

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



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



Upcoming Events....

Research Seminars...

23rd April - *The Origin of Life: Chance, Necessity or Design?* from Dr Paul Rimmer.

7th May - *Why Biological Evolution Should Inspire Worship* from Dr Graeme Finlay.

21st May - *The Quest for Human-Level AI and its Implications for Theological Anthropology* from Dr Marius Dorobantu.

To register your interest, follow this link;
faraday.institute/seminars

Art, Spirituality and Healing course...

On 10th-11th May a short course on Art, Spirituality and Healing will be delivered by Dr Pavlína Kašparová in the Art Studio at Westminster College. Places are limited and priority will be given to participants attending for both days, so book now to avoid disappointment:

faraday.institute/artcourse



LONDON CHURCHES REFUGEE FUND ANNUAL SPEAKERS MEETING

TUESDAY 4TH JUNE AT 6:30 PM
BLOOMSBURY CENTRAL BAPTIST
CHURCH, 235 SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
WC2H 8EP

...with a fascinating talk from Revd Inderjit Bhogol, the founder of the City of Sanctuary



Hymn Books
available

At the Synod Office we have a selection of Hymn Books that are looking for a new home. Please contact office@southern.org.uk if you are interested.



Lay Preachers' Training Day

Crawley URC
25 May 2024
10.00 – 15.30

Guest Speaker
Rev. Alison Davis

To book your place contact Deirdre Harrison
deidreharrison@btinternet.com
EVERYONE WELCOME

PLEASE NOTE: Items for the next issue of “Mission & Vision” need to be sent to Ross by **Monday 29th April**.

A copy of this news sheet can be found & downloaded from the Synod website southernsynodurc.org.uk

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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

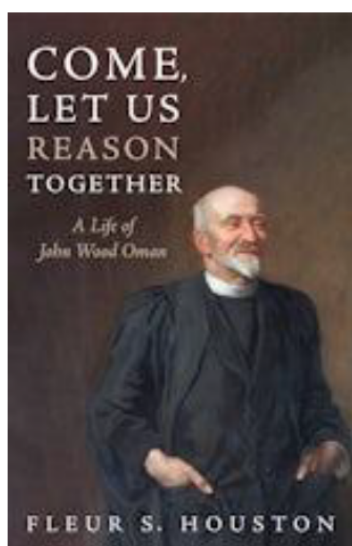
This is an open invitation to attend the URC Church Buildings Forum webinar on Zoom on 21 May 2024 7.30-9pm. Following the launch of these webinars just over three years ago, The Revd Dr John P. Bradbury will return as the keynote speaker to address how we may best use our building and assets for mission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



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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Two 12-month, paid positions working with the Joint Public Issues Team, beginning in September 2024.

The internships provide opportunities to develop skills in campaigning, communications, research and policy within a dynamic team environment.

Are you passionate about driving meaningful change in the world? Do you want to explore the intersection of faith, policy, and politics? The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is recruiting two internship positions: one focused on Communications and the other on supporting local churches to build relationships with their MPs.

You would be working as part of a small ecumenical team on a diverse range of tasks and initiatives including communications, policy, campaigning and supporter engagement, contributing to the public advocacy and political engagement work of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

The Closing Date for applications is **5th May 2024!**

To learn more please go to;

[x2 JPIT Intern - Communications Support & Constituency Action Network Support \(current-vacancies.com\)](https://www.jpit.org.uk/x2-jpit-intern-communications-support-constituency-action-network-support-current-vacancies.com)

The Art and Science of Human Health and Spirituality

Overview

Science touches every aspect of life – from how it begins and how it ends, to how it is lived in between. The same, of course, is true of religion. Looking the other way, every aspect of life touches science – from politics and power, to understanding the roots of creativity and communication. And the same, of course, is true of religion.

What you'll discover

- How experts from a range of disciplines perceive the interaction of these ideas.
- How science, religion, medicine, and the arts mutually inform, illuminate, and enrich one another.

Who should enrol

- Students or graduates from any university in the world who want to think further about science, medicine, art and spirituality.
- Both those with a personal faith and those who with none.
- Those from all subject backgrounds who want to find out more.

1st-5th July 2024

Lucy Cavendish College,
Cambridge
(Online Available)

Register now

faraday.institute/summercourse2024
events@faraday.cam.ac.uk



Illustrations from the Wonders of the Living World Project, Danny Allison © Lion Hudson IP Limited, www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

LET'S END POVERTY



For more information on how to get involved in the Let's End Poverty movement please go to [Home - Let's End Poverty \(letsendpoverty.co.uk\)](https://www.letsendpoverty.co.uk)



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Issue 164

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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

Church in focus

Hassocks URC

Hassocks URC, All Saints URC in Burgess Hill, & Haywards Heath URC, together, make up the Mid Sussex Pastorate.

The pastorate shares a full-time minister who has been in post since September 2023, when I was ordained. My focus as a newish pastorate is to try to find ways to build relationships between the 3 churches. We have 3 joint Sunday services planned for this year, so we can worship as one pastorate, rather than 3 churches. We are also hoping to have social events once the weather improves and evenings get lighter so we can build those relationships further. The elders meet 3 times a year for a joint meeting and have an away day planned for the summer, again to build relationships. At the moment we are all finding our feet and place within the pastorate, myself included, and hope that over the coming months and years we can grow in faith as the body of Christ throughout Mid Sussex.

Revd Dave Cumbers



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