

Youth hope

THERE has been growing interest in youth work in an area of Leicestershire following a youth festival organised as part of Hope with Home Mission funding.

The Hinckley and Burbage Hope 2014 Youth Festival featured multiple events for 13-18 year olds over a weekend towards the end of September.

The aim was to build relationship with the 'unchurched' young people in Hinckley and Burbage, as well as to promote a message of unity between the local churches.

More than 100 young people attended at least one event and 1000 people interacted with the event over Facebook before and throughout the weekend.

Higham Way Baptist Church and Hinckley Baptist Church were among the churches involved. Jon Grant is minister of the former, which received a Home Mission grant for this outreach.

He said, 'Since the festival there has been an increase at some of the local youth clubs and an increased interest in the local monthly Christian Youth Service, known as Infuse.

'Furthermore relationships between the churches, especially the local youth workers have been strengthened, paving the way for even more effective work in the future. None of this would have been possible without the support of the wider Baptist family in terms of financial giving and prayer support. Thank you!'

"God With Us"

HOW would you interpret the theme "God With Us"? Could you take a photo to share with others?

A new photo share/exhibition/competition is being organised through the Baptist Collaboration Group.

Baptists are being encouraged to get out their cameras and phones and get snapping to capture what "God With Us" means in their context. Are there groups in your church that you

want to get involved?

The idea is that the pictures will be free for use by all in Christmas services or on church websites.

Don't upload your photos just yet - the photo sharing exhibition will begin on Sunday 30 November.

**For more information visit the Baptist Collaboration Group:
<http://on.fb.me/1tj0meD>**

Dude, where's my donkey?

THE family comedy *Nativity 3: Dude Where's My Donkey?!* launched in cinemas last Friday (14 November).

The Christian educational charity Damaris has produced resources based on the film, which it says provides "a splendid opportunity to help children aged 5-12 think about the Christmas story."

The activity pack is ideal for use at Messy Church or Sunday School to help children think about the value of belonging to a community at Christmas. There are also a selection of talk



illustrations for church speakers, based on downloadable clips from the film.

Visit www.damaris.org/nativity3

JOBS

Interim Ministries Team Leader, Baptists Together Chaplains, RAF

For more details visit: www.baptist.org.uk/jobs

BAPTISMS

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church, Herts: Jenny Steel, Sarah Stirrup . . . 2
Bromham Baptist Church, Beds: Rosemary Clarke 1
Kilmington Baptist Church, Devon: Peter Castell 1

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to phobson@baptist.org.uk

THE BAPTIST TIMES weekly NEWS ROUND-UP

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Bicentenary 'depth'

A BAPTIST service was broadcast live on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday morning to conclude a busy season of events marking the bicentenary of the partnership between Jamaican and British Baptists.

The service at Cannon Street Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham was originally due to air on 19 October, but a BBC technical problem prevented it going live.

Radio 4 was nevertheless still keen to feature the gathering in its 8.10am *Sunday Worship* slot, and organised a re-recording for the Sunday just gone (16 November). Once again the congregation came out in force, and this time the broadcast went without a hitch.

'There aren't many relationships that can survive 200 years and shape the course of history,' the BBC announcer stated, 'but that's the depth of the connections being marked this morning in the bicentenary celebrations between Jamaican and British Baptists.'

The address was given by Karl Johnson, Jamaica Baptist Union General Secretary (pictured), recorded during his visit to the UK last month as part of a Jamaican delegation to mark the bicentenary.

Then a varied programme of events in different parts of the country reflected on this shared history and what it means today.



It began with the Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture, delivered by Baptist theologian Delroy Reid-Salmon in Bristol, before moving to Birmingham for an event called *Legacy: Learning from the Past, Embracing the Future*. This aimed to inspire and help young people better understand God's plans for their lives. The following day saw three services at Cannon Street.

The delegation moved to Yorkshire for celebration services in both Sheffield and Huddersfield. Two seminar events in each place looked at significant challenges currently faced; being inclusive churches and encouraging and recognising

Black and Minority Ethnic women in ministry.

A discussion about Black Theology in Britain followed at Regent's Park College in Oxford, before the final event: a Saturday evening celebration at Perry Rise Baptist Church in London, a multi-cultural church which is an embodiment of the flourishing partnership between Jamaican and British Baptists.

Mr Johnson said, 'My colleague, Karl Henlin, and I felt privileged to share in some of the events planned by the Baptist Union and BMS in the United Kingdom to mark the bicentenary of the partnership between British and Jamaican Baptists.

'It was for me a time of great moment and pause. In an age blinded by the disease of 'nowness' I couldn't help but be struck again by the reminder that life doesn't begin and/nor end with us. It challenged me anew to be thankful for those upon whose shoulders we now stand and to be ready to provide our shoulders for others to do so in the future.'

'The visit of the JBU team was very special,' added Mary Taylor, a Regional Minister in the Yorkshire Baptist Association. 'We experienced the joy of genuine friendship and partnership.'

Drugs work behind attempted murder of Argentine pastor

CHRISTIAN Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is calling for a full investigation and charges to be brought against those responsible for the attempted murder of Baptist Pastor Marcelo Nieva in Cordoba Province, Argentina.

Pastor Nieva, who leads the Pueblo Grande Baptist Church, which works with victims of domestic violence, sex trafficking and drug addicts, was shot at multiple times while driving in Río Tercero on the evening of 21 October along with church member Daniel Carreño. They were not wounded.

A group of national and provincial Baptist leaders in Argentina pointed out that the attempted murder is the latest and most severe instance in a pattern of threats and harassment against him.

In a joint statement, the group, which includes the Argentinian Evangelical Baptist Convention and the Association of Evangelical Baptists Churches of the Province of Cordoba, directly



accused “narco-trafficking linked assassins who have infiltrated the Cordoba Police and out of revenge [have targeted him] because of his pastoral work and the earlier complaint he filed about them to the Federal Court of Cordoba.”

Pastor Nieva received national and international support last year when charges were brought against him under “anti-cult” legislation adopted on the provincial level.

Argentinian denominational leaders and legal experts criticised the vaguely written anti-cult law

used to target the church, which belongs to a denomination with a 105-year history in the country. They also told CSW that they believe the pastor was targeted by corrupt politicians and members of the local police force because of the church’s work with victims of sex trafficking and drug addicts.

CSW’s Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, ‘This is the culmination of a long campaign of harassment and attacks on Pastor Nieva and his church, and we are concerned that impunity will only embolden those responsible.’

Paul Potts to sing new *Silent Night*

A NEW version of *Silent Night* (*Christ The Saviour Is Born*) has been recorded by former Britain’s Got Talent winner Paul Potts.

The single has been commissioned by Hope and Integrity Music, and goes on sale on 7 December.

The single will help boost publicity for Hope’s Greater Love campaign, a series of resources to help churches to mark the centenary of World War 1 at the

heart of local communities.

More than 350 venues are already preparing to hold Silent Night Carol Services and remember the 1914 Christmas Truce – the moment when peace broke out in the First World War.

The single will also raise money for the Royal British Legion and Tearfund’s Syria appeal.

Baptist minister Ian Bunce is a member of Hope’s leadership

team and said, ‘We are delighted to have such a well known singer as Paul Potts sing this new version of Silent Night.

‘We pray that churches all over the country will use the centenary of the Christmas Truce to point to Jesus, the one who came to bring humanity, peace and reconciliation.’

Visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/christmas

Report from Baptist Union Council

The latest Baptist Union Council has taken place (November 11-12)

Almost 80 people, drawn from local Baptist Churches, Associations, Colleges and Specialist Teams, gathered at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire for two days to discuss and reflect on a range of issues facing our Union.

It was the third time Council has met since the reforms of the Futures process, which encouraged a move from the parliamentary-style debating culture towards one that intentionally makes space to listen deeply to God. To this end substantial time was spent in worship, prayer, silence and openness to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

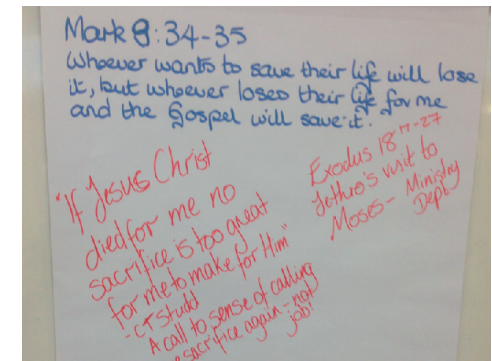
A record was created to capture what Council members felt God was saying: this included God’s passion for the world, and the need for sacrifice.

It was also observed how difficult it was to bring the prayer session to a conclusion because

so many people were continuing to pray and share. ‘I love it when God turns up!’, commented Council Moderator, Sheila Martin.

The agenda covered a wide spectrum of items, including retired ministers housing and the future of ministry to our understanding of covenant and freedom of conscience.

A discussion and process was started that looks at the future of ministry among us, building on work already carried out in the Ministries Review. Many feel that we face a challenge for the future of needing to deeply reimagine the way we train, recognise, support and enable ministry for the next generation.



Next year will therefore see a major piece of work that will shape ministry.

A review of the role of the President was shared and agreed: the new role has an emphasis on communicating our Union’s vision, leading the accompanying group and helping to nurture our shared life as Baptists Together.

Rounding up, General Secretary Lynn Green reflected that two key priorities have emerged for us as a whole movement: mission, especially pioneering and equipping churches and leaders through the Ministries Project.

View the full Council report: <http://bit.ly/1zJbjgx>

From the www.baptisttimes.co.uk

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