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|  | | --- | | A 145-year-old time capsule, containing ten coins and a rolled-up newspaper, has been discovered in the foundations of Barrow United Reformed Church (URC) Primary School. As reported on BBC News, the glass jar was found "by complete accident" during renovations when the demolition team lifted up the foundation stones in the chapel of the school, built in in Clitheroe, Lancashire in 1876, and found the glass jar. Read more on this story [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15DFFY-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Eastern Synod announces divestment** |  |  | | --- | | The URC Eastern Synod joined 35 faith institutions from 11 countries on 17 May to announce its divestment from fossil fuels. The Synod makes 11 out of 13 synods to have joined the URC in announcing their divestment from fossil fuels, as recommended by Mission Council in May 2019. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15G6XJ-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Hundreds join call for people's vaccine** |  |  | | --- | | The URC General Assembly Moderators joined 450 academics, politicians, charities, faith leaders, and others on 10 May to urge the prime minister to waive vaccine patents. In an open letter, organised by Global Justice Now, STOPAIDS, and Just Treatment, the group called on Boris Johnson to "stand on the right side of history". [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15G943-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Prayers for Israel and Palestine** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Diana Paulding has written a prayer from the context of the participants of the URC’s educational visit to Israel and Palestine in 2019. The prayer has been adapted for possible use in collective worship. The prayer can be accessed [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GHJ5-1/c.aspx), please feel free to use and share it. On behalf of the World Council of Churches (WCC), of which the URC is a member, the Revd Prof Dr Ioan Sauca, Acting General Secretary for the WCC, has expressed mounting concern and profound grief at the rising toll of people killed and injured in the escalating violence in Israel and Palestine. In a statement, Professor Sauca said: "We appeal urgently to all parties to step back from the brink of even more deadly and destructive conflict. We lament every one of the precious lives already lost, Palestinians and Israelis, in Gaza, in Ashkelon, near Lod, and elsewhere.” [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15EL93-1/c.aspx).  Image: BBC News/Youtube | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Holiday club grants available** |  |  | | --- | | The URC's Children’s and Youth Work Committee has extended its small grants scheme to encourage churches running a holiday club. Grants of £50 or £100 are available to help with the purchase of craft materials, snacks, decorations, games equipment, Zoom licences etc. For more information or to apply, [**read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15EIKK-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Photos needed for new URC calendar** |  |  | | --- | | The URC is producing a calendar of church buildings for 2022. You are welcome to submit good quality images of all types of URC buildings: Victorian churches, post war pre-fabs, churches opened in the last couple of years for example. The idea is to give a flavour of URC buildings the length and breadth of the denomination. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15G680-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **General Assembly Moderators** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Keep up-to-date with the URC's General Assembly Moderators and their work in, around and beyond the denomination. Read the Moderator's blog [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15EHTA-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Greenbelt festival cancelled** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | This year's Greenbelt Festival has been cancelled. Greenbelt had many complex issues to wrestle with in deciding how to plan and deliver the festival and keep people safe. Among a range of issues, GreenbeIt needed an insurance protection from the government should pandemic restrictions return but, unfortunately, was unable to obtain this. The URC has been an associate partner of the festival since 2016. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15DITZ-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Rethink immigration plan** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The URC's General Assembly Moderators have joined a coalition of faith groups and leaders in writing to Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, to urge her to rethink the government's proposed New Plan for Immigration. The coalition says the plan “lacks humanity and respect for human dignity" and it would be "wrong to create a system in which the way people enter the UK will impact how their asylum claim is processed and the status they might receive." [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15DPUK-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Catch up with Stepwise webinars** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | If you would like to find out more about Stepwise, what it is, who it’s for, and how it can help you develop your discipleship and faith journey but missed the webinars that took place during the spring, don't worry! You can catch up and watch all the webinars [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GKQ9-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Download and print News Update** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | A downloadable version of this newsletter, formatted for print and for churches to cut and paste into church newsletters, is available a few days after this issue has been published. Download and print your copy [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15DIR6-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Share your news** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | If you have a story or picture you would like to share, then please contact URC Communications. The team is seeking stories to feature in local newspapers, the news section of the URC's national website and social media channels, e-newsletters, and *Reform* magazine's 'Digest'. If you would like to share your news, please email the team [**here**](mailto:pressoffice@urc.org.uk?subject=URC%20news%20to%20share). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Youth holiday club materials** |  |  | | --- | | URC Children’s and Youth Work team has produced Supersleuths – holiday club materials for five to 11s, but with appendices to help you adapt the theme for 11-to-14-year-olds. The resources will invite you to pick up your magnifying glasses, don your detective hats and investigate some cases from the Bible, with new songs and games, drama and snacks and crafts along the way. The resources will be available in June [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GOPS-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **New pathway for preaching** |  |  | | --- | | A new programme to train as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher (AALP) begins in September, agreed by Mission Council. Funds have been identified to support this programme. Synods can continue to use their own training courses or use [**Stepwise**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GR60-1/c.aspx) to train what will now be known as Locally Recognised Worship Leaders (LRWL). Those interested in AALP or LRWL training should contact their [**synod**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15I2AQ-1/c.aspx) in first instance. However, Nicola Furley-Smith, Secretary for Ministries, can also be contacted by [**email**](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk) for more information on AALP training. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **Keep up-to-date with URC's focus on discipleship** |  |  | | --- | | The URC is launching a new podcast which will explore a range of issues about life and faith today. In the first series, topics include Covid-19: a year on, money, climate justice, and anti-racism and how we, as disciples of Jesus, can respond. The fortnightly series will be co-hosted by Simon Peters, Walking the Way Project Manager, and Ann-Marie Nye, URC Communications Officer. Follow the URC's [**Facebook**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HN7J-1/c.aspx), [**Twitter**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HN7K-1/c.aspx) and [**Instagram**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HN7L-1/c.aspx) accounts for updates. | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Coronavirus: information and resources** |  |  | | --- | | Keep up-to-date with the URC's advice to churches about the Covid-19 pandemic, along with the latest resources [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HO5K-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **This month in *Reform* magazine** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | This month in [***Reform***](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15ILMZ-1/c.aspx), Steven Tomkins talks to Chine McDonald, author of *God is Not a White Man*, about race and faith. Are the sexes equal in church is a question answered by four contributors, Nadia Bolz-Weber offers a prayer for resurrection; now is the perfect time for churches to be creating community gardens; Church Related Community Worker Simon Loveitt tells the story of food justice and financial inclusion in Sheffield; and Andy Jackson shares some tips about how to tell what’s false and what’s genuine on email. Ruth and Naomi’s story of hospitality is the focus of the Chapter & verse Bible Study; Commitment-Phobe asks ‘Do I want to return to church at all?; Nick Booth enjoys the Church’s LGBT welcome; Sheila Maxey focuses on the edge of things; and Paul Kerensa asks if the subject of Covid should be changed, along with the regular news, letters, Art in focus, film and book reviews. To receive the freshest, challenging and enriching Christian magazine, and to receive a free gift, visit [**bit.ly/reform-gift**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15ILN0-1/c.aspx) or call 01371 851 886 and quote special offer call WINTER GIFT  . | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Please order online using the URC Bookshop’s new easy-to-use website [**www.urcshop.co.uk**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15ILEX-1/c.aspx) or by calling 020 7916 8629. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Visit the [**URC Bookshop**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15ILEY-1/c.aspx)'s new website for a range of merchandise, books, and resources. | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | To mark the first anniversary of the murder of George Floyd and the devasting impact of Covid-19, the URC has published a new collection of praise songs and protest, *Sunflowers & Thistles*. Written by the Revd John Campbell, Minister of High Cross URC, Tottenham, the book contains 36 songs. To read why it became important for John to put the collection together, and to download it for free. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HOS5-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Pack of ten inspirational Christian [**colouring-in postcards**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HPH6-1/c.aspx), each a different hand-drawn design, with a verse printed on the reverse of each postcard. Designs: Mercy, Fruit of the Spirit, Faithful, Sing of Joy, Praise the Lord, Nothing can separate, Rejoice, All is Well, Rooted. Printed on high-quality card. Available for  £1.99 +p&p. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | A [**window sticker**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HPL2-1/c.aspx) to show your involvement with the URC. Ideal for vehicle windows or windscreens, windows in offices, flats, bungalows, houses, caravans and church buildings, or for glass partitions and doors.  Free, p&p applies. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Synod news** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Southern** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Congratulations to Katrina Clifford, an Elder at Trinity URC in Wimbledon who is in training to be a Synod-Recognised Lay Preacher, and who has reached the final of *Preach* magazine's Sermon of the Year competition 2021. The final takes place on 24 June 2021. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15EI3R-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Mersey** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Marje Robinson, a member of Vicars Cross URC, has spent the lockdown raising hundreds of pounds for Water Aid. Marje signed up for the charity's 4k walking challenge and raised more than £850, and in the process got to know more about wildlife in her area. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15FVOL-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Wessex** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Woking URC undertook a 24-hour Bible ‘read-a-thon’ for Christian Aid Week. Starting with the New Testament and some Psalms, 75 people aged from five to 90+ read in half hour slots from 10am on 8-9 May. Three read in different languages: Cantonese, Korean, and French.  Hoping to raise £6,000, after Gift Aid was added, the church raised more than £9,000 for the charity. | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Thames North** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The Revd Dr Andrew Prasad has retired from the role of Thames North Synod Moderator after nearly 13 years in the role, and 43 years of ministry. Synod colleagues and people from the wider Church, gathered online on 22 May to bid him farewell and celebrate his work. The Revd George Watt, Minister of Reigate Park URC, will shortly be inducted in the role. | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What's On** |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC/Pfalz theological consultation** |  |  | | --- | | The URC’s Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations team is looking for people to join its September Theological Consultation of the URC/Pfalz Partnership. The invitation is open to all who have an interest in sharing fellowship and theology with friends from the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz. Around 20 volunteers from the URC are being sought to join a similar number of German friends for this virtual conference. There is no requirement to be a German speaker, minister or a theologian to attend. Themes to be discussed includes what the post-Brexit period means for the URC/Pfalz church partnership, the Church in covid times, and the new normal. To register your interest in taking part in the consultation, please [**email**](mailto:carole.sired@urc.org.uk?subject=URC%2FPfalz%20volunteers) Carole Sired. | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC Holiday Forum** |  |  | | --- | | This year's URC Holiday Forum, themed 'Living with love and difference: The challenge of being human in a fractured world' is scheduled to take place at The Hayes Conference Centre, in Swanwick, from 21-27 August for a week of faith, fun and fellowship. Parts of the programme will also be streamed online. Bookings are now being taken, for in person or virtual attendance. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15FVRF-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Emerging from lockdown** |  |  | | --- | | Northern College's annual conference for lay preachers, worship leaders, and those in church leadership takes place on Zoom this year. There are two options to attending 'Congregational lament and growth: Emerging from lockdown' Option one takes place on 25 June from 2–5pm and 26 June 9.30am–12.30pm. Option two takes place on 4, 11, and 18 October from 7–9.00pm. [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15FVR8-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Intergenerational service** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Members of the URC's Children’s and Youth Work team from across the denomination have created an online intergenerational worship service. 'God’s World – Hands Off!' will premiere on the team's YouTube channel on 28 May in time for Environment Sunday which takes place on 6 June. Watch the service [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GPQR-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **CTBI Bible studies** |  |  | | --- | | Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) will be holding a three-part online Bible study along the theme of refugees, migration and sanctuary. Part 1: God with us in diversity: takes place on 3 June from 7.30–8.30pm, part 2: God with us in vulnerability, is on 9 June from 7.30–8.30pm, and part 3: God with us in strangers takes place on 14 June from 8–9pm. For more information and joining details, [**read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GLOF-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Mission summer school** |  |  | | --- | | HeartEdge, an ecumenical network, is holding a mission summer school from 12-16 July. Input will be structured around commerce, culture, congregation and compassion, and there'll be a mix of teaching and conversation with leading scholars and practitioners including the Revd Dr Sam Wells, Professor Anthony Reddie, Dr Cathy Ross, and Revd Heather Cracknell. Prices and more information is available [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HKZH-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **URC Buildings Forum** |  |  | | --- | | URC Buildings Forum is holding more online conferences. On 21 July from 11.30am-1pm on Zoom, the conference will explore the vision and mission context for URC buildings and assets, including whether we need a building to be ‘church’ in the 21st century. On 14 October from 7-8.30pm, the conference will focus on environmental issues for church buildings, including Eco-Church and Eco-Congregation. To take part, please [**email**](mailto:mission@urc.org.uk?subject=Building%20for%20the%20future) the mission and include ‘Building for the Future’ in the subject line, your name and email address, church you belong to, or are representing, if appropriate. | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **General Assembly prayers** |  |  | | --- | | The GEAR team is hosting another series of prayers for four Thursday evenings leading up to General Assembly in July on Zoom. Starting on 17 June, Pray4URC takes place on the dedicated [**Facebook page**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HSY0-1/c.aspx) at 8pm for an 8.15pm start. A guest will introduce some prayer needs in the URC family and then a panel will lead prayers for just 15 minutes. For further information please contact GEAR's Prayer Secretary, Richard Turnbull by [**email**](mailto:prayer@gear.org.uk?subject=Pray4URC%20info). | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Social Justice** |  |  | | --- | | **URC joins coalition to stand together with refugees** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | The URC has become a founding member of new campaign coalition, Together With Refugees. The coalition, made up of more than 100 national, local, refugee-led and grassroots groups, calls for a better approach to supporting refugees that is kinder, fairer and more effective, and believes in showing compassion to people fleeing war, persecution or violence. Simeon Mitchell, URC Secretary for Church and Society, said: "At a time when there is such hostility being expressed towards immigrants, and the government is proposing unfair and unworkable reforms to the asylum system, it is important to set out a positive alternative vision of a better approach." [**Read more**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15I2AR-1/c.aspx). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Refugee Week** |  |  | | --- | | Refugee Week, a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary, takes place from 14-20 June. This year's theme is 'We cannot walk alone'. Find out how you can get involved [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GLIX-1/c.aspx). Alternatively, CTBI has produced worship resources on the theme of refugees, asylum and sanctuary, available [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15GLIY-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Climate Sunday** |  |  | | --- | | The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain and Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021). Free service resources can be found [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15IMQ4-1/c.aspx). | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Faith in politics** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | In the latest *Faith in Politics* podcast Meg interviews Conservative MP Miriam Cates about being a Christian in Westminster, the levelling up agenda, and family policy in the UK. Rodney reflects theologically on the levelling up agenda and the role of the Church in aiding social cohesion in communities and church-based social action. Listen [**here**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HO2J-1/c.aspx). | | | | | | |  |  | | --- | | **Recruitment** |  |  | | --- | | **URC vacancies and beyond** |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Minister, Highgate UR**](https://urc-news.org.uk/2JB1-1QUCE-6ZACU1-15HQO4-1/c.aspx)**C**  Term: Full-time  Closing date: 30 June  To apply for the position, please submit by email a cover letter outlining the motivation for your application together with a CV and a short video recording introducing yourself. | | | | | | | | |
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