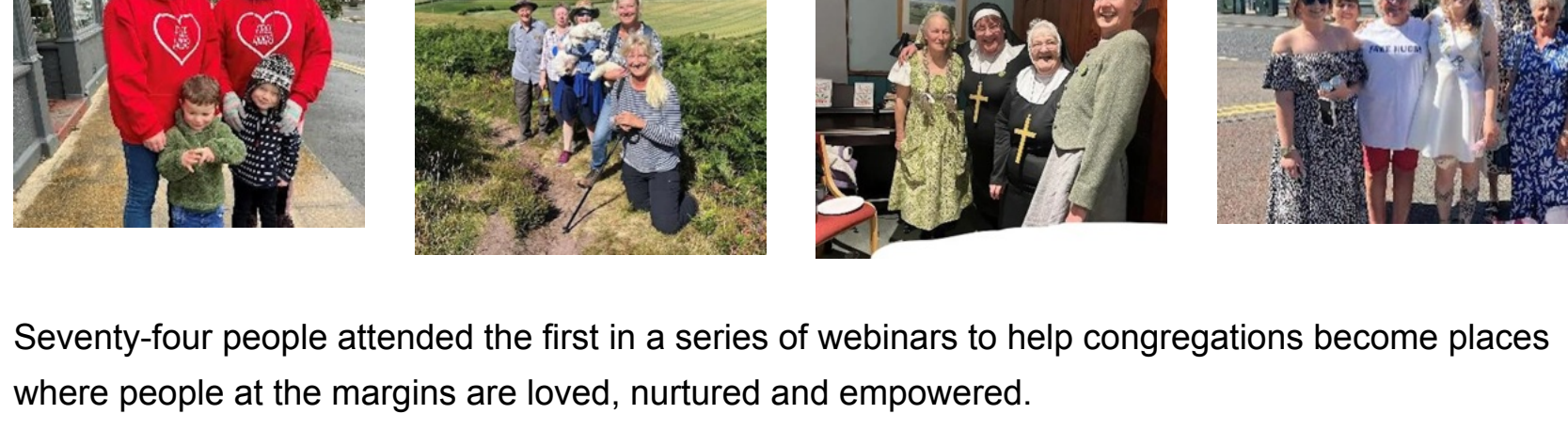


Keeping you informed with the latest news from around the URC

**A church with people at the margins**

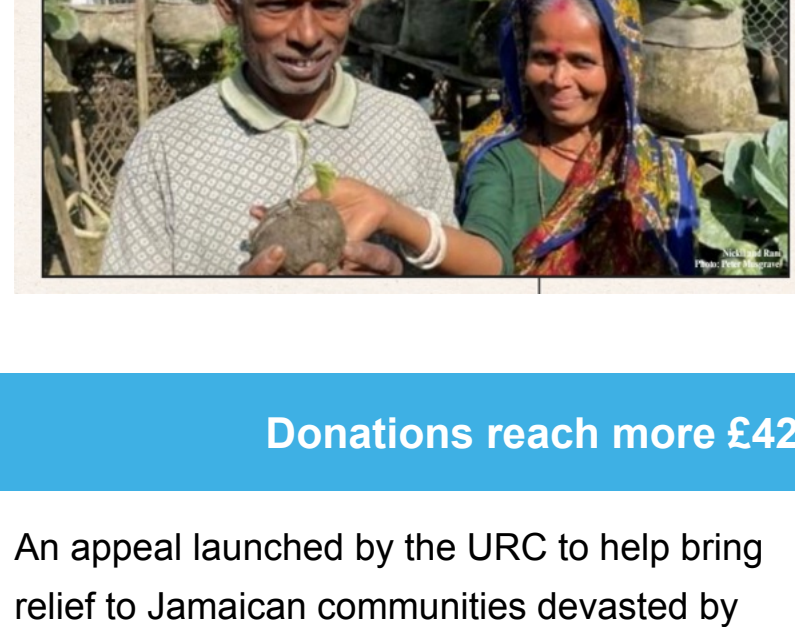


Seventy-four people attended the first in a series of webinars to help congregations become places where people at the margins are loved, nurtured and empowered.

Hosted by Roo Stewart, Head of Public Issues, in collaboration with Mike Hart, Transformation Director for North Western Synod, the first webinar, held on 16 February, explored themes such as how church growth and engagement with people at the margins are not competing priorities, but complementary.

[Learn more about the webinar and how to register for the second session in the series.](#)

**Children, Youth & Intergenerational**



The spring edition of Commitment for Life (CFL's) Moving Stories is available for download. Each edition focuses on one of CFL's current partner countries: Bangladesh, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Zimbabwe. The newsletters are published four times a year and are available in PDF and Word versions. [Visit a region on the CFL webpage to access the newsletter.](#)

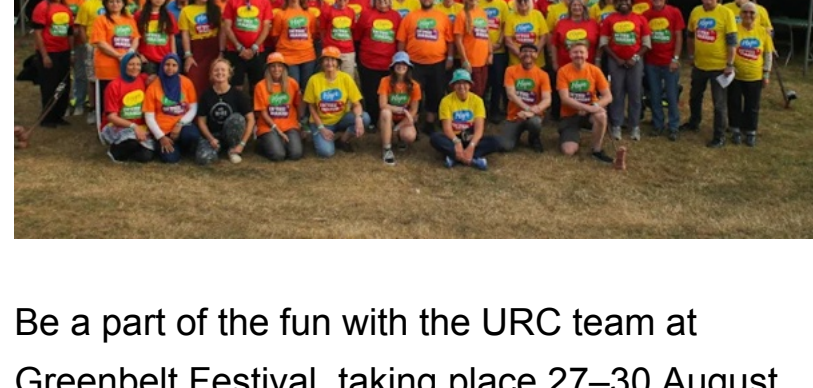
**Donations reach more £42,000 for URC's Jamaica appeal**

An appeal launched by the URC to help bring relief to Jamaican communities devastated by Hurricane Melissa has topped more than £42,000. The funds raised will be donated to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands which is helping to repair more than 50 churches and responding to the needs of their respective communities. [Donations are still welcome.](#)

Image: World Central Kitchen/Flickr/CC BY 4.0

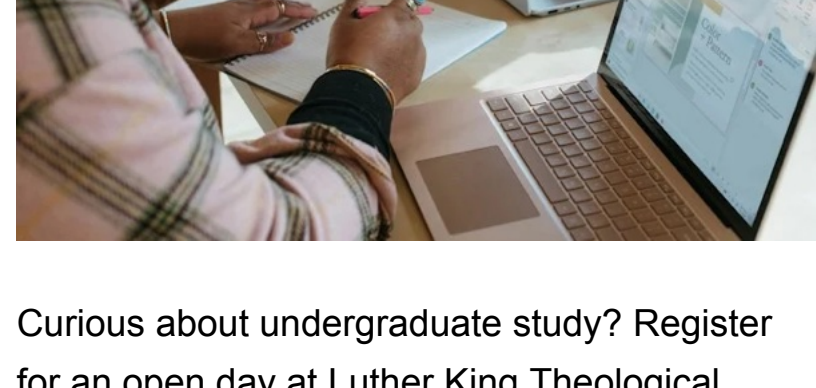


**Volunteer with the URC at Greenbelt**



Be a part of the fun with the URC team at Greenbelt Festival, taking place 27-30 August at Boughton House, near Kettering. Our large team of volunteers is crucial to everything we do. As a URC volunteer, you will receive free weekend entry to the festival, food vouchers and more! [Learn all about how to volunteer.](#)

**Luther King open days**



Curious about undergraduate study? Register for an open day at Luther King Theological College to discover life in the college's academic and spiritual community in Manchester, and experience inclusive theological education in one of Britain's greatest cities. Register to attend an open day on take place on 17 March and 28 April. Book your place for the [17th](#) and/or [28th](#).

**Synod news**

**Wessex**



Eager pancake flippers once again gathered at Salisbury High Street on Shrove Tuesday for the town's annual International Pancake Race, in aid of Salisbury Foodbank. Salisbury URC was well-represented by two younger members, Alice and Lydia, who ran for church in two of the junior rounds and each won their heat.

**Southern**



Congratulations to Jennie Macfadyen, Church Secretary of Trinity Church, a URC, Baptist and Methodist LEP, who has been commissioned as a Local Worship Leader. Jennie has successfully completed a lay preaching course and is now excited to continue preaching the gospel in local churches.

**Thames North**



There were smiles all round at Grange Park URC in Leyton as Rhona Lawrenson was commissioned as a Locally Recognised Worship Leader. A special service was led by the Revd Shahbaz Javed and the commissioning was celebrated by Rhona's mentor, Francis Ackroyd, and her fellow Elders.

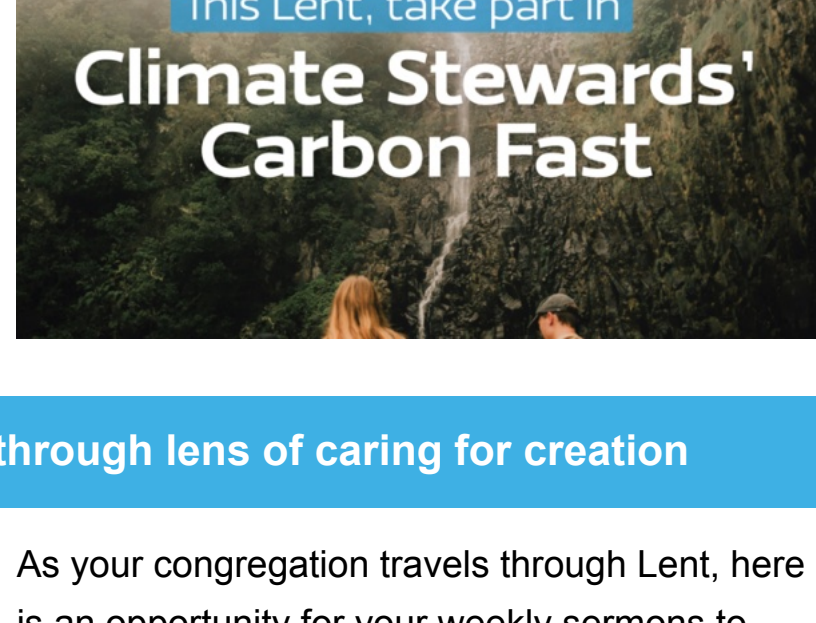
**Eastern**



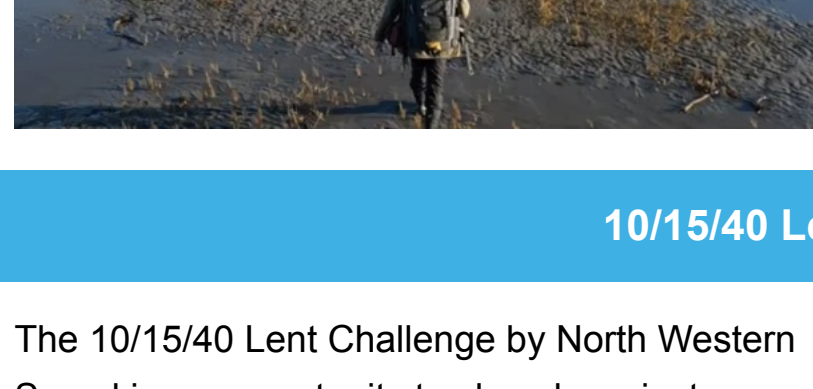
A warm welcome to Jack Sturgess of Abbots Road URC, who was recently baptised by immersion. A regular at church and the Alpha Seekers group, Jack shared a moving testimony at his baptism, speaking honestly about his life-changing journey of faith which moved the congregation.

**Take part in Climate Stewards' carbon fast this Lent**

Join Climate Steward's Carbon Fast designed to help us think about our carbon footprint this Lent. Explore whether there is any excess or unnecessary use in our lives that act as a distraction to our relationship with God. With a different focus each week, you'll learn more, ask questions, and focus on what God thinks about these areas of our lives. [Join the Initiative.](#)



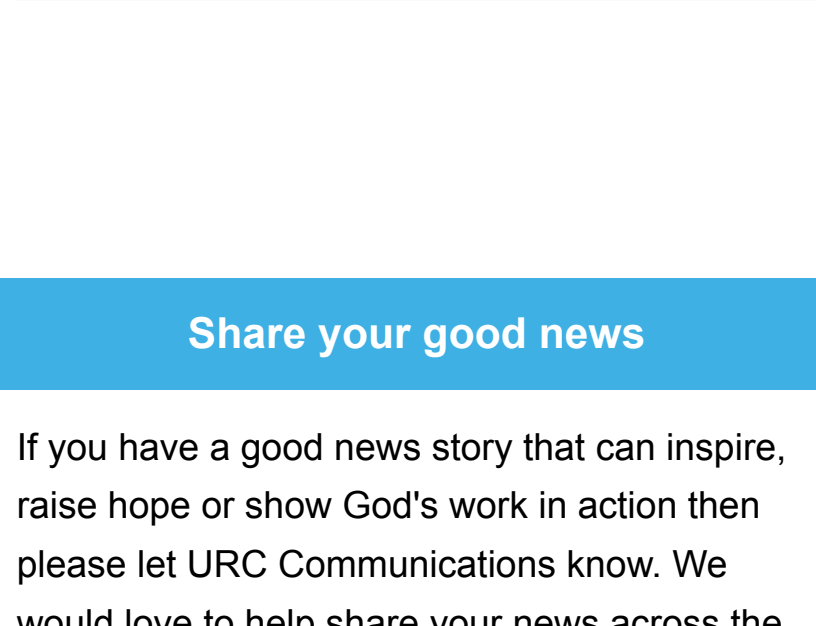
**Lent: Explore Lectionary readings through lens of caring for creation**



As your congregation travels through Lent, here is an opportunity for your weekly sermons to examine the Lectionary readings through the lens of caring for creation. "Preaching Creation Crucified" includes sermon scripts, short videos and liturgy suitable for a fresh look at these familiar readings by the Revd David Coleman, Eco Congregation Scotland. [Learn more.](#)

**10/15/40 Lent challenge**

The 10/15/40 Lent Challenge by North Western Synod is an opportunity to slow down just enough to notice where God is already at work and who God might be placing in your path. Each day during Lent, pray a simple 15-word prayer, "Gracious God, today is there someone you want me to connect with outside the church?" and stay alert to what God may already be doing. That's it! 10 seconds, 15 words, 40 days. [Learn more.](#)



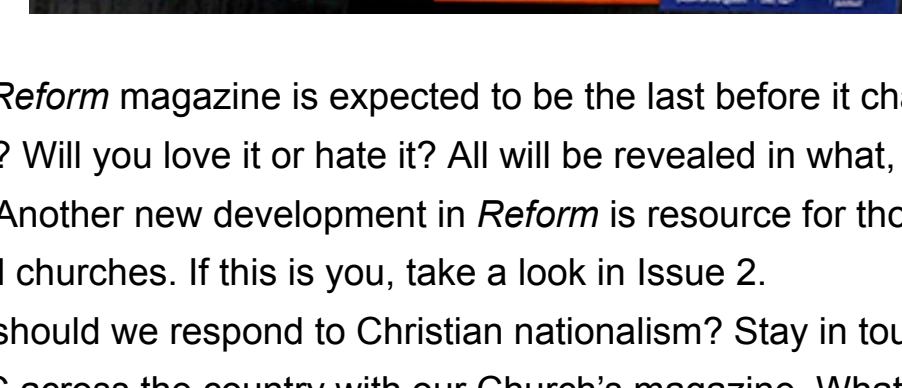
**Download or print News Update**

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 printable version of News Update.](#)

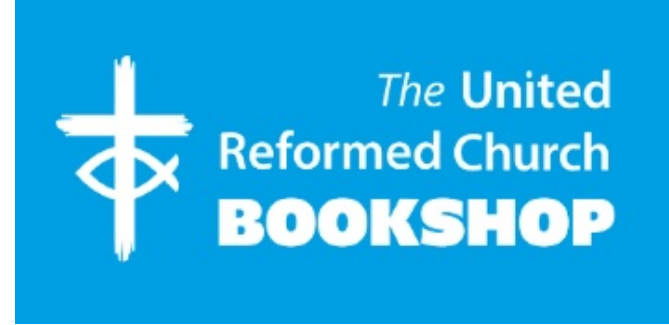
**Share your good news**

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 Reform magazine**



The coming issue of Reform magazine is expected to be the last before it changes its name. What will the new name be? Will you love it or hate it? All will be revealed in what, for now, we're going to keep calling Reform. Another new development in Reform is resource for those leading services and preaching in local churches. If this is you, take a look in issue 2. Also in issue 2: How should we respond to Christian nationalism? Stay in touch with what's happening in the URC across the country with our Church's magazine. Whatever it's called. [View the range of subscription offers.](#)



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.



**Worship** from The United Reformed Church. These updated resources for worship are offered to the church as a contribution to the conduct of public worship. The core services are contained within the 424-page loose-leaf, hole punched, A5 edition, which has been completely redesigned to be more accessible. £18.99-£24.99 + p&p. (Folder available).



**New design: URC logo window sticker** - a window sticker 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.



**Good Practice 6** - Safeguarding people is a core part of the URC's mission. *Good Practice 6* is the latest best practice book from the URC. This is where you can purchase additional copies.



**Lent service sheets, pack of 10** - Designed for you to use with your photocopier or printer. Use these service sheets for all services throughout Lent. Supplied as A4 sheets for you to print and fold. [Lent and Easter resources also available.](#)

A range of gifts for book lovers are available, visit [urcshop.co.uk/books](http://urcshop.co.uk/books).

**Resources**

**Free Worship Notes**



From the URC's Digital Worship team, a regular resource for anyone who leads and plans worship. Each week's Worship Notes contains prayers for Sunday services, thoughts on readings and hymn suggestions. [Access our Worship Notes for free.](#)

**Crisis Communications**



The URC Crisis Communications Plan is a free, updated guide to support Ministers, Elders and staff with best practice tips for dealing with the media, a community tragedy, and utilising social media in a crisis. [Download your copy for free.](#)

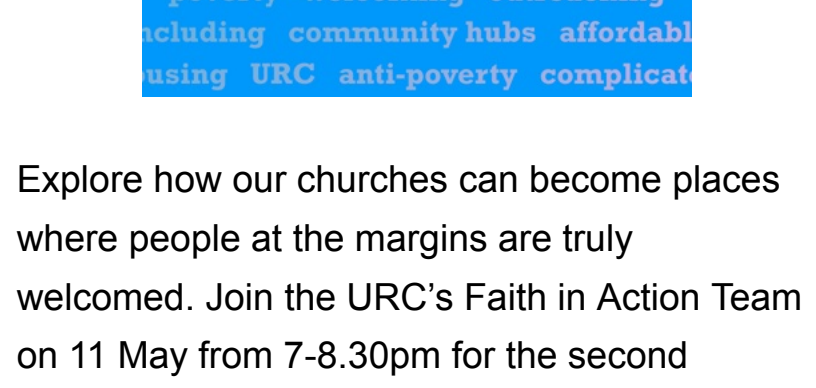
**What's On**

**Great Gospel Giveaway webinar**



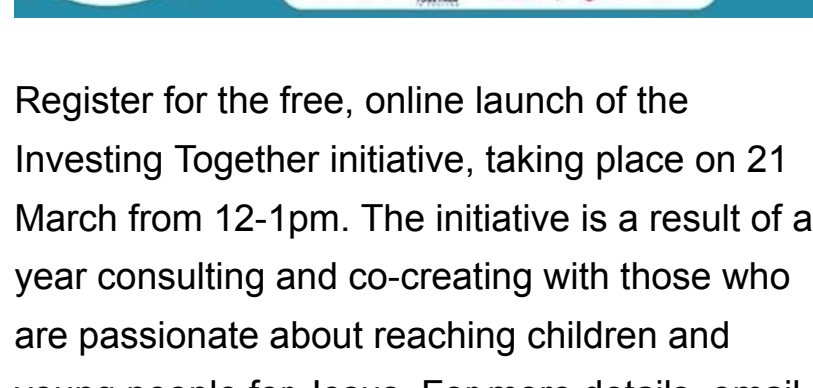
Join Hope Together for its Great Gospel Giveaway Webinar 2026: Reaching and Responding to an Open Generation on 2 March, from 2-3pm. The webinar will explore what's being seen across the UK and share practical ways you and your area can be part of the Great Gospel Giveaway in 2026. [Register here.](#)

**A Church with People at the Margins**



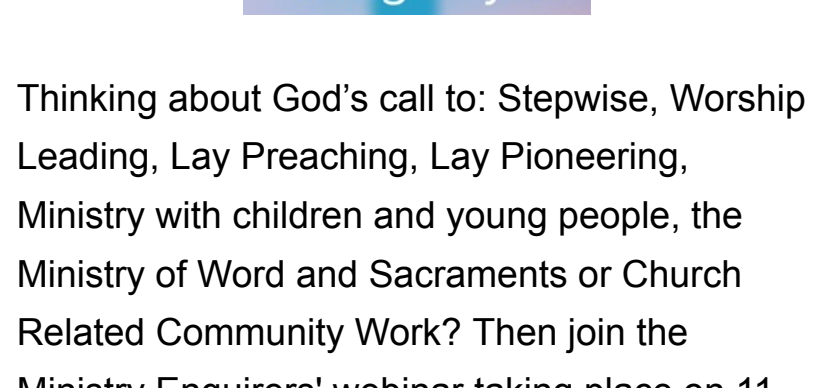
Explore how our churches can become places where people at the margins are truly welcomed. Join the URC's Faith in Action Team on 11 May from 7-8.30pm for the second webinar in the A Church with the People at the Margins series exploring practical ways to build inclusive, connected communities. [Learn more and pre-register.](#)

**Children and young people initiative**



Register for the free, online launch of the Investing Together initiative, taking place on 21 March from 12-1pm. The initiative is a result of a year consulting and co-creating with those who are passionate about reaching children and young people for Jesus. For more details, email Sarah Holmes at [youngfaith@hope.ac.uk](mailto:youngfaith@hope.ac.uk).

**Is God calling you to ministry?**



Thinking about God's call to: Stepwise, Worship Leading, Lay Preaching, Lay Pioneering, Ministry with children and young people, the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or Church Related Community Work? Then join the Ministry Enquirers' webinar taking place on 11 April from 9:30am-12:30pm. For joining details, please email [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk).

**Recruitment**

For full details of all the latest job and volunteer opportunities, see [www.urc.org.uk/jobs](http://www.urc.org.uk/jobs)

**Volunteer opportunities**

**URC Trust Director (three separate roles)**

The URC is seeking immediate nominations and applications for three directors of the URC Trust to bring specialist knowledge in the **safeguarding, investments and HR**. Closing date for applications 31 March.

**Business Committee Youth Representative**

The URC is seeking a dedicated young person under the age of 26 to join the Business Committee. If you want to help shape the future of the denomination, increase your communications skills, expand your network, and help represent the next generation of URC leaders. Learn how you can get involved.

**URC Youth Representative – Nominations Committee**

Are you passionate about making sure young voices shape the future of the URC? Want to help build a more diverse, exciting, and forward-looking Church? This is your chance to step up, represent URC Youth nationally, and influence who helps lead the denomination into its next chapter.

**Convener of the URC Trust**

Nominations and applications are being sought for a Convener (Chair) of the URC Trust, the charitable entity which holds the assets of the URC and is responsible for the good governance. Closing date for 31 March

**Safeguarding Committee – Convener**

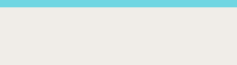
The URC is seeking a Convener of the Safeguarding Committee. You must be a member of the URC. You will have a current or recent working knowledge of safeguarding with children and/or adults at risk and have an understanding of contextualised safeguarding within the faith setting. Find out more.

**Many more volunteer and job opportunities, at [urc.org.uk/jobs](http://urc.org.uk/jobs)**

**Job vacancies across the URC and beyond**

**Chief Financial Officer - National Synod of Wales** | Synod Cenedlaethol Cymru  
Term: Permanent contract, 28 hrs pw  
Salary: £32,381 pa  
Closing date: 2 March

**Mission Practitioner (Training) – Eastern Synod**  
Term: Full time – 35 hours per week (flexible, including some evenings and weekends)  
Salary: £38,000 – £43,000 pa depending on experience  
Closing date: 9 March



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