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## Theology and Action Research Network News – October 2025

Dear Friends,

In February this year, we wrote you that we are excited about the prospect to come together and explore how the network could grow and develop. This year we have come together for training sessions, our annual seminar and gathered for a 2-days TARN Colloquium (11th to 12th September). As the TARN steering group, we feel a great deal closer to identifying next steps for our network, as we journey alongside you and continue to develop our *Theology and Action Research Network* - community.

In this newsletter, we draw your attention to the next training session, which is to take place online on Thursday, 20th November. We are also excited to share that Clare's and James' book *Christian Faith and Christian Learning* is now published and on the market! Further, we eagerly anticipate the publication of a Theological Action Research Field Guide later this year. We close our letter by sharing first impressions of the TARN Colloquium, which has been a meaningful experience for all of us.

We hope this network will continue to develop as a place of becoming aware of one another's work, learning from one another, and sharing the practical wisdom we are all developing around theology and action research with others.

Peace and Gratitude,

Stefanie on behalf of the TARN-team

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# Training Day: registration is now open!

**Thursday, 20th November 2025, 14.15pm to 20.30pm (GMT).**

To register to our next training day, please follow [this link](#). Places are limited and our Early Bird Sale ends on 20th October!

To find out more about our training sessions, please follow [this link](#).

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## **This is what other people say about our TAR trainings:**

*"Three key insights: "Be prayerfully attentive to the data. The formal voice can include other disciplines. TAR is about discernment through conversation."*

*"The exercises in groups and general session were informative. I really loved the polyphonic and dialogical nature of the methodology. Stimulating and inspiring."*

*"I have definitely learned about the power of conversational method through this training especially group conversations we had."*

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## **Newly released:**

***Christian Faith and Christian Learning: a theological action research approach.* Clare Watkins and James Butler, Routledge 2026.**

This book is the fruit of a five-year theological action research project, that James and Clare carried out at eight 'sites of learning' in the British Methodist Church. In keeping with theological action research sensibilities, the main body of the book takes the reader on a journey of conversation and reflection, informed by contemporary practice and experience, scripture, academic theology, and the wider Christian tradition. What results is a radical reframing of how 'Christian learning' might be construed, privileging the 'learning in ordinary' of quotidian lived faith. Such a framing carries with it implications for how teaching, learning, and training is best understood for our churches, and

contributes to renewed theological thinking on faith, knowing, and what it means to be a 'disciple' of Jesus.

There are a limited number of paperback copies available for sale at a reduced price. For details, and to purchase a copy, go to: <https://watkinsandbutler.square.site>.

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## Launch of the Theological Action Research Field Guide

**Friday, 12th December 2025, 14:00 - 15:00 pm (GMT) on Zoom.**

Stefanie is currently working on a Theological Action Research Field Guide, to which people across the network have contributed. Funded by the Susanna Wesley Foundation, this multi-authored work is aimed at doctoral students and practitioners working with theological action research. The field guide offers practical guidance, exercises and experiential vignettes that will enable and encourage you as you master your own project and research journey.

The launch will be held online and **registration will open soon.**

Keep a close eye on our [website for more information!](#)

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## Impressions of the TARN Colloquium

During this year's colloquium, titled **Theological action research, taking stock and moving forward: gathering, discerning, learning**, we grappled with questions and challenges delegates face when conducting theological action research. Each day started with a lectio divina exercise which opened the space for discerning listening. We then engaged in conversations about the processes of gathering, discerning and learning. Indeed, our group discussions in response to the various and diverse presentations, engendered a thick learning experience, whilst celebrating Clare's and James' book launch of *Christian Faith and Christian Learning* included an element of sharing life with one another.

Although the colloquium was only a two-days event, the engagement and

encounters felt quite impactful. The different elements of the programme contributed to a depth of the experience that allowed us to live out the network we envisage to become. We want to thank you all for attending and participating in this years' Colloquium. Thank you for contributing to this event with your presentations, your stories and willingness to participate in meaningful conversations!

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## **This is what people have said about this event**

*"It was good to get a variety of experiences using different forms or expressions of TAR"*

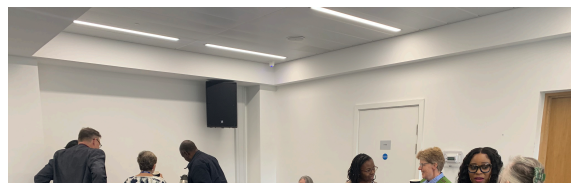
*"It was interesting to hear how other scholars work with co-researchers when analyzing the material and how much time they spend on meeting with the co-researchers - that made me reflect on our project and our different research groups and people."*

*"I appreciated the many different ways in which you formed groups (presenters lined up and forming groups around them, forming groups and presenters choose), which meant that I had the chance to speak to many different people."*

*"The space for conversation and the wide variety and diversity of projects. It made TAR feel more expansive for me."*

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