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## Theology and Action Research Network Newsletter 1 – December 2021

Dear Theology and Action Research Networkers,

I am very happy to be sending you this first of what we intend to be regular newsletters, which I hope will begin to nurture our little Network and its shared interests further. Every few months I will email these newsletters round our distribution list, with news of, and ideas for, ways of developing our thinking into theology and action research approaches, and with updates about ongoing work.

### **Training in Theological Action Research Methods**

Helen Cameron and James Butler have been holding regular training days in theological action research methods, which introduce researchers – and especially doctoral students – to theological action research, and enable some thinking about how it might be worked with in participants’ projects. There is still time to register for our next day on Friday January 7th, 2.15-8.30pm (UK) – just [click here](#) to book. We are particularly hoping that this time later in the day will enable participation from the Americas. Further training events, and some feedback from previous participants can be found on our [events webpage](#). We are always very keen to respond to people’s requests for what kind of training or workshop might be most useful – so do please email any suggestions through to me via the address which appears at the end of this newsletter.

### **Job Opportunity**

I would also like to draw your attention to a small part-time job opportunity working in qualitative theological research, which would particularly suit a doctoral student, or someone recently qualified with a doctorate. The role is 0.2

FTE, and is for a Research Associate to work with myself, Dr. Ash Cocksworth (Principal Investigator), Dr. James Butler, and Dr. Andrew Rogers, on a project exploring the lived experience of long use of the Creed (or similar) in worship for Christians across an ecumenical range of church communities. For more information [click here](#). Please note: the deadline for applications is 10th December.

### **Register Your Research**

As we develop our website – for which many thanks for the work of Dr. Elizabeth Davies – we are keen to make it a much more dynamic and interactive site, where those in the Network can share materials and be in touch. As a first step to this end could I ask you to consider registering your research (past, current or planned) which uses either theological action research (in some form) or action research more broadly in a theological project. This can be done by [completing this form](#). This will enable us to set up a repository of research which will be of great use to us all in seeing how methods are being developed and where connections might be helpfully made.

### **Publications List**

In a similar vein, if you have published in the area of theology and action research, or have come across publications which comment on or use these methods, please send the details to my email address below. We will be updating the Publications section of the website in the New Year, and it would be great to feature as full a range of work as possible.

### **Future Developments**

We are also reflecting on future developments, both for our website and for events. From 2022 we plan to include monthly blogs on the website, and are exploring the possibility of a members discussion forum where connections can be made and ideas shared. Please do contact me if you have any thoughts on this, and – particularly – if you would like to contribute a blog. We are also planning to run research seminars in the coming year (on-line). If you are in a position to present your research in theological action research, or related projects, do let me know. I'd be very happy to speak with anyone about this if this would be helpful.

### **Methodist Learning Project**

James Butler and I continue to work on writing up our 'Methodist Learning Project' ([learn more here](#)) and are working with our reflector team to widen the conversation. We are hoping that we might have a one day Conference

to disseminate the research further – so watch this space. Plans are also underway for developing this ‘faith-learning’ focus into new areas using theological action research....More news as this is finalised.

### **A Place of Wise Conversation**

It is very much at the heart of theological action research – and action research more broadly - that we centre conversation, shared reflection and lived experience as essential for the generation of truer knowing. I hope that as we develop the Network it can become such a ‘place’ of wise conversation and learning together, as we share the diversity of our work in this exciting approach to theology and to life! Do share your news with me and I will include it in the next Newsletter.

For now, wishing you all a blessed and graced Advent and Christmastide,

Clare

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