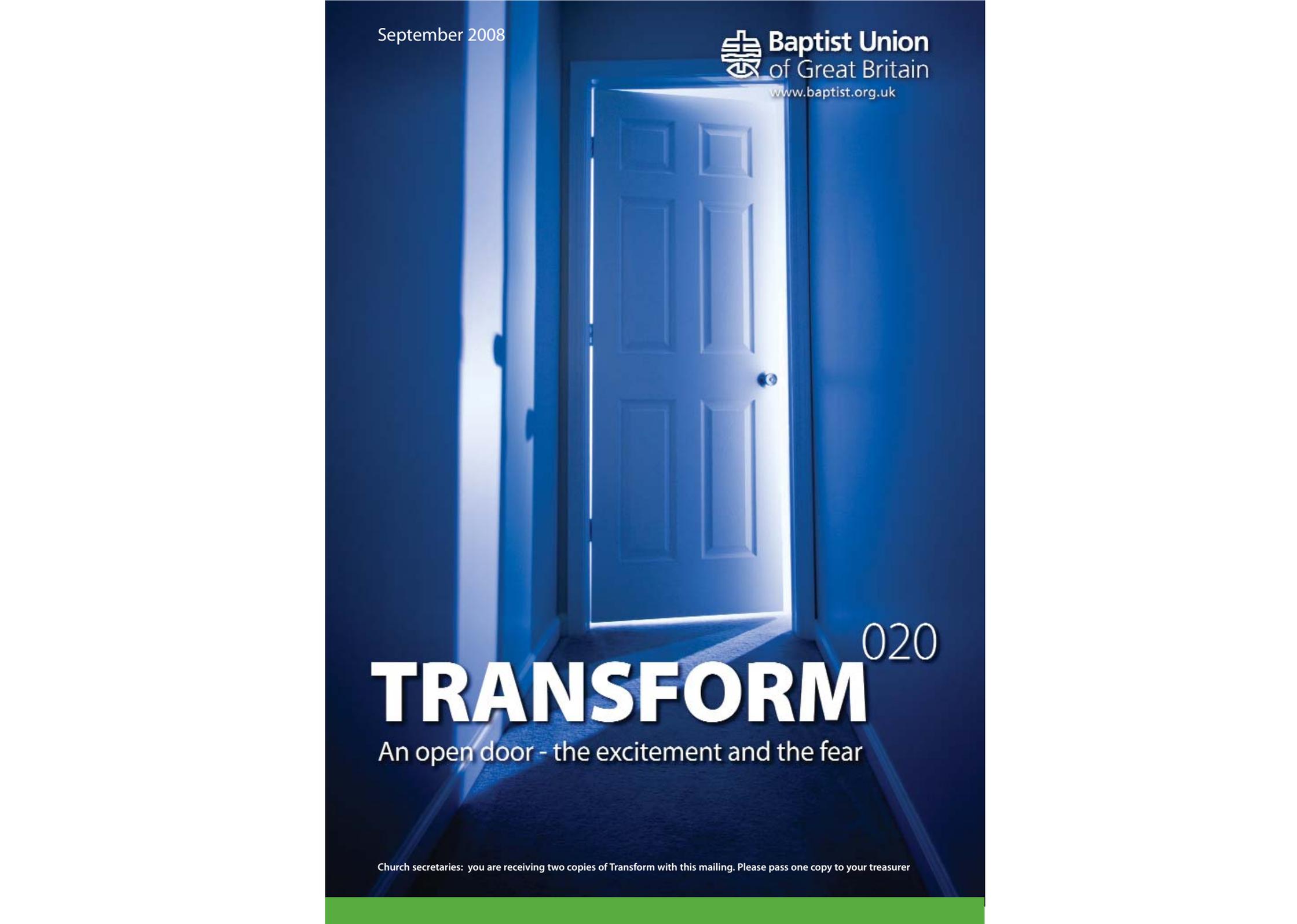


September 2008

 **Baptist Union**  
of Great Britain  
[www.baptist.org.uk](http://www.baptist.org.uk)



020

# TRANSFORM

An open door - the excitement and the fear

Church secretaries: you are receiving two copies of Transform with this mailing. Please pass one copy to your treasurer



## IMPORTANT

Church Secretaries receive two copies of Transform with this mailing – please pass the second copy to your treasurer. Mailing Transform this way saves the Home Mission Fund approximately £400 each issue.

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### An Open Door - the Excitement and the Fear

We all have favourite expressions ... and so did the apostle Paul! He often spoke of the doors that were open in his ministry. In 1 Corinthians 16.9 he wrote of the "great door for effective work" that had opened for him in Ephesus. And in 2 Corinthians 2.12 he spoke of his ministry in Troas where the Lord had "opened a door" for him.

I believe that these are days of staggering opportunity and almost every day of my ministry I am shown new open doors. Let me give you two illustrations:-

*Look at chaplaincies.* I am thrilled to see the ever increasing number of opportunities that we have to send chaplains. For many years we have had chaplains in the armed forces, industry, education, prisons and hospitals – but recently we have seen a huge mushrooming of these opportunities and the addition of new openings in sport and in retail outlets. Praise the Lord!

*Look at our churches.* These are days of amazing creativity and it is wonderful to see churches seizing the day and moving into new areas of ministry. It's deeply inspiring to see the fast growing ministry of street pastors, and of new ministries to

children, young people, families and the retired. You don't need to travel far to see people reaching out imaginatively and courageously in Jesus' name. Praise the Lord!

I hope you share my sense of excitement at the doors that are open in front of us. But I must be honest and say that I am fearful that we might let these opportunities slip. Church history is riddled with missed opportunities and I don't want it to happen to us.

It is through Home Mission that we resource these opportunities and I want to thank you for your giving but I also want you to take a long hard look at what you give. Our new Treasurer, Malcolm Broad, is encouraging each church to give at least 5% of its income to Home Mission. I hope that every church, large and small, will reflect prayerfully on its giving because without the money we will have to shelve some of the amazing opportunities ... and that hurts.

Thank God with me for the wide open doors of opportunity and please pray that we will have the resources to walk through them!

Yours, in Christ,

Jonathan Edwards  
BUGB General Secretary

### Baptist Assembly 2009:

who do we  
think WE are ?

400 YEARS OF BAPTIST LIFE

Join us at the 2009 Baptist Assembly in Bournemouth, as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Baptist denomination, and explore our identity as Baptist Christians today.

Make a note of the date: **Fri 1 – Mon 4 May 2009**  
To find out more visit [www.baptistassembly.org.uk](http://www.baptistassembly.org.uk)

The Baptist Assembly is the joint assembly of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and BMS World Mission.



Baptist Assembly  
[www.baptistassembly.org.uk](http://www.baptistassembly.org.uk)

# Mission

## **BUGB & LICC Imagine Day at Baptist House, Didcot - 9 October 2008**

*Encouraging missionary disciples and the challenge to church culture*

As a Union we're exploring a number of ways in which we can resource churches and their leaders as they work through the call to missionary disciple-making in their own context. We have been working alongside the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) for some time, sending out the *Imagine* DVD to church leaders last year and inviting LICC to run a seminar at the Assembly in Blackpool. As part of the Imagine Project, LICC has engaged in a pilot project with sixteen churches, looking at how to create a church culture where missionary disciples can flourish. This has resulted in some important reflections on the role and skills of church leaders.

The BU/Imagine Day will be a mixture of presentation, discussion, personal reflection and practical examples to stimulate our imagination for the journey of Christian growth and missionary disciples in today's rapidly changing culture. It is aimed at church leaders who sense they need to take stock of their church and their own role in the light of this call to missionary discipleship.

Further information is available from the BUGB website, including a booking form. Cost for the day, including lunch, is £20.

Find out more about LICC from [www.licc.org.uk](http://www.licc.org.uk)

## **Cafe Church Day at Baptist House, Didcot - 26 November 2008**

Would you like to run a cafechurch in your local coffee shop? Costa Coffee & Gloria Jean's Coffees have made their UK stores available to the new Cafechurch Network to start cafechurches in them. This day is an opportunity for network leaders, organisational leaders and senior ministers to get key information and explore the potential for their own networks:

- hear the cafechurch vision
- explore the cafechurch theology
- experience cafechurch for yourself (coffee provided by Costa Coffee)
- plenary session

Cost: £10 (lunch and resources provided)  
Places are very limited. To reserve your place email: [info@cafechurch.net](mailto:info@cafechurch.net) or visit: [www.cafechurch.net](http://www.cafechurch.net)



## **The Incarnate Gathering – 3-5 February 2009**

The third annual Incarnate Gathering will be taking place for anyone involved in church planting or considering whether this could be part of their future. Based again at Somersal Cottages in Derbyshire,

there will be plenty of opportunity to benefit from other people's perspectives and experiences as we explore church planting themes. The cost for the houseparty is £75 per person in shared rooms, with a £60 single room supplement. Online bookings are available at [www.incarnate-network.eu](http://www.incarnate-network.eu)  
Call 0203 355 8732 for further information or e-mail [info@incarnate-network.eu](mailto:info@incarnate-network.eu)

## **Evangelism Conference – 30 June – 2 July 2009**

Advanced warning for your diary – we are organising a major evangelism conference to be held in a central UK location. More details to follow from the Mission Department.

### **Fresh Horizons**

In his new publication *Re-Emerging Church*, Roger Standing reminds us that 2011 is the year to watch; the year when baby-booming really begins to alter the landscape of retirement and vast numbers of over 65's emerge from work - fit, active and looking for fresh significance.

The Mission Department, funded by Home Mission giving, is ahead of the game with respect to inspiring, informing and resourcing seniors in this so-called 'third-age'. A testimony-based PowerPoint is available from the Mission Department priced £3.50.

### **Fresh Horizons National Tour**

Whilst drawing on some of the PowerPoint material, this day conference for seniors moving towards retirement and those already in retirement also offers a wide range of additional information, inspiration and practical possibilities for seniors' service in church and Kingdom. Feedback from the first five days has been excellent, encouraging and objective, enabling the Mission Department to refine the material whilst keeping it relevant and inspirational.

Check out venues remaining for 2008/9 at [www.baptist.org.uk/training\\_events/other.html](http://www.baptist.org.uk/training_events/other.html)

### **Fresh Horizons Time-Out Partnership**

The cry from many seniors is simply 'please give us significance'. The time-out scheme is one attempt both to provide significance in line with gifting and also to make a difference elsewhere in church and Kingdom service. The first partnership team took place at St Mark's Baptist Church in Easton, Bristol in August. The outline dates for the second team are 8-14 February 2009.

Could you be a member of this team? We are looking for all skills and none!

Accommodation and food will be provided and help can be given towards travel.

Contact: Terry Jones tel: 01235 517712 or email [tjones@baptist.org.uk](mailto:tjones@baptist.org.uk)

Earlier this year the Baptist Union Council agreed to some significant changes to the Home Mission Grants system – the most radical of which is a change of name to ‘BUGB Mission Grants’. There are really two reasons for this change of name. Firstly we want to put the emphasis back on ‘mission’ and secondly we want to discourage people and churches from only associating ‘home mission’ with ‘grants’.

**BUGB Mission Grants** will be divided into three main categories

*Mission through Ministry Grants* – will be given to help churches support a Minister who will lead them forward in their mission by helping them to reach out to their local community with the love of God in whatever ways are appropriate. They will also be given to other mission-focused organisations to enable them to support someone who is active in enabling mission to take place in a variety of ways. (Those churches or organisations already receiving a grant to help fund ministry will not notice any real change although the Grants Committee are continuing to see if there are ways to help make the application process easier for churches.)

*Mission through Congregation Grants* – will be given to churches to help them in their mission. They could be used for anything that is needed on an ongoing basis to enable mission to take place. They will not be able to be used to pay stipends or

salaries – but they could be used to pay expenses. There will be a maximum limit (yet to be determined) that churches can apply for.

*Mission Project Grants* – will be given in order to encourage and enable Baptist Churches to respond to the mission needs of their community as part of their ongoing work and ministry. They are one-off grants of up to £3000 for new projects or new initiatives within existing projects. These projects must have a mission focus, in that their main aim should be to benefit people from the community which the church is seeking to serve. (These are replacing the old Against the Stream grants and Green Shoots grants)

Whilst it is hoped that these changes will enable more churches to benefit and be supported in their mission, this can only happen if giving to Home Mission (which will still fund BUGB Mission Grants) increases. At the moment we only just have enough money to meet the current requests!

The decision on the making or withholding of all these grants lies with the national grants committee. Whilst this is a national grants scheme it is facilitated through the associations and, consequently, all applications must be made through your local association. Your association will be able to tell you the current procedures, criteria and timetable for applications.

## Ministry documents now available online

We’re delighted to be able to announce that many of the documents produced by the Ministry Department are now available on the Baptist Union website. They include the recommended terms of appointment for Baptist ministers, information and forms about sabbaticals and in-service training, and a variety of other information.

To find this, go to the website, click on “national resource” in the ‘Quick Links’, then go to the Ministry Department section and either read the information you need there or go to the list of free downloads.

## Important Ministry news

Without Home Mission, the work of the Ministry Department would be impossible. We all know of the grants to churches that enable ministry to be funded in places where, otherwise, it would be unsustainable financially, but it is not always so obvious that in fact every minister is a ‘Home Mission minister’. What do I mean by that?

In so many ways, the benefits of accreditation and the support that we can give to both accredited and unaccredited ministers, is directly reliant upon Home Mission. From advice about ministry matters free at the point of request, through safeguarding support and the work we do to ensure the first years of

ministry are well cared for, Home Mission funds the work of the Department of Ministry. The process of administrating *The Register of Covenanted Persons Accredited for Ministry* (as the ‘Accredited List’ is actually called) enables us to offer professional standards for those ministers who qualify, and there is much we do in co-operation with our Regional Associations to help people candidate for ministry, be directed to training, and then find settlement throughout their ministerial career. No Home Mission would mean: no Register, no settlement system, no support and no counselling service for ministers and their partners. All this is reliant upon Home Mission being able to fund the work of the Ministry Department and the Associations in their work for and with ministers.

- Just a list of what we do indicates in a simple way what would be lost if there were no Home Mission:
- Testing a call to nationally recognised ministry
- Accreditation of pastors, evangelists and youth specialists
- Residential Selection Conferences
- Recognition of Lay pastors and Preachers
- Mentor support for Newly Accredited Ministers
- National Settlement System enabling churches to find their next minister

# Ministry

- Ensuring national disciplinary processes
- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Advice to churches about ministers
- Advice to ministers about pastoral matters etc
- Ecumenical co-operation in ministerial training
- Churches Ministerial Counselling Service
- Refresher Conferences
- Support for Chaplains, including military chaplains
- Relating to Government regarding matters of employment of ministers

This is not all we do, of course, but other aspects are funded not by Home Mission directly, but either wholly or in part by those funds that come from the investment of the 'Southampton Row' money, that is some of the surplus from the sale of the old London offices when the Baptist Union moved to Didcot. From these funds we are able to offer student bursaries, as well as funding the Five-Yearly Refresher Conference that takes place each September and to which one fifth of all active ministers are invited each year, a pre-retirement conference and the Newly Accredited Ministers' Summer School. However, Home Mission itself supports continuing ministerial development in the form of sabbatical grants, scholarship and

further study grants, and small grants for those engaged in in-service training annually.

I believe that our ministers are amongst our greatest and most potent mission resources. These men and women have given their lives to the service of our churches and God's kingdom. A well-trained and supported ministry enables the whole people of God to engage in the mission of Christ to a lost world. That's why the giving to Home Mission that enables excellent ministry is front-line support of the gospel. And that's why I want you to increase your giving to Home Mission, either individually, or in support of the decision of your Church Meeting in its funding of Home Mission contributions. The mission and ministry of our churches depends upon it!

*Paul Goodliff*

## **In Service Training – a taste of chaplaincy?**

Many ministers are finding that engaging in chaplaincy is an excellent way of getting out into the world beyond the church, to meet with and take God's love to people who wouldn't normally think of coming to us. For some this is a full-time calling (some supported by Home Mission) – others take one or two sessions a week, with their church's blessing, to engage in this front line mission.

For others, though, chaplaincy is an unknown world. What is it like? How do you find a way in, what do you do? How do you build up relationships and trust, to open the door for the gospel? The Sector Ministries Committee would like to suggest that a great way to find out whether this might be an aspect of ministry to which God is calling you is to spend a week with a chaplain, shadowing and sharing in their work. A number of the Baptist full-time chaplains have indicated that once or twice a year they could have a colleague alongside them in this way. If you would like to be put in touch with one, contact Ian Millgate in the Ministry Department – 01235 517705 or [imillgate@baptist.org.uk](mailto:imillgate@baptist.org.uk).

## **A great opportunity to be of service to your colleagues in ministry.**

*Do you have a sabbatical due in 2009?*

The Baptist Ministers' Fellowship (BMF) with the active support of The BU Ministry Department and the BU General Secretariat, are trying to obtain an overall picture of Baptist Manse life. A questionnaire will be circulated with the Baptist Ministers' Journal early next year. This will elicit responses from ministers as to whether or not they feel pressure, or are comfortable with various aspects of their life.

In a way that is the easy bit, but what BMF hope is that there is a minister due for a Sabbatical some time between March and December 2009 who will be willing to

analyse the data from the questionnaires and produce a paper based on that data. The paper would be used to shape the work of BMF, and feed into the thinking and plans of The BU Ministry Department and the BU General Secretariat.

The questionnaire is in draft form at present. If someone was willing to be involved in analysing and reporting on the data, they would obviously also be able to make an input into the final version of the questionnaire prior to its distribution.

If you are interested in performing this service for the BMF, please contact the BMF Secretary, Stephen Copson 01462 - 442548 or email: [stephen.copson@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:stephen.copson@dsl.pipex.com)



Exploring the meaning of faith  
in the world of politics

## Joint Public Issues Team Resources

*The Art of the Possible - Exploring the meaning of faith in the world of politics*

Does politics have a role in the Church or is it a distraction from mission? Is politics about compromise and faith about truth? This unique new resource from the Joint Public Issues Team will stimulate and challenge groups to explore these questions. Material for six sessions,

comprising leaders' notes and group handouts, is available to download free from the BUGB website (Social and Political Resources section). Each session is complete in itself so you could cover the whole series, pick one, or tailor a session to the particular needs of your community.

Topics include:

- how our images of God shape our understanding of politics;
- what do we mean by 'justice'?
- being a change-maker;
- how should Christians relate to the state?;

- how does parliament work and how can we influence it?;
- what does politics mean for your local church?

## 'Created in God's Image' - Report of the Working Group on Human Embryology and Early Human Life

The Joint Public Issues Team established a Working Group to produce a report on the theological, ethical and social principles in issues of early human life in the light of technological and medical developments. The group comprised Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Church representatives. The full report is now available from the BUGB website (Social and Political Resources section). A study guide will be available by June 2009 and it is intended that further work will be undertaken on issues of peri-natal and neo-natal care.

## Migration Matters – Facts and Fiction

Migration matters to us all. Whether we live in multicultural or homogeneous neighbourhoods, migrants make a significant contribution to our economic, political, social and cultural life.

Migration is a complicated and controversial political issue. A new leaflet from the Joint Public Issues Team challenges some of the common myths about migration and suggests ways in which local Churches can respond. The leaflet is available for download from the

BUGB website (Social and Political Resources section) or contact Rosemary Kidd on 01235 517755 for a paper copy.

## Fairtrade – apply for an official certificate



The Fairtrade Foundation is the independent non-profit organisation that licenses use of the FAIRTRADE

Mark on products in the UK in accordance with internationally agreed Fairtrade standards. To find out more visit their website: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk).

An ever-growing number of churches are making the connection between trade and poverty and are committed to using Fairtrade products including tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits. Churches organise hundreds of events during Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the year as well as including prayers and readings about Fairtrade in their worship. Faith groups continue to be key supporters of Fairtrade which is making a real difference to the lives of more than 7 million farmers, workers and their families in 59 developing countries.

The Fairtrade Foundation offer a certificate to churches which meet particular goals and an application form for a certificate can be downloaded from the BUGB website (Social and Political Resources section).

## Political Party Conference Season

Each year a group of representatives from the Free Churches, including BUGB, attend each of the three main autumn party conferences. The aim is to meet specifically with the Christian MPs in each party in order to offer them prayer and support in the work they do. However, there are also conversations with a range of other MPs on specific policy issues where the church has a particular concern.

The group has always been well received and welcomed, and over the years has been able to have conversations with a number of Government ministers as well as their counterparts in the other two parties.

Tuesday breakfast meetings are set up in liaison with the Christian Groups within each party. These are open events, from 0745 to about 0900, and we particularly want to extend an invitation to members of local churches to attend:

*The Liberal Democrat Party conference* (Bournemouth) 16 September at Richmond Hill St Andrews United Reformed Church  
*Labour Party Conference* (Manchester) 23 September at a Quaker venue (to be confirmed)  
*The Conservative Party* (Birmingham) are unfortunately unable to accommodate the ecumenical group in their schedule this year.

For more details, see the Joint Public Issues Team website: [www.jointpublicissues.org](http://www.jointpublicissues.org).



## Global Baptist Peace Conference

Rome 9-14 February 2009  
*'Vivi in Armonia, Vivi in Pace'*

Mark your calendars now for the fourth international Baptist Peace Conference. This global event will inaugurate the 400th anniversary year of the Baptist heritage being recognized in various locations around the world.

Like previous conferences in Sweden (1988), Nicaragua (1992), and Australia (2000), this gathering aims to bring together Baptists who are active in nonviolent struggles for justice and to strengthen the witness of Baptist peacemakers in various global contexts.

The six day conference will include inspirational speakers, workshops, and worship and provide intensive training in conflict transformation, nonviolent prophetic action, and other relevant topics. There also will be optional opportunities to tour Rome and the surrounding area culminating in a magnificent time of worship in the Waldensian church.

For more information, see the Conference website: [www.globalbaptistpeace.org](http://www.globalbaptistpeace.org)

## Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

3 November 2008  
*Seeing with New Eyes – God's Care'*

Material is now available for the 2008 Day of Prayer on 3 November on the BUGB website, in the Prayer resources section, or for a paper copy contact Hilary Treavis on 01235 517729, [htreavis@baptist.org.uk](mailto:htreavis@baptist.org.uk).



## Central

Administrative contact: Stephen Copson  
01462 442548  
[stephen.copson@dsl.pipex.co.uk](mailto:stephen.copson@dsl.pipex.co.uk)



## East Midland

Administrative contact: Rebecca Nicholls  
[administrator@embaptists.co.uk](mailto:administrator@embaptists.co.uk)

The team continue to tour the region with this year's Roadshow 'Streetwise! – re-imagining church in a confusing world!' based on Paul's preaching in Athens (Acts 17).

Exciting developments are taking place in Lincolnshire. The churches with EMBA staff are developing a strategy for teams to revive village churches. Alongside this the Soar Valley Baptist cluster have covenanted to work together to establish a Christian presence in every village.



## Eastern

Administrative contact: Eleanor Reed  
01371 831463  
[secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk)

Autumn sees the new structures of the EBA taking shape with the formation of Task Groups to progress different areas of the life of the Association. The Task Groups have already led to new people being involved in the work of the EBA, seeking to develop healthy churches, living as wholesome communities, engaged in relevant mission. Fit4Life is now out in churches and many have been/are using it in their teaching programmes. In partnership with Viz a Viz we will be holding an Evangelism Training Course in the Autumn.



## Heart of England

Administrative contact: Karen Martindale  
0121 212 4842  
[mailbox@baptist-heartofengland.org](mailto:mailbox@baptist-heartofengland.org)

BUGB President John Weaver spoke at the Leaders Quiet Day on 6 June. This annual event, organised by Castle Hill Baptist Church, Warwick is much appreciated by those who attend.

Gorsley Baptist Church welcomed nearly 300 people for the HEBA Family Day & AGM on Saturday 7 June. Keynote speaker Alistair Brown spoke with customary passion and humour, urging everyone to live as people of hope. Host Minister John Lewis welcomed the rich diversity of cultures present in the Association to rural Herefordshire. The Revd Alan Pike, Minister

# Around the Union

of George Road Baptist Church in Erdington was elected as the new Association Moderator.



## London

Administrative contact: Paul Martin  
020 7692 5592

[paul@londonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:paul@londonbaptist.org.uk)

The LBA board of directors has drawn up a draft strategy for the Association for the next five years. The strategy is entitled 'Making disciples – sharing the good news of Jesus'. A consultation process will be held during the autumn. The proposed strategy will be presented in district events by the LBA team. Opportunity will be given for churches to feed back their comments before the strategy is finalised and adopted in the spring of 2009.



## North Western

Administrative contact: Andrew Funnell  
01942 221595

[eafunnell@aol.com](mailto:eafunnell@aol.com)

In April we held our Association Forum where we had the pleasure of Jonathan Edwards' company to help us consider as an Association the BU apology for slavery.

We hosted this event in Liverpool's Maritime Museum which has its own slavery exhibition which acted as a moving and inspiring backdrop for the meeting. Another significant event in the life of NWBA this year was the BU Assembly coming to Blackpool. This proved to be a wonderful opportunity to meet together and enjoy some of the culture and diversity of the region.



## Northern

Administrative contact: David Lennox  
0191 413 2205

[david.lennox@northern.org.uk](mailto:david.lennox@northern.org.uk)

In April our Association Assembly was addressed by Revd Steve Brady, the principal of Moorlands College. We also welcomed Berwick Baptist Church back into our Association. Hope 08 has been a focus for many churches and within this has been Just 10, a 10 week ecumenical mission led by J John looking at the Ten Commandments. We have held Home Mission promotion events for church representatives and their ministers and also our second 'Big Sing' event which is a recorded time of worship made available on the internet and DVD specifically for churches without musical accompaniment.  
[www.thenba.org.uk/thebigsing.htm](http://www.thenba.org.uk/thebigsing.htm).



## South Eastern

Administrative contact: Steph Tidy  
01444 233431

[admin.sba@tiscali.net](mailto:admin.sba@tiscali.net)

Instead of one central meeting, this year we are planning nine annual meetings – one in each of the geographical networks. Being arranged locally, each is different in format but all will contain the association roadshow as part of the programme.

Another exciting development is that we are seeking to appoint a third regional minister for which interviews will take place in October. Overall, it is hoped that churches are becoming more aware of the new association through the new leaflets and bookmarks which have been widely distributed and the website which is being increasingly well used.



## South Wales

Administrative contact: Mark Thomas  
02920 491366

[mark@swbabugb.org.uk](mailto:mark@swbabugb.org.uk)

At the Assembly in sunny Porthcawl, folk were encouraged to put our hope into action by adopting the Jesus model of incarnation.

*Mainstream Wales.* The largest number of attendees so far interacted with Roy Kearsley on the issue of church as a community of the spirit. Here was an opportunity to exercise the 'little grey cells' and enjoy good conversation.

*Capital Grants.* In June, the Association's Board were delighted to be able to award 7 church grants, totalling over £21,000.

The Newly Accredited Ministers awayday at Coleg Trefeca interacted with Alistair Brown on the ups & downs of Moses' ministry.



## South West

Administrative contact: Chris Wooding  
01392 433533

[chris@swbaptists.org.uk](mailto:chris@swbaptists.org.uk)

We had a great day together at our Annual Assembly in Paignton in June. Jez our team leader had his sabbatical over the summer, focusing on church planting within the Association and around the edges, so we're looking forward to exploring some of these possibilities now that he's back. September will sadly see the closure of the smallest church in our Association, but the remaining church members have a strong vision for using the proceeds from their building to directly support the planting of a church in a nearby new community; a wonderful example of vision and re-birth.



## **Southern Counties**

Administrative contact: Keith Hawton  
0238 067 9295

[k.hawton@scba.org.uk](mailto:k.hawton@scba.org.uk)

New Team Leader, Grenville Overton, with other members of the Regional Team ran Roadshows in May and June in seven venues. Over five hundred people attended, hearing Grenville's impressions of his early months and his vision for Association life. The Roadshows also featured mission stories from local churches and a presentation of the resources provided by the Association. Grenville's talk will be available on CD soon. The first year of the Footsteps course for lay leaders in the SCBA has been hailed a success by the twenty-five people who completed the ten Saturday course. Another course begins in September.



## **West of England**

Administrative contact: Geoff Starling  
0117 965 8828

[office@webassoc.org.uk](mailto:office@webassoc.org.uk)

This year has seen significant changes of key personnel. WEBA now has a new Moderator (John Rackley) and a new Honorary Finance Director (Trevor Bryant).

We thank God for such good and capable people who are willing to serve our Churches in strategically vital roles. We also acknowledge our thanks to those who served previously – Peter Price and Malcolm Broad. Our Executive is working its way through a new Development Strategy for 2008-2012, which we pray will become a useful tool to help channel our energy for our place in the mission of God.



## **Yorkshire**

Administrative contact: Deborah Gamble  
0113 278 4954

[debbie.gamble@yba.org.uk](mailto:debbie.gamble@yba.org.uk)

"Hospitality without borders" was the theme for our Assembly on 21st June. Throughout the day we heard inspiring stories of folk who have offered or experienced hospitality; from a young man from the DRC who despite personal tragedy rebuilt his life through the love of Jesus to Buttershaw BC and their Christian Family Centre. The Berean Baptist Temple, Sheffield were welcomed into membership and a new President, Revd Graeme Dodds, was introduced. Graeme's story of time spent in prison and transforming love through a Christian couple is another example of the day's theme. Lively worship including African drumming, hearing scripture and sharing communion concluded the event.

## **REGIONAL**

### **Eastern**

At our recent EBA Annual Assembly Brian Montague stepped down after years as our faithful Treasurer. Brian will be a hard act to follow but Geof Mann from Zion Baptist Church in Cambridge has accepted the challenge to try and follow in Brian's footsteps.

### **Heart of England**

In July we said goodbye to Jill Phillips, Association Accountant, after nearly six years. We're grateful to Jill for her conscientious service and all she helped to achieve in matters of policy. Her prayerfulness and Yorkshire humour will be missed by colleagues. God bless you, Jill!

Regional Minister Adrian Argile and his wife Pam are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary in September with a sponsored trek up the Himalayas in support of the Dalit people.

### **Northern**

We welcome John Howarth as our Association Treasurer and are grateful to Albert Yorke who is overseeing our finances during a period of transition.

### **North Western**

In March we welcomed Mandy Howarth to the Association as part-time Administration Manager. Our thanks go to John Logan who covered the interim period before

Mandy arrived. Andrew Funnell is now back after enjoying a restful sabbatical during the early part of the summer.

### **Southern Counties**

It is with real regret that we announce the resignation of the Revd Kathryn Morgan from the Regional Ministry Team, as she will take up the post of Mission Adviser at Baptist House in November. Kathryn has served with distinction for 61/2 years with special emphasis on the pastoral care and oversight of churches and ministers in Hampshire, Dorset and S Wiltshire. Our regret is tempered by the Union's gain in appointing someone who will enhance its work in this important area, and we prayerfully wish both Kathryn, and her husband Peter, blessing and fulfilment in this new opportunity.

### **Yorkshire**

Robin Smith has concluded as our Youth Development Worker and we are grateful for all the work he has done in networking with Youth Workers across the Association.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Janet Farnsworth**

Janet has been appointed as the full-time Administrator in the Faith & Unity Department. Janet will be the first point of contact for the newly expanded Department, which now includes Racial Justice and Women's Justice.

## Hazel Stanyon

We welcome Hazel Stanyon to the Communications Department as the Communications and Publications Assistant. Hazel is working part-time with primary responsibilities for the sales and dispatch of BUGB publications.

## Louise Ferguson

Louise has recently joined the Baptist Union Corporation as Property Officer and will be assisting the team in a variety of issues, particularly relating to church property.

## Nick and Sally Lear

We have recently said farewell to Nick and Sally Lear. Nick has worked at the Baptist Union since 2001 as Mission Adviser and has accepted a call to be Senior Minister at Colchester Baptist Church. Sally has worked as the Communications and Publications Assistant since the beginning of 2007. We will miss them both, but wish them well as they settle in Colchester.

## All Change in the Mission Department.

Over the recent times the Mission Department has been undergoing a radical restructuring to gear it to becoming a resourcing based department. We are here to equip associations, colleges and churches to fulfil their God-given mission to make Jesus known in inclusive ways. We are doing this through various networks, event and mission projects.

This change has meant a change of staffing structure within the department. Alongside the Head of Department, *Ian Bunce*, and *Terry Jones* a Mission advisor, *Kathryn Morgan* will be starting in November as a Mission Advisor. They will be supported by *Fiona Myers* the Department Administrator and PA. *Mary Parker* is becoming a Mission Resource Coordinator, developing new publications and interactive mission initiatives for use in churches. We are being joined by *Colin McDermott* as a *Mission Project Co-ordinator*. *Carole Alder* the Department Secretary and *Joanne Absalom* the Administration Assistant will support the work of the department. We look forward to the development of the new opportunities the restructuring will enable.

Please do get in touch you have ideas, or looking for resources. We can be contacted on 01235 517713 or [mission@baptist.org.uk](mailto:mission@baptist.org.uk)



**'If we did not have the support of Home Mission (funding) we would not be there'**

Sandra Thwaites, Minister, North Hanwell Baptist Church, W London

This quote comes from one of the *Baptist Voices on the recent BUGB DVD* in the series 'A Baptist People...!'. In this 2008/9 resource we pick up the theme 'transforming communities'. Sandra's church on the famous Cuckoo Estate serves the local community through a range of initiatives - including a project for isolated Somali women. Through Home Mission funding the church has been able to call Sandra, thus enabling the mission and ministry of this church to grow.

Rachel Tole, Home Mission Grants Manager has written a guide on to how to get the best use of this resource. This is featured in this edition of *Transform* on page 20.

## Webwatch

Many of you will know that the BUGB Website is packed full of resources and information that are easy to find. However you may not always be aware of when new exciting things are added. That is why we

have created Webwatch, a monthly email which tells you about new events, blogs, news and resources on [baptist.org.uk](http://baptist.org.uk) with links leading you straight to the article you are interested in. If you want to join the over 1400 that already get Webwatch, email [communications@baptist.org.uk](mailto:communications@baptist.org.uk) now with your email address and which church you go to.



## Are you a busy church leader?

### Looking for some 'do's and don't's' in communication?!

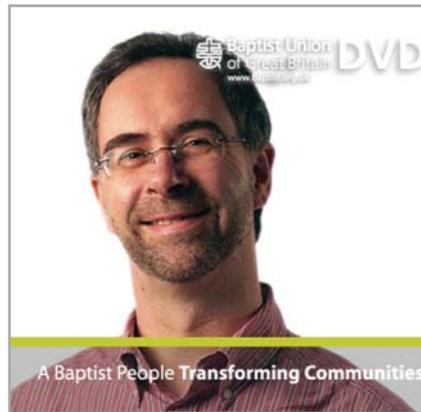
Why not visit [www.baptist.org.uk/resources/communications.asp?section=79](http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources/communications.asp?section=79) where we regularly upload new Top Tips for the local church. This is a very popular area of the BUGB website! Current ones include...

- Graphic Design Do's and Don't's
- Blogging Your Church
- Communications Planning
- Website Dos and Donts
- Setting up a website
- Writing for the Web
- Photography in Church

## 10 ways to use your DVD

### *In Church...*

- Show the 'making a difference' story instead of the sermon.
- Show the 'making a difference' story at a Home Mission themed prayer-meeting.
- Divide the 'making a difference' story into three sections and space throughout the service.
- Use one 'Baptist Voice' per week for 8 weeks. Follow this with a time of prayer for the situation featured and others like it.
- Play the Baptist Voices/Transforming communities section at a Church Meeting as a starting-point for discussing new ways for your church to impact its community.
- Encourage your Treasurer to use 'Baptist Voices' at the church AGM as a way of explaining what happens to money given to Home Mission.
- When each edition of the bugb magazine comes out through the year play the 'Baptist Voice' clip that relates to the person featured in the magazine as an encouragement to read it.



### *In homes ..*

- Pass the DVD around the house-groups so they can all watch the 'making a difference' clip before praying for Buttershaw Baptist Church and the people whose lives are featured.
- Use the Baptist Voices as discussion-starters for House-groups
- Encourage those people who have DVD players to invite those who don't to come and watch the DVD over a cup of coffee.

Visit [www.baptist.org.uk/dvdfollowup/](http://www.baptist.org.uk/dvdfollowup/) for some ideas



## 2009 Stipend

The Trustees have fixed the Home Mission Stipend for 2009 at £19,100. Treasurers should also note that the value of a Manse for Pension Fund purposes is £5,750 per annum as from 1 January 2009. This increases the amounts that churches and ministers pay as pension scheme contributions, and significantly increases the benefits which will be received in due course from the fund.

## 2010 Stipend

The Trustees have not yet established a Guideline Stipend for 2010.

## Deposit rates

The Baptist Union Corporation currently (from 1 March 2008) pays interest at 4.10% on money deposited by churches in the Baptist Union Loan Fund. This rate is subject to change in line with changes in national interest rates. The current rate is advertised each week in the Baptist Times. The deposits assist the provision of loans to churches, and are welcomed by the Corporation.

## Loan rates

The Baptist Union Corporation is willing to lend at 6.80% (from 1 March 2008) to churches buying, extending or renovating

buildings or manses, subject to suitable repayment arrangements being in place. This rate is also subject to change in line with national interest rates. The current rate is advertised each week in the Baptist Times.

## Mileage rates

The recommended mileage rates continue at 40p per mile for the first 10,000 miles within each tax year, and 25p for each mile thereafter. Many people feel that the increase in fuel prices justifies an increase in this rate, although HM Revenue and Customs show no sign of responding favourably to the many representations which have been made. The Churches Main Committee which negotiates with Government on this and many other legal and financial issues facing churches, has explored all its usual routes of bringing influence to bear, and now believes that it is time for individuals to write to their Member of Parliament about the issue.

## Gift Aid

Treasurers should be aware that the basic rate of income tax fell in April 2008 from 22% to 20%. This would have reduced the amount of Gift Aid recoverable on donations, except for the Government's decision to pay for three years a supplement to Gift Aid which is designed to keep the effective refund to the charity at 22%.



Compiled by Philip Cooke FCA, Honorary Taxation Adviser to the Baptist Union

The following recent questions, along with the responses, may be of wider interest.

## Ministers' tax returns:

*Q: I haven't received a tax return for some time but I do receive occasional preaching, wedding and funeral fees. Do I need to tell the tax man about these?*

A: Yes! Even if a return is not received a taxpayer has an obligation to inform the Revenue if he or she is in receipt of taxable income. You should get in touch either with your local tax office or the Revenue help line (0845 9000 444) and request a return. Bear in mind that the time limit for filing a paper return is now 31st October, though it is still possible to file online up to 31st January. You might care to note that the Guidance Notes for Ministers on the completion of the self assessment tax return (document F13 on the BU website) have recently been updated.

Additional comment: It is perhaps pertinent to remind ministers (and spouses) who lease properties to a church for use as a manse that it is necessary to report the receipt of rental income on the UKP pages of their tax returns along with details of any deductions (maintenance and loan interest etc) claimed. This is necessary even if there is a net deficit of rental income after allowable deductions.

## Church tax returns:

*Q: Our church has recently received a corporation tax return but I thought that since the church is a charity it was not liable to tax. Can we ignore the return?*

A: No! A church receiving a corporation tax return has a duty to complete it and return it to the issuing office. The Revenue (Charities Division) issue returns to an increasing number of churches on an occasional and random basis as part of its programme for monitoring the tax position of charities. Completion of the return (form CT600) for the church's accounting period also involves obtaining (through the Revenue orderline) a supplementary form (CT600E) designed for charities. It will normally only be necessary to complete page 1 of form CT600 (name and other data and an indication that form CT600E is attached), though pages 6 and 7 may also be relevant in certain cases. Form CT600E requires a fairly simple breakdown of a church's income and expenditure and a summary of the church's assets, together with details of tax repayments claimed and due. Both forms have to be returned to the Revenue with a copy of the church's accounts for the relevant accounting period, and it is perhaps worth mentioning that the making of a return and the submission of accounts will enable the Revenue to do some crosschecking of a church's Gift Aid claims.

Whilst most sources of income received by a charity, including income from investments and property (which also includes income from the occasional letting of church premises), are exempt from tax there are some circumstances, notably the

carrying on of a trading activity, where a tax liability might arise. Form CT600E actually asks for details of 'total turnover from any exempt trading activities' so some further explanation of what kind of trading income is exempt is necessary.

A charity is exempt from tax on profits arising from a trading activity if the trade forms part of the primary purpose of the charity and such profits are used only for the purposes of the charity. However, a church's primary purpose will not normally extend to the carrying on of a trade, so if a church is involved in a significant trading activity (eg a pre-school nursery), then both for tax and charity law reasons, it should, desirably, be carrying on that activity either (a) through a separate charitable trust, whose primary purpose will be the carrying on of that activity, or (b) through a limited company, which can distribute any residual profit to the church. It is interesting to note that the Revenue has stated that it now regards the operation of a coffee shop as a 'primary purpose' trade provided it is part of a church's outreach activities (eg evidenced by posters, literature and the availability of counselling etc), with the result that any profits arising will not be chargeable to tax.

Profits from 'non-primary purpose' trading activities are also exempt from tax if annual turnover does not exceed £5,000 or, if greater than £5,000, 25% of a charity's gross income, but with an upper limit of £50,000. But if this turnover limit is exceeded, any taxable profit is computed after deducting a reasonable proportion of operating expenses (eg lighting and heating, repairs and maintenance and administration costs) as well as notional deductions for goods and services which have been provided at

no cost or less than market value. An extra-statutory concession also exempts from tax the proceeds of any fund-raising activities which also satisfy the criteria for VAT exemption, the main one of which is that not more than 15 events of the same kind are held at any one location in a financial year. Finally, funds raised from the sale (regularly or occasionally) of donated goods (which could include tea, coffee and other ingredients for coffee mornings) will be regarded as the realisation of the value of a gift, rather than as trading income. With careful arrangement it should, therefore, be possible in all but exceptional cases to ensure that a tax liability does not arise from any 'trading' activity.

## Support of individual Christian workers:

*Q: Is it in order for our church to make payments direct to an individual in support of her work as a missionary overseas and can gift aid relief be claimed on donations received from church members for this purpose? Is it also in order for us to make payments to an individual engaged in freelance Christian service in the UK?*

A: Making gifts to individuals can give rise to problems both from the point of view of charity law and gift aid relief. The trustees (deacons) of a church, like any other charity, have a duty to ensure that funds and resources are applied only in furtherance of its declared charitable objectives. Where payments are made to an individual, rather than to a registered charity, it might not be possible to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Revenue that funds have actually been applied for bona fide charitable purposes with the result that they would then be entitled to recover any gift aid relief

or to assess to tax some part of the church's otherwise tax-exempt income. Furthermore, the trustees could be held to be in breach of trust. The making of payments directly to an individual might also bring into question whether he or she is an employee of the church with consequent PAYE, national insurance and other employment law consequences.

It follows that the wisest cause, wherever possible, is to channel gifts in support of missionaries and others engaged in Christian service through a sponsoring society. If this is not possible an alternative might be to use the facilities available through organisations like Stewardship UK who, provided the specified charitable and administrative conditions are met, can make arrangements to receive donations, claim gift aid relief and pass on funds to nominated individuals.

It should always be borne in mind that the Revenue insist that gift aid relief applies only to unfettered gifts to a charity for its charitable purposes. Donors, whilst perhaps expressing a wish, cannot direct a church's trustees to apply gifts in a particular manner and once a donation has been received it is for the trustees to show that the income has been applied for charitable purposes only. Failure to do so will result in the recovery of gift aid relief and it is perhaps worth bearing in mind that matters could come to light as a result of a gift aid or PAYE inspection, the examination of a church's accounts or by way of follow-up from an enquiry made by a recipient. Manse accommodation provided for part-time minister:

*Q : Because of our financial position we are*

*only able to afford to employ our minister on a part-time basis. Is he still exempt from tax on the benefit of the manse accommodation which we provide as well as the council tax and water charges paid by the church?*

**A :** When the exemption for manse accommodation first arose (a very long time ago!) all ministers tended to serve on a full-time basis, but times have changed! The Revenue notes still tend to refer to 'full-time' ministers but on the very few occasions I have encountered any suggestion that the exemption applies only to full-time ministers, the Revenue have always backed down when it was pointed out that whilst a minister might be paid on the basis of part-time service, he or she is nonetheless responsible for responding to the needs of the congregation on a '24/7' basis, and thus needs to be provided with accommodation accordingly for the better performance of his or her duties. I think you should therefore assume that the exemption applies but be prepared to argue the case if necessary. The payment of council tax and water charges should, likewise, not give rise to a taxable benefit.

*The foregoing notes are issued for general guidance only. The author or publisher cannot accept responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of material contained herein. If you are in any doubt about the correct treatment of any matter you should seek further advice. I am prepared to respond to enquiries of a general nature, but would appreciate a SAE if the enquiry is by mail. My address is Hollyoak, 1 White House Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8HF and my e-mail address is: philipjcooke@aol.com. It would be helpful in distinguishing any such messages from the inevitable 'spam' if the subject heading indicated that it is a church tax enquiry.*



## Charity Registration

Churches with an annual income that exceeds £100,000 will need to register with the Charity Commission from 1 October 2008. The Commission's target is to register all of these churches before October 2009. Any church that needs to register but has not read the relevant BUC guideline leaflets and begun to consider the Approved Governing Document should do so without delay. The leaflets are:

**C16** *Churches and Charity Registration*

**C24** *Church Constitutions*

**C25** *Using the Approved Governing Document*

**C26** *The Approved Governing Document*

The registration process will involve either an online application form or a postal application; BUC leaflets explaining how to complete these will be made available:

**C27** *Registering as a Charity Online*

**C28** *Registering as a Charity – Postal Applications*

It is likely that Churches will be able to use the online process if they have used the *Approved Governing Document* as the basis for their Governing Document.

The C16 *Churches and Charity Registration* leaflet will be updated with other details as we receive them and we will continue to communicate with churches via Webwatch.

The Charity Commission has asked us to tell them how we intend to phase applications for registration in order that they can manage the resource implications. Many Baptist churches have already told us if they need to register. We now need to ask you to let us know (if you have not already done so) when your church expects to be ready to register. Please email this information to [jevans@baptist.org.uk](mailto:jevans@baptist.org.uk).

Churches with an annual income below £100,000 do not need to contact us.

## CRB Checks for Charity Trustees

The charity registration application process includes questions about whether or not a church has undertaken checks with the Criminal Records Bureau for each of its charity trustees.

Our current understanding from the Charity Commission is that these checks are only necessary where a trustee is directly involved in children's work, when the check would be because of the nature of this work and not because of their role as a trustee.

CRB checks are not currently required for charity trustees simply because they have the role of trustee in a local Baptist church, even if their particular local church needs to

register with the Charity Commission.

## Public Benefit

The Baptist Union has responded to the Charity Commission's consultation on its draft supplementary guidance 'Public Benefit and the Advancement of Religion'. Churches should not be unduly concerned about the need to demonstrate their public benefit. The Commission has written clear guidance on this for churches. The BUC will be preparing a guideline leaflet to help churches:

## C29 Public Benefit

We do not believe that any Baptist church will have difficulty in meeting the public benefit requirements. After registration churches will need to include information about their public benefit in their annual report to the Commission but churches should remember that the provision of an act of public worship should be a key element of their public benefit statement.



## Bats in Churches

Churches whose buildings are used by bats are advised to read '*Bats in Churches: a management guide*' which is a new publication written by Natural England and available to download free of charge from

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk). Bats enjoy extensive legal protection and churches who consider that bats are causing a problem to them need to be aware of the law in this area.

## 'The Good Maintenance Guide'

Routine maintenance can save on expensive building repairs later. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has published '*The Good Maintenance Guide*' as a resource for churches in maintaining their buildings. It is a practical handbook to help volunteers care for and preserve historic places of worship. It is packed with useful information and costs £5 + VAT from SPAB. Free training days are also planned. More information about the book and the training days can be found at [www.spabfim.org.uk](http://www.spabfim.org.uk) Although many of their photographs illustrate Anglican buildings maintenance is important for our buildings too.

## English Heritage – Repair Grants for places of worship in England

Grants may be available to maintain listed church buildings. The grants are not free of conditions and churches seeking a grant will need to comply with the conditions. A pack containing further information can be obtained from English Heritage Customer Services Department Tel 0870 333 1181 or 01793 414 878 or by e mail to [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)

## CRB Guidance Notes

Up to now we have been providing with all CRB forms copies of the CRB guidance booklet (CRB 11). In future we will not be supplying this booklet; instead you will continue to receive the guidance notes produced by CAS and in addition a dummy CRB form that has explanatory notes marked on to it. This system has been in use for some time in the Methodist and other churches and has been found to work well. CRB 11 can still be viewed on line on the CRB's own website ([www.crb.gov.uk](http://www.crb.gov.uk)).

## Independent Safeguarding Authority

The ISA have now decided that the term 'ISA Scheme' will no longer be used to describe the wider scheme for which they provide a decision making capacity. Instead the registering and monitoring scheme will now be known as "The Vetting and Barring Scheme" (VBS)

## Churches Agency for Safeguarding

The Chief Executive of CAS, Ron Ludgate, has now left the office to live in Cornwall; his successor is Kevin Jones. Kevin comes with a background in legal practice and in the voluntary sector, especially in work with homeless people.

## Disclosure Demand Rate

The CRB has recorded a significant rise in demand for disclosures over the past few months. They are concerned about whether this is a trend that is likely to continue or

whether it is related to the advent of the ISA. We have been asked to give an estimate of demand over the next year. If you can please do this, please contact Alan Elson phone 01235 517719 or by email on [aelson@baptist.org.uk](mailto:aelson@baptist.org.uk) We will collate responses and send them via CAS who are also interested in the likely demand level.

## Ministers and Disclosures

By now all ministers for whom we do not hold a record of their disclosure should have been contacted by their Regional Minister to deal with this matter, either by ringing the Ministry Department at Didcot or by applying for a disclosure now. If ministers are applying for a disclosure, please contact your Regional Minister who will arrange to complete the identity check; this will ensure that a response comes to the Ministry Department for our records.

## Progress towards the launch of the Independent Safeguarding Authority

We anticipate receiving initial drafts of the new regulations by the end of this year. These drafts will then be reviewed for release in the first quarter of 2009. As soon as we can, in the early part of the 2009, a training programme is being planned for regionally based trainers to bring to churches during the time up to implementation date on October 12, 2009. Details of this programme are still being worked out but as soon as we are able, we will ensure the relevant people are told.

### NATIONAL

#### Money Advice Day – 18 September Baptist House, Didcot

The Mission Department has teamed up with Stewardship and Community Money Advice in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the responses churches can make to both money management and debt advice. Both practitioners, Richard Talbot and Heather Keates, have a vast range of experience in the field of debt counselling and money advice as well as testimonies that relate to the subject.

Details from Carole Alder: email [calders@baptist.org.uk](mailto:calders@baptist.org.uk) or tel: 01235 517713

#### Central and Regional Coffee Shop Facilitation Days

Two days are planned for those wanting to start a coffee shop, those wanting to improve or those just wanting fresh impetus for a work long established.

8 September at Baptist House - cost £15 including refreshments and lunch

17 November at Pear Tree Baptist Church, Derby - cost £10 refreshments provided

Details from Carole Alder: email [calders@baptist.org.uk](mailto:calders@baptist.org.uk) or tel: 01235 517713

### REGIONAL

#### East Midlands

Wednesday 24 – Friday 26 September - *Ministers' Conference* at The Hayes, Swanwick.

Saturday 11 October, 10.30am -3.30pm *EMBA Association Day* Heanor Gate Science College.

The theme is 'Baptist people Transforming communities' and BUGB staff will be joining us for the day to help encourage, equip and resource our people to serve the Lord in the church and in the wider community in which he has placed us!

#### Eastern

During the Autumn the Regional Team will be travelling to four locations with our FORUM evenings to which all churches are invited. The theme of these will be based on the BU Publication "Control:Alt:Delete" about young people and church. We hope to have one of the authors of the book on the team for these evenings.

#### Heart of England

Saturday 13 September – Strategic Forum at Hanbury Hill Baptist Church, Stourbridge. The second of our new Forums will focus on enabling churches in mission.

Saturday 27 September – The Gathering. This landmark event within the Baptist family promises to be a dynamic and inspirational expression of our diversity and

unity in God. Hosted by Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church, speakers include Ram Gidoomal and Elaine Storkey. For further details and booking contact the HEBA Office or see

[www.baptist.org.uk/thegathering](http://www.baptist.org.uk/thegathering)

#### London

Saturday 13 September - Training event on All Age Worship at Balham Baptist Church

Saturday 4 October - Small Church Connexion Workshops on Children and Young People at Kings Cross Baptist Church

Saturday 11 October - LBA Directors and District Ministers Day Conference

Saturday 1 November - Fresh Horizons Conference at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

#### Northern

16 September: Preach The Word - a Preacher Training event

22 September: Small Churches Network 4 October: NBA Autumn Assembly 'Sharing the Hope' at Bethany Christian Centre

26 October: Association Home Mission Sunday

23 November: The Big Sing

24 November: Preach the Word - a Preacher Training event

8 December: John Weaver at NBA Ministers' Fellowship

9 December: NBA Council

<http://www.thenba.org.uk/diary.ht>

#### North West

Sunday 28 September - Back to Church Sunday

Saturday 4 October - NWBA Forum. This will take place at The Platform in Morecambe and for the first time will include a youth event.

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 October - World of Young Adults weekend

Saturday 10 January 2009 - 'Help I'm a Deacon' Training Day.

#### South Wales

Tuesday 30 September. Mainstream Wales at Pontlliw Baptist (near Swansea) with Stuart Murray Williams on Church & Mission in a contemporary culture.

Saturday 4 October Small Churches Day at Hope Baptist (Gilwern) with Roy Kearsley speaking on Setting Small Church Free – how small could be great.

Saturday 11 October at 7pm. Hello Mr. President at Tabernacle Baptist (Penarth). An opportunity to hear the President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, John Weaver.

Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 November. All Wales Baptist Ministers' Conference, Saundersfoot - speaker Martin Robinson.

Tuesday 25 November at 7pm. Association Council meeting, Aion Baptist (Bryncoch)

Wednesday 17 January 2009. Fresh Horizon's Tour at Albany Road Baptist (Cardiff). Mission and ministry among third-agers.

## South West

'Stepping into Leadership' – a session for newly elected church leaders and deacons, exploring together what it means to be in leadership in the local church. Saturday 4 October at the Association Office Exeter, 10.30am – 1.30pm followed by lunch.

## Southern Counties

Footsteps training course: a deeper understanding of faith and skills useful for ministry. Course starts Saturday 13 September 2008, Thatcham Baptist Church. Cost; £295.00 – advanced booking required. [www.scba.org.uk/resources](http://www.scba.org.uk/resources)

ASSOCIATION A.G.M. & LEADERS' DAY – Thursday 16th October 2008 at Newbury Baptist Church. Theme: 'Being Intentionally Baptist', presented by the new Team Leader, Grenville Overton, following the recent Roadshows around the Association.

## West of England

October sees the beginning of the second half of 'Imagine – the shapes of Church to come.' We pray that all Churches taking part will begin to see positive benefits from seeking to listen to God, one another and their communities. Over 25 Churches are engaging with key themes over a two year period for which we thank God. Regional Ministers are also working around Ministers' Meetings with a series of 'listening events'.

## Yorkshire

*Visit of John Weaver – BU President*

Saturday, 20th September – Care for Creation seminar at Ilkley Baptist Church

Sunday, 21st September – united service at Bingley Baptist Church

*Leadership & Change event*

Saturday, 4th October

*Fresh Horizons*

17th October at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield

18th October at Moortown Baptist Church, Leeds

*Exploring Issues of Homosexuality*

Leaders' Day on Saturday 15th November

At New North Road Baptist Church, Huddersfield

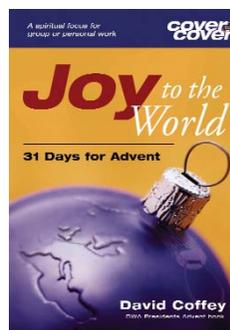
*Children's Worker Day*

With Kelly Bettridge

Saturday 29th November in Sheffield

## Advent Study Guide - Joy to The World by David Coffey

Many of us during the Advent season will watch Nativity plays and sing familiar carols about Jesus' birth 2,000 years ago. In this book, David Coffey invites us to become caught up in the script of this real life drama and play our part in the unfolding of God's salvation story. As we contemplate



the ancient words of our faith, we find that the Advent story begins to affect us inwardly and prepares us to serve God in our time. David Coffey takes us through the stories of Mary, Elizabeth, the shepherds, Joseph and others, and encourages

us to recognise our sense of destiny in God and to trust Him with our lives.

This material, which covers the whole month of December, can be used by individuals in preparation for Christmas, or as five sessions in an existing homegroup or Advent group. To get the most out of the book, group members should commit to use the personal devotional material each day. To buy copies of this book or find out about bulk buying prices for churches and Advents Study Groups contact CWR on 01252 784710 or visit [www.cwrstore.org.uk](http://www.cwrstore.org.uk). Also available from your local Christian Bookshop. RRP £6.99

## Baptism Resources

There are a number of resources available for churches to use with those exploring baptism and membership as follows:

*Baptism & Belonging* - Designed to complement Alpha, this is a six part course preparing people for baptism and membership. £1.00 RRP

*Countdown to Baptism* – Edited by Michael Quicke, this is a series of twenty-eight daily bible studies to be used for the four weeks leading up to baptism. £4.00 RRP

*Radical Disciples* - A course written by Paul Beasley-Murray for new Christians and those approaching baptism. Scripture passages and comments examining ten different aspects of discipleship. £4.00 RRP

*Making a Splash!* - has been written by a group of youth specialists to help young people prepare for their baptism. The book explores what Christians believe by considering the questions that are often asked about their faith when someone is baptised. As teenagers work through the book they will also look at why people are being baptised as believers, discover practical advice about what will happen on the day and what it means to be an active member of the church £4.00RRP (£3.50 for 10 or more)





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Please call: **0845 070 2223**

Or visit: **[baptist-insurance.co.uk](http://baptist-insurance.co.uk)**

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