



## monthly information and resource update

**March 2018**

Dear Friends

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

Our Home Mission story this month comes from Fleet Meadow Baptist Church which is following a missional call to engage with people in their local community through a new initiative '**Space to Create**'.

An action-packed Children's Programme, Messy Church does Science workshop and a fun youth programme awaits families at **Baptist Assembly** this year. And the best bit – tickets are free for children and young people. **Read about what's in store this year.** Find out more and **book your place by 29 April.** We're also looking for more stewards to help out at this year's Assembly - please see the information below and get in touch if you can help.

**Baptist Union Council** will be meeting from 14-15 March - **please be praying for your Council members** and for the meetings.

Stephen Keyworth  
*Faith and Society Team*



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



**Baptist Union Council** will be meeting at Swanwick from 14-15 March. Please keep Council in your prayers.



**Read about A Space to Create at Fleet Meadow Baptist Church** in the Southern Counties Baptist Association



### **Stewards for Baptist Assembly - Saturday 12 May**

Each year Baptist Assembly is superbly served by a number of people who volunteer to be stewards at the event and this year is no different. We are looking for a stewarding team of 20 – 25 people. Would you, or others in your church, like to be involved in this way? Stewards need to be over 18 years of age, have a general level of fitness as there is a lot of standing involved, be available from 08:30 - 19:30 on Saturday 12 May - and have the support of their minister or church secretary. In return, stewards will receive free entry into the event, refreshments throughout the day and a packed lunch.

If you are interested in serving as a Steward, please email the Baptist Assembly office [admin@baptistassembly.org.uk](mailto:admin@baptistassembly.org.uk)



## Presidency 2019-20 Election

Thank you to all those ministers and churches who have already engaged with the election process to discern our next President after Dave Gregory. If you have not yet engaged with this important decision, please have a look at the [information about the candidates](#). Details of how to participate and vote have been sent to all ministers and church secretaries (by email or post). Voting this year will primarily be online and will **close on Saturday 31 March**.



## Data Protection (GDPR) - only three months to go!

The subject of Data Protection is one which churches should not ignore irrespective of their size or the amount of personal information they hold or process. We have produced a [new webpage with information to help churches](#) meet the requirements of new legislation coming in towards the end of May. We will be running a [webinar starting at 11:00 on 27 March](#) and details of this can also be found on the webpage. Please note that policy documents and guidance are still subject to change before the end of May, as we are still awaiting the ICO's guidance on some matters.



## BUGB CIO Consultation

The consultation period for the proposed BUGB CIO Constitution closed on 31 January 2018. A number of helpful responses were received and have been reviewed by the BUGB Trustee CIO sub-committee.

A [summary of these responses](#), together with the replies from the sub-committee, are now available on the website along with the draft resolutions that will be presented at Assembly in May.



## Baptist Steering Group

The Baptist Steering Group (BSG) met by Skype for the first time at the beginning of March - a timely arrangement, given the snowy weather in some parts of the country. Please see the [key messages from this meeting](#), and share the update with your church.

## This month's featured events:



## Modern Slavery Summit - 17 Mar

The Eastern Baptist Association is hosting this event with The Clewer Initiative in Chelmsford. The day is designed to give you a thorough grounding on what modern slavery looks like in the UK, and how you can spot the signs - with a particular focus on how to work effectively in partnership with local agencies like the police. [Click here for details](#).



## Faith in Seniors - Saturday 17 March

Romford Baptist Church is hosting this day conference at which speakers will be considering topics including faith in dementia, the vision of the church for our older generation, understanding and supporting caregivers and dealing with loneliness. [For details and to book your place](#), please see the Pilgrims' Friend Society website.



### **Brave New World - Saturday 17 March**

Be inspired to live justly and faithfully. The Joint Public Issues Team Conference will resource Christians to build a new heaven on earth. Hear from politicians, journalists and experts at Manchester Central Hall, M1 1JQ. [Click here for more information.](#)



### **Baptists on the Journey to Justice: - Saturday 17 March Equity and Reconciliation Across Two Centuries**

A study day reflecting on the reception and development of the book: *Journeying to Justice: Contributions to the Baptist Tradition across the Black Atlantic* (2017), with speakers from the UK and Jamaica. The day will survey the historical background and present impact of the 'Apology' for slavery made by our Union, together with associated themes of justice. [Click here for more information.](#)



### **Millennial discipleship challenge - Saturday 17 March**

Run by Freedom in Christ, this interactive workshop at The Well in Sheffield will unpack what it means to disciple to 18-35s. It will explore the huge change in culture that has taken place and outline the trends that explain why young adults are rejecting the church. It will unpack the way that this generation communicates and explain how to adjust in order to communicate effectively and relevantly. Discount price for Baptists Together of £25 a ticket from £30 for the day - please phone 0118 321 8084. [Click here for more information about the day.](#)



### **CTE Pentecostal Forum Conference - Saturday 24 March**

Baptists are invited to attend this half-day theological conference organised at Renewal Christian Centre, Solihull near Birmingham. This conference will be a significant learning experience, no matter what your church background, exploring the relationship between the Reformation, marking its 500th anniversary, and the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement of the past 100 years. [Click here for individual or block registration](#) and [for further information.](#)



### **Letting in the Light: Positive steps for peace in a turbulent world - 20-22 April**

This joint ecumenical conference, including the Baptist Peace Fellowship, will be taking place at Hinsley Hall in Leeds. Amongst the speakers will be Kim Leadbeater from the Jo Cox Foundation talking about community cohesion and learning to leave peacefully in diverse groups. [Click here for further information and booking.](#)



### **Beyond the Dream? - Marking the 50th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr - Tuesday 24 April**

Fifty years after the death of Martin Luther King, how do we regard his ministry, activism and its relevance for today? Bright Black Forum is convening this [conference at Highgate Baptist Church in Birmingham](#) to explore and provide a more holistic and comprehensive appraisal of MLK's work, whether his non-violent struggle bore fruit and whether it is relevant in today's context. Please [click here to book your place.](#)





### National New Housing Hub Conference - Saturday 28 April

Many cities, towns and villages are experiencing growth through new housing and our challenge as Christians is how we respond to these new communities with welcome and blessing. The New Housing Hub is a network established to inspire, resource and connect pioneers, churches and individual Christians from all church traditions to respond to this challenge and engage with these new communities. Click here for [details about this conference at Finchampstead Baptist Church and book your place\(s\)](#).



### Hearts and Minds - Thursday 3 May

This day conference for Baptists doing theology will be held at South Wales Baptist College. In addition to the keynote address from Kang-San Tan (Director of BMS World Mission) there is space for people to present papers about a range of theological topics - part of research they are working on, or a topic which is of interest to them. To present a paper, contact Peter Stevenson by 23 March at [pks@swbc.org.uk](mailto:pks@swbc.org.uk). To book your place contact Anita Monks by 19 April at [am@swbc.org.uk](mailto:am@swbc.org.uk).



### Prom Praise - Saturday 5 May

2018 Prom Praise at the Royal Albert Hall will have a packed programme bringing together musicians of different ages, styles and backgrounds to stand together in worship of God and to celebrate his unchanging love over the generations. [General booking is available from the Royal Albert Hall Box Office](#) or on 020 7589 8212.



### Annual Lecture of Baptist Historical Society - Thurs 10 May

The [Baptist Historical Society](#), in collaboration with the Centre for Baptist History and Heritage (CBHH) will be hosting two lectures at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London beginning at 14:00. These will be given by Keith Jones on 'Baptists in Europe' and Gale Richards on 'Being a BEM Woman Minister' (titles provisional). This day replaces the mini-conference that the CBHH usually holds in May.



### Thy Kingdom Come - 10-20 May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started as an invitation in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. How could you and your church commit to pray with God's worldwide family? See the [new video](#) produced for this year. [Find out more and download resources](#).



### Baptist Assembly - Saturday 12 May

Registration for our Assembly in Peterborough is open - **please book your place(s) by 29 April**. The [Assembly website](#) has everything you need to know about this year's gathering, including the outline programme, details of seminar sessions, news about this year's [children's programme](#) being led by iSingPOP and the [youth programme](#) being led by a team from Greenford Baptist Church. Please use the [Assembly poster to publicise the date](#), and encourage your church members to join us - we'd love to see you there.



## **Christian Aid Week: praying for God's kingdom to come - 13-19 May**

This May, Christian Aid Week falls within the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, the global ecumenical movement praying for the coming of God's Kingdom. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect our prayer and action, and to bear witness to Jesus' love in the world. If you're already taking part in Thy Kingdom Come, why not pray for Christian Aid as well, and take a collection during your service? [Joint resources including a devotional and prayers](#) are available to order.



## **Big Church Day Out - 26-27 May | 1-2 June**

Big Church Day Out (BCDO) is the UK's largest annual gathering of the wider church that creates a space for all denominations and ages to gather each year for two exciting days of worship and celebration. BCDO is held on two sites - Wiston House in West Sussex and Capesthorpe Hall in Cheshire. Everyone is welcome to join for an amazing time away with your friends and family, creating memories together that you will never forget. [Click here for details.](#)



## **Rural Ministries Annual Conference - 8-9 June**

Sharing our God led experiences in a missional sense should inspire and encourage us. We should be challenged to view the culture and community that we are part of through God's eyes, how might that change your church mission activities? What might you be led to stop and engaged to start something new? Key Speaker at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick will be the Revd Canon Dave Male, Church of England Director for Evangelism and Discipleship. Cost £90 per person. [Click here for full details.](#)



## **Fresh Streams Theology School - 14-15 June**

Do you wish you had more time to reflect on the key issues of our day? Do you share a passion to do theology well at the coal face of ministry and mission? Would you love to spend two days engaging with eminent theologians who will stretch your thinking, with plenty of time for discussion, interaction, and good food and hospitality? Whether you're a church leader, part of a leadership team, a student, or just interested in theology, you'll love [Summer Theology School 2018.](#)



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

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 (residential) or £75 (non-residential), bursaries available. [Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)



## This month's featured resources:



### Mothering Sunday Resources

Mothering Sunday can be a wonderful and enjoyable day, but for some it can be painful and challenging. This makes it potentially difficult to navigate for church leaders who want to ensure their services are sensitive and engaging. Home for Good has a range of films, articles and other resources available for use in services or through social media, which will help you mark this Day in a sensitive way. Click here to [download the resources](#).



### HOPE at Easter

HOPE has created a new 28-page magazine for churches to give away door-to-door with an invitation to Easter services. **HOPE at Easter is available to pre-order** and will be sent out from CPO at the end of February. Copies are free - donations of 10p a copy are welcome to cover print costs and HOPE covers the other costs. There is a handling and delivery charge based on the quantity ordered.



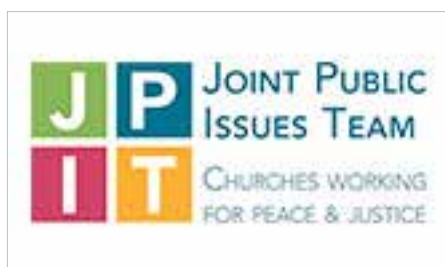
### Faith in Politics

Faith in Politics, an exciting new podcast series that features guests discussing topics from current affairs that link in with faith, has been launched by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). Each monthly episode features lively discussions from the world of politics from a faith viewpoint, and each **30-minute podcast** will be released on the last Thursday of the month and can be downloaded from the JPIT website.



### Effective Communication

Looking for guidance on how to communicate effectively? **CPO have produced these books**, ideal for churches who want to reach their communities, are short on time and need fast relevant advice. We've been given a discount code BAPCOMMS18 which gives 25% off.



### Praxis Newsletter

The Joint Public Issues Team produces their Praxis newsletter every month. Each issue contains news, information about events and resources, and provides opportunities to get involved with the social issues which concern you most. Click here for the **latest edition** where you can also sign up to receive an email each time a new issue is published.



### Persian New Testaments

Elam Ministries is now offering free Persian New Testaments to believers, churches and organisations who are reaching out to Iranians and Afghans in Europe. The goal is to distribute at least 300,000 New Testaments to Persian-speaking refugees in Europe by the end of 2018. The edition that Elam is providing at shipping cost only is the **New Millennium Version (Farsi translation)**, pocket size. To acquire copies or to find out more contact Margretha Poulsen at [margretha@elam.com](mailto:margretha@elam.com).