

# 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*



## 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



## 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](http://faraday.institute/seminars)

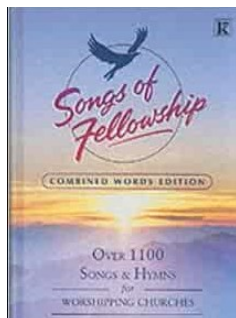
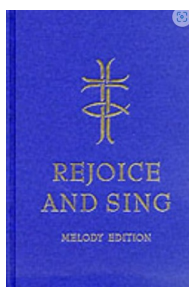
### Art, Spirituality and Healing course...

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](http://faraday.institute/artcourse)

## Hymn Books available...

We have a variety of Hymn Books available at the Synod Office, including Rejoice and Sing and Songs of Fellowship (both Word and Combined Word Editions...)

Please contact [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk) if you are interested.

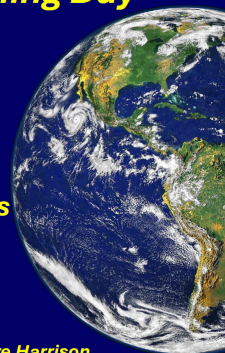


## Lay Preachers' Training Day

Crawley URC  
25 May 2024  
10.00 – 15.30

CLIMATE  
JUSTICE  
ACTION

Guest Speaker  
Rev. Alison Davis



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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Items for the next issue of "Mission & Vision" need to be sent to [Ross](mailto:Ross) by **Monday 13th May**.

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



**Synod Office:** East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP  
Tel: 020 8688 3730 [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.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

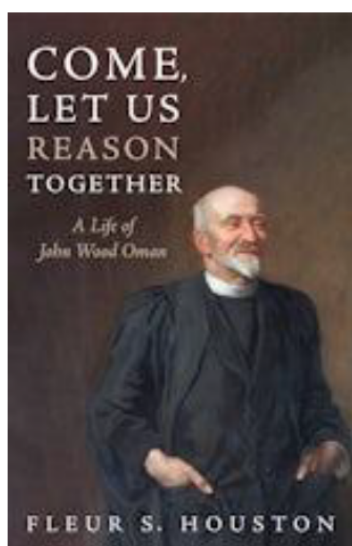
This is an open invitation to attend the URC Church Buildings Forum webinar on Zoom on 21 May 2024 7.30-9pm. Following the launch of these webinars just over three years ago, The Revd Dr John P. Bradbury will return as the keynote speaker to address how we may best use our building and assets for mission 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](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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**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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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.

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Lucy Cavendish College,  
Cambridge  
(Online Available)

Register now

[faraday.institute/summercourse2024](https://faraday.institute/summercourse2024)  
[events@faraday.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@faraday.cam.ac.uk)



Illustrations from the Wonders of the Living World Project, Danny Allison © Lion Hudson IP Limited, [www.wondersofthelivingworld.org](http://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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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

**THAMES NORTH & SOUTHERN SYNODS YOUTH RESIDENTIAL**  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024  
Join other young people for 4 days of outdoor activities, games, creative workshops, and biblical discussions.






Venue: Whitemoor Lakes Alrewas Staffordshire.  
Cost: £65  
Age: 11 (must be in Year 7) – 16 years.

Including transport available from London.  
Limited spaces available until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Scan QR code to register or visit [www.bit.ly/residential-2024](http://www.bit.ly/residential-2024)




## URC Youth Intern - Communications

Home based  
12 month fixed-term contract, 8-30 hours per month  
Living Wage rate

### Are you passionate about communicating with young people and young adults?

URC Youth is an organisation for all young people aged 11- 25 with a connection to the United Reformed Church. URC Youth elect a Youth Executive each year to run an annual Youth Assembly, to be the voice of young people, enact resolutions, and promote young people's engagement in the life of the church. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion, diversity, mental health, social justice, and environmental issues.

During this Internship you will support the work of URC Youth to increase connection and engagement with young people across England, Scotland and Wales in conjunction with the URC Children's and Youth Work team.

You will work as part of a team; to create and post promotional material on social media, manage a schedule for communication and assist in production of press releases and web content.

You will be aged 17-25, educated to at least National Fives & Highers / GCSE level standard, with experience in communication through social media and wider channels. You will have good design and communication skills. You will be able to manage a fluctuating workload and attend meetings online as required. There is the opportunity to attend URC Youth Assembly 7-9 March 2025.

We will offer appropriate training and development opportunities to increase your skills and knowledge in communication.

If you are interested in this new opportunity and can meet the above requirements, please provide a CV and covering letter to: Human Resources, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT  
020 7691 9874 recruitment@urc.org.uk www.urc.org.uk/jobs

Closing date for CV's: 12 noon, Tuesday 28 May 2024 Interview date (online): Friday 14 June 2024

This post requires an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.



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)



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12–18 May 2024

## Christian Aid Week

Will you help someone push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week?

Christian Aid Week is coming soon – 12-19<sup>th</sup> May 2024! This year, they are focussing on lobbying local MPs and candidates to commit to helping those suffering in poverty if they are elected. With a General Election happening this year, MPs will be listening now more than ever, therefore, Christian Aid are encouraging all to bring this issue to their attention. And so, if you are running a Christian Aid event, it would be fantastic to invite your local candidates along to get them to commit to bringing change.

If you are hosting a local Christian Aid fundraiser it would be great to hear from you. Please feel free to email [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk) with some pictures and details of your event which can be shared on the Southern Synod website and in the next Mission and Vision. Whether this is a bake sale, a local tea party or something else, it would be great to hear from you and see how you are getting involved.

There are also other fantastic ways that you can also get involved in helping raise funds this Christian Aid week. Why not get involved in the 70K in May? Christian Aid are encouraging all to move 70km in May in whichever way suits you, whether that's walking, running, cycling etc. This is a fantastic starting point for change to help push back against the inhumanity of poverty. You can also donate through their red envelope campaign, which can once again be done online or in person.

Your donations make a huge difference. With your support, more families can gain greater food security, safer homes, as well as build resilience and hope.

More information about fundraising during Christian Aid Week can be found here; [Fundraise | Christian Aid Fundraise](#)

### *Running a Christian Aid service?*

Christian Aid Week is the perfect time to come together as a congregation to reflect, pray and celebrate. For more resources on putting together your Christian Aid Service, including orders of services, All-Age worship guides as well as prayer sheets click here; [Christian Aid Week 2024 - Worship | Christian Aid](#)