



# BAPTISTS TOGETHER

## monthly information and resource update

**August 2017**

Dear Friends

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

Please be praying for **Cornerstone Church, Rhondda** - our featured Home Mission story this month. This new church is being officially launched in September, but has already been reaching young people in the area and witnessed three baptisms last Sunday.

Many churches will have young people preparing to go to University for the first time this Autumn, or may have students moving to their area to study. Student Christian Movement (SCM) has published a **Welcoming Students to your Church** resource, which is designed to help churches reach out and support students during their time at university.

For Messy Churches, and those churches considering starting one, have a look at the new **Messy Church does Science** book, edited by Baptist minister Dave Gregory. The fun experiments contained in it show how science and faith mix and help children and adults appreciate the wonder of creation.

Could I also draw your attention to a **series of Pension Roadshows this autumn** which will be invaluable for churches which are members of the Baptist Pension Scheme Defined Benefits (DB) Scheme? Designed for treasurers, deacons and ministers, they will inform you about what is happening to address the current deficit in the Scheme and the potential impact it may have on your church.

Stephen Keyworth  
*Faith and Society Team*



Find the latest reflection from our President Dianne Tidball on the theme of 'As in heaven'



The July/August prayer diary is now available to download. Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Read about **Cornerstone Church, Rhondda** reaching young people in the South Wales Baptist Association



### Charity Governance Code

A new **Charity Governance Code** has just been published and is available online. The version for 'smaller charities' applies to Baptist churches. Although the Code is not a legal or regulatory requirement, the Charity Commission will expect charity trustees to be familiar with it. The Commission says: 'The Charity Governance Code represents a standard of good governance practice to which all charities should aspire. We encourage all charities to read, follow and apply it proportionately to their circumstances'.



## Deposit Accounts

The Baptist Union Corporation Directors have agreed to a relaunch of the Baptists Together Church Deposit Accounts from 3 April 2017 that will now include a 3 Month Notice Account and a 1 Year Fixed Account alongside the Standard 7 Day Notice Account. Advertising of these **new accounts is currently on the BUGB website**, and all churches will receive details with their annual subscription letters in due course. The interest rates applicable to each of these account is also available on the BUGB website, as are the Terms and Conditions for these accounts.



## Data Protection Regulations

Churches may be aware that the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will be coming into force next year. To help churches prepare for this we will be revising our Data Protection Guideline Leaflet. Once this has happened we will inform churches through a future monthly mailing. In the meantime churches should still be aware of their responsibilities to hold personal information in line with the current Data Protection Act. **For more information see our current leaflet L13: Data Protection.**



## ACAT Handbook

The April 2017 Association of Church Treasurers and Accountants (ACAT) Handbook has recently been sent to Treasurers. If your Church Treasurer has not received the copy for your church, it may mean that their details need to be updated with ACAT. Please **update your details via their website.**



## Pension Roadshows - Important Announcement

A **series of Pension Roadshows** are coming to a place near you this autumn and if your church is a member of the Baptist Pension Scheme Defined Benefits (DB) Scheme these events are a 'must' for you. They will inform you about what is happening to address the current deficit in the Scheme and the potential impact it may have on your church, and are designed for treasurers, deacons and ministers - anyone who is a trustee of a local church and member of the Baptist Pension DB Scheme. **Contact your Association for details, and book your place(s).**



## Parish Nursing

Around 90 churches currently have a Parish nursing service.

**Parish Nursing Ministries UK** now have a step by step process to help churches develop an effective, professionally accountable Parish nursing service, which is a great way to engage in wholistic mission with your community. The first step, an enquiry pack, is available free of charge by email to **enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk**



## The 95 Campaign

It's estimated that 95% of children and young people in England and Wales aren't in church. Scripture Union is encouraging churches across the nation to increase their outreach work with children and young people, as part of The 95 Campaign, by stepping out and taking the good news to them, rather than waiting for them to step through our church doors. Click here **to find out more and get involved.**



## International Baptist Bible School / Gap Year Programme

project:vienna is an opportunity to spend a year exploring what the Kingdom of God means in an urban context. This is designed for young adults looking for a year out before or after study, or seeking a new direction. Come and be part of an exciting intercultural missional community right in the centre of Europe and see God working his grace through diverse encounters. [Find out more](#) and invite your friends, youth and students to be part of the new project:vienna community.



## 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.](#)

## This month's featured events:



## From Kettering to Jamaica - Saturday 2 September

Fuller Baptist Church is hosting a service celebrating the ministry of William Knibb, a pioneer missionary to Jamaica involved in the abolition movement. The church is partnering with the William Knibb Memorial Baptist Church in Jamaica for the event at 15:00. All are welcome. Contact [minister@fullerbaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@fullerbaptist.org.uk) for more information.



## Let's Celebrate 30 years of DNA - Saturday 9 September

Calling all the DNA 'family'! If you have completed or been involved in DNA or TiE Teams you are invited to the special birthday celebrations in Luton. With worship, testimonies and celebration of all that has happened in the past 30 years, along with speaker Steve Clifford (Director-General of the Evangelical Alliance). Click here for [more information and booking.](#)



## Education Sunday - Sunday 10 September

For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education, at the beginning of the new academic year. Resources on the theme of 'Gathered in my name' are developed by an ecumenical steering group coordinated by Churches Together in England. [Click here for more information and resources.](#)



## 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](mailto:martin.foster@cbcew.org.uk)





### **Church... more than a preaching station? - 16 September (Berwickshire) and 14 October (Shropshire)**

These events explore whether, and how, we can proclaim the Gospel through pastoral care. They are for people involved in pastoral care, ordained clergy, pastors and regular church members. We will take a practical look at how churches can structure pastoral care to respond to local needs within a rural context. The events cost just £15 including handouts and a light lunch. Click here for [full details](#).



### **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](#).



### **Incarnate Retreat - 26-27 September**

An opportunity for pioneers and activists - to get away and recharge your batteries in the beautiful Cotswold countryside, at The House of Bread in Shipston-on-Stour. You're invited to set aside some time and space, and enter into a stiller, quieter environment, where rhythms can be reset and together (re)discover ways of sustaining ourselves for the long haul, in the ordinary and everyday. Cost: £60 per person including a bed in a twin room, all meals and refreshments. Click here for [more information and booking](#).



### **Pentecost People seminar - Saturday 30 September**

**Pentecost People** is a comprehensive online resource developed by Baptists Together. It aims to enable and support leaders lead worship in a culturally diverse context. Greenford Baptist Church are hosting and delivering a multi-ethnic seminar from 11:00 to 16:00 - a day exploring what it means to be church that embraces ethnic diversity and culture. Cost is just £5 including lunch. [Please book in advance](#) via the Baptists Together website.



### **The Letter - theatre tour - October onwards**

Rhema Theatre is bringing an exciting show to Baptist churches throughout the UK in October 2017 and 2018. Looking at the life and letters of St Paul, it brings a great message of unity. Have a look at the [trailer for the show](#) and [reviews from the 2005 tour](#). If you're interested in [providing a venue for the show, or have other booking enquiries](#), please see the Rhema website.



### **Movement Day UK - 6-7 October**

A movement is happening across the world, born out of unity with a dream to see the physical, social and spiritual transformation of our towns and cities. Come to Methodist Central Hall, London to share your stories, be inspired and go away better equipped to build stronger relationships with others in your city or town who are trying to make a difference and make it a more compassionate, wholesome and healthy place to live in. Tickets cost: £75 per person with a discount for groups of 10 or more. Click here for [more information](#).



### Sam Sharpe Lecture - Saturday 7 October

Sam Sharpe, born in 1801 in Jamaica, was an enslaved man, a Baptist deacon, a freedom fighter and the main instigator of the 1831 Slave Rebellion in Jamaica which was instrumental in bringing about the abolition of slavery. 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](mailto:buc.corp@baptist.org.uk)



### Christian Resources Exhibition - 17-19 October

This year's CRE at Sandown Park, Surrey is your one-stop shop for church supplies, resources and ideas. Pre-register to save at least 50% off the on-day price of £8 - Cost of entry is £4 when you book in advance. Groups of three or more: £3 each in advance. Your ticket is valid on any and all three days. Click here for [full information about the day, including the list of exhibitors](#).



### Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer - Monday 6 November

When we Arise, Communities are Transformed! On 6 November, join Baptist women all over the world in praying and celebrating the transforming love of Christ! [Resources for this year's Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer](#) – including a suggested Order of Service and a Prayer Guide - are now available from our website.



### 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](mailto:mary.taylor@yba.org.uk)

## This month's featured resources:



### Welcoming Students to your Church

SCM has published a 'Welcoming Students to your Church' resource, which is designed to help churches reach out to and support students during their time at university. Inside you'll find the key findings of recent research into student spirituality, case studies from a range of SCM Link Churches and some practical tips for working with students. The [guide is available to read online](#), and a limited number of [printed guides are available to order](#) in return for a small donation for p&p.



### **Messy Church does Science**

Messy Church groups are encouraged to introduce science activities thanks to a new resource developed with Baptist minister Dave Gregory (Baptist Union Vice-President 2017-18) to show how science and faith mix. It features 100 fun and eye-opening experiments to help you explore the connection between science and faith, demonstrate that science and faith are complementary, and help children and adults appreciate the wonder of creation. [Click here to find out more.](#)



### **Pumpkin Heroes - from World Vision**

Meet Patch the Pumpkin, World Vision's new mega-star, a little pumpkin with a big heart who'll take kids age 4-10 in your church on an exciting adventure this Halloween. They'll enjoy hero-hunting, craft-making, Bible-reading, game-playing pumpkin fun, finding out what God has to say about loving others. Pumpkin Heroes is full of exciting resources - Handy Guide, invitations & posters; Patch the Pumpkin storybook & film; Pumpkin Heroes Hunt - Bible verses and prayers; Pumpkin crafts, recipes, fun and games. [Get your free pack from pumpkinheroes.com](http://pumpkinheroes.com)



### **The Meaningful Treat Box – A Real Halloween Treat**

This new resource is designed to help with mission on, and leading up to, the eve of All Saints (Halloween). It is suitable for Light Parties, outreach events, schools or for children who call to trick or treat on 31 October. Inside each pack there is a bag of Fairtrade chocolate buttons and a Challenge Activity Poster with eight challenges including a quiz, maze, word game, a call to buy Fairtrade, prayer suggestion, national competition with a prize, and a challenge to treat someone less well off by donating to a children's charity. Each box of 30 packs costs £30 and includes an ideas sheet for leaders. [Click here for details and ordering.](#)



### **Scripture Union Light Party Pack**

What are you doing for the children and young people in your church and community this Halloween? Order your FREE Light Party Pack and help them celebrate the Light of Jesus! Lots of crafts, games and discussion ideas; advice from expert children and youth workers, including contributors from the Evangelical Alliance and the CofE Children's Advisors; tips on how to plan, promote and run your party. [Click here to order](#) or call 01908 856000



### **A Briefing for Ministers re Asylum Applications**

Many people seek asylum in the UK on the grounds that they fear persecution as Christians or as converts to Christianity in their country of origin. Some may have entered the UK as Christians or have experienced a conversion to Christianity after they have arrived. The Joint Public Issues Team has a helpful [briefing for ministers called to give evidence in support of asylum applications](#) which can be downloaded from the JPIT website.





## 95 Missional Theses! #webelieve

Following Martin Luther and his famous 95 theses, CTBI's Mission Theology Advisory Group (MTAG) has produced 95 missional theses for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on 31 October 2017. These are based around the five marks of mission in the form of a positive statement which will be tweeted daily from **@95missiontheses** from 28 July. The aim is to start LOTS of conversations about the sort of Church we believe in and want to see. Do join the discussions or make up some theses of your own.



## Hope 2018 - Words and Action to make Jesus known

**HOPE Together** is asking churches to sign up for HOPE 2018 and plan mission together in your area. **Share their new video with your church.** *HOPE the Heartbeat of Mission* is 220 pages packed full of tried-and-tested mission ideas, resources and funding links for food banks and village fairs; Passion plays and parenting courses and more. Copies are free – you just pay p&p. **Click here to order your copies.**



## 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 Mike Lowe by emailing [mlowe@baptist.org.uk](mailto:mlowe@baptist.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.**