

Central Baptist Association Assembly – Saturday 7 June

Church looking outward was the theme as about 150 Baptists from across the Central Baptist Association gathered at Stopsley Baptist church, Luton on Saturday June 7th for the Annual Assembly.

The main speaker was John Weaver, President of the Baptist Union whose theme was “Outside in, inside out”. He took the idea of conversations between the culture of the church and other cultures that shape human behaviour, suggesting that “God may have something very important to say to the church through its strongest critics”.

Asking where is God at work in the world and how do Christians follow him, Dr Weaver noted, “Disciple making is far messier than programmed teaching and preaching” and he challenged his hearers to listen for the stirrings of God in the marginalisation of traditional Christianity and the striving after new ways of being church.

Afternoon seminars explored how Christians can engage with contemporary issues of the day including creation care, trafficking of women, talking with people of other faith traditions, the world according to Facebook and the possibilities of community building.

Worship at the Assembly was led by Colin Pye, one of the CBA Regional Ministers, and a band drawn from member churches. During the AGM the new Moderator, the Revd Graham Clarke of St Albans, was elected and Shenley Baptist church in Milton Keynes was welcomed as a member of the Association.

In the words of one representative, “it was a very good day, really enjoyable”.

