



14 September, 2016

News:

Rise in unhappiness among girls

More than a quarter of a million girls in Britain are unhappy with their lives, according to a new report from the Children's Society

The charity's annual state-of-the-nation review of young people's well-being finds an estimated 283,000 girls aged 10-15 say they are not happy with their lives overall – one in seven of all girls in that age group.

The picture is even starker when it comes to personal appearance, with the number of 10-15 year-old girls who do not feel happy with their looks reaching 700,000 across the UK – more than a third (34 per cent) of the total.

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of The Children's Society, said, 'It is desperately worrying that so many of our young people are suffering rather than thriving. Girls are having a particularly tough time and it's clear that concerted action is needed to tackle this problem.'

In contrast to the deteriorating picture for girls, the proportion of boys aged 10-15 who are unhappy with their lives has remained stable at one in nine, while the proportion of boys who say they are unhappy with their appearance continues to hover around 20 per cent.

The trend builds on findings from last year's Good Childhood Report, in which England ranked last out of 15 countries for happiness with appearance and also had the most pronounced gender differences of all participating countries. The same report suggested that gender differences in children's well-being are not inevitable.

The reasons for the widening gender gap are unclear, but the report does find that emotional bullying such as name-calling, which girls are more likely to experience, is twice as common as physical bullying, which is more likely to affect boys. About half of all children aged 10 to 15 had been bullied at school in the past month, the report finds.

Good Childhood ReportThe Good Childhood Report, a collaboration between The Children's Society and the University of York, highlights the clear link between unhappiness and mental health problems, underlining the importance of tackling

low well-being to address mental ill-health. Boys and girls experience mental health problems in different ways. While boys aged 10 and 11 are less happy than girls with their school work and more likely to experience conduct and attention/hyperactivity problems, girls experience anxiety and depression significantly more than boys – and become increasingly unhappy with their appearance – as they get older.

The Children's Society is calling on Government to take action to improve children's happiness across the nation with a legal entitlement for children to be able to access mental health and well-being support in schools and FE colleges across England and Wales. The Government must also reaffirm its commitment to understanding, measuring and acting to improve children's well-being.

Local authorities can also do a great deal to deliver change for children's well-being, by listening to children's views about what matters to them and making sure they are directly involved in decision making about their local areas.

Mr Reed added, 'All children deserve a happy childhood and we must never accept that it is somehow inevitable that so many children in Britain should live in distress. As a first step all children should be able to access mental health and wellbeing support in school. Children must be heard and helped.'

Messy Church science?

A project that will help Messy Church leaders use science to explore aspects of the Christian faith is among the first recipients of new funding

Through a web-based resource and a book with more than 100 different experiments, Messy Church Science will aim to demonstrate that faith and science are complementary.

The project is spearheaded by the Bible Reading Fellowship alongside the Revd Dr Dave Gregory, senior minister of Croxley Green Baptist Church in Hertfordshire, and is one of eight recipients of funding up to £10,000 in the first round of the Scientists in Congregations scheme.

Dave (pictured right, white coat) has a background in Physics, Astronomy and Meteorology and has used fun science experiments in churches and schools for over 10 years. More recently he has integrated this into Messy Church, becoming known as Dr Dave. The experiments use everyday kitchen equipment.

'It is something we've been doing, and a number of churches have also been using this approach, so the funding will help widen what has been bubbling away in the network,' he said.

‘There are two main aims: to develop that sense of wonder about creation. Where does it come from? It will help adults and children appreciate the wonder of creation that science reveals and encounter God in fresh ways. And we also bust some of those myths about the incompatibility of faith and science.’

Cloud in a jarThe application form stated: ‘Our family focus means we can inspire scientists of the future. We can teach them some basic scientific skills and influence their attitudes and expectations towards science and faith. We can help train a generation to see no dichotomy between science and faith, but rather how the two can fruitfully exist side by side.’

It is hoped the resources will be launched in July in 2017.

Messy Church Science was one of eight recipients of the Scientists in Congregations funding, which is aimed at helping churchgoers engage confidently with science.

Thanks to the funding, a series of café-style discussion evenings with students and science professionals will take place in Leeds.

Church Scientific, based in Baptist churches in Leeds but open to all, will see science students and professionals from congregations across the city give talks leading into discussion sessions. In preparatory workshops, the speakers will explore how Christian perspectives have been important historically and may enrich their scientific work today. It will culminate in a conference next summer. All the presentations will be available on the project's website.

Launching on October 25, the project will be open to participants from across Leeds and beyond. The Revd David Humphries, minister of Blenheim Baptist Church in Leeds, is a project co-director alongside Dr Richard Gunton, a research fellow in the School of Biology at Leeds University and a Blenheim church member.

The eight new schemes have been announced as bids were opened for grants to fund a second wave of Scientists in Congregations projects with a deadline for applications of November 11.

The Scientists in Congregations programme is open to all mainstream Christian churches and is part of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, a three-year Durham University project run in partnership with the Church of England. The project is funded by Templeton World Charity Foundation and was launched last year.

Baptist church launches radio station

Faithful Radio is an online, 24-hour radio station launched by Cornerstone Baptist Church in Norfolk

Faithful Radio is an online, 24-hour radio station without adverts and can be accessed free from mobiles and computers. It broadcasts a mix of topics, including music, chat and interactive Bible study.

Cornerstone Baptist Church radThe launch party (pictured) was listened to all over Europe, with people tuning in from Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland and England.

The Revd Linda Turner (second right) is one of the key players in the new radio station. She used to broadcast a two-hour morning worship show on the local community radio station, which proved popular and had good listening figures.

'I soon realised we could reach more people if we had a Christian radio station. We prayed about it with the church and discussed it and with the church's support we developed and grew into Faithful Radio,' said Linda.

The stream features live shows and music and can be accessed free at www.marthambaptistchurch.com

'We are excited that we can broadcast to a wider audience bringing relevant news and views as well as great Christian music, including new releases,' said Linda. 'The vision is to reach as many people as we can to encourage their faith and bring it to life, staying faithful to what we believe.'

The church has been amazed at the response to the programmes with the interactive bible study being the most popular, followed by the Daytime show. Listeners have tuned in from as far away Japan, Russia, Bulgaria, Germany and of course the UK.

The church prayed and dreamt about the station, thinking outside of the box to a wider audience. There will be about 30 hours a week of live broadcasting with the hope that this time will grow as more shows come on line. There are several in development at the moment.

Programmes range from children's stories to interactive Bible study. There are specialist genres of music with a spiritual element, including Christian jazz, show tunes and 1950s music. Every Sunday morning, there is a morning worship show and a live broadcast of the evening service.

'The technology we are using means that DJ presenters do not need to come into the studio to present their show as we can set up a remote DJ account which will enable them to broadcast live, if anyone is interested in joining us we would be delighted to hear from them,' said Linda.

'We would love to see our station broadcast 24/7 with DJ presenters from all over the world so we can reach all countries and their cultures. We are simply following the command of Jesus to spread the Gospel to all the world, to reach all people.'

Contact the Station through the following: www.facebook.com/faithfulradio; email: faithfulradio@mail.com; or phone using the dedicated number 07956 558251

National recognition for Baptist pioneers

A pathway that offers national recognition for Baptist pioneers has been officially approved

Equipped to Pioneer500'Equipped to Pioneer' has been available for a few years, but the details have recently been clarified, and in April the national ministerial recognition committee officially approved this as a pathway to national recognition as a Baptist pioneer.

This part-time training is for anyone in Baptist churches involved in pioneer ministry and church planting. Pioneers seek to go to where the church isn't, do what Jesus does, and see what happens. They may be starting something completely new, or based in an existing church, but their intention is the same, to grow new and contextually relevant Christian communities.

'Equipped to Pioneer' consists of 10 core modules, five of which are offered by Baptist Colleges (sometimes in conjunction with associations) and five by the Crucible Course, which is run by Urban Expression and partners including the Incarnate Network, the Northumbria Community and BMS World Mission.

Candidates are required to choose a two further option modules, from a choice of six, delivered by Colleges and by the CMS Pioneer Mission Leadership Training Course. The modules may be taken in any order and will normally take a minimum of two to three years to complete.

Any pioneer wanting to pursue recognition should to speak to their regional minister about being commended by their church to their regional Ministerial Recognition Committee. Ideally, this should happen before they undertake any of the training. There will be a second Ministerial Recognition Committee once all the modules have been completed at which national recognition is approved.

Of the Crucible Course, Stuart Murray-Williams, an Urban Expression co-founder, said, 'The Crucible course operates from the perspective that the long era of Christendom is coming to an end and that mission from the margins will require fresh thinking and practice in many areas. The course encourages participants to explore new ways of engaging in evangelism, discipleship, church planting, urban mission and community renewal.'

The Revd Angie Tunstall has been on the course. She said, 'What an amazing course! Living in urban Eccles as cross-cultural missionaries, Crucible has really been a great

environment for shared learning, listening, thinking and reflecting with others on what it means to creatively be a part of a small urban Christian community.'

For more information visit www.baptist.org.uk/etp

Churches ditch fossil fuel electricity

More than 3,500 UK churches have either switched their electricity from fossil fuels to renewables or registered to do so, according to figures released by charities

The announcement coincides with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September, the beginning of a global ecumenical time of contemplation during which Christians are encouraged to pray and work for the protection of the environment.

Around 2,000 of the switches come from 16 Catholic dioceses which are running entirely on renewable energy, some of whom made the decision following the Pope's encyclical for the environment, *Laudato Si'*. The number also includes the majority of the Salvation Army's UK sites and a third of Britain's Quaker Meeting Houses.

In addition, nearly 700 churches from across denominations - including significant numbers of Methodist, United Reformed Church, Church of England and Baptist congregations – have so far individually signed up through the bigchurchswitch.org.uk website promoted by the charities Christian Aid and Tearfund. Following the success of the initiative, this will now be extended into the New Year.

The Rt Revd John Arnold, Bishop of Salford – one of the 16 dioceses to have switched – and chairman of Catholic aid agency CAFOD, said, 'There are many ways in which we may respond to the threat and the reality of climate change and adopting renewable energy for our church buildings must be a priority. Pope Francis challenges us all to 'care for our common home', and by adopting renewable energy we will directly help people threatened, and already most severely affected, by climate change.'

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, said, 'Celebrating Creationtide marks a shift in the Christian understanding of our relationship to creation under God.

'The consequences of teaching over recent centuries that humanity has been given domination over creation are clear in the complex environmental crisis we now face. It is important that Christians rediscover older traditions of a godly relationship of humanity to the wider created order. One simple thing we can do in response to

such a crisis is to switch to using clean energy in our homes, communities, schools and places of worship.'

Christian Aid Chief Executive Loretta Minghella also welcomed the news. She said, 'We need a big shift to renewable energy and a shared commitment to leave the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves in the ground. This action by thousands of churches shows a groundswell of public support for renewables to which governments must respond by doing all they can to shift to a clean energy future.'

Tearfund Advocacy Director Paul Cook said, 'The Christian community has come together to help lead the shift to clean energy - we're showing that we care for our neighbours, we care for creation, and we care that the government takes urgent action too. The longer we postpone, the worse it will be for our future and the future of people living in poverty around the world.'

Some 340 congregations have also signed up to a broader scheme Eco-Church, committing to a range of environmental improvements. Similarly, 21 Catholic parishes have received a 'Live Simply' award, in recognition of commitments to sustainability and solidarity with people in poverty.

Dr Ruth Valerio, founder of the Eco-Church programme, said, 'I sense that a corner has been turned with churches engaging in caring for the earth. The Bible is so clear that God loves the whole creation, both human and non-human, and that we are to love similarly, and so it is really encouraging to see us getting to grips with what that means and taking practical action.'

1 September is the first day of Creationtide season, which runs from September 1 until October 4, incorporating traditional Harvest activities. The following week – from October 8 to 16 – churchgoers from across denominations will take part in the 'Speak Up Week of Action' during which they will join with others to explain to MPs the people, places and things they want to protect from climate change, asking the UK Government to announce an ambitious low carbon investment plan for Britain.

Interested in switching your church or home to renewable energy? Find out how at bigchurchswitch.org.uk

BMS General Director to stand down in 2017

David Kerrigan, General Director of BMS World Mission since 2009, has announced that he has decided to stand down from the role next year

"Since I started with BMS back in 1983, and allowing for seven years in pastorate here in the UK, I will have enjoyed nearly 29 wonderful years as a mission worker, regional team leader, Director for Mission and General Director, but the time has

come to let someone else lead BMS over the coming years," David said in an email sent to UK staff.

David's leadership in defining BMS' vision for the future has been a key theme of his tenure. The 2010 strategy document *For God...* laid out his manifesto vision for taking BMS forward in areas including witnessing to world faiths and listening to global voices. The successor document *The Highest Goal...*, published in 2015, built on those commitments and extended into new areas, defining sharpening BMS' commitment to the Great Commission and being inspired by prophetic imagination and issues around gender justice. Those aspirations were laid out in detail earlier this year in the 2016-2020 strategy, which also outlined three overarching aims of working in fragile states, among the most marginalised peoples and in the least evangelised communities.

David has also taken a lead in developing BMS as a distinct theological voice, challenging people to think courageously about issues that affect life in the western Church as well as globally.

He's keen to stress that he's not leaving yet though! In the months to come, David will lead the work in pursuit of those aims, and will also take BMS to becoming an incorporated body, which is a very significant development, in making BMS' core structures fit for purpose in today's rapidly-developing regulatory framework.

Chair of the BMS Board of Trustees, Maureen Russell, has thanked David for his "consistently spiritual and wise leadership" and will now lead the process to identify the next BMS General Director.

Please pray for Maureen, the trustees, the staff team and of course David himself as BMS begins that process.

'A church which is growing in love, unity and Christian maturity, with encouraging testimonies'

Our latest Baptists Together Home Mission story: Aylesham Baptist Free Church

- A small church with a big vision for the people of Aylesham to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- A church which is growing in love, unity and Christian maturity, with encouraging testimonies
- Home Mission funding enabled the church to call Laura Moncaster as its minister in September 2013

We are a small church with a big vision believing God at his word that he will do more than we could ever ask or imagine! Our vision is for the glory of God to rise upon us (seeking to be people who know God's presence and have a genuine love and care for one another), that we would see hundreds of people in Aylesham come

to have a living and personal relationship with Jesus Christ (this will involve demonstration and proclamation, but we believe people won't necessarily be bought in by clever programmes and marketing but by seeing a real love, unity and sense of community within our church).

AyleshamBFC A picture someone had when praying for me and the village speaks into our vision. It was of a coal slag heap (Aylesham is an old mining village) but out of the top of the pile of coal was the shoot of a flower that, over time, began to bloom and show life! I might not be here to see it, but my prayer, and the church's vision, is to see salvation spring up all over Aylesham (Isaiah 61:11).

Aylesham as a village is in a big transition at the moment as they are in the process of building 1,200 new homes. Currently 200 properties have been moved into. We as a church are welcoming people to the village by taking round a card from the church with a pot plant and some home-made biscuits. Although we haven't really seen any direct 'fruit' of this, as I mentioned before, we are in here for the long haul and believe we are sowing seeds.

AyleshamLauraMoncasterAn event where seeds were sown was our Pentecost Party. We had a hog roast, live music, puppets, crafts, bouncy castle and toddlers' soft play. We also had two guys share their testimonies. Many people from the community came and lots of people just walking by came in to join the party. We are praying that the seeds that were sown there would develop and grow.

I feel that the church has been growing in love, unity and Christian maturity. We have had some great times of encouraging testimony and have seen a number of healings (back pain decreased, leg pain completely gone, arthritis in a wrist decreased in pain and then an hour later completely gone) - praise God! We are also excited to have a baptismal service at the beginning of September. God is good!

Praise God for...

The up and coming baptismal service

A growing (in their knowledge of Jesus) in the children's group on Sunday morning

The Sunday school leaders

The revealing of his healing power

Good working partnership with the Anglican church in the village

A successful 'stations of the cross' art exhibition on Good Friday

Ask God for...

An increased outpouring of his love and power

More workers for the harvest

The interaction between the people moving into the new houses and the current Aylesham community, that there will not be an 'us and them' divide.

Practical needs

Finances for new windows
Musicians
Youth work volunteers

Things coming up...

Our youth camp with 12 young people
The begins of our preparation for our Christmas panto
An 'Exploring Jesus' women's group
The development of a monthly youth evening service and a monthly communion and healing evening service.
The continuation of our toddler group, youth group and monthly Messy Church, run jointly with the Anglican church in the village
The potential of running a Romance Academy for young people in the village.

A massive thank you...

We need to say a big thank you to SEBA churches and Baptist Home Mission as it is through your support that the church is able to fund Laura's position as minister.

Laura Moncaster - minister

Baptisms

Amphill Baptist Church, Bedfordshire: Lauren Herbert and Joe Spencer
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Gravesend, Kent: Elizabeth and Peter Wright
Ewhurst Baptist Church, Surrey: Rebecca Bodington
Margate Baptist Church, Kent: Margaret Lamberton
Market Harborough Baptist Church, Leicestershire: Caroline White
Park Baptist Church Great Yarmouth: Gretna Barros Raposa, Sidney Monteiro de Almeida, Lucas Herlan Pontes aged eight (baptised at home as terminally ill with a brain tumour, died five days later)
Pentref Baptist Chapel, Newbridge-On-Wye, Powys, Wales: John Rees
Victoria Park Baptist Church, Bristol: William McBean
Westdale Lane Baptist Church, Mapperley, Nottingham: Ben Jones; Sarah Kitt

Baptism stories

When John Rees was baptised at Pentref Baptist Chapel in Newbridge-On-Wye, it was the first baptism at the church in 41 years.

Death

GAGE, Ken Gage 1924-2016

Ken served for a number of years as Church Secretary of Great Missenden Baptist Church, Buckinghamshire. He also served as a Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent. Ken was a member of the Baptist Men's Movement and regularly attended the annual conference at Swanwick.

Having moved to Norfolk in 1995 with his wife, Beryl, Ken continued to worship at the Local Ecumenical Partnership.

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for Ken's life will be held on Friday 30 September at Holy Trinity Church, Loddon, Norfolk commencing at 1pm.

For further details about the service or to share memories of Ken please contact Penny Keith at pennykeith@hotmail.co.uk

In Memorial

TYDEMAN - Marjorie, Treasured memories of our dearest Mum and Gran who died 7th September, 1989.

Always in our thoughts. Love from All her family.

'Great was her faithfulness'