



Keeping you informed with the latest news from around the URC

Calls for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home

The URC, alongside its world justice programme Commitment for Life, is part of a UK-wide, cross-denominational coalition calling for an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine. The “Time to Act” campaign, organised by the Just Peace Coalition of churches and charities, says the conflict in the Middle East and the rise in Israeli settler violence in the West Bank has decimated communities. [Learn more about the coalition.](#)



Stepwise: From music to finding meaning

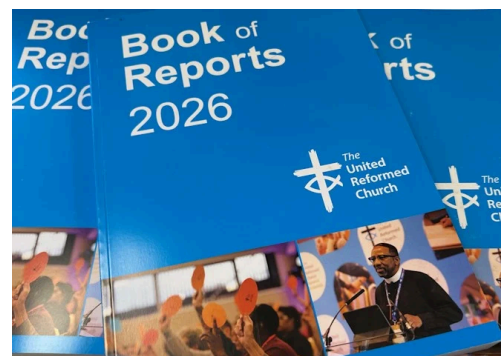


When Liane Todd lost her career as a musician following a life-changing accident, she thought she had lost the thing that had shaped her identity from childhood. Now, through the United Reformed Church (URC's) Stepwise programme, she has discovered a new way of expressing faith — through poetry, worship leading, and a deeper understanding of where God is calling her.

[Learn all about Liane's story.](#)

General Assembly 2026 to take place

The 2026 meeting of the URC General Assembly is taking place from 3-6 July at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick. Items on the agenda include Legacies of Slavery, sustainability of stipendiary ministry, gendered language in the Basis of Union, the place of URC Youth, Resource Centres for Learning, the 2026 Community Project Awards and much more. Read all of the [General Assembly papers](#). The proceedings will also [be livestreamed on the URC website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).



Embracing difference at WCRC

The Revd Dr Kevin Snyman, the URC's Head of World Justice and Inter Faith Relations, says the embrace of difference made conversations "sparkle" at this year's annual General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) Europe. Representatives from across the continent met in Nagyvárad, Transylvania in June. Noting the different "theological accents" present, Kevin said the big question was: "Whose voices do we actually hear when we open the Bible and attempt to read the signs of the times?" [Learn more about the meeting.](#)

CPCE makes safeguarding priority

The Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) has called on its members to take a tougher stance against sexualized violence in church contexts. At an international conference in Warsaw in June, CPCE urged member churches to introduce and further develop safeguarding measures as a high priority. The URC, which has robust safeguarding policies and procedures for all, was represented by Sharon Barr, Head of Safeguarding, who spoke at the conference. [Learn more about this.](#)

Free URC holiday club materials



Set off on an exciting Wisdom Quest! This free, flexible holiday club resource invites children aged 5–11 to explore Bible stories, discover wise words, and grow in faith. Packed with creative ideas, games, and activities, it's perfect for churches planning anything from a one-day event to a full week. Your adventure awaits! [Download your free copy now.](#)

Racial Justice Advocates



Advocates championing racial justice gathered at Lumen in London on 15 June to shape the next phase of their work and renew their collective commitment. The meeting highlighted both strategy and impact, from plans for ongoing advocacy to updates from across the wider church. [Learn more about the Racial Justice Advocates.](#)

Grants to run youth programmes

The Children, Youth and Intergernational committee supports churches in running holiday clubs by offering a grant of either £50 or £100 towards the costs of resources, snacks, decorations, equipment etc. [Find full details are available on the dedicated page.](#)

Synod news

Thames North



St Albans URC has welcomed its new minister, the Revd Naomi Young-Rodas, with a special induction service attended by a full congregation. Naomi will serve churches in St Albans, Luton and Dunstable as part of a wider team ministry across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Naomi, who previously served in Essex, said she hopes to help churches serve their communities and share God's love.

Southern





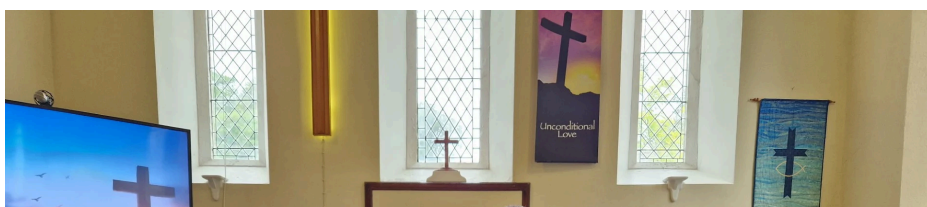
Two new members were given a warm welcome at Trinity church in Eastbourne recently. The Revd Memona Shahbaz said: "We are delighted to have them with us and look forward to sharing in worship, fellowship, and service together and thank God for this wonderful addition and pray that they will feel at home among us."

West Midlands



The Revd Anji Barker, Pioneer Cluster Leader for the URC's West Midlands Synod, recently coordinated a Council for World Mission (CWM) visit to Mae Sot, on the Thailand border with Myanmar. Delegates engaged with refugees from Burma, and asked the question: "What does it mean for faith communities to respond to the crisis of forced displacement?" [Learn more about the CWM visit.](#)

South Western





Muddiford URC has welcomed three people into its membership, increasing the congregation by 20 per cent. The church has joined churches across North Devon to take part in the "[Trypraying](#)", a resources that enables Christian to share their faith, churches to do mission and groups of churches to work together. The Revd Rob Weston, Minister of Muddiford, said: "My prayer is that many churches will be encouraged to welcome new members, just like Muddiford and that the kingdom of God will continue to grow."

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 URC Press Office](#) call 07976 753 950.

This month in *Reformed* magazine

What makes a church effective in its community? *Reformed* asked two Church Related Community Workers, a mission mentor, and a minister of Word and Sacraments to give us their answers. The Revd Kay Blackwell explains how it's done on Holy Island (Lindisfarne) in Northumbria, and Shiregreen URC in Sheffield is revealed as a small congregation for whom community engagement is the very heart of its life and ministry.

Geoff Felton gives thanks for temporary communities, and a Ukrainian minister explains that migrants often arrive in the UK for many interrelated reasons – we can't put the human drive to find safety and security in neat policy boxes, he says.

Elsewhere, Matt Stone talks about why the Group for Evangelism and Renewal (GEAR) has been such a significant part of his life in the URC, Oliver Tomkins says getting out and talking is key to local elections, and pictures are worth a thousand words in *Reformed's* coverage of the Million Acts of Hope campaign.

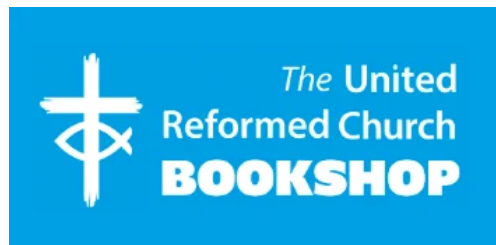
This and much more in Issue 4/2026 of *Reformed* magazine, available now. [Subscribe here](#).

Reformed

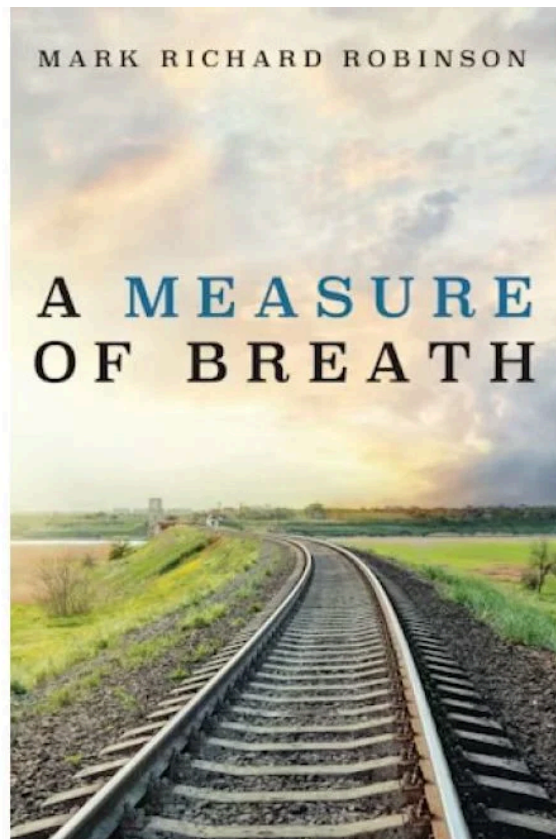
Reforming, Reviving, Reporting, Resourcing



Issue 4
2026



Please order online using the URC Bookshop's easy-to-use website www.urchop.co.uk or by calling 020 7916 8629.



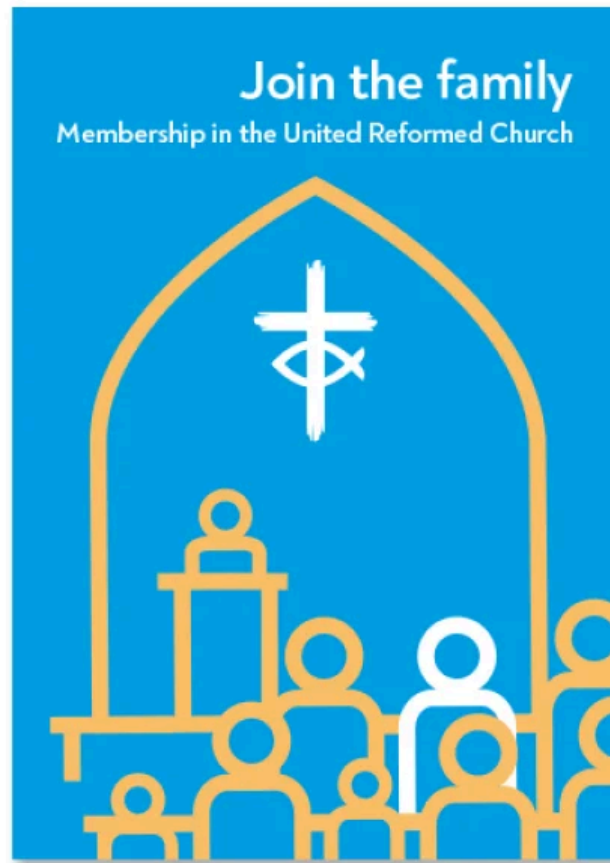
A Measure of Breath by the Revd Mark Robinson is a contemplative novel that explores what it means to lead when one's own wounds remain unhealed – and when silence in sacred spaces has done deep harm. £8.99 +p&p.



A URC magnetic or pin badge featuring the word WELCOME and the URC logo. Ideal for those who welcome people into church, Elders, leaders and others with a local or Synod role in the URC. £2.99 +p&p.



URC 500 ml water bottle, made from recycled water bottles. Available in blue or green (while stocks last). Each bottle comes with text from the Gospel of John 4:14, "Jesus said: Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty." £4.99 +p&p.



Join the family – membership leaflets – packs of five. A colourful A5, eight-page leaflet for those considering membership in the URC. Includes answers to: What does it mean to be a member of the URC? What are the origins of the URC? and more. Free. Just pay p&p.

A range of gifts for book lovers are available, visit urcshop.co.uk/books.

Resources

Free church guides

From using social media to crisis communications planning, we've produced a series of guides to help support you and your church. [Download the guides for free.](#)

Develop your faith

Developing your faith (discipleship) is learning that enables us to love God, self and neighbour in order to grow as people of God. [Learn about the many ways you can do so at the URC.](#)

What's On

Join the next FaithTalks webinar

Get to grips with some more big questions about faith and discipleship at the next FaithTalks webinar, Thursday 16 July at 7pm. [Sign up now to receive joining details.](#)

CWM Sunday

The Council for World Mission (CWM) marks CWM Sunday on 19 July, this year with the theme "Revisioning Mission". Resources for worship and to share information about CWM are available. [Download your copies.](#)

Disability Awareness Sunday

Disability Awareness Sunday takes place on 27 September. This year's theme, "One Body, Many Parts", draws on 1 Corinthians 12 and celebrates the truth that the Church is not complete without disabled people. [Free resources to mark the day are available for download.](#)

Single Friendly Church week

Churches are invited to take part in the first ever Single Friendly Church Week, 27 September to 4 October. The week is an opportunity for churches to celebrate their single friendliness in a variety of ways. You could host an event, give a talk on singleness or lead some simple prayers during your Sunday service. [Learn more about Single Friendly Church week.](#)

Recruitment

For full details of all the latest job and volunteer opportunities, see www.urc.org.uk/jobs

Volunteer opportunities

Convenor of the URC Net Zero Task Group Could you help lead the URC in its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint? The convenor has a key role in coordinating the work of the group to provide support, advice and encouragement to the whole of the URC, to help lead the denomination towards a net zero carbon future. Closing date: 27 July. [Learn more about the role and how to apply](#).

The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust Help shape the future of a 150+ year legacy and make a meaningful impact while gaining unique experience. The Congregational Memorial Hall Trust is seeking three new members to join its charitable company — and it is especially keen to hear from people of all ages, backgrounds and experience. [Learn how to get involved](#).

Trustee Manager (Retired Ministers' and Widows' Fund). The URC is looking for a volunteer to join as Trustee Manager of the Retired Ministers' and Widows' Fund — a 300-year-old charity supporting retired ministers and widows. [Learn how to apply](#).

Convenor of Safeguarding Committee. Do you have a commitment to helping improve and strengthen safeguarding practice across the URC? The URC is seeking applications for the role of Safeguarding Committee Convenor. You must be a member of the URC. [Full details are available here](#).

Many more volunteer and job opportunities, at urc.org.uk/jobs



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The United Reformed Church
Church House, 86 Tavistock Place
London, WC1H 9RT
Tel: 020 7916 2020
Email: urc@urc.org.uk

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