



## ***Update: June 2019***

Dear Friends

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

Thank you for your continued prayer and messages of support for our team leader **Stephen Keyworth** and his family. He continues to improve slowly at the rehabilitation unit following a strict regime of physio and occupational therapy. Stephen was even able to visit home for a couple of hours this week. There is still a very long way to go but he is moving in the right direction. He is due over the next few weeks to have a cranioplasty operation. Please continue to pray for Stephen, Liz and his family.

It was great to meet with so many Baptists at the **Baptist Assembly** at the Telford International Centre last month. We hope you had a good time and came away inspired and encouraged. Whether or not you were able to join us, please have a look at the [reports, photos and resources for a flavour of the weekend](#).

There are an estimated 136,000 victims of **Modern Slavery in the UK** and our churches are increasingly coming into contact with victims and survivors. Together Free is a Baptist-based network partnering with Churches to help their communities become Slavery-Free and is holding a national summit in June in Manchester and Oxford. This summit will help churches learn how to work in partnership with local agencies to work towards slavery-free communities. Click here for [more information and booking](#).

Beth, Hilary, Mary, Mike, Paul, Tracey and Wale  
*Faith and Society Team*

### **This month's featured stories:**



**Arabic Community Church  
- mission in Brighton,  
Worthing and Egypt**



**Reports, photos and  
resources from our  
Assembly in Telford**



**Why toddler groups are  
vital to the life and growth  
of the Kingdom of God**

## This month's featured resources:



### June Prayer Diary

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

- National month of prayer for Toddler groups
- Thy Kingdom Come
- The Ministries Team
- London Baptist Association
- Armed Forces Day

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



### Thy Kingdom Come

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost (from 30 May - 9 June) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. **Download prayers and ideas to help you pray** as an individual, with your family and as a church or small group from the Thy Kingdom Come website.



### Exploring Baptism Together

How do you support children who have expressed a desire to be baptised, having come to faith? Baptist minister Ricky Rew has developed some children's worksheets and a booklet to work through together (both children and a parent each in one session) to explore baptism. Click here **for more information and to download these resources**.



### A Church that Cares

Most churches want to provide excellent pastoral care and become communities where disabled people and their families can belong and contribute, but many don't quite know where to start. Christian charity Through the Roof has just released its latest publication, 'A Church That Cares - What does good pastoral care look like for families affected by disability?' full of concrete suggestions and examples to make the task seem less daunting. **Click here for details, and to order**.



### Encouraging Communication

Following a sudden death in a family at Rayleigh Baptist Church, minister Ricky Rew produced a set of cards to help the family communicate as they grieve. The idea is for a child/young person (or parent) to complete the card highlighting a particular feeling/frustration then hand it to a family member/friend to inform them how they're feeling and allow them to respond appropriately. Click here **for more information and to order the cards**.



### 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**.



### **The Church Comms Improvement Project**

Do you ever walk past a church notice board that makes you want to weep? Have you looked for a local church online and found its website impossible to navigate or non-existent? The church has a world-changing message of hope to communicate and sometimes the way it communicates just isn't up to scratch. Anyone can **nominate a church for communication support** for the value of between £50 and £1000. The deadline for nominations is 17:00 on 30 June. The decision will be made by a panel at CPO based on the application.



### **New Play 'Irreversible' - looking for venues**

Nissi Company is a Brazilian art ministry formed by young volunteers who have been travelling all over Brasil and other countries for 19 years, using art as a tool to preach the gospel and to bring social inclusion. One of their teams will be in London in August and September with the new play 'Irreversible' about second chances - teaching about what God does in your life today and what he wants to do tomorrow. They are looking for church venues to show one of their plays (English and Portuguese languages available). Contact Eduardo Lopes at [Eduardo.agendanissi@gmail.com](mailto:Eduardo.agendanissi@gmail.com) for more information.



### **Journey of the Magi - looking for venues**

Share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your church and local community through the critically acclaimed performance Journey of the Magi. Inspired by TS Eliot's poem, it reminds us not only of the famous journey the wise men made following the star to Jesus, but also of the 'journey' each of us makes every year in preparing for Christmas day. Springs Dance Company is inviting churches to host a performance of Journey of the Magi. Click here **for more information and to express interest** in hosting a performance.



### **Growing Lives Grants Funding**

The All Churches Trust's new grants programme, *Growing Lives*, aims to help churches and Christian organisations to connect with children and young people and forge lasting links with families in their local area. It will enhance their support for churches and groups looking to build local partnerships through projects focused on improving the lives of young people (aged 0 to 18) and encouraging church growth as young people discover faith for themselves and begin to play an active part in church communities. Grants of up to £25,000 are available.

## **This month's featured Baptists Together events:**



### **Visual Thinking - Monday 10 June**

This intensive one-day workshop at Wokingham Baptist Church is all about unlocking our potential to think visually so we can enhance our ability to communicate better with colleagues and church partners, capture concepts and ideas and bring a fresh approach to how we work and express ourselves. Contact the SCBA office for more details [office.administrator@scba.org.uk](mailto:office.administrator@scba.org.uk)



### Let's Beat Knives - Saturday 15 June

In a visual and vocal public action, several hundred members of the East London community will take knives seized from the streets of Newham and melt them down to make new garden tools and a sculpture for display in the community garden on 15 June. The event is part of the launch of Red Letter Christians UK, a new non-denominational network of Christians. It is hosted by Dr Sally Mann, Pastor of Bonny Downs Baptist Church. Shane Claiborne will be special guest speaker. The event is open to all. [Click here for details and free registration.](#)



### The Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence Academic Symposium - Monday 17 June

One of the aims of this new Centre is to promote postgraduate research in the broad field of Bible and violence; and conversation among scholars of different faiths, nationalities and disciplines who are working in related areas. The Centre is now inviting submissions for its launch symposium (academic arm). For this inaugural meeting, all scholarly research papers on the broad subject of Bible and Violence will be considered. [Click here for details of the symposium and information about submitting a paper.](#)



### Modern Slavery National Summit - 26 June (Manchester) | 27 June (Oxford)

Hosted with Together Free, this summit will help churches learn how to work in partnership with local agencies to make communities slavery-free. The event will include a keynote address from Kevin Hyland, (former first Independent Antislavery Commissioner for the UK) and input from Emily Chalke (founder of Ella's Home and Together Free), Dan Pratt (Founder of Together Free and Antislavery Coordinator for the Eastern Baptist Association) along with Baptist churches and colleges responding to Modern Slavery. [Click here for details.](#)



### Firestarters - various dates - October, November

Following last year's eight events, a new series of Firestarter conversations have been scheduled for 2019. Firestarter conversations explore Baptist church growth - hear stories of growing Baptist churches, attend interactive seminars on factors influencing church growth, reflect and discuss your own church and its future growth. The next event will be in Stafford on 1-2 October. [Click here for more details.](#)



### Sam Sharpe Lecture - 22 Oct (London - fully booked) | 24 Oct (Birmingham)

We are delighted that this year's Sam Sharpe Lecture will be delivered by Professor Verene Shepherd (Professor of Social History at the University of the West Indies in Mona and Director of the University's Institute for Gender and Development Studies) on the theme of Reparations. [Click here for more information and book your free place.](#) Please note that, whilst the **London lecture is fully booked**, you are welcome to [add your name to the waiting list](#) on our website, in case of any cancellations. Spaces are still available in Birmingham.

## Other featured events:

### National Month of Prayer for toddler groups – June 2019

This annual prayer focus encourages churches to pray for the work of their toddler groups as they reach out to serve the needs of families in the local community. This year's theme is 'From a little seed' from the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32). In the month of prayer, let's pray that they will be places where children, parents and carers can find a welcome, encounter the love of God and find a place to 'make their nests'. [Click here for resources.](#)



### Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer - Sunday 9 June

The BWA Youth World Day of Prayer is an annual event held on the second Sunday in June. This year's theme is 'Living Out The Gospel' based on the Singapore Declaration which calls Baptist young people to commit themselves to live as G.O.S.P.E.L. people. [Click here for details and to download resources.](#)



### Father's Day - Sunday 16 June

Home for Good wants to equip churches to be great places for anyone to come to on Father's Day – whatever their experience of fatherhood. Their [resources for Father's Day 2019](#) give the opportunity to celebrate the fathers and father-figures who have demonstrated and helped us to understand more of God's amazing Father-love shown through his adoption of us, using Ephesians 1:4-6.



### Love Britain + Ireland Awards

Premier's Love Britain + Ireland Awards return this summer, celebrating outstanding Christian organisations that are making an impact in their local communities. The events will be held between 18 June and 2 July in Belfast, Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Croydon, Exeter, Glasgow and Scotch Corner. [Click here to find out more about the awards](#)



### Refugee Week - 17-23 June

Help change the way we see refugees, and ourselves. For Refugee Week 2019 you're invited to do one of seven new (or revitalised!) Simple Acts, inspired by the theme 'You, me or those who came before'. [Simple Acts](#) are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities.



### Climate Mass Lobby - Wednesday 26 June

From across the UK, Christians will be gathering at Westminster to declare that '[The Time is Now](#)' for action on climate change. Can you join in? It will be a clear message to our politicians about our concern for our world, a celebration of our faith in action and an opportunity to pray together and encourage each other despite the challenges we face.



### Embrace the Middle East Annual Lecture - Thursday 4 July

Join us this July for a challenging and thought-provoking lecture at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, that explores the truth spoken by Bishop Thomas of Qussia, that 'The age of martyrs is not over.' Embrace patrons, Timothy Radcliffe, OP and His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, OBE, will tackle the theme of martyrdom in the Middle East at this year's event, from 18:30-19:30. [Click here for details.](#)



## Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Regional Conferences - various dates

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 these Regional Conferences. The next one will be at Mount Zion Church, Cliviger on Saturday 6 July. Tickets £20. [For full details and booking for all dates and venues](#) see the Rural Ministries website.



## How to Mission - 8-10 July

Think about your community in a new way. Learn from and with the World Church. Be a part of what God is doing around the world. *How to Mission* is a global conversation about local mission, hosted by BMS in Birmingham. Day tickets available. [Click here for details and to book your place.](#)



## British and Irish Association for Practical Theology (BIAPT) - 8-11 July

BIAPT conferences are for those who care about how Christian belief and practice inform each other. Delegates from many different backgrounds with an interest in theology and practice, including those in various denominational and ministry roles, as well as theological colleges and universities are welcome. [Click here for details of this conference in Liverpool.](#)



## Fusion Conference - 29-31 August

Is your church involved in student ministry? "The student mission field is larger now than at any other time in history and this is our watch!" The destiny of a generation is at stake and the Fusion conference is a gathering for students and stakeholders. Join students, student workers and church leaders; as we participate in what God is doing across the student world. See the [Fusion 2019 conference website](#) for details.



## Christian Resources Exhibition - 15-17 October

CRE returns to Sandown Park this autumn for a three-day exhibition. There is already a full line-up of exhibitors, and details of the seminar programme will be available in September. CRE National 2019 will offer fresh ideas, products and suppliers to local churches and ministers. Advance tickets cost just £4 - saving 50% on the 'on-the-door' entry price. [Click here for details and to book your ticket.](#)

