



17 July 2016

News:

Replacement of Trident is "unwarranted" and "unethical" say Churches

Statement from the Joint Public Issues Team ahead of a Parliamentary debate on Trident, where the UK Government will seek approval to spend £41 billion on building new submarines to carry nuclear weapons

The announcement from the churches comes in advance of the Parliamentary debate on Trident, where the UK Government will seek approval to spend £41 billion on building new submarines to carry nuclear weapons.

The Churches have previously expressed dismay that the UK Government is resisting discussions sponsored by the United Nations on multilateral disarmament. UK Churches have been represented at Non-Proliferation Treaty conferences in New York and have sought for many years to influence Government policy on nuclear weapons. In 2015, 26 faith leaders called on the UK Government to join with others in developing a robust plan of action to lead to a world free of nuclear weapons.

With a combined membership of over one million people in the UK alone, the leaders of the five Churches are encouraging all to pray and write to their MPs.

Earlier this week, the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church reiterated its opposition to the Trident nuclear weapons system and called for the negotiation of a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Alan Yates, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church said, 'We appreciate that negotiations take time, but the UK must take steps down the nuclear ladder. The threats that we face today are diverse and nuclear weapons simply cannot offer security or peace for anyone.'

Rachel Lampard, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference added, 'It is scandalous that the UK Government has consistently opposed opportunities for discussion on multilateral disarmament. A decision to build Trident submarines now, just as talks on disarmament are due to get underway in the United Nations General Assembly, seems ill-timed and unwarranted.'

The Revd Stephen Keyworth, Faith and Society Team Leader, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said, 'We have an opportunity to give strong moral leadership and to work creatively as peacemakers.'

'We will never achieve the peace which Scripture encourages us towards with a defence policy built on fear – peace is achieved through justice and relationship, not fear.'

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of the Quakers in Britain said, 'We see something of God in everyone and seek to love our neighbours as ourselves. A teaching which is present in many religions. This means we must not threaten others with weapons of mass destruction. We will build a more secure future by modelling in our own actions the behaviour that we ask of others.'

Recalling that the Church of Scotland has spoken out against nuclear weapons for thirty years, the Rt. Revd Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the Church of Scotland said, 'Attempts to sustain peace through the threat of indiscriminate mass destruction could not be further from the peace to which Christ calls us. It is vital that the UK demonstrates the sort of change it wants to see in the world; building peace through strong and courageous leadership and not by commissioning more nuclear weapons.'

Tributes to ministers:

'A man of deep faith, enormous grace and overflowing thankfulness'

The Revd Jim Graham, who led Gold Hill Baptist Church for nearly 30 years

Jim was minister of Gold Hill Baptist Church in Buckinghamshire from 1968 – 1994, a period which saw membership mushroom from 120 to more than 600. Described as one of the fathers of the modern charismatic renewal movement, he never wavered in his commitment to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

'Much was achieved during the 28 years of Jim Graham's ministry,' states the Gold Hill website. 'The concern of the church became the centrality of Christ; the authority of Scripture; the practical outworking of teaching through House Groups; the movement of the Holy Spirit in renewal; the importance of fellowship.'

It goes on to say that at one point the church supported 60 full-time workers under Jim, there were nearly 30 house groups and it became necessary to have two morning services.

Announcing his death, Gold Hill's present senior minister the Revd Malcolm Duncan released a statement from Jim's family:

We cannot begin to express how grateful we are to God for all that he meant to us. He was a deeply loved dad to us and our spouses and Papa to our children as well as a devoted husband to our mum, Anne, who passed away in 2012. His death leaves a great chasm in our lives but we are deeply comforted by the reality that he is now free from the restrictions of his physical body and that he is more alive and more fully himself than he has ever been. We take great comfort from our shared Christian hope and know that we will be united again.

Quoting Psalm 100 (I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise), the statement continued:

Dad did this. His last few days were marked with a deep sense of thankfulness to those around him and to God. We are not surprised by this, as our father was a man of deep faith, enormous grace and overflowing thankfulness

In a further post Malcolm thanked all who have passed on kind messages regarding Jim, who authored numerous books and was a former president of Youth for Christ. He said:

I am so blessed to have walked alongside him and Anne in the closing years of their lives. We became close friends and I am so grateful to God for them. Many of you knew them both for so much longer. What a joy you brought to their lives and what a joy they brought to yours.

Baptist minister the Revd Stephen Gaukroger, who succeeded Jim as senior pastor at Gold Hill, described him as “thoughtful, careful, gracious and wise.”

Jim remained a church member at Gold Hill, and Stephen said:

It shouldn't have worked – the history of senior ministers retiring and staying in the congregation is littered with problems – but it did. Jim was most loyal and supportive.

I asked him to remain on the staff team, and he was such an asset, particularly to the younger members: he had time to sit and listen to them; his capacity to care for them was amazing. He just embodied what he preached.

Many more tributes have appeared across social media (see below). Amid the tributes Malcolm stressed the importance of not turning Jim "into a porcelain saint":

He was not that. He was flawed and broken like the rest of us and he would not want us to indulge in making him into something that he was not. Our gatherings as a Church family on Sunday 10 July will remember him but not worship him. We will worship the God Whom we each love and adore and Who loves us all.

On Sunday Gold Hill duly gave their gatherings to 'thanking God for Jim, praying for his family and reflecting together as a church family', Malcom said. This will be available to download and listen from the website at the end of the week.

Jim's thanksgiving service is at Gold Hill on 22 July at 2pm and all are welcome.

'The Least Known Best Theologian in the World'

The Revd John Peck, minister of Framlingham Baptist Church in Suffolk, and co-founder of Greenbelt

The Revd John Peck was minister of Framlingham Baptist Church in Suffolk (1978 – 2003) and Thaxted Baptist Church, Essex (1959-65). He died on 1 July, aged 92.

In 1974, as one of the great thinkers who helped to shape the festival, he co-founded Greenbelt, the Christian arts, faith and justice gathering which has run every year since.

John was a cofounder and the principal of College House (1976-1995), which ran courses related to the Cambridge diploma in religious studies, focusing on developing a Christian philosophical framework for all of life. He also authored a number of books, and before retiring from public ministry he was a much sought-after teacher and consultant for diverse churches and organisations in the UK, Europe, and the US.

Teacher and writer Charles Strohmer was a friend of John's, and together they collaborated on a number of projects, including *Uncommon Sense: God's Wisdom for Our Complex and Changing World* (SPCK).

'Because he keeps his head down, not enough people are aware of him,' Charles wrote, in an introduction to an interview he conducted with John in 1998. 'Yet for those who are, he is a significant force in the development of a biblical Christian wisdom that has transforming power to meet the challenges of what today we typically call "secular life.'

In a blog post last week, Charles highlighted John's "exceptional passion for the church", and reproduced his "I Have a Vision" statement about it. 'It would be hard to top his lovely and concise picture of a healthy church. It has been printed and framed and hangs on the wall of pastors' offices. Part of John's enduring legacy is being experienced today in churches who have taken his vision to heart and found ways to live it.'

Elsewhere Martin Wroe, a Greenbelt trustee, said there was "something of the Gandalf about John".

'A little anarchy mixed in with the faith, some mischief with the love, a hint of magic even when you had no idea what he was on about,' he explained. 'He looked at you as if he knew something you didn't and he usually did.'

Charles has also written of the importance of family in his life. 'I suspect John would say that his best achievement was the life-long one in which he and his wife, the late Hanna Peck, raised five biological and forty foster children – oh the stories they could tell!'

In a death notice for The Baptist Times, his family simply described him as their "beloved patriarch."

***The art historian Karen L. Mulder's apt description of John Peck. Photo of John also courtesy of Karen.**

A funeral for John took place in Suffolk on 8 July. A celebration of his life and work will follow in August, details to be announced. No flowers, but please email revjpeck@gmail.com for details of charitable giving to Christian International Peace Service.

'Change perception of refugees'

A campaign to challenge the way refugees are portrayed has been launched by Christian Aid

Now more than ever churches in the UK have an important role to play in presenting and realising a vision of a future where every person is treated with inherent dignity and infinite worth, the development agency has said.

The campaign is called "Change the Story" and calls on Christian Aid supporters and others who want to get involved to write to their newspapers to share positive stories of welcome - and to call on the UK government to be bolder in its ambition to respond to the refugee crisis.

Loretta Minghella, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, said, 'Refugees are people fleeing violence, war and oppression. They are our sisters and brothers, each one of them made in the image of God. They have a legal right to seek sanctuary and to find safety, wherever they are from.'

'But that principle has too often been lost. Recently our public debate around refugees has focused more on our differences than the common humanity we share, and the language used to depict refugees has too often been dehumanising, demeaning and divisive. Now, more than ever, we have to work together to change that story.'

Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon and Chair of the Churches Refugee Network, said, 'Churches and congregations all over the UK are welcoming refugees into their homes and communities, and are helping to build communities where every person is treated with inherent dignity and infinite worth. Yet this is rarely a story that is heard or celebrated, and we want to change that.'

'As well as needing our help, refugees enrich our social fabric, helping to make the UK a place of cultural diversity, which we ought to be proud to celebrate.'

Ahead of the UN High Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants in September, Christian Aid is urging the UK government to host far higher numbers of refugees through:

Resettling higher numbers of refugees, broaden the nationalities it resettles and significantly accelerate the resettlement in the UK of the 20,000 Syrians it has already agreed to accept;

Introduce a system of humanitarian visas to the UK, including via third countries;

Strengthen and implement adequate measures for family reunification;

Act on its responsibilities to relocate refugees already in the EU.

For more information on the launch of Change the Story, and to take the campaign action, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/changethestory

To everything a season: the end of BUild

Why the Baptist Union initiative with people with learning disabilities is drawing to an end

The Baptist Union initiative with people with learning disabilities (BUild) began in 1983, as Community Care began to replace subnormality hospitals, and several Baptists foresaw a need to prepare churches to minister to new neighbours with severe disabilities. Largely unseen in society at large, many had enjoyed worship in hospital chapels; they would find local churches rather different.

And while churches mostly try to respond pastorally, most had never considered Christian nurture geared to special needs. The secular world was making great developments in special education: should churches lag behind? The first question: How can we help these people grasp that Jesus loves them?

A group formed, at first largely of lay Christians, drawn widely from across the country thanks to the good offices of The Baptist Times, both in advertising meetings and taking articles.

To introduce our concerns, we were given a page on each of four weeks in summer 1984. The editor, Geoffrey Locks, kindly guided us in the appropriate style. Our group included health and education professionals, parents and church workers, all contributing from their various perspectives.

This was invaluable for a 'bottom up' movement, coming from the denomination's grassroots rather than the usual leaders. We took full advantage of the freedom Baptists had for that: we realized we could move faster than most other church bodies, provided we could make our case heard. The BU Mission Department was quick to support this endeavour. We seized opportunities in ways that would be harder with today's tighter charity regulation.

Then only the Roman Catholics were doing much about special church education, and they generously shared their insights. We soon found that other denominations were ready to learn from BUild's efforts. A few Anglican dioceses had some special work but were mostly unaware of the others: as we gathered information, I sometimes put one diocese in touch with another!

BUild only ever had modest financial resources so often adopted a homespun approach, especially over publications. We asked churches to take requests for believer's baptism seriously - often hearing how these had been ignored, assuming such people could not understand. Challenged to reconsider, ministers were amazed to discover real depth of faith. Help was clearly needed over baptismal preparation so we produced teaching booklets with minimal text supporting line drawings. We coaxed artists in our churches to provide their services for free. We regretted that we could not rise to colour and gloss, yet many have been helped by this basic resource.

We pleaded our case at ministers' retreats, Assembly exhibitions, in the colleges and local churches, as well as at our own conferences and theological consultations (disability raises its own difficult questions). Some of our ablest Baptist leaders were moved to give time to this work. I was the original Convener of BUild's working group, when first 'selling' our concerns, but was succeeded by the late Roger Hayden, giving nine years to this while a busy Superintendent, followed by college principal Richard Kidd, and finally a local pastor, Jerry Newson. Happily they are much better than me at communicating directly with those with disabilities.

As more churches welcomed people with learning disabilities at worship and often formed special groups to help them rejoice in God's love, more took part in BUild celebrations. Many with disabilities are all too aware that they learn slowly and often fail. It has been great to see confidence gained and lives transformed as they grasp that God loves them just as they are. A series of contacts, so serendipitous that one could feel the Holy Spirit at work, led to BUild helping Polish Baptists begin their on-going work of similar nature. Communism had little time for the 'non-productive': post-glasnost, other Eastern Baptists expressed interest in the prophetic ministry of valuing those with disabilities.

BUild was essentially a pioneering movement and that is no longer needed. Churches will continue to want encouragement and advice when dealing with the unfamiliar - with learning disabilities no one answer fits all. But this needs to be done in new ways, by younger people.

We pray this will happen. Many churches are linked with Prospects, which is now merging with Liveability, which in turn amalgamated the Shaftesbury Society and John Grooms - all of them Christian bodies concerned for those with disabilities. Other churches work with Faith and Light. Social Services may also help: in our early days they were often suspicious of Christians but many have come to respect and value churches' supportive friendship for those in local group homes.

BUild plans a final Celebration: a Thanksgiving Service and Lunch, 11.30 to 3.30 on Saturday, 24 September 2016, at Birmingham Central Baptist Church, 35 Ellen Street, Springhill, Birmingham B18 7LF. Fuller details at www.build-together.org.uk.

Those hoping to attend should give numbers to the Secretary, David Buckingham, as soon as possible, buckinghamdjames@gmail.com

Faith Bowers is a co-founder of BUild and a member of Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

Baptists urged to switch to renewables

The Big Church Switch is a campaign that encourages churches to change energy supply from fossil fuels to renewables

The Big Church Switch was launched on Ash Wednesday this year. Facilitated by Christian Aid and Tearfund, it calls on churches and individual Christians of all

denominations to switch their energy supply (electricity) from fossil fuels to renewable energy, as part of their commitment to care for our neighbours and for the earth – our common home. It uses the collective buying power of the churches to secure market beating renewable tariffs.

Since Ash Wednesday 2016 more than 600 churches, including five cathedrals, have registered with the Big Switch. In addition 845 Salvation Army premises have switched to a green tariff, the Quakers are aiming for 200 Meeting Houses to have made the switch, and CAFOD is working to build on the 50 per cent of Roman Catholic Dioceses who use green energy already. The URC youth federation is intending to encourage all its churches over the next few months.

With another period for churches switching coming in the autumn, Christian Aid and Tearfund are aiming for 2000 church registrations by 1 September 2016. I encourage all Baptist churches and individuals to register their interest to make this switch:

By using clean, renewable energy we can help restore the earth and bring balance to God's creation. Clean energy sources offer a reliable energy supply and secure long-term jobs, fuelling prosperity for our neighbours near and far.

Christian Aid and Tearfund have been working closely with the church procurement service 2BUY2 in the careful selection of suppliers. This will ensure that the offers from renewable energy suppliers meet stringent criteria, including a tariff that is of 100 per cent renewable energy, from a companies who source at least 80 per cent of their electricity from green energy. It means that the Big Church Switch is already proving to be the cheapest way to buy green electricity in the UK.

By acting together as the church community we will send a clear and powerful message to governments and businesses that Christians are prepared to lead the way in switching to renewables, crucial if we are to live in and enjoy God's world together.

Switching is easy - I signed up and switched my supplier in March. It is only a matter of following an online form. Anyone who knows me and my competence with a computer will say: 'If John can manage it anyone can!' I am doing my bit to save the planet and I am also saving money.

Elsewhere Ben Niblett, senior campaigner at Tearfund says:

The UK church has a vital role in overcoming poverty and inequality in a way which doesn't cost the earth and lasts for generations to come. Switching is a great way for Christians to love our neighbours and show the government we want more action on climate change, like investment in clean, renewable energy.

Ruth Valerio of A Rocha writes:

Please do this! Changing to a green energy supplier might seem a big step for a church, but it is a hugely significant action. It is a practical way to care for God's earth and it sends a big political signal too. Do what you need to do, talk to whoever you need to talk to, and make the switch.

Collectively as the church we have huge buying power and can secure some market-beating renewable tariffs. Whether you want to switch your home or inspire your church to switch, the Big Church Switch website, via Tearfund or Christian Aid will guide you through the process so that you and/or your church can switch in a simple and affordable way to a tariff that restores, rather than damages, creation.

Let this be part of our commitment to following Christ in the coming months.

'For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed' (Romans 8:19). Creation longs for us to live in a Christ-centred way.

For more visit:

The Big Church Switch: <https://www.bigchurchswitch.org.uk/>

Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering

Religious liberty, Baptist-Catholic dialogue and Baptist responses to the growing refugee crisis were among the topics discussed

More than 300 people from 50 countries met at the gathering in Vancouver, which saw the BWA pass three resolutions.

One called on the United Nations to raise the designated threat level for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region to Level 3, the most severe large scale humanitarian crisis. Extremists in Nigeria, mainly the violent Islamist group, Boko Haram, and Fulani militants, have led a series of attacks in Nigeria and neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

The BWA noted that "people of faith and houses of worship have been intentionally targeted, including the damage or destruction of thousands of churches and numerous mosques."

Samson Ayokunle, president of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, has castigated the international community for ignoring terrorist violence and attacks in the West African country.

Another resolution urged Baptists in affected countries to assist those who are displaced. Baptist groups in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, as well as in European countries such as Germany, Sweden, Croatia, Serbia and elsewhere, have provided personnel and supplies to assist those who are displaced.

However, in a statement the BWA said it was "concerned about those who have not been as engaged, or who have been less than welcoming in their remarks and actions".

The BWA is encouraging "Christian believers to personally engage with all refugees and displaced persons, generously showing God's love and care as we demonstrate the sufficiency of God made known through Jesus Christ."

The gathering also saw the announcement of a third round of Baptist-Catholic dialogue. The first round occurred from 1984-1988 and the second round from 2006-2010. In May this year, preparatory meetings were held between Baptist representatives Frank Rees of Australia, Paul Fiddes from the United Kingdom and Timothy George of the United States and a team from the Catholic Church to consider the focus and methodology for the next phase.

General Secretary the Revd Dr Neville Callam stated, 'This joint preparatory meeting decided that the next phase of dialogue, which could commence in June 2017, should have clear continuity with the first two phases and should focus on the subject of common witness to Jesus Christ.'

Regional ministers appointed in SWBA

The South Wales Baptist Association has announced the appointment of three regional ministers

The trustees are pleased to announce that at the SWBA Council of Churches meeting on 21 June 2016 three new Regional Ministers for our Association were appointed. As you will know, the Revd Andy Hughes who had been our second Regional Minister for ten years, was [seconded to head up the Ministries Team](#) based in Didcot on an interim basis in February 2015. Following the review of the work of [the Ministries Team](#) as part of the [Ignite Report](#), Andy was appointed as its permanent Team Leader. He officially takes up that post on 1 July.

The SWBA Trustees with Revd Nick Bradshaw, our Regional Minister Team Leader, have prayerfully considered how to proceed with Association staffing and have involved the Council of Churches' meetings in their thinking. We felt it was important to increase the staff team so that there is more resource for proactive support of churches and ministers, and more time can be given to encouraging and enabling mission in our churches, on which Nick will lead.

The churches endorsed the discernment of the Trustees and following an application and interview process there was very strong affirmation for the Trustees' recommendations at the meeting on 21 June.

We have appointed one full-time Regional minister – the Revd Susan Stevenson and two who will each be working for 2 ½ days a week – the Revd Tim Daniel and the Revd Carl Gidney. They will all be taking up their new posts on 26 September 2016.

The Ministers introduce themselves:

The Revd Susan Stevenson

Since 2013 I have been one of the ministers at Albany Road Baptist Church in Cardiff and for the last 15 months have also served as an Association Minister with SWBA.

Before moving to Cardiff in 2011 I was a local church minister in south London for over 20 years. From 1990-2007 I served firstly as Joint Pastor, then from 1995 as Senior Pastor of Chatsworth Baptist Church in West Norwood. From 2008-2011 I was Minister of Blackheath and Charlton Baptist Church. During our time in London I was also a Director of Ascension Trust/Street Pastors, and served the LBA in a number of roles including as Chair of the Association Ministerial Recognition Committee.

My family roots are in the North of England, where I grew up in a typical working class family which hadn't darkened the door of a church for generations. Faith came alive for me during a difficult period in my teens when in desperation I prayed, and was amazed there to encounter God.

Since coming to Wales I have had the opportunity to preach in a wide variety of churches, to work with the Chaplaincy at USW, and especially in this last 15 months to meet with ministers and leaders from across the region. As I have done so I have realised that God has awoken in me a love for South Wales, its people and its communities, and a longing that they might experience the transforming love of God in Jesus.

The Revd Tim Daniel

I am married to Pearl and we have two grown up daughters. I am originally from Swansea and qualified as an architect before entering the ministry. Since then I have spent almost 30 years in a number of different churches in both England and Wales, the last nine of which have been at Riverside Baptist Church in Port Talbot.

I have convened the West Wales Ministers' Meeting for the last five years. I am committed to working with others and wherever I have ministered I have always tried to develop partnerships with other churches for mission, believing we can do more together than we can ever do apart. I am used to working with churches of varying traditions.

I co-founded a charity working in Uganda and for 10 years made frequent trips out there. I have also been Chair of Governors at a primary school, and Chair of Trustees of a charity offering convalescent care in the community. Amongst my interests I enjoy: cooking for family and friends (using healthy ingredients!) and developing the garden - something I started from scratch when we moved into our current home.

The Revd Carl Gidney

I am known [on social media as 'the Missional Monk'](#) because I love to motivate and mentor others into Missional Spirituality. Presently my wife and I with a small missionary team are pioneering a fresh expression of church in Cardiff Bay and a small network called Terranova. I serve as a catalyst and trainer in evangelism and discipleship among secular spiritual seekers. I also motivate those in existing churches, interested in exploring more 'counter-intuitive' ways of being missional.

My big dream is to turn spiritual seekers into disciple-makers.

Though born in Lancashire, of Anglo-Indian descent, I have been married for 34 years to my Welsh wife called Jane. She leads our community choir in the Wales Millennium Centre through which we reach spiritual seekers.

I'm a musician and artist, with 38 years as a church minister. I came to Christ aged 17 and went straight into Theological College.

After leaving college I began as a church planter at 21 years old, came to Cardiff City Temple in 1979 and was ordained in 1983 into the Elim Pentecostal Church of Great Britain. As well as being a Pastor, I have also worked for British Youth for Christ as a University and Schools Evangelist, Teen Challenge Wales drug rehab ministry, ministered as a Prison Chaplain and a tutor with Acorn Christian Healing Trust training others in Pastoral Skills and listening.

Jane and I have four adult children who love Jesus. I love wild walking in forests with

my Narnia stick, being in coffee shops, going to the theatre, singing, and making curries for friends, neighbours and strangers.

The Trustees rejoice in the guidance God has given us and in the exciting prospects these three new appointments bring to the life of all our churches.

Please pray for Susan, Tim and Carl as they prepare for this change in their lives and for Nick and Jackie Godding, our Association Manager as they have these new colleagues joining the team.

The statement was put together by [Patricia Wiltshire](#), the SWBA moderator

Baptisms

Blaby Baptist Church, Blaby, Leicestershire: Ann James

Bushey Baptist Church, Oxhey, Herts: Elizabeth Holland, Azeezat and Baba Ogonkanmi

Colchester Baptist Church, Essex: Ross Ardley

Haddenham-cum-Dinton Baptist Church, Buckinghamshire: David Francis

London Road Baptist Church, Lowestoft, Suffolk: Ruthie Evans, Carol Knight, John Wade, Hannah Moreira

Lymm Baptist Church, Cheshire: Sam Smith and Dylan Stanway

Milford on Sea Baptist Church, Hampshire: Gina Dos Santos

Open Door Baptist Church, Peterborough: Denisa Luptakova

Rodbourne Baptist Church, Swindon, Wilts: Eric Adjie, Eunice Adutwumwaa, and Mark Money

Orchard Baptist Church, Colchester, Essex: Mark Simpson, Kathy Green

Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church, Kent: Vanessa Beth Crocker

Waterlooville Baptist Church, Hampshire: Colin Wells, Carole Wells, Zina Robertson, Darren Wishart, Helen Wishart

Know anyone preparing for baptism? [Check out our range of cards](#)

Send your baptism notifications and stories to phobson@baptist.org.uk

Baptism stories

At **Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church** on Sunday 10 July Vanessa Beth Crocker was baptised by our Pastor Rachel Hayward and Youth Leader Chris Payne. The service was vibrant with a moving testimony given by Vanessa. An amazing variety of cakes and refreshments were provided after the service provided by her mother Jennie and friends. (Carol Anderson, administrator)

Death

ATKINSON, Brenda (1934-2016)

Much-loved mother of Hazel, Peter and Trevor and widow of the late Charles Harold Atkinson, a member of Durham City Baptist Church since 1973 and a long-standing officer of Girls Brigade 1st Durham Company, Brenda went to be with her Lord on 2 July 2016 after a long illness. She will also be a much-missed Grandma and Great Grandma. Rest in peace and rise in glory!

CLOUGH, the Revd Joy (nee Ford)

On Saturday 2 July, 2016 at the Royal Blackburn Hospital peacefully after a long illness. Joy aged 88 years of Brierfield. Dearly loved wife of Trevor Clough. Formerly minister of Haggate Baptist Church, Briercliffe (1974-1984); Deaconess of Leavesden Road Baptist Church, Watford (1955-1962); Minister of Hook Norton and Bloxham Baptist Churches (1962-1970); Secretary for Women's work, Baptist Union (1971-1974). A funeral service was held on Wednesday 13 July, 2016 at The Burnley and Nelson United Reformed Church prior to cremation at Burnley Crematorium. The Revd L. Jewitt officiated. Donations if desired are being received for 'DEBRA' c/o Helliwells Funeral Service, Reedley House Burnley Road, Brierfield. TEL:01282 614777

PECK, the Revd John Roderick

The Peck family are sad to announce the passing of their beloved patriarch, John, who died peacefully 1 July 2016 aged 92. The funeral took place at St Mary's church, Earl Soham, Suffolk on 8 July 2016. A celebration of his life and work will follow in August, details to be announced. No flowers, but please email revjpeck@gmail.com for details of charitable giving to Christian International Peace Service.

TURNER, Claud

Passed away peacefully on 19 June surrounded by his family. Claud was a much loved father of Elizabeth. father in law of Ian, Grandfather of Ashley and husband of the late Win. A service of thanksgiving was held at St. Andrew's Garrison Church of Scotland, Aldershot on 12 July. Donations in memory of Claud to Baptist Missionary Society.