian Templeton
Training and Development Officer
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Or write to: 102 St Georges Road
London E10 5RQ

Reading party

Holy Anarchy



Dismantling domination,
embodying community,
loving strangeness

**With
Graham Adams**

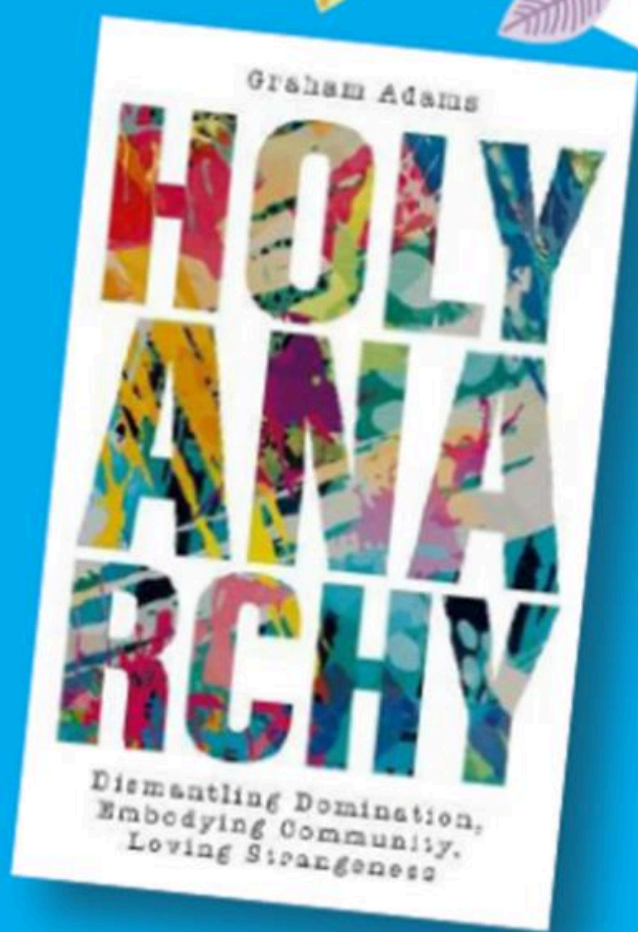
17-20 June 2025
Luther King House
Brighton Grove
Manchester M14 5JP

Cost: £375

Enquiries to

bookings@freetobelieve.org.uk

Information and booking details available
on the Free to Believe website: bit.ly/FTBconf





The Life and Mission Choir



joyfully presents

TIME FOR JESUS

The Musical

Music and Lyrics

PAUL WARDROP-DAY

Script

JOHN COX

25th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATIONS

Saturday 12th April 2025 7PM

St James' Church, East Barnet Road, EN4 8RN

Sunday 13th April 2025 7PM

St Mary's Church, Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT

ADMISSION FREE

lifeandmissionchoir.com

“In Harmony” Free Church Choirs



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**

Vacancies



Closing date for applications is midday, 31st March 2025, interviews will be held on 9th April at the Luton Campus.

Recruitment of Co-Lead Chaplain (Job-Share)

UBECT, along with the University of Bedfordshire are seeking to recruit a co-lead chaplain (job-share). All the information is here, the [Job Advert](#) contains the details of who to contact for an application form.

Find out more about UBECT and also Background Information, Job Description and Person Specification of the role [here](#).

PART-TIME CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKER

Broxbourne URC



ABOUT US

We are a United Reformed Church in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. We are a friendly, inclusive and welcoming church, proud of our heritage, but forward looking and innovative. Everyone is welcome in our church.

As a church family we are offering a rare and flexible opportunity for someone with a love of God, children and church.

THE APPLICANT

We are seeking a motivated and enthusiastic Children's and Youth Worker who can help us nurture and grow the existing work with our young people, working with our children's team volunteers. We will welcome your ideas.

EXPERIENCE

We are looking for someone who has experience in working with children and young people in a church or community setting, with the ability to engage young people through creative and age-appropriate teaching methods.

THE POSITION

This position is essential for the spiritual development of children and youth, supporting their faith journeys and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment for all families.

Over time, the role will extend across our pastorate: Broxbourne and Hertford United Reformed Churches and Cheshunt Free Church. We'd love to chat with you about creating a bespoke role that draws on your gifts.

Location

Broxbourne United Reformed Church, Mill Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7BQ

Hours

16 hours a week – negotiable and flexible, including some Sunday mornings and mid-week and evening events.

Contract and salary

Three-year fixed-term, £16 per hour. Responsible to the Minister, working with him, Elders and volunteer members.

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply for an application pack to our Pastorate Administrator, Mrs. Stepanka Moysey at urcnlvg@gmail.com
For informal inquiries, please contact revdmarkr@gmail.com.

The closing date for applications is **noon on Wednesday 23rd April**.
Interviews will be held in the week beginning 28th April.

URC Business Committee Convenor Role

We are seeking immediate nominations and applications for the convenor of the Business Committee, as the current convenor will complete their term in the role at the July 2025 General Assembly.

As the Church Life Review gathers pace, the United Reformed Church is at a watershed moment, with an interesting and exciting journey of change ahead. Given its strategic and operational oversight of the work of General Assembly and Assembly Executive, including at times working under its delegated authority, Business Committee will play a vital part in shaping and equipping the church for a fresh chapter in the life of URC. Being convenor of Business Committee at this seminal time is therefore an opportunity to make a significant contribution.

Please click on the link below for the full role description and if interested in making an application or nomination, please email samantha.bircham@urc.org.uk for an application form.

Applications and nominations close on 31 March 2025

[Role Description](#)

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



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](#)