|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Here's your latest edition of News Update |    [View in browser](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-6911FB7B0AFD114B7Z9F9SF3212D9AD8F861BA/cr.aspx) | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | | | |  |  | | --- | | News Update                                     September 2020 | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Help rebuild Lebanese families' homes after explosion** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The United Reformed Church (URC), led by its Global and Intercultural Ministries, is supporting a charity appeal to raise vital funds to help rebuild the homes of Lebanese families. On 4 August, a massive explosion at the port of Beirut caused the deaths of more than 150 people, wounded 5,000, and left an undefined number of people reported as missing. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12SAX9-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **News in brief** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC staff to feature on BBC's Songs of Praise** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | On September 13, the Revd John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, and Steve Tomkins, Editor of *Reform* and author of [***Journey to the Mayflower: God’s Outlaws and the Invention of Freedom***](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12TSB7-1/c.aspx)will feature on *Songs of Praise* onBBC One at 1.15pm. The episode will focus on the journey of the Mayflower, the English ship which took Puritans, known as the Pilgrims, from Europe to the New World, now known as the US, 400 years ago. A year after they landed, the colonists celebrated their first harvest with the indigenous people who had saved many of the pilgrims by teaching survival and food gathering skills. That celebration was the first Thanksgiving, which now takes place every year on the last Thursday of November in the USA and other countries. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Learn more about Publications Board** |  |  | | --- | | The Publications Board is the part of the Communications Committee which helps the Church decide what it should publish. The group assesses publishing proposal forms and unsolicited manuscripts, work with authors, editors and proofreaders along with ministers, Church Related Community Workers and staff in taking books through the publishing process. Further details about the work of the board and the publishing proposal form can be found [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12SBDZ-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **2020 Community Awards** |  |  | | --- | | Due to coronavirus closing all of the shortlisted projects, the judging of the 2020 Community Awards has been put back until later this year. By kind agreement of Congregational Insurance, the awards' sponsor, the 2020 awards will be presented at next year’s General Assembly, along with the winners of the 2021 awards. Applications for the 2021 Community Awards will be available from November. There are three awards of up to £2,000 for community projects taking place as part of a URC or LEP. Learn more [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12SBIF-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Youths create service on mental health** |  |  | | --- | | URC Youth responded to World Council of Churches’ invitation to participate in International Youth Day on 12 August by producing a worship service along the theme of mental health. Watch the service [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12S6YP-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Celebrate children and young people** |  |  | | --- | | If you missed "Let’s celebrate: children and young people in the URC" on 15 July, you can catch up with the highlights. This will give you a chance to hear from URC Youth, the CYDO+ team and most importantly the most recent young Lundie Award winners. Watch [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12S6ZY-1/c.aspx). Find more about the Lundie Award [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12U7CX-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC visual identity guide** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Style guides are important to ensure brand consistency throughout any materials you produce – no matter who created it. The URC has produced a new information guide on its visual identity. Download it for free [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R74F-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Youth friendly church scheme** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The URC’s new Children and Youth Friendly Church Scheme, which replaces the old Child Friendly Church Award, is a reflective and encouraging process which any church can undertake with the support of a CYDO+ or similar to help grow their engagement with children, families and young people. Find out more [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12S73U-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Website launched to help people pray** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | URC partner HOPE Together has launched a new website to help people to pray – maybe for the first time. HOPE Spaces invited churches to use a public place as a space for the spiritually curious to explore prayer. Then the world went into lockdown. Undeterred, HOPE Together developed a virtual HOPE Space, a multimedia, interactive site for anyone who wants to try praying and looking for hope. A specially-made film is included to help people call out to God and a virtual HOPE prayer wall where anyone can post a prayer. A meditation is also featured, plus content to help visitors think about their life’s direction and pray for justice or peace. Find out more [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RQUR-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Ongoing call from God discerned for Wessex Synod Moderator** |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A recommendation that the Revd Clare Downing continues to serve as Moderator of the Wessex Synod will be brought by the Nominations Committee at November’s Mission Council. The Wessex Synod Review Group, which met on 22 July, discerned an ongoing call from God to Clare to continue to be the Wessex Synod Moderator. It concurred unanimously with the view of the Synod Review Panel that Clare be re-appointed to serve a further term in this ministry until her retirement on 31 August 2026. Mission Council will be asked to confirm this recommendation as a decision of the Church. As well as her Wessex responsibilities Clare was recently inducted as Moderator of the URC General Assembly, for a two-year term, sharing this important duty with Peter Pay, an Elder in in the Synod and former Synod Clerk. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Guides offer support to care workers** |  |  | | --- | | To support care workers, the Bible Reading Fellowship has published a range of booklets, which draw on the expertise of Anna Chaplains for Older People. The guides offer practical help and guidance. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12UA4H-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Assembly Moderator virtual visits** |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Clare Downing and Peter Pay have some availability to offer either a live (eg Zoom) or recorded service or sermon this autumn, or in 2021 if churches wish. Please make enquiries to Deborah Walker [**here**](mailto:office@urcwessex.org.uk?subject=General%20Assembly%20Moderator%20virtual%20visits). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Moderator answers new call** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Dr David Pickering is to step down as Moderator of the URC's National Synod of Scotland. The move comes after David received and accepted a call to serve the pastorate of Emmanuel URC, West Wickham and Elmers End Free Church, in the URC’s Southern Synod. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RPAR-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **John Proctor retires after 34 years** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the URC, retired from the role on 14 August having served the Church for 34 years. In his own words, John speaks about his time in the role and offers thanks to those he has worked with in this reflection. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RPBA-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New grants programme launched** |  |  | | --- | | The Allchurches Trust has launched Hope Beyond, a new grants programme to enable churches and Christian charities to meet changing needs within their communities as the long-term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer. Hope Beyond can provide between 10% and 80% of a project’s costs, up to a total of £50,000. Find out more and how to apply [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12UA9T-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Discipleship development fund** |  |  | | --- | | As a way of encouraging URC members to engage with a journey of deepening personal discipleship, grants of up to £200 are available towards the cost of approved discipleship courses attended or run. Congregations can apply for help with the cost of “buying in” a speaker or other resources to facilitate in-house schemes. Please contact your synod's Development and Support Officer to discuss your discipleship development in advance of an application to this fund. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Small works grant available** |  |  | | --- | | The National Churches Trust's foundation grants programme funds small works to church buildings that cost up to £10,000 (excluding VAT) by providing grants of up to 50% of the cost (up to £5,000). Works would need to have two quotes in place and permissions, if required. Decisions are made on a monthly basis. The final deadline for 2020 funding is 30 October 2020. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RQAU-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Find grants for your church** |  |  | | --- | | URC treasurers will be pleased to know that the Association for Church Accountants and Treasurers has partnered with GRANTfinder to provide new funding streams to help local churches find relevant external grant sources. More information can be found [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RQEQ-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Funding available for social cohesion projects** |  |  | | --- | | URCs can explore the Allen Lane Foundation's new social cohesion programme which seeks to provide support to local communities. The programme funds projects that aim to proactively break down barriers and tensions between different groups of people, and build a more cohesive and inclusive community for all. If you run such a project, would like to apply or gain more information, [**read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RQOO-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **How single friendly is your church?** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | URC members are warmly invited to find out how single friendly their churches are by running a simple audit. Over 40% of UK adults are single and this is increasing in all age groups. During the Covid-19 pandemic many have been affected by feelings of isolation and loneliness. [**Single Friendly Church**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RNKI-1/c.aspx) has launched an audit to help churches consider the needs of single people so that everyone is fully welcomed, valued and included. If you would like to join a growing number of churches who are committing to become single friendly, [**email**](mailto:info@singlefriendlychurch.com?subject=More%20info%20on%20Single%20Friendly%20Church) Single Friendly Church for more information. | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Harvest resources** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The Arthur Rank Centre has launched its "Harvest 2020: Thank you to our farmers" campaign. At the height of the lockdown, keyworkers played a vital part in keeping us all going. Farmers are one such group who were instrumental in keeping the nation fed. The early days of the pandemic reminded us how fragile the food supply chain can be, so this harvest let’s embrace the opportunity to thank both the farmers across the UK who grow our food for us and the creator God that sustains and nurtures each of us. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12ROUY-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Bible reflection writing competition** |  |  | | --- | | The Bible Reading Fellowship has launched a competition for offering aspiring writers to have their work published in *The Upper Room*, a Bible reading guide that is published in 35 languages. The competition’s submission deadline is midnight on 31 October. For more details, including criteria, sample reflections and tips, [**read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12UA6E-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Use modern worship songs for free** |  |  | | --- | | Doxecology, by Resound Worship, is a collection of 13 contemporary, congregational worship songs on themes of creation, ecology and Christian hope. Resound Worship are offering them for free use by churches offering online worship during the lockdown. They may be particularly useful for the Season of Creation (6 September – 4 October). [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RMSH-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Season of Creation resources available** |  |  | | --- | | Resources for this year’s Season of Creation, observed from 1 September 1 to 4 October, are now available from the Council for World Mission. The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action embraced by the wider ecumenical community to protect and care for our common home. The jointly-produced "Celebration Guide" provides resources for Christians to pray, reflect, and respond with bold action as stewards of God’s creation and includes liturgy for an eco-themed prayer service. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RNFU-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Forum celebrates 25th birthday** |  |  | | --- | | The URC Holiday Forum – historically a week-long, annual retreat focussing on fellowship and reflections on faith – celebrated its 25th birthday online this year. Around 100 people met virtually over a weekend in August, hearing from speakers based in the US, Palestine, Germany and South Africa, as part of the celebratory conference. The forum’s vice-chair, Colum O’Shea, said: "Covid-19 has stopped many things, but not the 25th anniversary of Holiday Forum." Find information about the Holiday Forum can be found [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12S3CT-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Pray for URC** |  |  | | --- | | The Group for Evangelism and Renewal (GEAR) is planning a short series of prayers for the URC ahead of November's Mission Council, beginning on 29 October at 8.15pm for four Thursdays on the dedicated [**Facebook page**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12T3ON-1/c.aspx). A guest will introduce some prayer needs in the URC family, and a panel will lead prayers for 15 minutes while others can chip in via the comment facility. Meanwhile, short inspirational prayer videos are being uploaded each Thursday. For more information, please contact GEAR's Prayer Secretary, Richard Turnbull, [**here**](mailto:prayer@gear.org.uk?subject=Pray%20for%20URC%20ahead%20of%20November's%20Mission%20Council). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Course helps build disciples** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Simon Peters, Walking the Way Project Manager, speaks with participants on Southern Synod’s Lay Preaching Course to find how the course is helping develop their own discipleship, and empowering them to share their learning with others. Watch highlights from their conversation [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12NJVY-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Gain a taste of Stepwise** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | If you are keen to develop your Christian faith, ready to be stimulated and challenged, consider the URC's Stepwise programme. This [**short film**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12UA9S-1/c.aspx) gives a taste of what's involved. There's a range of Stepwise opportunities available for faith and discipleship development for those who have completed Faith-filled Life. Faith-filled Worship, the final stream, is due to be made available later this month. Find out more [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12S86W-1/c.aspx) or [**email**](mailto:stepwise@urc.org.uk) the Stepwise Team for further information. | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Coronavirus: information and resources** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Church example of social distancing** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | If you would like to see an example of how a church is ensuring social distancing measures are kept up, a short film, produced by Chirst Church Petts Wood, led by the Revd Nadene Snyman, provides does just that. Watch it [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12UA4I-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Children's and youth work guidance** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | A new information booklet aims to provide guidance from the URC in relation to children’s and youth work and how coming out of lockdown can be safely managed in this respect. Download the guide for free [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R5M8-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Doing church differently** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | We’ve talked for years about the need to “do church differently” and the coronavirus pandemic has forced us to do just that! The URC has produced "Doing Online Differently: A roadmap for digital discipleship" to help provide further information. Download the guide for free [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R6NK-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New reality, same mission** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | "New reality, same Mission: A stimulus to renewed community engagement as we emerge from the pandemic" is a new booklet produced by the URC which can be downloaded for free [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12Q3S2-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC's advice to churches** |  |  | | --- | | Get the latest advice, updates and resources on the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic from the URC [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RMGN-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Worship with the URC digitally** |  |  | | --- | | The URC's list of churches providing live streaming and recorded acts of worship for people who are unable to access church due to the coronavirus lockdown can be found [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RMGO-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **This month in *Reform* magazine** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Race, Revelation and online church are just three of the topics covered in the September edition of *Reform*. Retired police superintendent Leroy Logan explains how he fought against racial prejudice in the Metropolitan police force: "If I wasn’t a Christian, I couldn’t have stayed," he says. The monthly "A good question" debate features four perspectives on: "What difference does my race make to my faith?" And find out why the Revd Melanie Smith says: "If you do not buy Fairtrade, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders." Get challenged. Get inspired. Get *Reform* magazine, from just £5.99: [**digitally**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RETH-1/c.aspx), on [**paper**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RETI-1/c.aspx), or [**both**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12RETJ-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | United Reformed Church House is fully open again. Please order online. You can contact the shop by [email](mailto:publishing@urc.org.uk). Thanks for your understanding. |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Edited by Karen Campbell and the Revd Ian Fosten, the 2021 URC *Prayer Handbook* is titled Conversations, and comes in two sections. The first follows the pattern of linking a prayer to one or more of the set lectionary readings for particular days throughout the year. The second section invites contributions which arose out of the writers’ personal experiences of conversing with God – the everyday and extraordinary situations in which we are moved to say "Sorry!", "Help!" or "Thank You!", along with the issues which give rise to deep reflection, or to respond to God’s voice as heard through the scriptures and the world. [**Available to buy from £4.99 +p+p**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12SBCG-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Is it too early to be thinking about Christmas? The URC has a range of Christmas resources that you may find useful. There's [**Christmas giveaway booklets**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R6YM-1/c.aspx) that explain the real meaning behind the festive occasion and are great to give away at services, [**Christmas posters and service sheets**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R6YN-1/c.aspx), and a [**Rejoice and Sing at Christmas**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R6YO-1/c.aspx) A5 booklet featuring all of the carols from *Rejoice & Sing* and other popular carols and Christmas songs too. Visit the [**Christmas section**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12U7CY-1/c.aspx) of the URC Shop**.** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The 2021 URC Diary includes the following: calendars to 2023, notable dates for the URC and the wider Church, metric measures, Assembly officers and URC staff, useful addresses, Assembly committee details, Synod information, August 2020-December 2020 diary one week to a page, 2021 diary one week over two pages, January 2022-June 2022 diary one week to a page, notes for the rest of 2022, world map and UK map. The pocket edition also includes a National Rail and London Tube map. Pocket edition available in purple or teal, A5 in purple. Available from £6.99 +p+p [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12Q5AP-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The URC has produced a range of products to help churches reopen safely. From face coverings to keep your distance floor stickers, there's much on offer. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12QOJK-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | What's On | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Take part in first Safeguarding online symposium |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The URC’s Safeguarding Team will launch the denomination’s safeguarding strategic plan with its first online symposium on 9 October, from 12.30-2pm via Zoom. The symposium will bring together those who oversee and lead safeguarding in local URCs and synods. The purpose of the online event is to discuss how the safeguarding strategic plan (2020-2025) will strengthen the life of the Church, and will establish the best collaborative ways to promote safeguarding, prevent abuse and protect everyone within the United Reformed Church. Please email [**Matthew Baxter**](mailto:matthew.baxter@urc.org.uk?subject=Safeguarding%20symposium%20joining%20details), Assistant Safeguarding Administrator, to register your interest and receive the Zoom details. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Church House courses |  |  | | --- | | The next sessions for the "Why Manage" course takes place on 21 September from 9:30am to 4:30pm online. This course is for anyone working within the URC with direct line management responsibilities. "Wellbeing and resilience" training is open to synods and takes place online on 8 October, time to be confirmed. If interested in attending, please email [**here**](mailto:deepti.upadhyaya@urc.org.uk?subject=Church%20House%20courses). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Virtual Bethlehem pilgrimage |  |  | | --- | | Go on a virtual pilgrimage to Bethlehem from the comfort of your home on 22 September from 6-7.30pm, courtesy of Commitment for Life, the URC’s global justice programme. The event takes place via Zoom and will include interactions with Palestinian activists and shopkeepers. Donations must be made for this pilgrimage, which will directly benefit peace initiatives in the Holy Land. For more details, [**email**](mailto:kevin.snyman@urc.org.uk?subject=Virtual%20pilgrimage%20to%20Bethlehem) the Revd Dr Kevin Snyman, Programme Officer (Global Justice and Partnerships). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Join in online intergenerational act of worship |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The URC’s Children’s and Youth Work Committee have put together an online intergenerational act of worship for Education Sunday on 13 September. The service will be broadcast on the team’s  YouTube channel at 9.30am [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12QTPI-1/c.aspx), although you can watch the service after this time. If you would like to hold your own Education Sunday service, [**these resources**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12QTPJ-1/c.aspx) from Churches Together England, may be helpful. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Celebrate Mayflower anniversary |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Crossway URC, in partnership with People’s Company, based at Southwark Playhouse, is developing a whole week of activity around the anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower in 1620 from Southwark to America. The week runs from 18 to 25 September. Activities include an exhibition, a coach tour, online and socially distanced talks. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12QQ4H-1/c.aspx).  *Image:Robert Linsdell/Wikimedia Commons CC2.0* | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Ministers' refresher week |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The 2021 Ministers' Refresher Week, themed  “Living in a World of Faiths – Mission today” takes place from 8-21 March 2021 at Westminster College, Cambridge. Keynote speakers include Francis Brienen, URC Deputy General Secretary (Mission), and Dr Ed Kessler, Founder Director of the Woolfe Institute. To register you interest in attending, email the administrator [**here**](mailto:admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk?subject=Ministers'%20Fresher%20Week). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Synod news** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Yorkshire** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The induction and ordination of the Revd Sarah Fitton to several churches in the Huddersfield area was celebrated digitally on 18 July. The service, led by the Revd Jamie Kissack, Moderator of the Yorkshire Synod, can be viewed [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R7A7-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Mersey** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Joined in song but separated by the coronavirus lockdown, members of Grange URC came together to record a hymn, *There Is A Redeemer*. Martin Morris, choir leader, recorded the singers one by one and then mixed them all together to create the recording. Listen to the song [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R7A8-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **National Synod of Wales** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Maesyronnen URC is featured on the National Churches Trust's website listing of people's favourite churches. Possibly one of the only non-conformist chapels in Wales to be listed. The National Churches Trust would love to hear from people about their favourite churches. All you need to do to take part is submit the name along with a photograph of your favourite church, chapel or meeting house. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12R7MN-1/c.aspx). Image: Maesyronen Chapel/Google Maps | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **West Midlands** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Abbey Hill URC in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, reopened for worship in style, with a socially distanced baptism service on 19 July. During lockdown, the church removed its building’s pews – a move they’d been considering for some time, to allow greater flexibility; social distancing rules cemented their decision. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **National Synod of Scotland** |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Susan Henderson was ordained and inducted to serve Port Glasgow, Greenock East and Greenock West URCs on 5 August. The service was led by the Revd Dr David Pickering and attended by a small congregation and by more online. | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Social Justice** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Faith in Politics** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | This month's *Faith in Politics* podcast features SNP MP, Dr Lisa Cameron who discusses Scottish independence and how Christians engage with nationalism as well as the disproportionate impact of lockdown on those with disabilities. The team muse on the historical implications of “Christian Nationalism” and question how our faith and understanding of nationalism interact. Listen [here](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12Q3FA-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC helps produce Holy Land film** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Produced with support from the URC and the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine has created *Walking the Tightrope - Christian pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the 21st century.* The filmexplores important issues for Christians engaging with the Holy Land, and promotes a positive interfaith dialogue in the UK on the Israel / Palestine conflict. Watch it [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P277-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Pray about the end of the eviction ban** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The ban on evictions set during Covid-19 was due to lift in England on 23 August, but has been extended for another four weeks. In Scotland, it has been extended to next spring. This will be a significant moment, where many people face the risk of homelessness. JPIT has released this prayer to pray for all those who face eviction. Watch this short film and pray along with it [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12PBH4-1/c.aspx). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Address racial injustice** |  |  | | --- | | The Presidents of Churches England, with the support of the Fourth Presidency Group, issued a statement on 28 July which urged churches to travel together on the journey of racial justice, to address injustices both within our church life and in wider society. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P4JX-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Debt jubilee petition** |  |  | | --- | | More than 70 UK faith leaders, including the Revd Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay, URC General Assembly Moderators, and the Revd Simon Walkling, Moderator of the National Synod of Wales, wrote a letter published in [***The Guardian***](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P9GH-1/c.aspx)which urged Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor, to press G20 to cancel debts of poor countries in the wake of the pandemic.To support the campaign, add your name to this [**Christian Aid petition**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P9GI-1/c.aspx). | | | | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Recruitment** |  |  | | --- | | **URC vacancies and beyond** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Thames North Synod Moderator**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P1GS-1/c.aspx) General Assembly wishes to appoint a URC minister to serve as Thames North Synod Moderator following the retirement of the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad. Closing date: 21 September for applications. | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**World Council of Reformed Churches General Secretary**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P1LV-1/c.aspx)  The Executive Committee will elect the next General Secretary during its meeting in May 2021, and the General Secretary Search Committee has been established to recommend a nominee. Closing date: 30 November | | | |  |  | | --- | | [**CWM Resumes Search for General Secretary**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-7Z9F9S-12P1BV-1/c.aspx)  The Council for World Mission is seeking an inspirational, ecumenical and experienced General Secretary (Chief Executive Officer) with exceptional interpersonal and communication skills and cross-cultural agility to lead this global organisation in deepening partnership with its stakeholders and living out its vision of fullness of life, through Christ, for all creation. The deadline for receiving applications is 9 October 2020. | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |  |  | | --- | | [Unsubscribe](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1MXKA-6911FB7B0AFD114B7Z9F9SF3212D9AD8F861BA/uns.aspx) |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The United Reformed Church  Church House, 86 Tavistock Place  London, WC1H 9RT  Tel: 020 7916 2020  Email: [urc@urc.org.uk](mailto:urc@urc.org.uk) |  |  | | --- | | The United Reformed Church was created by church unions in 1972, 1981 and 2000, facilitated by Acts of Parliament passed in each of those years. It has a number of associated bodies: The United Reformed Church Trust (URC Trust) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (Registered Number: 135934); it is also a registered charity (Registration Number: 1133373). The United Reformed Church Ministers’ Pensions Trust Ltd is a limited company registered in England & Wales (Registered Number: 2821011). The United Reformed Church Retired Ministers’ Housing Society Ltd. is a registered Community Benefit Society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Number 15986R). The Registered Office for all the aforementioned bodies is Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT. | | | | | | | | |