

Baptist History

Written by Administrator

Monday, 13 September 2010 11:25 - Last Updated Friday, 24 September 2010 10:52

The modern Baptist movement was born in the 16th century and is now a worldwide denomination with millions of believers worshipping in Baptist congregations.



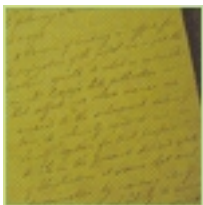
1612

The first Baptist church met in Spitalfields, London. Thomas Helwys, a founder of the Baptist denomination, published *A Short declaration of the mystery of iniquity*, one of the first books to call for religious liberty. In the 17th century Baptists refused to conform and be members of the Church of England, arguing that Christ, and not the King (or Queen) was head of the church and were persecuted for their beliefs.



1689

Act of Toleration passed allowing freedom of worship.



1792

Baptist Missionary Society founded by William Carey. It is now known as BMS World Mission.

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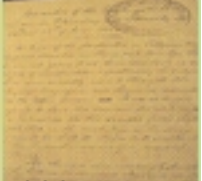
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1810 - A meeting in Dr Rippon's Vestry, London to discuss the forming of a Baptist Union.



1814 - The first Baptist Assembly held in London.



1815 - The formation of the Baptist Union in the West Midlands, with its headquarters in Staffordshire.



1854 - Surgeon, one of the most famous Baptist preachers, began his ministry.



1855 - The Freeman, now The Baptist Times, first appeared.



1891 - The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland was formed, with its headquarters in London.



1907 - Baptist World Alliance (BWA) was formed and held its first Baptist World Congress in London.



1912 - Sustainment Fund started. It is currently known as Home Mission.



1922 - Hedger became the first woman to qualify as a probationer minister.

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1955 BWA celebrated its fiftieth anniversary Congress in London.



1980 BUGB moves its offices to Didcot and commits to participation in national ecumenical life.



1996 denominational Consultation in 1996 led to the BUGB adopting Five Core Values.



2001 regional association structure for BUGB inaugurated.



2002 Revd David Coffey goes on to become President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain



2005 Revd Kate Edwards becomes the first woman to be elected as new BUGB President Secretary. The Revd Kate