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Theology and Action Research Network News – February 2026

Dear Friends,

I'm currently in the midst of finishing off three separate reports on theological action research projects. While one learning is clearly to sort out my scheduling better, what has struck me through working on these is the gift theological action research opens up as we pay close attention to lived practice in conversation with our coresearchers. In all three projects I can see the profound ways that theological understanding and practice have been renewed by engaging with the theology lived and spoken in the midst of our sites of practice. As the TARN team we recognise the privilege of doing this work, and we are keen to enable others to engage, benefit and develop similar work and projects in their own practice and research. For this reason this newsletter is packed with opportunities to learn from others, to engage with resources to help, and to join conversations so we can all continue to grow and develop as theological action researchers.

We are so delighted to have launched the TARN field guide and so grateful to Stefanie for all her work on making that happen. Do check out the launch video if you couldn't be there and read on to find out how to get a physical copy of the book as well as access to the e-book. There is a short report on the recent seminar from Clare and myself on our book *Christian Faith and Christian Learning* where it was great to see a number of people from TARN. We also highlight upcoming seminars and training.

Do keep an eye out for the reports appearing on the TARN and Susanna

Wesley Foundation websites from two of the projects I mentioned working on above, Edgy Learning and Holy Communion Online. They will be published in the coming weeks and months and will be featured in future newsletters.

Until then, enjoy the updates and we hope to see you at a TARN event very soon.

James on behalf of the TARN-team

Order your copy of the Theological Action Research Field Guide

It was wonderful to see so many members of our network at the launch of the Theological Action Research Field Guide in December 2026! If you missed the launch, you can watch a recording of the event on our [TARN website](#) and on [YouTube](#). You will be able to catch up on a brief overview of the Field Guide and a panel conversation between Stefanie and four members of our network: Paul Bradbury, Sue Miller, Andrew Rogers, and Bridget Steenkamp.

To secure a hard copy, please visit the website of the [Susanna Wesley Foundation](#). You will be guided through your order step by step. Once you have placed your order, you have the opportunity to offer a voluntary donation via PayPal. We recommend £15 as a voluntary donation for one hard copy, which includes shipping to the UK and the EU.

To download a digital copy, please follow the link to [TicketSource](#). It is important to us to offer the PDF download free of charge, as well. If you wish to support the work of the Theology and Action Research Network with a donation, you can adjust the price in the ticket section. If you wish to share this work, we kindly ask that you do not pass on the PDF file, instead please forward the link to the TicketSource website.

Book Launch on 22nd January 2026

Following the publication of *Christian Faith and Christian Learning* last summer, Clare and James presented some of the key themes and ideas from the book at a University of Roehampton Practical Theology Seminar. Picking up themes

from the final two chapters they pointed to the implications of Christian education becoming centred around 'faith learning' - the ordinary growing, developing and maturing in faith which, according to their research, is most commonly recognised in the midst of everyday life, in the informal spaces and

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holiness and faith, hope and love, and began to sketch a conversational pedagogy which placed the agency of the Spirit - the one teacher - at the heart of all learning. It was a fun event, stimulating some great conversation, and it was good to see a good number of people from the TARN network present.

There are still some copies of the book available to buy at a significantly reduced rate [here](#).

TARN Conversation: Theology, Action Research, and Change

12th March 2026, 14:00 pm - 15:30 pm (GMT)

We are excited to announce that this TARN seminar is hosted by **Dr Simon Hallonsten**, Lecturer in Practical Theology, University College Stockholm, **Prof Jonas Ideström**, Head of Department of Religious Studies and Theology at the University College Stockholm, and **Dr Maria Ledstam**, Lecturer in Practical Theology at the University College Stockholm.

In theological action research, change is both a hoped-for outcome and a key lens for understanding situations. Yet change does not always occur—or move in the direction we intend. In this conversation, we will explore the relationship between theology, action research, and change, asking why change sometimes remains elusive and what this means for how we pursue theological action research in practice, including how much the various researchers involved should themselves shape and influence the processes of change.

To join, please follow [this link](#) to register for this event.



Training Day: June 2026

3rd and 4th June 2026 from 8.45 to 12 noon (GMT) on both days.

To participate in our next training, you can [sign up here](#). Places are limited!

The training is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to embark on your own theological action research project. The training is run by **Dr Helen Cameron**, Director of Research at Regent's Park College, Oxford and **Dr James Butler**, Pioneer Training Leader at the Church Mission Society, Oxford and postdoctoral researcher at the University of Roehampton, London. It will be interactive and conversational. To find out more about our training sessions, please follow [this link](#).

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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