



monthly information and resource update

September 2017

Dear Friends

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

This month's **featured Home Mission story** comes from five churches in the Cole Valley cluster who held their fourth Funday during the summer - sharing the Gospel in the park with their community in East Birmingham. Thank you for your giving to Home Mission which enabled a grant to be given to these churches to help them put on the event.

We now have a couple of **PowerPoint presentations available** to download and show to your church, which show how Home Mission is enabling communities across the country. A simple way that many people make **one off gifts to support Home Mission** is through our Just Giving page.

Could I also remind you about 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 September Prayer Diary is now available to download
Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Read about Cole Valley Cluster's Funday reaching the community in the Heart of England Baptist Association



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).**



Baptists Together Magazine - Autumn 2017

Four copies of the new edition of our *Baptists Together* magazine will be sent to all church secretaries next week - please look out for your copies. **Additional copies, including packs of ten and annual subscriptions, are available to order** from our online shop. **Copies of previous editions are available to download free of charge** from our website. Please share the articles and information with your church.



Sharing the Home Mission Story

Communities around our nation are being transformed by Home Mission through grants to churches and regions which facilitate church planting, the resourcing of local churches and enable churches to develop new and creative mission projects. Through Home Mission, hundreds of lives have been affected and many have found faith in Jesus. Please **download a PowerPoint** to use in your church notices, or in other ways, to briefly show how Home Mission is enabling communities across the country.



Off to University?

Is someone linked with your fellowship going to University this Autumn? Would you like to show your care by letting a chaplain or minister know so that they can receive a Christian welcome? Let the Ministries Team at Baptist House know, and we will send their details on. We need you to tell us their name, university or college, course and term-time address. We also need you to confirm that you have their permission to share these details (without this we are unable to forward the commendation).

Please send details to imillgate@baptist.org.uk.



Update from the Baptist Men's Movement

The Baptist Men's Movement (BMM) is passing on the task of raising up and supporting Christian men across the Baptist movement to Christian Vision for Men (CVM). Building on BMM's legacy, and through a range of resources, events and a UK wide men's ministry team, CVM aims to encourage men to strengthen friendships, accountability, discipleship and foster a common purpose in the sharing of the Gospel, all at a local level. **To find out more about CVM** visit their website. If you would like one of the **CVM team in your region** to contact you to discuss men's ministry ideas, please email admin@cvm.org.uk



We're looking for chaplains!

Chaplains are people (usually but not always ministers/pastors) appointed to bring pastoral care in the life of specific places or organisations, such as factories, shops, universities, schools, healthcare settings, prisons and more besides. Every so often the Ministries Team likes to check that its list of Baptists in chaplaincy roles is up to date. If you or someone in your church serves as a chaplain in any setting, please ask them to send details to imillgate@baptist.org.uk – if possible by the end of September, but we'll be glad to have news at any time, to keep up to date as new people start this work.



Are you a church leader with very little background in science?

The [Faraday Institute for Science and Religion](#), Cambridge, would love to hear about the challenges you face, and how we can help the next generation of leaders tackle these issues. If you can spare 7 minutes of your time, [please complete this short survey](#). We also welcome responses from those with some scientific training.



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:



Pension Roadshows - 9 Sept - 25 Nov

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. Click here to [find out more about dates in your area](#).



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



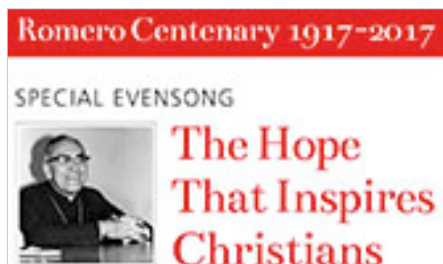
Church... more than a preaching station? - 16 September (Berwickshire) and 14 October (Shropshire)

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](#).



Romero Centenary 1917-2017 - Saturday 23 September

There will be a special ecumenical celebration to mark a hundred years since the birth of Archbishop Oscar Romero: The hope that inspires Christians. You are warmly invited to this extended evensong at Westminster Abbey. Rowan Williams will be the preacher and the service will include a reflection on Oscar Romero's cherished final words, readings, and the premiere of a Romero Anthem composed by James MacMillan. [Click here for further information](#).



Every Child Week - 24 - 30 September

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. As they celebrate their 150th birthday, they are launching Every Child Week - a national week of hope for every child. We hope you will join them through [specially prepared resources](#) (including sermon, a week of prayer and children's resource).



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. 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 and all meals. 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](#).



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](#).



Freedom Sunday - Sunday 15 October

This annual event encourages churches to highlight the issue of Modern Slavery and is supported by Churches Together in England and anti-slavery organisations. Some [good resources are available from the Freedom Sunday website](#) to help you participate, raise awareness and pray.



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



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

This month's featured resources:



Student LinkUp

Fusion is passionate about student mission and [helps students to find a local church](#) to call home and church leaders to stay connected to an ever-changing student culture. Working with students is a great way to bring life to your church and build the Kingdom of God. It's a great investment for the future, but it's also fantastic today. [Register your church with Fusion](#) and gain access to a list of students coming to study near you. You will have access to Student Work Training for you and your church which will help you reach and introduce a generation of students to Jesus.



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. 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.



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



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](#)



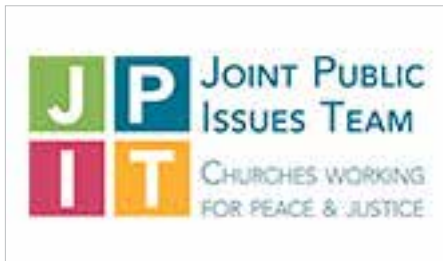
The Meaningful Treat Box – A Real Halloween Treat

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.](#)



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.](#)



Praxis Newsletter

The Joint Public Issues Team produces their Praxis newsletter every month. Each issue contains news, information about events and resources, and provides opportunities to get involved with the social issues which concern you most. Click here for the [latest edition](#) where you can also sign up to receive an email each time a new issue is published.



Resources from Damaris - The Shack

The Shack will be available on DVD on 16 October, and as a digital download on 9 October. Based on the bestselling novel, this is a powerful fantasy drama about faith, family and forgiveness. Damaris Media's [free resources for the film](#) (including reflection and discussion questions) are still available to help spark discussions in your small groups.



Resources from Damaris - Victoria and Abdul

Victoria and Abdul - in cinemas from 15 September - tells the extraordinary true story of the friendship between Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) and Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal), a young Indian clerk. In a society where older people can often feel isolated and disregarded, the film provides an opportunity to start positive conversations about later life, as well as questions of race, religion and power. A [free companion booklet is available to download](#) from Damaris Media.



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



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.](#)