



BAPTISTS TOGETHER

monthly information and resource update

November 2017

Dear Friends

Welcome to this month's Update full of news and resources for your church.

Our featured Home Mission story this month comes from **Pulborough Brooks Baptist Church** which has just celebrated its sixth anniversary. Continuing to be an outward looking church building God's kingdom in Pulborough, the church was encouraged by three baptisms in September.

This month we are featuring a number of useful resources to help churches prepare to mark **Remembrance Sunday on 12 November**. These include an order of service from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, video reflections from Ian Britton, a Messy Remembrance and Diddy Disciples Remembrance to help explore the theme with younger members of your church. Please see the Resources section below for details.

Please be praying for our Council who will be meeting later this week. You can [find the Council agenda on our website](#), and we particularly welcome you to join us in prayer on Thursday evening, when the **Council prayer session will be streamed live** via Facebook.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



Read the latest update from the Baptist Steering Group meeting in October at Whitworth Hall in Durham



The November Prayer Diary is now available to download
Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Read about Pulborough Brooks Baptist Church in the South Eastern Baptist Association



Baptist Union Council Meeting - 2-3 November

Our Council will be meeting at Swanwick this month. The focus topic this time will be mission and pioneering and we are pleased that Roy Searle and Simon Goddard will be facilitating us as we seek to discern broad strategic direction for our Union in this area. The Council **prayer time on the Thursday evening will be streamed live** through Facebook so that people across the country can join us in praying. Please join us. If you are unable to join us via Facebook, **please use the agenda and be praying for the discussions and for your Council reps.**



Presidential Nominations

Baptists are being invited to nominate the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2019-20. The President will help to communicate our vision and mission priorities, bringing their own unique insights and experience into their leadership, and may feel led to bring a particular emphasis within the overall strategy. Click here to [find out more about how to nominate someone](#).



The Apology - Ten Years On

In November 2007, Baptist Union Council passed an historic resolution apologising for our part in the transatlantic slave trade. We are marking the 10th year since this resolution with a series of events, the *Lest we Forget* study resource and the *Journeying to Justice* book. Click here [for further information](#).



As in Heaven

During her year as President of our Union, Dianne Tidball is providing [reflection material for groups and individuals](#) to use on the theme of 'As in heaven'. The first six of her monthly reflections are now available to use by both groups and individuals - the latest entitled 'Beauty for ashes: God's Kingdom is always about transforming death to life; darkness to light; ashes to beauty'. The reflections aim to help people think about the theme of 'As in heaven' in the light of what the Bible teaches and to grow in understanding of how we can live well as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Children and Young Families Round Table

The Children and Young Families (CYF) Round Table met in early October at the International Mission Centre in Birmingham. This national group aims to reflect, inform, inspire and raise the profile of CYF ministry across Baptists Together. [Find out more about their discussions](#) through the summary article on our website.

This month's featured events:



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer - Monday 6 November

When we Arise, Communities are Transformed! On 6 November, join Baptist women all over the world in praying and celebrating the transforming love of Christ! [Resources for this year's Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer](#) – including a suggested Order of Service and a Prayer Guide - are now available from our website.



Pension Roadshows - 7-25 November

A series of Pension Roadshows are coming to a place near you this autumn and if your church is a member of the Baptist Pension Scheme Defined Benefits (DB) Scheme these events are a 'must' for you. Click here to [find out more about dates in your area](#).



Growing churches forum - 8-9 November

If you're leading a church through a time of unusual growth, book in for the second Growing Churches forum taking place at the Beacon Church in Stafford. Church leaders are encouraged to attend with other leaders who are part of their church's season of growth. This will be an excellent opportunity to encourage and equip one another and those who journey with us. Cost is £20 per person to include all refreshments. For more information, or to book a place please contact Alex Drew via alex@seventy-two.network.



New Parish Conference - 9-10 November

This conference takes place in Birmingham and is a great opportunity to meet fellow practitioners, share stories and learn from the collective practices of Christian communities across the UK that are finding new ways to connect with people in the places they inhabit. The **Incarinate Network** will be hosting an interactive workshop exploring the changing nature of discipleship. [Click here for more information and booking.](#)



Interfaith Week - 12-19 November

At this time when many communities feel divided by different views and some people are fearful of the future, what difference can we make as people and as Christians? Inter Faith Week is a great time to get involved in an event or activity that draws people of different faiths together. The Inter Faith Network has produced a [short guide with suggestions for marking the Week](#). Our Interfaith Group has also produced some [resources to help you relate to people of other faiths](#).



Church Action on Poverty annual conference - 18 November

Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked, and gave them hope. Our churches are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change. Join **Church Action on Poverty at their conference in Sheffield** to hear how churches are listening to people in poverty, and share ideas for how we can stand alongside those on the margins.



CIO Training Day - Tuesday 21 November

The BUGB Legal and Operations Team and London Baptist Association will be hosting a further training day on Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) at Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London and will run from approximately 10:30 until 15:00. Esther Campsall from Anthony Collins LLP will be presenting together with Caroline Sanderson from BUGB. [Click here for details and to book your place\(s\).](#)



Incarinate Encounter - 26 - 28 January 2018

This is an opportunity to gather the collective wisdom of years of experimentation in living out the gospel and being church. Over an action-packed weekend in the Portsmouth area we will enjoy time reflecting together with other pioneers from around the country, and learning from one another, experience a session from the Crucible Course - and much more. [Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)



Incarnate Houseparty - 6-8 March 2018

Bookings are now open for the next gathering 'Reimagining Discipleship' at Somersal Cottages in Derbyshire. This annual gathering provides a great opportunity to meet with others who seek to follow Jesus at the margins and experiment with what it means to live out the Gospel in new and challenging contexts. Click here [for more details and booking](#).



Celebrating, Surviving and Thriving - Women in Baptist Ministry - 28-29 June 2018

The Gender Justice Hub and the BME Women Ministers' Network present a 24-hour conference at IMC in Birmingham for Baptist women ministers, non-ordained women in a qualifying office, MITs and those exploring a call to ministry. With Pat Took, Gale Richards, Helen Roberts and Dion White in inter-generational dialogue. Worship led by Amie Buhari. Cost £100, bursaries available. Booking details to follow but to reserve your place now, email mary.taylor@yba.org.uk



Signs of God Summer School - 13-19 August 2018

For several years, Signs of God has provided teams of British Sign Language Interpreters for our Baptist Assembly. Signs of God holds a biennial Summer School which will be held at the University of Wolverhampton in 2018. This will include six days of teaching by experienced BSL tutors and interpreting tutors, visiting speakers on a range of related topics from theology to BSL, lectures and practical training. Click here for [more details and booking](#).

This month's featured resources:



Remembrance Sunday 2017

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have produced resources to download or order, including an order of service, PowerPoint presentations and free ebook versions of *Beyond Our Tears: Resources for Times of Remembrance*. The Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday was prepared with The Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain and The Royal British Legion. [Click here for details of these resources](#).



Videos for Remembrance Sunday reflections

Ian Britton's name will be familiar to many Baptists as he has been involved producing a number of photo and video projects in the Northern Baptist Association, and for our Union. He is also the Premier Christian Radio Regional Producer for the North. Ian has produced several short reflective videos suitable for sharing during a service on Remembrance Sunday, which he has made available to other churches. [Click here to access these videos](#).



Messy Remembrance

The Messy Church team put together some ideas in 2014 to mark the centenary of the start of World War 1. Lots of these ideas can be used to help families reflect on Remembrance Day and explore the themes of war and peace, as well as remembering. The resources are designed to facilitate good family talk about these issues. Click here to [download the Messy Remembrance resources](#).



Diddy Disciples Remembrance Day Resource

With Remembrance Sunday just around the corner, SPCK is hosting a **free Remembrance Day Resource to use with children**, from Sharon Moughtin-Mumby, Director of Diddy Disciples at St Peter's Walworth in the Diocese of Southwark. This forms part of a new Diddy Disciples resource for children's discipleship by Sharon which they will be publishing in the New Year.



Whole Life Preaching

Our churches are made up of people from different backgrounds, different lifestyles, different frontlines. All of them want to serve Jesus in their own context. So how will our preaching disciple such a diverse body of people for their everyday lives? LICC has produced six short films to explore how a focus on whole-life discipling can transform the way we preach. [Click here to access the free videos.](#)



Want a Signs of God workshop?

Have you always wanted to know how to use British Sign Language (BSL) in a church context? Since October 2016, Signs of God has run workshops offering excellent teaching in using BSL in Christian settings. Consider hosting a workshop in your area tailored to match your needs. Signs of God also provides professional training. Please contact Roma at workshops@signsofgod.org.uk for more information and to book.



Pray for the persecuted church this November

The **Religious Liberty Commission** of the Evangelical Alliance brings together **Christian Solidarity Worldwide**, **Open Doors UK** and **Release International**. Under the banner of *One Month, One Church, One Prayer*, it is calling on Christians to take time in their services to remember believers who are persecuted when they pray, meet together or share the gospel, or simply because of their faith. [Click here for more information, a prayer and a video to use in your service.](#)



Christingle Celebrations

By taking part in Christingle, you help Children's Society run hundreds of services for the most vulnerable young people, and campaign to bring about essential changes for children and their families. Christingle celebrations inspire children to reflect on their faith and take practical action to support others. The Children's Society has a free Christingle Organiser's Pack including a guide to organising an event, invitation poster and donation form. [Click here for more information.](#)



Christmas with Bible Society

Bible Society has produced a host of resources to help you bring the Christmas story to life. Check out their nativity booklets, short films and festive gifts as you celebrate the journey that changed the world. [See what's available this year](#) on the Bible Society's website.



Scripture Union Christmas Party Pack

Amongst Scripture Union's resources for Christmas this year is a new Christmas Party Pack with crafts, games and prayer ideas - along with an all-age service and assembly plans. It's a great way to share the good news of Jesus with children and young people this Christmas.

Download a copy free of charge from Scripture Union's website.



Shine like a star this Christmas

Spurgeons has released its free Christmas resources to encourage churches around the country to support children and families affected by social disadvantage. *The Star's Tale* is a fresh new Christmas nativity that follows Illiana and Luke as they tell their story and light the way to the birth of Jesus. Share our starry sky-view of Christmas with your community this year as you follow the journey of kings, shepherds and hosts of angels to the stable where Jesus is born. Be the light and love of Jesus in your community this year and help Spurgeons give hope to every child. **Click here to download your copy.**



Ensure no one spends Christmas Alone

Christmas should be one of the happiest times of the year for everyone; yet for millions of people across the UK it can be the gloomiest. They experience Christmas as one of the most lonely times as businesses around the country shut their shops, leaving them with no place to go. Premier is aiming to help people across the UK to go to places so that they can spend their Christmas with others. **If you're running a Christmas Day event for people who might be on their own**, then make sure you let Premier know about it to add to their national listing of all the Christmas day events happening across the UK.



Christmas 'Chance to Discover'

With church attendance high at Christmas it's good to have a high-quality resource to give to visitors. Elim Pentecostal churches have written 'Christmas - A Chance to Discover' with this in mind. This 20-page booklet points out the surprises and the discoveries which are there at this special time of year, but especially the surprising joy that there is in discovering Jesus Christ! Booklets are 50p each or buy 100 copies for £45. **Order copies from the Elim online shop.**



The Real Advent Calendar - Assembly and Worship Resources

This year's fairtrade chocolate Advent calendar has a completely fresh design with a line from the Christmas story behind every door and a Christmas story-activity book free with every calendar. A charitable donation from every sale is used to help equip a clinic in Kenya. **The Real Advent Calendar** is a great way to share and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. And this year, the company behind the calendars has produced four **assembly resources, including an all age worship idea** for schools and churches to help you to explore Advent.



Pinterest

Do you use Pinterest – the website for sharing creative ideas? It's a brilliant resource for creative inspiration and includes ideas for Sunday school, prayer spaces, worship, Messy Church, holidays clubs to name a few. **Baptists Together now has a Pinterest account** and would love to share the ideas that have worked in your church. If you are interested, please contact Mike Lowe by emailing mlowe@baptist.org.uk



Visual Reflections

We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. Click here to [find the current selection of images on our Flickr account](#).