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Theology and Action Research Network Newsletter – September 2026

Dear Friends,

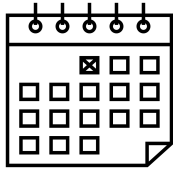
All four of us were able to attend the Ecclesiology and Ethnography Conference in Durham a few weeks ago and enjoyed catching up with some of you in person.

The dates for next year's Ecclesiology and Ethnography conference have been confirmed and we are delighted to confirm that the TARN colloquium will follow on from 9th to 10th September. You can just come to the TARN colloquium but we know that for some of you coming to both will be a good use of travel time.

This newsletter promotes the November TAR training, celebrates recent doctoral completions and flags new publications. We love to hear about and feature the projects you are working on so do be in touch. If there are things you would like to feature in next year's colloquium just let us know.

Best wishes on behalf of the team

Helen



TARN Training Days: 12th November 2026 - 2:00pm to 8:30pm GMT

Join us in November for an afternoon training session (2:00pm to 8:30pm GMT). The training is held online and **early bird tickets are available now:**

<https://www.ticketsource.com/centre-baptist-studies/theological-action-research-training-thursday-2-00pm-8-30pm-gmt/2026-11-12/14:00/t-mjrkggy>.

Our trainings are 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, **Dr James Butler**, Pioneer Mission Training Lead at the Church Mission Society, Oxford, and **Dr Stefanie Conradt**, Research Officer of the Susanna Wesley Foundation, SMT, University of Roehampton. 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."



Save the Date: Colloquium 2027 St John's College, Durham 9 - 10 September 2027

Following the Ecclesiology and Ethnography Conference of the [E&E Network](#), this event will be held at the same venue: St John's College, Durham, making it easier for those wishing to attend both events.

The theme of the colloquium will be announced before Christmas this year and a call for participant contributions will be announced in spring 2027!

The Colloquium is run by the TARN Team: **Dr James Butler**, Pioneer Mission Training Lead at the Church Mission Society, Oxford; **Dr Helen Cameron**, Director of Research, Regent's Park College, Oxford; **Dr Stefanie Conradt**, Research Officer of the Susanna Wesley Foundation; and **Prof Clare Watkins**, director of TARN and Lead Researcher of Conversations, Culture and Communion, Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University.



Congratulations

to Dr Jean Carter DMin for successfully completing her doctorate for her thesis *The use of Appreciative Inquiry to change theological understandings of secular work in an Independent Pentecostal Church setting* at York St John University, supervised by Rev. Andrew Village (Emeritus Professor) and Dr Mark Dawson. Her thesis can be accessed here: <https://ray.yorks.ac.uk/id/eprint/14236/>.

to Revd. Luke Larner for successfully defending his thesis *(Dis)Comforter: In search of a liberative mission pneumatology through Theological Action Research with Anglican community organisers* at the University of Roehampton, supervised by Dr Ashley Cocksworth (director of studies), and Dr James Butler. Thesis can be accessed later this year.



Publications

We are delighted to announce that the complete issue of Practical Theology Vol 19, No.2, May 2026, with papers arising from the February 2025 Symposium, is now available online here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/yprt20/19/2>.

This publication comes with the announcement of the dates for the next Congregational Studies Symposium, which will be held online on 23 and 24 February **2028**.



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