



Update: October 2019

Dear Friends

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

As October is **Black history month** we have compiled a **selection of resources, events and articles** to help Baptists to reflect and mark this month. This includes the new edition of *Wonderful Youth* - five sessions for young people aged 13-16 to explore the theme of 'No Outsiders' using culturally diverse images, exercises and activities. This resource has been developed by members of two multicultural British Baptist churches. We are also looking forward to our 8th annual *Sam Sharpe lecture* being given by Professor Verene Shepherd this month - see below for booking.

Freedom of Religion or Belief was a key theme at the 2019 **Council of the European Baptist Federation** (EBF), last week, which also highlighted 'impulses of hope' across the region. See the Baptist Times article below for a report of the EBF Council held in Glasgow.

This Update also includes a number of seasonal resources which we hope will be useful to your church.

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

This month's featured stories:



Social justice and deliverance ministry in the Baptist church - Jayne Irlam



'By God's grace may we be a people of hope' - report from EBF



Free Church Chaplaincy at the University of Bristol supporting students

News:

Presidential Nominations

Nominations for Baptist Union President 2021-22

Baptists are being invited to ***nominate the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2021-22***. 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***.

BSG Update

Key messages from our Baptist Steering Group

Our Baptist Steering Group met together with the National Settlement Team, Regional Minister Team Leaders and BUGB Trustees in mid-September. Click here for the **key communications from their meeting** - please share this with your church.

This month's featured resources:



October Prayer Diary

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

- Southern Counties Baptist Association
- Freedom Sunday
- Prisons Week
- South Wales Baptist Association

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



Wonderful Youth 2019

This year's *Wonderful Youth* resource on the theme of 'No outsiders' has been created for Black History Month (October) to empower young people between the ages of 13 and 16 to become 'The best that you can be'. Please let your youth leaders know about this new five-session resource which is **available to download free of charge** and use with young people in your church.



Talking Jesus

Autumn is a great time to start a new course as a church or homegroup. The Talking Jesus course helps Christians grow together as they share their stories with each other, often for the first time - boosting confidence to talk about Jesus in everyday life. There are six video-based sessions with inspirational testimonies, real-life examples from people who are talking Jesus, and a short, easy-to-follow course book. **Click here for details.**



Hospitality and Sanctuary for All

Churches should be welcoming places of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. There are excellent initiatives being taken today by churches and church groups building welcome, hospitality and sanctuary alongside refugees and those seeking sanctuary. The ***Hospitality and Sanctuary for All resource*** has more information and guidelines for becoming a Church of Sanctuary.



Light Parties

Light Parties are a great way for churches to engage with their local communities, building relationships and having the opportunity to share the gospel. Scripture Union's free pack contains a new mix of ideas for games, crafts and ways to share the good news of Jesus at Halloween - and includes party plans for children, youth and all-age events. Click here to [order your pack and download extra resources](#).



Pumpkin Heroes

World Vision's free Christian alternative for Halloween is ready! Pumpkin Heroes includes a new story and film - Patch the Pumpkin and the Peace Club, with new games, crafts and activities too. This year the theme of Peace and Friendship also gives children aged 4-10 the chance to make and send Buddy Bracelets to children living in refugee camps where World Vision works. [Register now to access the resources](#).



Resources for Remembrance Sunday

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have some resources for Remembrance Sunday available to download or order, including an order of service, PowerPoint presentations and free ebook versions of *Beyond Our Tears: Resources for Times of Remembrance*. [Click here for details](#).



Stir up a Pud

Looking for new ways to connect with your community? Retired Baptist minister, Derek Allan introduces an idea that combines Christmas pudding and conversation. Stir up a Pud is an evening event just prior to Advent to which church members can invite contacts to come and mix their Christmas pudding, enjoy some fun and hear a simple presentation of the Good News. Click here to [find out how to put on a Stir up a Pud outreach event](#).



The Real Advent Calendar

This year's fairtrade Advent Calendar comes with a 24 page Christmas story-activity book illustrated by Martina Peluso. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way. The calendar is foiled for freshness and behind each of the 25 windows is part of the Christmas story and a delicious festive-shaped Fairtrade milk chocolate. [Click here for details and to order](#).



Positive Church Publicity

If you are thinking of publicising your Christmas services, have a look at 'Good Direct'. Set up by a number of experienced Christian graphic designers, they have produced posters, flyers, bookmarks and banners which can be overprinted with your own wording to help you reach out to your neighbourhood. They also supply materials for Easter as well as for other times of the year, youth material and much more. Just [visit their website](#) to see what's in store!



Resolve

Resolve is a four-week course exploring what it means to enact positive change in your life. Originally commissioned by the Diocese of Chelmsford, the course is designed to be used by churches in the New Year. Explore the topics of looking after your body, strengthening your mind, inspiring your soul, deepening your relationships. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Hope Spaces

In 2020, 24-7 Prayer and HOPE Together invite you to unite as local churches to host a creative, public prayer space. Invite your community to experience God through talking and listening to him in prayer. Imagine, all over the country, people meeting the God of hope in schools, work places, high streets, gardens and unexpected public places. Will you offer your community a place they can meet God in prayer? [Click here to find out more and register your interest.](#)

This month's featured Baptists Together events:



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 Gerrards Cross on 16-17 October. [Click here for more details.](#)



Crucible Course - various dates starting 19 October

The fifteenth year of the Crucible course begins this autumn, with modules for the first time available in four different cities – London, Exeter, Manchester and Southampton. *After Christendom* will be taught in Manchester and Southampton and *Restoring Hope* will be taught in Exeter and London. It's open to anyone interested in thinking afresh about discipleship, mission and church in a changing context. [Click here for more information](#) or go to www.cruciblecourse.org.uk or contact Rachel Jay: rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk



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

We are delighted that this year's Sam Sharpe Lecture will be delivered by Professor Verene Shepherd (Social historian and Director of the Centre for Reparation Research at the University of the West Indies Regional Headquarters) on the theme of Reparations. [Click here for more information and book your free place in London and Birmingham.](#)



Inter Faith Day - Saturday 2 November

Easy First Steps... in meeting your neighbours of other faiths is open to anyone who is interested in discovering what we hold in common with our neighbours from across the faiths. Organised in partnership with the URC, it will be taking place in London in November, and West Yorkshire on 14 March 2020. [For more information](#), see our website and email Carole to book your place on carole.sired@urc.org.uk



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer - Mon 4 November

The 2019 Day of Prayer programme has been prepared by the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union. The theme is *Arise and Shine through Service*. A suggested order of service with resources for worship and prayer has been prepared for British churches and **is available to download from our Resource Library**.



JPIT National Conference - Saturday 7 March 2020

JPIT's 2020 national conference ***Renewal and Rebellion: faith, economy and climate*** invites you to join in looking at the big challenges we all face – rethinking economic structures and taking radical steps towards climate justice, and how we can all act to change them – in faith, for people and for planet. Speakers include: Ed Miliband, MP and co-host of 'Reasons to be Cheerful' podcast, Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, and Ross Greer, Green MSP. **Click here to find out more**.



Baptist Assembly - 8-10 May 2020

We are looking forward to Baptist Assembly being in Bournemouth next year. As it is now a Bank Holiday weekend, we will be gathering on the Friday evening for an opening celebration and finishing around lunchtime on Sunday. We really hope you will be able to join us. We encourage you to book your accommodation early - we have been able to negotiate some **special rates at selected hotels** in close proximity to the venue through **Reservation Highway**. **More details of the event** will be posted on the Assembly website as soon as they are available.

Other featured events:

End Hunger UK Week of Action - 11-18 October

Local groups are being asked to take part in a simple photo stunt. The idea is to raise awareness of the challenge to all political parties to set out an action plan for ending UK food poverty by 2030. This will involve using photos of groups of people, for example on local landmarks, holding a message: 'End UK Hunger – What's the Plan?' **Sign up to take part on the End Hunger UK website**.



Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Regional Conference - 12 October

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 needs some help, then come to this conference in Kilmington, Devon. Tickets £20. For **full details and tickets see the Rural Ministries website**.



Churches Welcoming Refugees - 12 October

'Welcome churches' will be hosting a day in London to allow churches to be inspired and equipped as they welcome refugees. As the Church, we need to be ready to respond to the practical and spiritual needs of the people arriving in our communities. **Click here for details and to book your place**.



Festival of Church Music - 12 October

The Free Church Choirs 'In Harmony' will be singing at the Festival of Church Music starting at 18:30 at Guildford Cathedral. Admission free. Click here for **details of the Free Church Choirs**.



Advance 2020 - 12 October

The Advance 2020 Summit is a special, one-day event in Birmingham, to encourage and equip each of us to take the gospel to our country on an unprecedented scale throughout 2020. Speakers include Ravi Zacharias, Celia Apegyei-Collins, Roy Crowne, Rachel Jordan-Wolf, Kevin Palau, Gavin Calver, Yemi Adedeji, Andy Hawthorne and Ben Jack. [Find out more and book here.](#)



Homeless Sunday - 13 October

Homeless Sunday has been part of the Christian calendar for more than a quarter of a century. It is an opportunity for churches of all denominations and people of all faiths to unite and show solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and to reflect and plan practical action on homelessness. The focus this year is 'The impact of volunteering on the volunteer'. [Click here for resources.](#)



Prisons Week - 13-20 October

For forty years, Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons. [Click here for more information and prayers.](#)



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. [CRE are offering Baptists Together free tickets by using this link to book.](#)



Anti-Slavery Day - 18 October

Every year around the UK churches and faith communities raise awareness of modern slavery and encourage people to take action. This includes taking part on Anti-Slavery Day and on Freedom Sunday (20 October). The Clewer Initiative has produced some [useful resources to help churches](#) mark this. Also [have a look at the Together Free website](#) for more information.



Bible Sunday - 27 October

Bible Sunday has long been celebrated by the Church, and Bible Society have created some [easy-to-use resources](#) to help you celebrate with your whole church family. They include a fully written sermon on Psalm 119:129-136, sermon notes so you can more easily adapt the talk to suit your experiences, a poster to promote your event, a donation form for those wanting to support Bible mission across the globe, and activities for Junior Church groups.



Inter Faith Week - 10-17 November

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has launched the 2019 Inter Faith Week programme. It provides a tremendous opportunity to highlight the contribution of faith groups to society, and to encourage bridging beliefs and backgrounds in our local communities. The Inter Faith Week website contains a number of [useful planning resources.](#)



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18-25 January 2020

Next year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity needs some forward planning!

The service resources which have been prepared are well suited to involve schools/children. To take the best advantage of this mission and evangelisation opportunity, please do **start now** to contact your local schools or drama group and ask them to help you make the service as vibrant as possible. See the **resources available from the CTBI website** - in particular the ideas on page 12.

