

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD MISSION & VISION

*“As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. Luke 19: 41—42*



The  
**Dunamis**  
project

*Equipping you  
to cooperate with  
the Holy Spirit*

## Gateways to Empowered Ministry

*The person and work of the Holy Spirit*

**17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

St Andrew's URC, Canterbury. CT1 2UA  
*Wednesday early afternoon to Sunday lunch time*



Full details and booking form online:  
[www.dunamis.org.uk/canterbury](http://www.dunamis.org.uk/canterbury)  
For enquiries about this event contact Val Cannon:  
[val@dunamis.org.uk](mailto:val@dunamis.org.uk)



## FaithTalk

everyday evangelism for the URC

**the first in a series of webinars  
Wednesday 1 May 7.30pm**

**register for a Zoom link at [mission@urc.org.uk](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk)**

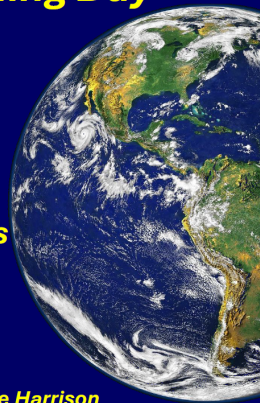
## Lay Preachers' Training Day

**Crawley URC  
25 May 2024  
10.00 – 15.30**

**Guest Speaker  
Rev. Alison Davis**

**CLIMATE  
JUSTICE  
ACTION**

To book your place contact Deirdre Harrison  
[deirdreharrison@btinternet.com](mailto:deirdreharrison@btinternet.com)  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**



**PLEASE NOTE:** Items for the next issue of “Mission & Vision” need to be sent to [Ross](#) by **Monday 15th April**.

A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website  
[southernsynodurc.org.uk](http://southernsynodurc.org.uk)



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

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**Issue 163**

# URC SOUTHERN SYNOD

# MISSION & VISION

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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

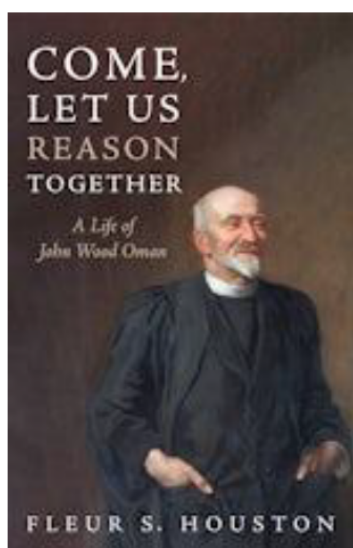
This is an open invitation to attend the URC Church Buildings Forum webinar on Zoom on 21 May 2024 7.30-9pm. Following the launch of these webinars just over three years ago, The Revd Dr John P. Bradbury will return as the keynote speaker to address how we may best use our building and assets for mission 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](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk)



## **BOOK LAUNCH**

You are cordially invited to the launch of Fleur Houston’s book, *Come Let us Reason Together: A Life of John Wood Oman*, at Westminster College, Cambridge, on 7 May 2024.

The event will begin at 4.30pm with a drinks reception. Professor David Fergusson, Regius Professor of Divinity in the Divinity Faculty of Cambridge University and Dr David Cornick, formerly Principal of Westminster College and Emeritus Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge, will speak. This will be followed by a buffet

All are welcome, but for catering purposes, registration via Eventbrite would be helpful – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/book-launch-fleur-houstons-come-let-us-reason-together-tickets-860959381687?aff=oddtcreator>



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SOUTHERN  
SYNOD

## SAFEGUARDING *training*

14  
JUNE  
2024

10AM- FOUNDATION MODULE  
1PM INTERMEDIATE MODULE

EMAIL:  
SAFEGUARDING@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK  
TO BOOK

ST ANDREW'S URC CANTERBURY -  
WATLING ST, CANTERBURY CT1 2UA



The United Reformed Church History Society Conference:  
16-18 September 2024  
University of Durham



*£275 full board in single room, £250 per person sharing a double room.*

*The Church on the margins:  
learning from the past to shape the future.*

TO FIND OUR MORE OR TO BOOK: email [michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk](mailto:michael.hopkins@urc.org.uk)

## Church in focus

### Horsham URC

One of my favourite verses from 'The Message' translation of the Bible is John 1 v14 where Eugene Peterson describes so fittingly Christ's birth:

*'The word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood'*

Jesus had a strong sense of commitment to people and place and there were distinct neighbourhoods, notably his own Galilean region where he sought to engage with the community and bring a sense of love and light.

In embarking on a role as Transition Minister/Visionary Companion at Horsham URC I have sought as a first step to reach out into the immediate vicinity of the Church. I have visited neighbouring offices, the shopping centre next door, the pubs, the town library and treated the Catholic deacon from across the road to a latte. I have to say that I have been warmly received and had some lovely and some quite deep conversations. I have taken the congregation on a prayer walk around that area and we went out into the street and into a nearby pub at Christmas to sing carols. We found the courage to make that outward step and gained a positive response. I do feel that we are placed as Christians in particular vicinities for a reason and our surroundings are a good starting point in bringing the grace of Christ to bear. Jesus began by building relationships and we are trying to do the same in these early days of our new ministry team here in Horsham.

Rev David Pitkeathly