

# 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



The  
**Faraday  
Institute**  
for Science and Religion

## 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)

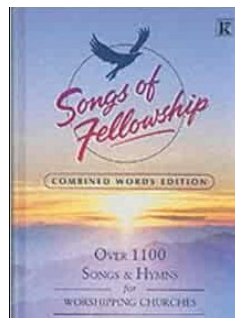
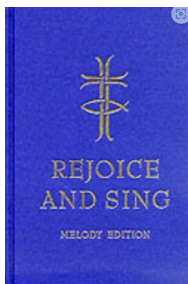
### Art, Spirituality and Healing course...

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 still have some 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

Guest Speaker  
Rev. Alison Davis

CLIMATE  
JUSTICE  
ACTION

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 28th May**.

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

## A ROCHA CONFERENCE

*Nature is under threat, with the UK being the most nature-depleted country in Europe.*

*There are over 38,000 churches in the UK, and we think church land, whether meadows, burial yards or flower boxes in a car park, holds great potential to help restore nature.*

*Our next webinar on Tuesday 4 June, 2-3pm looks at this very subject; What can church land do for nature?  
To register;*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/webinar-what-can-church-land-do-for-nature-tickets-880913404707>

## Annual Forum for Christian Businesses in Kent

Christian Businesses in Kent (<https://cbik.uk>) help support and connect local Christians in business, whether that’s a business they own or work in, generally at a management level. This is an in-person event featuring time for networking as well as worship, prayer and a guest speaker who has helped to launch 3 separate businesses from his church in Nottingham.

This year’s CBik Forum is taking place at Rochester Baptist Church on 11th June.

Tickets and full details can be found at <https://cbik.uk/forum>



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

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JOIN TRINITY CHURCH SUTTON IN THEIR

Music for a summer evening

On Sunday 30th June at 6:30pm @ Trinity Church Sutton

THERE IS NO ADMISSION FEE, HOWEVER A COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN FOR MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS)

The programme will feature a feast of popular and attractive choral and instrumental music, including C.H.H. Parry's Coronation anthem 'I was glad', Handel's Coronation anthem 'Zadok the Priest' and Vivaldi's Gloria. There will also be poetry readings as well as solos, duets and popular organ pieces to enjoy!

## 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.

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

Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge  
(Online Available)

### 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.

Register now

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



The Faraday Institute  
for Science and Religion



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



## SAVE THE DATE

### WALK WITH ME

Silent Meditation Walk

A MULTI FAITH EVENT

SUN 23 JUNE | 3-5 PM

GATHER IN PARLIAMENT SQUARE

Together we walk to honour lives lost in war and for non-violence, reconciliation & just peace

ALL WELCOME

Make & bring/wear a white flower  
Please wear faith /cultural mourning  
No banners, signs, placards or flags please

Facilitated by Plum Village UK & Quakers in Britain



# 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](http://Home-Let's End Poverty) ([letsendpoverty.co.uk](http://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

**URC Children's Workers Together  
THE CONFERENCE**  
Exploring how we work with children together


Inspirational speakers  
Variety of workshops  
Wide range of resources  
Networking opportunities  
Worship together

Friday 1 to Sunday 3  
November 2024 

Book on [bit.ly/URC-children-conference](https://bit.ly/URC-children-conference)



Ripon College,  
Cuddesdon OX44 9EX  
Cost £150 per person  
Bookings open from  
1 May 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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## Safeguarding Children and Young People in Churches

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**1pm – 3.30pm**  
**On Zoom**



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](mailto:Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk) to Book.

## Church in focus

### Finance and Office Administrator

In my role as Finance and Office Administrator I have interacted with various members of the Synod, however, I have not formally introduced myself. My role is mainly to support those in the Synod Office as well as the field officers with their day-to-day admin, however, I do also enjoy supporting Churches throughout the Synod in a variety of ways to assist them in their mission. I have also recently taken over responsibility for producing Mission and Vision, which will become a monthly newsletter as of the next edition. If you ever have any queries, please do not hesitate to get into contact with [office@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:office@urcsouthern.org.uk) and I will endeavour to do my best to help.

Ross Furley-Smith



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