



Update: December 2018

Dear Friends

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

We have compiled a [list of Advent resources and articles](#) on our website and hope that these will be helpful to you and your church as you journey through Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Please be praying for the debates in Parliament over the next few days as MPs prepare for the vote on Brexit next week.

Could we also remind you that Baptists are being invited to ***nominate the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2020-21***. 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. Full information was sent to all our churches in September. Click here to [find out more about how to nominate someone](#) - please be aware that the ***nomination process will close on 31 December***.

May God bless you in this time of Advent.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team

This month's featured stories:



**Five years of faithfulness -
Filipino International Church
in Newcastle upon Tyne**



**Dark Advent Rising
- from retired Baptist
minister John Rackley**



**Domestic Abuse -
knowing the reality, and
ways churches can respond**

This month's featured resources:



December Prayer Diary

The [December Prayer Diary](#) is now available to download from our website. The particular themes for this month are:

- The London Baptist Association
- World Human Rights Day
- The Faith and Society Team
- A Christmas prayer
- Reflection on the past year and looking ahead to 2019

Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Advent Resources

There are many resources available to help us journey through Advent and prepare us for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We have compiled a list of some of these resources and articles, including the new 'Prepare ye the way' resource from our Joint Public Issues Team, reflections for each Sunday in Advent from the North Western Baptist Association, and Practising for Christmas from the Seventy-two Network. [Click here for details.](#)



BUGB Guide for Supporting Those who have Experienced Abuse

This new guide has been produced to give churches an increased understanding of how they can best support people who have experienced abuse at some point in their life. [Download free of charge](#) from the Safeguarding section of our Resource Library.



Faith and Politics podcast

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Parliamentary Interns produce regular emails in which they interview public figures who straddle the world of faith and politics. November's podcast features Lord Leslie Griffiths, who discusses his career in ministry and politics. Baptist JPIT member Beth Allison-Glenny joins in the monthly musing. [Click here to listen.](#)



Resources from Torch Trust

Torch Trust provides Christian resources and activities for blind and partially sighted people worldwide. Three of our booklets are now available from Torch Trust in large print and braille versions - *Making a Splash*; *Baptism, Belonging and Breaking Bread*; and *Some Words for another Time* - for the same price as the print versions. To place an order, please call Torch on 01858 438260 and speak to a member of its Client Services Team.



Briefing on Universal Credit

Last month, a petition organised by End Hunger UK and signed by 18,000 people was hand-delivered to 10 Downing Street in London. The Joint Public Issues Team is continuing a call to fix Universal Credit, despite the changes allocated in the Budget at the end of October. Read their [two minute briefing](#) here.



Christmas Resources from CPO

CPO have a wide range of resources to help churches prepare for Christmas, including posters, banners, invitations, with space to add your own details and free downloadable social media images. There are also Christmas cards with Bible verses in support of CAP. For [help to inspire your Christmas communications](#) visit the CPO website.



Visual Reflections

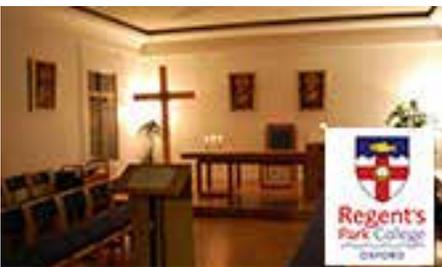
We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. Click here to [find the current selection of images on our Flickr account](#).

This month's featured Baptists Together events:



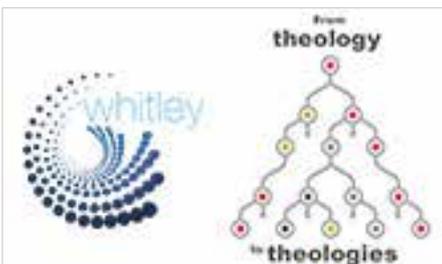
Crucible Course - 2 and 16 February 2019

The 'On the Edge' module is an opportunity to explore the dynamics of marginality in church and culture and to help each other discern ways to respond in different contexts, urban and rural. The course is open to anyone interested in thinking afresh about discipleship, mission and church in a changing context. [More information is available](#) from the Crucible website or from Rachel Jay: rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk



Preaching in a Multicultural Context - Monday 4 February

A day of reflection on theology and practice in partnership with our Racial Justice Hub - at Regent's Park College, Oxford from 10:00 - 15:00. Keynote speakers Lynn Green (Baptists Together General Secretary) and Krish Kandiah (Director of Home for Good). The aim is to help equip those working in or keen to explore a multicultural context. [Click here to book your place](#).



Whitley Lecture - Monday 4 February

The Whitley Lecture was first established in 1949 in honour of WT Whitley (1861–1947), the Baptist minister and historian who was a key figure in the formation of the Baptist Historical Society in 1908. The 2019 Whitley Lecture will be given by Joe Kapolyo at Luther King House in Manchester, starting at 19:00. The title for the lecture is 'From Theology to Theologies' - click here for [more information about this theme](#).



Incarnate Houseparty - 5-7 March

The Incarnate Network's 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. Again the Houseparty will be held at Somersal Cottages in Derbyshire, with prices from £139 including meals and accommodation in shared rooms. Single rooms available at a supplement. Click here for [more information and to book your place](#).



Baptist Assembly - 18-19 May

Save the date to join us for our new-look two-day Baptist Assembly at The International Centre, Telford. **Information will be available from the Baptist Assembly website in January.** We are planning to include some seminars on the Saturday especially for church secretaries, treasurers and deacons/leaders/trustees. Please get these dates in your church diary and encourage your church family to join us.

Other featured events:

Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Regional Conference - 9 February

We don't believe God has finished with his church in the countryside – if you think your church has great potential to impact your community, but lacks the resources, then come to one of our Regional Conferences - the first one will be in Bury St Edmunds, with other locations through 2019. Tickets £20. For **full details and tickets** see the Rural Ministries website.



Other News



Key Messages from Baptist Union Council

Discerning key shared priorities for our next season and exploring a sustainable funding model to enable our vision for mission were among the main discussion points at the latest Baptist Union Council. **Please click here for the Council report, and share it with your church.**



Pastor Poll

For the first time ever, Barna Group are looking to develop a comprehensive and representative Pastor Poll that will twice a year survey church leaders from across the UK on various issues such as beliefs, emotional and spiritual health, and how they can be better equipped to lead their churches. As a Baptist leader, we would love for you to sign up to join the Pastor Poll and ensure your voice is heard. It is expected this will be the largest survey of its kind ever conducted and we want love for you to join us. **Click here to sign up.**



The Zong Voyage

In the summer of 2019 a replica slave ship will visit some of the British ports that were involved in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The Zong Voyage aims to highlight the legacies of slavery present in our society and economy and set in motion a wider project to effect community change. It is being planned in conjunction with local museums, schools, churches and community groups. **Click here for details.**



Church Magazine Awards

The Association for Church Editors is launching its next Awards to celebrate and recognise the work of church magazine editors and their editorial teams. The 2019 Awards are for A5 size magazines using colour printing (on the front cover or throughout), and are open to all Christian denominations. **Click here for more information.**