



## Update: January 2019

Dear Friends

Happy New Year, and welcome to this month's Update full of news and resources for your church.

You may have seen the Fuelcast video of our General Secretary, Lynn Green or heard her speak on Premier Radio on Christmas Day. Another Fuelcast video published on New Year's Day leads us in **prayers for ourselves, our communities, and our world for the new year**. We're encouraged to see how, in spite of difficulties in our world, God is at work and doing a new thing!

The Spring 2019 edition of **Baptists Together magazine**, focusing on women in Baptist ministry, is now available. Three copies will be sent free of charge to our Church Secretaries next week - please look out for these and share them with your church. As usual, **additional copies and subscriptions are available to order from our online shop** - or you can **download a copy from our website**. Perhaps you could encourage a woman in your church who is hearing a call to ministry, by giving her a copy?



As we journey together into 2019 let's reflect on these **words from our prayer diary**  
*Eternal Lord God, we give you thanks for bringing us through the changes of time to the beginning of another year. Forgive us the wrong we have done in the year that is past, and help us to spend the rest of our days to your honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Stephen Keyworth  
Faith and Society Team

### This month's featured stories:



**John Weaver assesses COP24, the latest UN Climate Change Conference**



**Harnessing the talents of local artists to explore life and share faith in Jesus**



**A review of 2018 - which were the most popular Baptist Times articles?**

## This month's featured resources:



### January Prayer Diary

The **January Prayer Diary** is now available to download from our website. The particular themes for this month are:

- The beginning of a new year
- South West Baptist Association
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- BMS World Mission Day of Prayer

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



### Becoming a Mother in Ministry

This new resource is a guide for ministers and churches as they plan together for a year of maternity leave. Clear communication and careful planning will make a big difference to both the minister's and the church's experience during maternity leave. This guide helps to identify all the planning points and provides outlines for the key areas for discussion and communication. [Download free of charge.](#)



### Devotional Videos from The Fuelcast

The Fuelcast is a brand new innovative project bringing you a short but powerful, biblical, devotional video every week day of the year. Hear from a variety of speakers, from a whole mix of churches and organisations, free of charge (donations welcome). Sign up to receive your daily devotional video and access the library of videos. [Click here to find out more and sign up.](#)



### The Resolve Course

Resolve is a four-week course from the Ugly Duckling Company which aims to help people make meaningful change in their lives. It was created for churches to run in the New Year, and so uses the idea of New Year's resolutions as a basis for the course. [Click here to find out more](#) and [order course materials.](#)



### Germinate Leadership 2019

Germinate Leadership is an 18-month programme for lay and ordained leaders in rural churches who have already displayed some creative and entrepreneurial flair in ministry and are keen to develop themselves and their skills. Every part of the programme is rooted in the opportunities and challenges of ministry in rural contexts and fosters a collaborative, ecumenical approach and a culture of continuing personal and professional development. It is open to both lay and ordained people. [Click here for more details and to apply.](#)



### Rural Church Buildings: How to look after, develop and utilise them

Rural church buildings are a major concern for all congregations, but can your building become a blessing rather than a burden? How can you maximise its potential as a tool for mission and no longer seeing it as a money-pit? This **free, fully updated, Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre resource** provides you with a wealth of ideas on how to use your church building creatively.



### Accessible Welcome: A toolkit for rural churches

How accessible is your church? *Accessible Welcome*, a new resource from Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre, is designed to help rural churches work towards ensuring that their church – both the building and their worship – is accessible to all. This guide contains some practical tips to encourage that welcome, and is designed to supplement, not replace, statutory advice regarding work with people with additional needs. [Click here to download the resource.](#)



### Visual Reflections

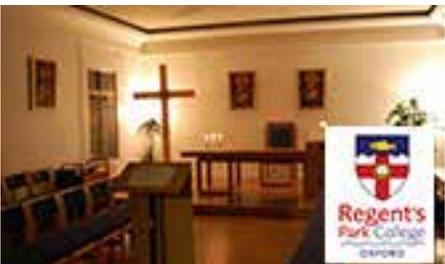
We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. [Click here to find the current selection of images on our Flickr account.](#)

## This month's featured Baptists Together events:



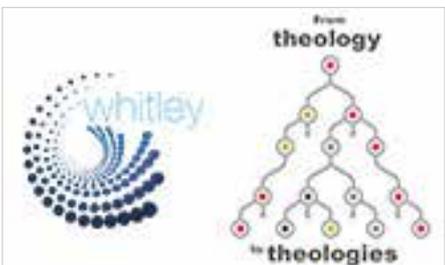
### Crucible Course - 2 and 16 February

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](mailto: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.](#)



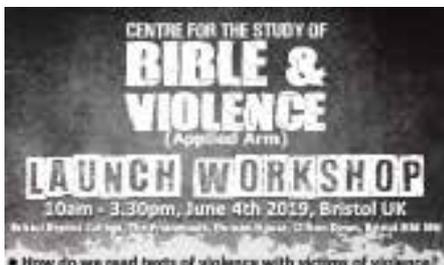
### Incarnate Houseparty - 5-7 March

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 later 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.



### Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence (applied arm) - Tuesday 4 June

This launch event will take the form of a one-day workshop at Bristol Baptist College. There will be short papers for discussion and other round-table discussions in practically relevant matters relating to this broad area of violent scriptural texts or violent scriptural interpretations. The target audience for the workshop is ministers, social activists who are Christians, and interested others. **Click here for details and booking.**

### Other featured events:

#### CRE North - 13 - 14 March

The next Christian Resources Exhibition will be at Event City, Manchester. Close to the Trafford Centre and with free parking for hundreds of cars, it's the ideal venue for Europe's leading annual exhibition of church resources. Advance tickets cost just £4 (saving you 50% on the 'on-the-door' entry price). **Click here to book.**



#### Childhood Spirituality Conference - Saturday 11 May

Booking is now open for the 2019 Childhood Spirituality Conference in Sheffield Cathedral. **More information and the online booking form** can be found on the Godly Play website.



#### Germinate Lecture 2019 - Wednesday 15 May

*Salt, Light and Feet of Clay: Celebrating the ministry of lay people* is for anyone who is interested in the nature and exercise of leadership in the rural church. At King's Park conference centre, Northampton with speaker George Dunn - CEO, Tenant Farmers Association. **Click here for more information and to book.**



### Other News



#### New Year Blood Donation Campaign

Last January over 64,000 people registered to give blood and made giving blood their new year's resolution. This year, the Blood Donation Service is asking people to be part of the amazing group of people who save lives through giving blood. Around one hour of your time could save or improve the lives of up to three people. **Click here to find out more and sign up.**



#### New Pastoral Director for Rural Ministries

Rural Ministries is delighted to announce that Baptist minister Alison Griffiths started as the new Pastoral Director for the South of England on 1 January 2019. Her role at Rural Ministries is part-time enabling her to continue her leadership of Lydney Baptist Church. **Click here for more information.**