

NEW COLLEAGUES!

Our biggest news in the first half of 2021 is that Sara & Sam have been joined by two new colleagues - **Gemma and Timo Scharnowski**. They have been employed (part-time) to help us develop the ministry in fresh and exciting directions. They both trained at London School of Theology, have worked for a local church, and are experienced worship leaders and musicians (see their band The Forest Feeling - <https://linktr.ee/theforestfeeling>).

They bring so many skills to the table - theological depth, social media savvy, breadth of creativity and a keen eye for organisation. We (Sara & Sam) have loved collaborating with them this year, and feel a great sense of anticipation for what is ahead for engageworship.



WORSHIP IN THE WOODS

Worship in the Woods is a collaboration with Jeremy Williams (<https://earthbound.report>) and features Gemma's illustrations. It contains 10 sessions of outdoor worship, informed by our experiences of running Park Church over the last four years.

We launched this book in March with two Zoom workshops. The resource feels very timely, with many churches wanting to meet outside due to Covid-19 and a renewed interest in God's world. See more (including the Zoom workshop) at engageworship.org/Woods

DISRUPTING WORSHIP

Sam has been joined by co-host **Revd Grace Sentamu Baverstock** for this podcast, a series of conversations about the future of worship. They have interviewed a wide range of people, including digital theologian **Peter Phillips**, ethnomusicologist **Karen Campbell**, Silicon Valley author **Jay Kim** and psychologist **Kate Middleton**. The second season has been put out over the Summer - hear all the episodes via Spotify, your usual podcast app, or at engageworship.org/DisruptingWorship

Between the seasons, Timo ran a mini-series called **Disrupting Worship Stories**. These were videoed chats with worship leaders, finding out what God had been doing during lockdown. We intentionally focused on younger leaders as we're aware of a gap in our reach, and we hope that developing these relationships will help engageworship support the next generation. You can view these videos on our Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter feeds (<https://linktr.ee/engageworship>).

"Your resources feel like worship in 2021 and into the future should be: contemplative and life-giving."

Victoria

"Thank you for all the great resources on this site, which have helped us engage creatively with all ages in our worship."

Stuart

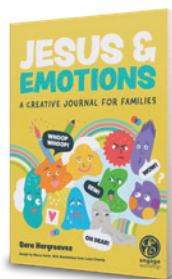


JESUS AND EMOTIONS

"As children and parents struggle with the multiple disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland were delighted to purchase 5000 copies of Engage Worship's excellent *Jesus & Emotions* resource to provide free to congregations for distribution to families to help them navigate the strains and stresses of these unusual times with eyes fixed on Jesus."

Rev David Thompson, Presbyterian Church in Ireland

In addition to this hugely encouraging order from Ireland, a ministry in the USA called **WeAreKidMin.com** has licensed the *Jesus & Emotions* book to create a North American edition. They will also be developing a curriculum for churches to run for parents and their children. It is very exciting to think about the potential of these resources across the world - please pray for lasting impact in people's lives.



FUTURE RESOURCES

We've been collaborating with Sunil Chandy on a book which should be launched in the Autumn. **Bible Noise** will combine Sunil's PhD in Sound Art with his experience as a local church worship leader, challenging how we approach the Bible and encouraging us to more creative and collaborative ways of reading and listening.

As a team we've been talking and researching around a fifth book in our service resources series (*Worship in the Wilderness* etc). This has the working title **Resurrection People** and will be seven weeks of material for Eastertide (up to Ascension).

EVENTS COMING UP

- 23-29th Aug - Sara & Sam teaching at Lee Abbey
- 7th Sept - Sara & Sam at **Church of England** Pioneer event at High Leigh
- 4-8th Oct - Sam at **Resound** songwriting camp
- 12-13th Nov - Sam at **LST** songwriting intensive

A NOTE ON GIVING

If you don't currently give to this ministry via the Music and Worship Foundation, or haven't reflected on your giving for a while, please prayerfully consider whether you could make a further contribution. Regular, sacrificial gifts make this ministry possible! Visit engageworship.org/support for details, online giving and printable forms.

For any other questions around giving, standing orders, Gift Aid and more, please contact our treasurer ron@mwf.org.uk



EVENTS

Gemma, Timo, Sam and Sara recorded three sets of live worship for the **LST** online Summer School, on the theme of **Eco Theology**. A number of these videos have been offered as free downloads from our site - visit engageworship.org/EcoWorship We also recorded six song videos for **Cliff College's** online **Cliff Fest**, which aired 30-31st May.

Timo and Sam ran two **Engaging Worship Over Zoom** workshops in March, each attracting over 80 people online. They then led an adapted version of this at the **Church of England Digital Labs** conference on 12th June, which was very well attended and received a warm response. Sam was also part of an **A Rocha** Zoom session on **Climate Grief and Lament** - you can view this and see the resources here - engageworship.org/articles/climate-grief-and-lament



On 26th June we ran an actual, in-person **Whole Life Worship** training Saturday! This was for an **LICC** hub in Crawley. It was a joy to be physically present with people, and we look forward to more of these kinds of things in the future.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT