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Ordained in 2018, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson became Moderator at the annual meeting held from 30 June to 3 July at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Items on the 2023 General Assembly included the welcoming of two new congregations the Bristol Korean Church and the digital yoURChurch, Legacies of Slavery and proposals for repairing justice, such as mandatory anti-racism training; ways to support the Transcarpathian Reformed Church in Ukraine; opposition to the Illegal Migration Bill; the appointments of Synod Moderators; proposals for a formal ministry of URC Children’s, Youth and/or Family Minister; and the Church Life Review. A recap of all the business discussed and decisions made, can be found on your [**day one,**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BGO2W-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715014944787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CTIS4u8yXljpZ6bOmP2oW3LnO9YzuQ8%2Bi4xzOiHrpjU%3D&reserved=0) [**day two**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BGO2X-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715014944787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uMBt%2F4cc%2FMDBksnYqcsL5GkTzMoQKI01kReK1a7dI4E%3D&reserved=0), [**day three**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BI7DG-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4VIaoZXXTR7F%2BUOuh2VlDDA1brgrjuYUZNibvOJGWgQ%3D&reserved=0)**,**and [**day four**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BI7DH-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BnUCEanOo5ligVGpCgN58OrJHSDjkv0AkFTtO3o5s5M%3D&reserved=0) round-ups. Also, you can [**learn more about Tessa**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BI7DI-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=L0VyUXOJVCBXfbY%2FHnJ2%2B5fYGVNIXMioxm%2Fze9uvUI8%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Help tackle youth violence** |  |  | | --- | | The Synergy Network (SN) is calling on churches to help keep young people safe this summer. SN is a growing coalition of churches, para-church groups, Christian agencies and organisations in Britain and Ireland and encourages churches to unite in prayer and lament on ‘Standing Together Sunday’ on 16 July to stand against increasing levels of serious youth violence. The SN has produced a range of resources to  help churches mark the day, pray, reflect and take action. [**Learn about the  Synergy Network**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFBAI-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FNcjUQrC%2B%2Fm9aWbu2R9rbCEYG8zQyX6jH3euvi%2Fl7eU%3D&reserved=0). | | | |  | | --- | | **Christian Aid renews Ukraine appeal** |  |  | | --- | | Following the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam on 6 June and the resulting floods, Christian Aid is renewing its Ukraine appeal. The destruction led to the flooding of 37 towns and villages and 16,000 people leaving their homes. One of Europe's largest reservoirs is also now drying up leading the UN to announce that drinking water supplies could be affected for more than 700,000 people, mostly in Russian-occupied areas. [**Learn more about the appeal**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFBY5-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KPxWs6it8paScVPOjHxcwc6H1YtxBiJlH5KnCr5d700%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Thanking the NHS for 75 years of dedication** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [A person wearing glasses and a blue shirt  Description automatically generated](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BGBWP-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ILVyuRGUQIMbSIuN%2F4xP2s05Gqq5wHaBc18B49yHxyo%3D&reserved=0) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  | | |  |  | | --- | | In a short video, the Revd Fran Kissack, a URC Minister and NHS hospital chaplain for more than 20 years, reflects on the NHS’ 75th anniversary celebrated on 5 July. Fran reflects on what its founder, Nye Bevin, might feel about the state of the under-resourced health service today, the commitment of its dedicated workers during the pandemic, and just how much we have to be grateful to an organisation that cares for us from the cradle to the grave. Click the play icon above, or [**watch the URC's NHS 75 reflection**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BGBWQ-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BMknEDn3rcnQX0DmjcW%2Bt6RcYq7OPJNGCaMX9eVVdNI%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Download or print News Update** |  |  | | --- | | A downloadable version of News Update, formatted for print, and for churches to copy and paste into church newsletters or magazines will be available within a week of this edition being published. [**Download your copy of News Update**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFB5U-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015257222%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dOHD0UptYjlmo%2FB0mOuFnx5SLT2OBjp0fsxb5lPfnqk%3D&reserved=0). | | | |  | | --- | | **Share your good news** |  |  | | --- | | If you have a good news story that can inspire, raise hope or show God's work in  action then please let URC Communications know. We would love to help share  your news across the denomination and in local news outlets. [**Email the team**](mailto:pressoffice@urc.org.uk?subject=Story%20to%20share) or call 07976 753 950. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Retiring Deputy General Secretary celebrated** |  |  | | --- | | A group of women standing in a room  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Colleagues and friends gathered at Church House on 21 June to wish Jane Baird well for her retirement. Much to her surprise and delight, colleagues arranged for Ryan Early, an actor from *The Archers* to record a personal greeting to Jane, who served as Deputy General Secretary (Administration & Resources) since 2014. “It has been a huge privilege to serve the URC over the past nine years,” Jane said. “Church House is a really good place to work, with an amazing team of dedicated and gifted staff. My thanks go to them all for their support, I could not have done my job without them." Victoria James is the Chief Operating Officer, who was inducted at General Assembly. | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Celebrating Windrush 75th anniversary** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Representatives of the URC helped marked the 75th anniversary since the HMP Empire Windrush brought more than 500 Caribbean men and women to the UK. Philippa Osei, URC Youth Moderator 2023-2024 said: "For me, the service evoked pride at the achievements of those who arrived in the UK with their entire lives packed into suitcases and, despite the odds, have been a pioneering force for great change in this country. It also made me reflect on the Windrush scandal, which affected my own family, and the work we have to do as a society to fight injustice in all its forms." | | | |  | | --- | | **URC History Society conference** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Free videos are available to catch up with all the speakers at URC History Society's annual conference. More than 30 people attended the event in June which featured keynote speakers such as Professor Stewart J Brown of Edinburgh University who spoke on "The Most Important Single Generation: Revival, Romanticism, and Nonconformity in Britain, 1790-1830". The videos are available on the URC's  YouTube channel. [**Learn about the URC History Society**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFK66-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S7oBv2VYvaaJZhhKv%2B60LFf1FRZbzWATMrZYlAhl%2FUY%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Safeguarding away day** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | The URC’s Safeguarding Team recently met to encourage each other in their professional development. During their time together, the team explored topics such as the psychology of victim blaming, supporting people with dementia in churches and self-care and supporting others. Sharon Barr, the URC's Designated Safeguarding Lead, said: "The URC is committed to safeguarding those that worship with us and training days such as these are invaluable to those who support safeguarding across the denomination." To keep up-to-date with safeguarding new, please email Emma Pearce to [**register for the quarterly newslette**](mailto:emma.pearce@urc.org.uk?subject=Safeguarding%20newsletter)**r**. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The impact of secrets** |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Fiona Bennett, General Assembly Moderator 2022-2023, recently appeared on BBC Radio Scotland with Connie McLaughlin to talk about 'secrets and shame' and the impact of holding them from a faith angle. [**Listen to the episode**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFBNU-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YOIwOrEQbt8ArZF40DBNZYwFcFlqFHnvfojfcfdSJYU%3D&reserved=0). | | | |  | | --- | | **Help community businesses** |  |  | | --- | | Places of worship can make great venues for community enterprises that trade for the benefit of local communities. Located in churches, they can help to keep these buildings open by generating income through rent, attracting more people through the door, increasing opportunities to apply for funding. [**Learn how to unlock your church's potential with the Plunkett Foundation**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG1SP-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1h43IxQxjr4HwMdzld95%2BJgwO5tXqv8hTX9dDLm1328%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **This month in *Reform* magazine** |  |  | | --- | | A cover of a magazine with a stopwatch  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Not one but three national moderators take centre stage in the latest edition of *Reform*. The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of General Assembly 2023-24, talks to *Reform* about justice, violence and the path to love. Meanwhile, the Revd Fiona Bennett, the outgoing General Assembly Moderator 2022-2023, spends time with the Right Revd Sally Foster-Fulton who became Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly in May: two women, two Scots, discovering the shared goals and challenges facing their respective denominations. Elsewhere, *Reform* Editor Stephen Tomkins tells the story of the Demerara revolt of July 1823, Reuben Watt is touched by Palestinian generosity, and Lindsey Sanderson invites URC members to plant gardens. And in the year that marks the 75th anniversary of the NHS, Phil Wall says, “Let’s hear it for midwives!” [**Subscribe to *Reform***](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG387-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=onr8uSFk9HxX0K9ZXsn6m4YxDYKzcjF09i5U49hFlcg%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A blue background with white text  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Please order online using the URC Bookshop’s easy-to-use website [**www.urcshop.co.uk**](http://www.urcshop.co.uk/) or by calling 020 7916 8629. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A blue paper with a pattern  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**URC wrapping paper**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG3H0-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7R9yPh0%2B3k4ZjHUaUXLiA%2FY9arp2bddSaS3ofGCRiUc%3D&reserved=0) - A3 sheets of blue multi-coloured fish wrapping paper with the URC’s 50th anniversary multi-coloured fish design. Available in blue, folded to A5. Each sheet is made using FSC certified paper from sustainable forests. £0.20-£1.40 +p&p. | | | |  | | --- | | A certificate of loyal and devoted service  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**Certificate of loyal And devoted service**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG3IF-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SQXAWjjl7SJUO4eEWU%2Bqn7FKMgdfElbuF9eJFk7Z3bw%3D&reserved=0) - an A4 certificate printed on thick parchment card, ideal for framing. If buying five or more certificates, use the Coupon Code CERTIFICATE to receive a 15% discount. £2.99 +p&p. | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A lanyard with a metal clip  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | [**URC lanyard**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BGBWR-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZAuY%2BCK6KqXEIxou3iHSQoDPAbeTDrPIPyp40w8eyko%3D&reserved=0) made from recycled plastics these lanyards are ideal for ministers, officers and volunteers in churches, community centres and workplaces. A new design, printed on both sides, with an easy to open metal clip. £1.49 each, £1.29 for 10 or more +p&p. | | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | For a free sample copy of *Reform*, the magazine of the URC, add one into your basket or [**email the *Reform* team**](mailto:reform@urc.org.uk?subject=Free%20sample%20Reform%20copy). To find out more about subscribing, or to read selected articles online, [**visit Reform's website**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG3PR-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z%2B%2Bxx5qU0776F5O9OBbq4k1rJmNM18fIinYXVdMtbb4%3D&reserved=0). | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Synod news** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Thames North** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | A person on a wheelchair in front of 10 Downing Street  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Congratulations to Isaac Harvey, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours List 2023 for services to people with disabilities. Isaac worships at Vine Church in Ilford, is a disability advocate, President of Wheels and Wheelchairs, and is also an Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Redbridge. “I will always feel funny about attracting recognition and awards like this, as I do what I do because it is the right thing to do. However, taking a step back and looking at the bigger picture just shows that anything is possible if you put your mind to it.” | | | |  | | --- | | **East Midlands** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | An old person with her eyes closed  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Congratulations to Barbara Maddison, a member of Bulwell URC in Nottingham, who was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for services to young women in her role as honorary vice-president of the National Council of Women of Great Britain. "It's crazy," Barbara said, "absolutely crazy, I can understand why my organisation has put me forward for the work I’ve done since I retired, but it still feels quite amazing  and strange.” | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Eastern** |  |  | | --- | | A white circle with blue text and brown leaf  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Congratulations to Eastern Synod which has been awarded a Bronze Eco Synod award and the Synod Office a Silver one. Helen Stephens, A Rocha UK's Church Relations Manager, noted the following: "As the Synod with the largest proportion of rural churches in the whole of the URC, this was no small achievement." The Synod gained the award for making environmental priorities an essential part of its mission and training amongst other activities. | | | |  | | --- | | **Mersey** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Fifteen URC members and friends from across Mersey Synod travelled to Iona  Abbey in Scotland in May to spend a week living in the international, ecumenical Christian centre.  They shared all aspects of Abbey life including daily services of worship, meals  and work tasks and the opportunity to explore issues of common concern like the environment, inclusion and diversity and interfaith talking faith dialogue. [**Learn more about the pilgrimage**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFHL8-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MSHdGGkEkp%2BOmr8gwODO%2BrAiuSuS2wvgQd2r9y5XX1k%3D&reserved=0). | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Social Justice** |  |  | | --- | | **Manifesto hopes** |  |  | | --- | | A group of icons in circles  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | After the local elections in May, the national political parties are preparing their policies for election manifestos in time for a general election in the next year or so. Now is the ideal time to let all the parties know the sorts of policies you would show your support for by voting – regardless of which party you might have usually voted for in the past. The Joint Public Issues Team has put together some suggestions for policies that are grounded in reality but full of hope for a future that is more just for everyone. [**Learn about JPIT's hopes for manifestos**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFHB1-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TcmK7H73UABG9XsTB11wd6Zf5D%2FREERQcVfFyp0Rw2Q%3D&reserved=0); read the suggestions, find out how to get in touch with the political parties and listen to a series of podcasts explaining how the team wrote its ‘hopes for manifestos’. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Help provide affordable housing** |  |  | | --- | | Housing Justice (HJ) and its "Faith in Affordable Housing" project, works with churches of all denominations in England and Wales to release surplus land or buildings for affordable housing. There is great need for more affordable housing in all areas of the UK and HJ believes that the Church can be part of the solution to housing need. HJ would like to know about church owned land you think has potential for social housing development. [**Learn about Housing Justice**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG1PO-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Uh6mmr49rSAP8fjAa6%2FtLGCCNefeekjSN67NeothfOU%3D&reserved=0). | | | |  | | --- | | **Season of creation resources** |  |  | | --- | | Season of Creation is a global and ecumenical movement that takes place from  1 September to 4 October, focussing on fulfilling Jesus’ commission to bring ‘good news to all creation’ (Mark 16:15). Many churches dedicate at least one service in the season to this topic, going beyond the traditional understanding of a ‘Harvest’ service. [**Access JPIT's range of preaching, prayer and worship resources**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG2R5-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XOLJCCX9UeSKT6TWqOYDgvsrYgeCC5w2wb3d8SGZJdw%3D&reserved=0). | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What's On** |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC at Greenbelt: Revolting Christians** |  |  | | --- | | A poster with text on it  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | Greenbelt Festival is a place where artistry, activism and belief come together; a place full of a variety of people, usually from a Christian background and some not. It takes place from 24-27 August at Boughton House near Kettering. Greenbelt festivalgoers are extremely activist, committed to change, getting involved in issues, and spending time getting to the heart of the matter. This year, the URC at Greenbelt team continues with the theme of ‘Revolting Christians’ – people who take a stand to challenge or break the political, social and economic systems of our world in order to bring about justice.  You can find the denomination's presence at its cafe tent "yoURCafe". Check out the flyer above for details of the URC's programme. Anyone can join the URC at Greenbelt's Sunday Service on 27 August at 6.15pm via Zoom. Keep [**up-to-date with the URC at Greenbelt**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BI8LA-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gvXUz7FprswhXZlfq6M13grImyV2ZCILDunVD6acOy8%3D&reserved=0). For information on ticket prices and this year's lineup, [**visit the Greenbelt Festival website**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BI8LB-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vqPyNThSltRQefqJSALZa3Pkzj9V%2BGY0bS%2F6%2Bd0bFOo%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Train to be a supervisor** |  |  | | --- | | The URC Ministries department has teamed up with Westminster College and Wesley House in Cambridge to provide training for the Certificate in Pastoral Supervision. The training will run from 20-24 November. [**Email Ministries for more information or to register your place**](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk?subject=Certificate%20in%20supervisor%20training). | | | |  | | --- | | **Ministering to estates** |  |  | | --- | | The theme for this year's National Estate Churches Network (NECN) conference is "God With Us: Sharing our journey". The conference seeks to explore three aspects of ministering in social housing estates and disadvantaged communities and will take place on two dates: 25 September in Bristol and 5 October in Sheffield. [**Book your tickets or learn more about the NECN conference**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG1GA-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rjPnH2eAhF36s8LOW%2FFGle4Dq266aoZWnMve%2FwBh6kg%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Refresh your ministry** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Refreshing your ministry is a gathering for serving URC ministers and CRCWs, including Synod-appointed local leaders and retired ministers who are in pastoral charge and takes place from 10-12 October at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon. Places cost £220. [**Book your place or learn more about the event**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BFK1V-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015413442%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FEsy7AuTd%2FZhOo%2Bc3K5f7yJzIqsCVdr3NZ848RP5Gi0%3D&reserved=0). | | | |  | | --- | | **Appreciating Church** |  |  | | --- | | A group of people walking  Description automatically generated |  |  | | --- | | This year's Appreciating Church Conference, "Appreciating the tough stuff" takes place on 30 September in Birmingham. The conference is a gathering for Appreciative Inquiry practitioners, particularly those who have some contact with churches and faith communities. The conference takes place in-person and online. [**Learn about Appreciating Church and book your place**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG2AZ-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T6vD878ZR7IyFvgxp6LQKH5IpoYinGYCFmLpMP49snI%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Let's celebrate youth** |  |  | | --- | | Join the Children’s and Youth Work Committee and URC Youth online on 14 September from 7.30-8.45pm to hear about all that has been happening in Children's and Youth  Work and have a sneak preview of new resources and opportunities coming soon.  [**Join the webinar.**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG2E3-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MwNkZKcZeMIGWHJ22dfay2M3ExizPQG2I%2BXxfUcZFFs%3D&reserved=0) | | | |  | | --- | | **URC Youth Assembly** |  |  | | --- | | URC Youth Assembly 2024 takes place from 26-28 January 2024 and is aimed at Year 10/S3 students up to age 25. Early bird price of £124 is available up to 13 November. [Book your URC](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG2F9-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SZO7k3Ddv5Bbo9DeIt0%2FqUKE1AcP83G0wtouwO36eNg%3D&reserved=0). [**Learn more about URC Youth Assembly**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BG2FA-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lBHwmgCoZf2J5kCb3cjz3ElpNs4DgBxtuIrXCR0wlo4%3D&reserved=0). | | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Recruitment** |  |  | | --- | | **URC vacancies and beyond** |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Moderator - National Synod of Wales**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BF3G1-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=km4HLc5xpl7GuwA4KMoBKm0qL1M1Jx3c2K%2FZFvzbtrg%3D&reserved=0)  Term: Full-time, seven-year termed appointment  Salary: Minister’s stipend  Closing date for nominations: 23 July  Closing date for applications: 21 August | | | |  | | --- | | [**Moderator - Wessex Synod**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BF3G2-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n0wSKPVAYD7VoXPeYLjPkms8jyrXQren7N3UOquxF7E%3D&reserved=0)  Term: Full-time, seven-year termed appointment  Salary: Minister’s Stipend  Closing date for nominations: 18 June  Closing date for applications: 17 July | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Disciplinary** [**Volunteers**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furc-news.org.uk%2F2JB1-1YLJW-6ZACU1-1BF42W-1%2Fc.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Claura.taylor%40urc.org.uk%7Cedf2b7423cc1402310f008db82017638%7C3fd368e1f1d74a1e8e4045a843b55e89%7C0%7C0%7C638246715015569674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uLzSr%2FITGEaeIy0CnnsA%2BiLJF64CvGwCoJOui3Ml2Ek%3D&reserved=0)  Do you have an analytical mind, experience with workplace disciplinary investigations, Human Resources, the police or other investigation work?  If so, we need you! The URC is currently looking for more volunteers to serve on the Disciplinary Investigation Panel which looks into allegations of misconduct against ministers and CRCWs. If you feel you have the gifts, graces, and skills – and are willing to undergo a safer recruitment process – [**please email Andy Braunston**](mailto:andy.braunston@urc.org.uk?subject=Disciplinary%20panel%20volunteer), Training Officer, setting out your skills and experience. | | | |  | | --- | | **New monastic community**  Become part of a household of three living within a simple rule of praying, eating, studying, and serving together while accompanying Redcar URC and Redcar Baptist Church in a missional presence within the Northern Synod. Available from spring onwards, those aged 18+ are invited to register their interest by 31 March. If needed, a modest maintenance allowance is available. Information packs can be obtained by writing to Lisa McAvoy, URC Northern Synod, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8JJ, telephoning 0191 232 1168, or by [**emailing Lisa**](mailto:lisa.mcavoy@urc-northernsynod.org?subject=84%20Redcar) or [**Sue Waker**](mailto:Biblesusan@aol.com?subject=84%20Redcar).  **Synod Transitional Minister - Eastern Synod** Term: five-year post, with possibility of to renew for further five years  Salary: Minister's stipend  Closing date: 1 August  Interview date: 26 September  [**For more information and an application form, email Marion Gentry**](mailto:admin@urceastern.org.uk?subject=Synod%20Tranisitional%20minister%20job)  **Special Category Ministry post in Love’s Farm and St Neots**  Term: five-year term with potential to renew for a further five years  Salary: Minister's stipend  Closing date for applications: 20 July  [**For more information and an application form, email Marion Gentry**](mailto:admin@urceastern.org.uk?subject=Special%20Category%20Ministry%20job) | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |