



THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 10 May 2024.

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

Blessings.

Events

Hounslow United Reformed Church 200th Anniversary on Sunday 12 May 2024 at 11:00am TW3 1UF

Thames North & Southern Synod's Youth Residential Thursday 30 May - 2 June 2024 Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas

Living Stones for a Living Church on Monday 21 May 7:30pm and Monday 4 June 7:30pm. Email mission@urc.org.uk

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal & other speakers on Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 6:30pm at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. Email: info@lcrf.org.uk

Thames North Eco Day Saturday 8 June 2024 10am - 4pm at Vine Church Ilford

Walk with Me on Sunday 23 June 2024 3-5pm. Gather in Parliament Square

Envisioning Worship Conference Saturday 11am 6-7 July 2024 at Luther King Centre, Manchester

<https://northerncollege.co.uk/envisioning-worship-2024/>

Free to Believe Conference Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th September 2024 at The Hayes Conference Centre.

Cancellation Alert

The '50 Hymns for 50 Years Book' event on Saturday, 11 May 2024 has been cancelled due to the author's ill-health. We hope to reschedule the meeting for another time.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused.
Ola Lawal
URC TNS Lay preaching Advocate



DISCIPLES
EVERYDAY

The Synod Discipleship Matters zoom gathering for next Wednesday 15 May 2024 **Please note** that on this occasion the zoom gathering will be 3-4pm only (and not in the evening).

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063?pwd=dnhRWGtIK2tQdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09>
Meeting ID: 966 4746 0063 Passcode: 498125

Please contact Eddie via disc.enab@urcthamesnorth.org.uk for more details or to say you are coming – or just turn up on the day!

THAMES NORTH ECO DAY



More to Look Forward to at our Eco Day on 8 June 2024:

Progressing our buildings to Net Zero around the Synod

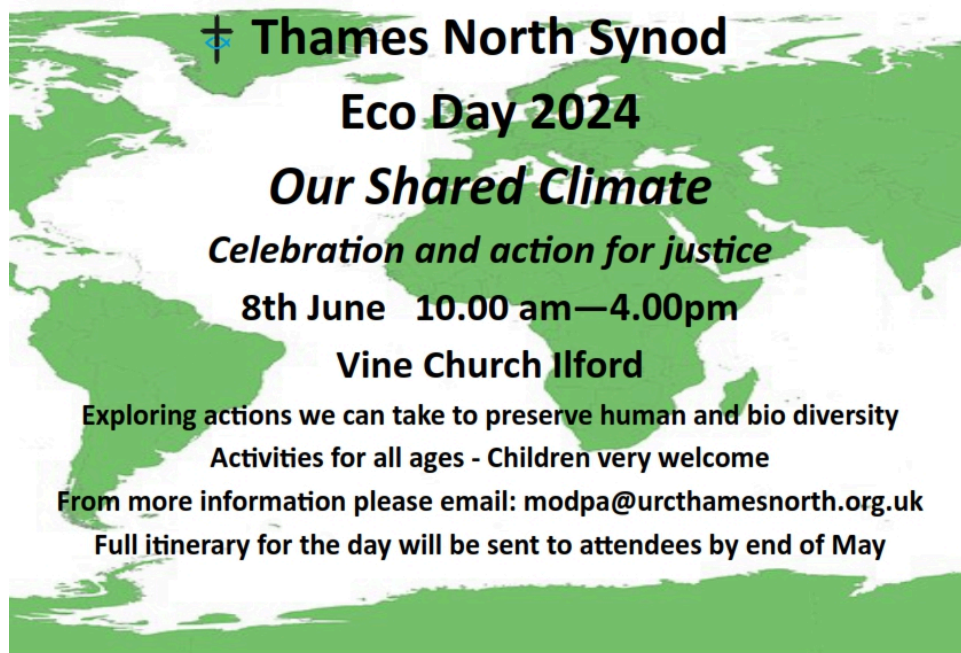
Are you wondering what you can do with your church buildings to reduce their Carbon Footprint? Why not come along to the Synod Eco Day and hear Andrew Mills of St Johns New Barnet URC, holders of a Silver Eco Church Award, in conversation with Sacha McArdle, Thames North Synod's Assistant Property Officer, on the work that has been done at St Johns New Barnet URC. In addition, you will be able to see the work that has been done at The Vine URC as a Thames North Synod Pilot Project. You will also be able to pick up a few tips on applying for an Eco Grant.

Talking Climate, Poverty and the General Election

With a general election looming, it's a great time to let your candidates know what you care about. This session will cover tips and tools to start building a relationship with your future MP and getting their commitment to act for climate justice in their first 100 days and beyond. With Jess Hall, Campaigns and Organising Officer, Christian Aid.

Food served on the day will be vegetarian but to help us with catering please let Colleen modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk know whether you prefer Vegetable Curry or Vegetable Pasta Bake.

Please register here <https://forms.office.com/r/3wc6zQgPOC>



PLEASE BOOK SOON TO HELP WITH CATERING

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar

MAY

Say no to the mower. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals. Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in Churches Count on Nature (8-16 June 2024) at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/.

Living Stones for a Living Church: Buildings for the Ministry of Mission



This is a reminder of the two webinars below – please do forward to your networks and contacts, and if you have already registered, we look forward to seeing you at one or other or both.

The United Reformed Church Buildings Forum Webinar: 'Living stones for a living church: buildings for the ministry of Mission'

Part 1 21 May 7.30pm

Part 2 04 June 7.30pm

This is an open invitation to attend the URC Church Buildings Forum webinar on Zoom on 21 May 2024 7.30-9pm. Following the launch of these webinars just over three years ago, The Revd Dr John P. Bradbury will return as the keynote speaker to address how we may best use our building and assets for mission and ministry, particularly within the context of the Church Life Review and its outworking. As always with the webinars, you will have the opportunity for conversation in breakout rooms and, importantly, it will also be a listening exercise to hear the questions that you have, the challenges that churches face, and positive ideas, examples and news to be shared.

A complementary and more pragmatically focussed Part Two will take place on 4 June 2024 7.30-9pm. There will be a presentation of North Western Synod's strategy 'A Church with People at the Margins: A Strategy for Mission and Ministry' and examples of a number of local churches already on that journey, in order to stimulate debate and encourage other synods and local churches.

Coming along to one of the webinars will be more useful than not coming to either, but we do hope that you will be able to attend both.

To register for either or both seminars please email mission@urc.org.uk.

Free online opportunities to explore the new resources from the URC to support your engagement with children and young people.

Take an hour on a Saturday morning (9.30-10.30am) or Wednesday lunchtime (12-1pm) to refuel and refocus your ministry. Make yourself a cuppa and settle down to meet the creators, ask questions, explore how things might work in your setting and chat with others doing similar work.

Pioneering new ways of being church

Wednesday 8 May 12-1pm & Saturday 11 May 9.30-10.30am

Where Are The Young People?

Saturday 18 May 9.30-10.30am & Wednesday 22 May 12-1pm

Prayer Prompts for Children:

Saturday 8 June 9.30-10.30am & Wednesday 12 June 12-1pm

For more information or to register, go to: <https://bit.ly/find-out-sessions>

URC CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK ONLINE

Facebook https://bit.ly/URC_CYW_FACEBOOK

Website https://bit.ly/CYW_RESOURCES

YouTube <https://bit.ly/URCCYW-youtube>

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/URCCYWD/>

Faith Adventures Facebook group https://bit.ly/FACT_FB

VACANCIES

Convenor of Governors Westminster College

We are seeking immediate nominations and applications for a Convenor of Governors for Westminster College. This is an opportunity to support the College at an exciting time of change and development.

Do you have experience of UK higher education?

Do you value good governance?
Do you enjoy chairing meetings?
If so then we would love to hear from you.

Convenor of Governors Westminster College Role Description (Word | 275kb)

For more information about the role, email the current role holder
To find out more about Education and Learning in the URC and how
Westminster College fits into that , email jenny.mills@urc.org.uk
To apply please send a CV by email to sam.bircham@urc.org.uk
Nominations can also be sent to sam.bircham@urc.org.uk
Closing date for applications/nominations: Noon 7 June 2024.
Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend a short meeting with the
General Secretary and current role holder. References for all volunteers
will be sought prior to positions being confirmed.



Children and Youth Advocates



Do you have a passion for children & young people's work?

Do you enjoy sharing in their activities, and listening to their joys and concerns?

Are you interested in encouraging them to play a part in God's mission through developing their own faith and spirituality?

Why not support the work of children & young people in our synod?

Thames North Synod Children and Youth Advocates (CYA) will be appointed by the Synod Meeting to work with and support the Children and Youth Development Officer (CYDO). It is a voluntary post with expenses paid. Appointment to this role will be subject to safer recruitment procedures which include the completion of a volunteering form requiring 2 referees and a DBS check. There will also be a requirement to undergo safeguarding training.

Please visit the Thames North website here

<https://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/news/children-and-youth-advocate-required>

for further information and contact Colleen for a volunteering application pack including form. modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 31 May 2024.

You may find the role description [here](#) and if you contact Colleen (modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk) she will send a full application pack including volunteer application form

Safeguarding Children and Young People in Churches

September 10th
1pm – 3.30pm
On Zoom



www.urc.org.uk



A more in depth look at scenarios around Children's safeguarding.

Discussions around the challenges of safeguarding within the non-statutory sector.

An insight into grooming.

A look at the specific safeguarding concerns that could be raised within the church and how to respond to these.

Email Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk to Book.

Safeguarding Training

Thames North & Southern Synod Safeguarding Training- 2024
Foundation and Foundation Refresher Safeguarding Training (Approx 2 hours).

14th June *IN PERSON TRAINING*

at St Andrew's Canterbury URC (Southern Synod) 10am-12pm

22nd July *IN PERSON TRAINING*

at Bromley by Bow URC- 41 St Leonard's St, London E3 3DH (Thames North Synod) 10am-12pm

3rd August *IN PERSON TRAINING*

at Lancaster Road- Lancaster Rd, Enfield EN2 0BS (Thames North Synod) 10am-12pm

September *IN PERSON TRAINING* location TBC

21st October 10am- 12pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

21st November 7pm – 9.30pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

Foundation E-Learning module

The Foundation training is also available as an E Learning which can be completed in your own time.

The link is here:

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24>

To book on to this training, please email your

name, church role, church and preferred date to
safeguarding@urcsouthern.org.uk or
safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Intermediate Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).

14th June *IN PERSON TRAINING*
at St Andrew's Canterbury URC- Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UA
(Southern Synod) 1pm-3.30pm
22nd July *IN PERSON TRAINING*
at Bromley by Bow URC- 41 St Leonard's St, London E3 3DH (Thames
North Synod) 1pm-3.30pm
3rd August *IN PERSON TRAINING*
at Lancaster road- Lancaster Rd, Enfield EN2 0BS (Thames North Synod)
1pm-3.30pm
September *IN PERSON TRAINING* location TBC
25th October 10am-12pm *ONLINE TRAINING*
29th November 7pm – 9.30pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

Intermediate Refresher Safeguarding Training (Approx 2.5 hours).

12th June 6.30pm - 9pm *ONLINE TRAINING*
13th September 6.30pm – 9pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

Advanced Safeguarding Training (Approx 4 hours).

Saturday 13th July 10-3pm *IN PERSON TRAINING*- location TBC
13th December 5pm- 9pm *ONLINE TRAINING*

UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

Make your booking by emailing: 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



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