



BAPTISTS TOGETHER

monthly information and resource update

June 2017

Dear Friends

Welcome to this month's Update full of news and resources for your church.

Spurgeons children's charity, was founded by Baptist minister Charles Haddon Spurgeon in 1867. In this 150th anniversary year, Baptists Together and Spurgeons have developed a **special resource** with our President Dianne Tidball to celebrate his heartfelt mission to give hope to every child. Dianne launched her theme '**As in heaven**' at our Assembly in May and this is explored in the resource, calling God's people to do all we can to create heaven on Earth now. The **joint resource** is designed to help you and your church 'punch a hole in the darkness' that many children and young people are facing today.



Please pray for the work of Spurgeons, raise awareness of their work in your church or get involved with fundraising. Partnering with others is vital to the success of their work - they cannot support vulnerable children and their families alone. Whatever you do, your help will make a huge difference to children in the UK who need our support today as much as they did 150 years ago. For **more information please visit the Spurgeons website**.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



Read the key messages from Lynn Green following the May meeting of the Baptist Steering Group in Manchester



The June Prayer Diary is now available to download from our website. Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Read about New Growth Ministry - one of the stories featured by the Eastern Baptist Assoc in **50 Days of Mission**



Incorporation of the Baptist Union as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

At the Baptist Assembly an information session was held on the incorporation of BUGB as a CIO. The **FAQ information sheet** that was distributed is available on the Baptist Assembly resources page.



Church Constitutions, CIOs and Charity Registration – a reminder

Please [click here for a brief reminder](#) about church constitutions, CIOs and charity registration. This is information which all churches need to be aware of.



Ransomware cyber threat – how to keep your church safe

The Charity Commission has issued an alert concerning the recent cyber-attack which affected over 200,000 organisations, including the NHS. Please [click here for this guidance](#).



Updating your Church Website?

Are you considering updating or renewing your church website? Our website developers, Church Insight, have just [launched their new website](#) on which they highlight a special offer for BUGB member churches. The offer gives 50% off the monthly fee for two years, and a £195 discount on any template used, with ten to choose from. [Click here for details](#).



Discipleship Year Internship Programme

Cottingham Road Baptist Church in Hull has just launched its new one year internship programme in partnership with NewWine, aimed at 18 to 24 year olds. Two places are available, with the possibility of grants being made available to help interns to support themselves whilst they participate. Applicants need not be Baptist, but obviously a passionate desire to know God and his will for them and a willingness to serve others is a prerequisite! [Click here for details](#).



Opportunities to volunteer for mission in Poland

The Baptist Church in Zielona Gora, Poland, is looking for volunteers for two European Voluntary Service programmes that they are running – one short term (2 month over the summer) and one long term (1 year). Both programmes offer a chance to be involved with the mission work of the church engaging with children and young people. [Click here for more information, or to apply for a place](#).



Online Resources

The Entheos Trust is planning to develop a new suite of online resources intended to help churches engage with their communities in credible and relevant ways. They want to make sure these resources are convenient, easy to access and use and welcome [feedback from church leaders to a seven question survey](#).



Songs of Praise Network

Avanti Media and Nine Lives Media are working in partnership to make the BBC One show, *Songs of Praise*. They believe a vital part of securing the future success of *Songs of Praise* is ensuring the close involvement of Christians, Christian organisations and church movements across the UK, and have created 'The Songs of Praise Network' as a way of ensuring that it remains relevant, inspiring and diverse. If your church has ideas for stories, events and contributors which may be featured in the programme contact thesongsofpraisenetwork@avantimedia.tv

This month's featured events:



Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups - June

The National Month of Prayer for toddler group ministries will again take place in June. This year's theme is 'A Net That Works' with Luke 5:1-11 as the keynote scripture. This annual prayer focus encourages churches to pray for the work of their toddler groups as they reach out to serve the needs of families in the local community. Dip into the [ideas, activities and articles on the 1277 Facebook Group](#) or [see the 1277 website](#).



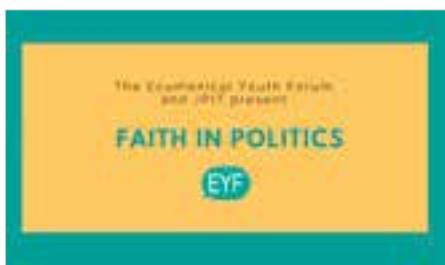
The Great Get Together - 16-18 June

The Great Get Together is a weekend of community events aiming to bring people together from all faiths and backgrounds. Click here to [find out more about how to create your own event or join one near you](#). Your event could welcome people from your community or other faiths and can be anything – garden party, sports day or picnic. Click here to [find out more about getting your church involved](#). Click here to [watch the new #greatgettogether video](#).



The Big Conversation - Saturday 24 June

Interested in scientific research as a Christian? The Big Conversation is a day conference in Leeds and is your opportunity to join in imaginative and creative thinking about scientific progress in the light of a Christian worldview. Church Scientific is run by Dr Richard Gunton and the Revd David Humphries of Blenheim Baptist Church, with the support of a steering group. Click here for [more information and to reserve your place](#).



Faith in Politics - Saturday 15 July

Do you know any 16-23 year olds with an interest in social justice and politics? Please let them know about this free event in Leeds to launch the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Ecumenical Youth Forum. The day will include workshops, seminars and keynote speakers. Click here for [more details and to book](#).



DNA Taster Day - Monday 17 July

Looking for a Christian internship? A gap year or year-out? Looking for Christian leadership training? Whatever you're after in God... DNA wants to meet with you. DNA is a community of people who would love to journey with you in your Christian discipleship and leadership development. DNA runs for a year, with an optional two further years. You can join us full or part time, with overseas placements a possibility. Click here to [book a free taster day](#) in Bromley.



International Congress on Preaching - 8-10 August

This event, taking place in Cambridge, unites pastors and church leaders from the UK, US and many other nations. It is jointly sponsored by *Preaching* magazine, Anderson University, and Spurgeons College. The theme of the Congress is 'Preaching Hope in an Age of Fear' and will feature several talks relating to the theme, plus a variety of sermons and practical workshops. Further [information and online registration](#) is available through the ICOP website.



Shaping our Worship - Wednesday 13 September

We shape our worship, our worship shapes us. All are welcome to attend the second conference hosted by The Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain from 10:30 - 16:00 at St Aloysius Parish Centre, London (next to Euston Station). Speakers include Graham Maule, Andrew Carwood, Geraldine Latty and Carey Luce. Cost: £25 per person including lunch. For [more details see the JLG website](#), or email: martin.foster@cbcew.org.uk



Prayer Spaces in Schools Day Conference - Saturday 23 September (London) and 30 September (York)

The Prayer Spaces in Schools Day Conferences are for everyone. They're for those who are just starting out and want to know how to take the first steps towards their first prayer space. And they're for those who have run dozens of prayer spaces and want to take things further. Click here [for full details and booking](#).



Sam Sharpe Lecture - Saturday 7 October

The Sixth Annual Sam Sharpe lecture will be taking place at 19:00 at Perry Rise Baptist Church in London. This year's lecture will be given by Karl Johnson - General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Please [click here to book your free place](#).



Redeveloping Church Buildings: a training session - Tuesday 17 October

This training session on redeveloping church buildings will be held at Baptist House in Didcot. This is being run by Anthony Collins solicitors and Rapleys surveyors. More information will be added to the Baptists Together website in due course but you can register your interest now by emailing buc.corp@baptist.org.uk



Celebrating, Surviving and Thriving - Women in Baptist Ministry - 28-29 June 2018

The Gender Justice Hub and the BME Women Ministers' Network present a 24-hour conference at IMC in Birmingham for Baptist women ministers, non-ordained women in a qualifying office, MITs and those exploring a call to ministry. With Pat Took, Gale Richards, Helen Roberts and Dion White in inter-generational dialogue. Worship led by Amie Buhari. Cost £100, bursaries available. Booking details to follow but to reserve your place now, email mary.taylor@yba.org.uk

This month's featured resources:



150 years of hope for every child thanks to Charles

Spurgeon: Special Resource

In 1867, Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon, driven by a desire to tackle poverty and injustice, founded an orphanage. 150 years later, his legacy lives on and the work of Spurgeons Children's Charity is as relevant now as it was then. In this anniversary year, Baptists Together and Spurgeons have developed a special resource with Dianne Tidball to celebrate his heartfelt mission to give hope to every child. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Baptist Assembly Resources

Whether or not you were able to join us at our Assembly last month, have a look at the various [resources, photos and videos from the day](#) which are now available to download from the Assembly website and share with your church. We are now reviewing the feedback from delegates to help us plan for next year's event on Saturday 12 May at the KingsGate Centre in Peterborough.



Pentecost People

Developed by members of the Racial Justice Group and Regent's Park College, and launched at the Baptist Assembly last month, this study resource for small groups aims to help churches to embrace the different cultures within them, to learn hospitality in a new way and to experience multicultural worship and prayer. It is made up of four video-based study sessions filmed in British Baptist churches, and additional resources to help people to explore the areas of Hospitable Church, Hearing Every Voice, The Global Church and Dreaming the Dream. Click here to [find out more and download the resource.](#)



Lest We Forget

2017 marks ten years since the historic Apology resolution was made by BUGB Council. By using differing cultural perspectives, these five studies have been prepared to equip Baptists to reflect on the 2007 Apology, and The Journey that has followed, and explore ways to address the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade, ten years on. [Available to download now.](#)



Moving Stories

Migration has always been a part of the human story, and there are several accounts of different people movements in the Bible. These nine new studies bring a blend of biblical, historical and contemporary material and have been written by people whose own stories have been shaped or impacted by a significant people movement. The studies aim to enable individuals and groups of people within our churches to think about migration, in the light of the word of God in the Bible. [Click here to download *Moving Stories*.](#)



Journeying to Justice

This new book provides the very first comprehensive appraisal of the tumultuous journey towards equity and reconciliation amongst British and Jamaican Baptists across two centuries of Christian missionary work, in which slavery, colonialism and racism has loomed large. Edited by Anthony G Reddie, it brings together scholars and practitioners, lay and ordained, from a variety of culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds, all speaking to the enduring truth of the gospel of Christ as a means of effecting social, political and spiritual transformation. Priced £24.99, you can [order your copy from the publisher](#).



The Shack movie

The Shack is coming to UK cinemas on 9 June - click here to [find your nearest cinema showing The Shack](#) Damaris is offering some great resources to help church groups make the most of this powerful film. Download a [free church discussion and reflection booklet](#), and order free printed copies by emailing sophie@damaris.org. We also have an [interview with Shack director Stuart Hazeldine](#), whose brother is a Baptist minister.



The Promise - resources from Damaris available

Damaris has some church resources based on powerful historical drama *The Promise*, released in cinemas in April. The film is set during the last days of the Ottoman Empire, in 1915, as the Turkish authorities are about to begin a terrible persecution of the Armenian people. It reminds us of the plight of today's refugees and persecuted minorities. The [resources offer church groups a chance to act, reflect and pray around these issues](#).



Pinterest

Do you use Pinterest – the website for sharing creative ideas? It's a brilliant resource for creative inspiration and includes ideas for Sunday school, prayer spaces, worship, Messy Church, holidays clubs to name a few. [Baptists Together now has a Pinterest account](#) and would love to share the ideas that have worked in your church. If you are interested, please contact our Communications Enabler Mike Lowe by emailing mloewebaptist.org.uk



Visual Reflections

We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. Click here to [find the current selection of images on our Flickr account](#).