



## ***Update: January 2020***

Dear Friends

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first edition of Update for 2020 with information, resources and events which we hope will be of interest to you.

Church secretaries and ministers will be soon be receiving copies of the Spring 2020 edition of ***Baptists Together*** magazine. With a theme of 'All are welcome here' it features Baptist churches which are being intentional in their hospitality - enabling all to feel welcome and develop a genuine sense of belonging. It includes helpful guidance on ways that churches can enhance the welcome they provide. Please look out for your copies and distribute them to the Church Treasurer and share with your church.

We have received nominations for the **Baptist Union President** to succeed Yinka Oyekan in 2021 - Church Secretaries and ministers will be receiving information about the candidates later this month so that your church can engage with the discernment and election process.

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

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



**Aslan: a ministry for those with additional needs at Tonbridge Baptist Church**



**Pulborough Brooks Baptist Church - a visible presence in its community**



**The most read national news stories from the Baptist Times in 2019**

## News:



### Election for Baptist Union President 2021-22

Nominations for the President of the Baptist Union 2021-22 have now closed. Details of those who have been nominated will be sent to every church and minister before the end of January. We would like as many as possible to be involved with the process of discernment, so please look out for this email, and share the profiles with your Church Meeting. Voting this year will primarily be online and will be open until 31 March.



### Report from Baptist Steering Group

There was an emphasis on prayer at the latest Baptist Steering Group / All Team Leaders gathering in November. This included a reminder of some of the prophetic insight that has been shared with Baptists Together over recent years. Click here for the [key messages from the gathering](#) to share with your church.



### Keeping in touch with Baptists Together

As part of Baptists Together, there are a number of ways to keep in touch. [Staying Connected](#) is a resource designed to be shared in church. It aims to help enable those who know very little about Baptists Together to find out more and connect to the wider family. Please print and share on your notice board. Please also [encourage your church members to sign up](#) to receive our regular emails.



### Baptists Together magazine - Spring 2020

The Spring edition of our magazine will be sent out to churches during the next week, along with two copies of *Transform 54* - containing important information for church leaders and officers. *Transform 54* and [previous editions of this resource](#) are available to download from our website. Church Secretaries are asked to pass on these resources to the Church Treasurer.



### Sermon of the Year 2020

Preachers are invited to submit 1,500 words on the theme of *Made by God* to Sermon of the Year 2020 which has been launched by *Preach* magazine. The event is open to everyone, of all denominations and none. Entries are welcome from those aged 18 or over – in 2019 the youngest entrant was 18 and the oldest was 87. Get scribbling as entries must be sent to [editor@lwpt.org.uk](mailto:editor@lwpt.org.uk) by midnight, Sunday 23 February. Click here [for more information](#). Join the membership scheme to [receive four copies of Preach magazine a year](#).

## This month's featured resources:



### January Prayer Diary

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

- Advance 2020 year of mission
- North Western Baptist Association
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Holocaust Memorial Day

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



## Training Courses from the Additional Needs Alliance

'*All Inclusive?*' is three essential seminars for church leaders, youth and children's leaders, parents, teachers, and anyone who cares about children and young people with additional needs or disabilities.

- *Working with children and young people with special or additional needs or disabilities* - Accessibility, inclusion and belonging for all
- *Making sense of our senses* - Exploring eight of our senses and sensory additional needs and disabilities including Sensory Processing Disorder
- *Disability equality* - Understanding the Equality Act and how it applies to all children's and youth work. Click here [for details, to find a local seminar or to offer to host one.](#)



## DNA - a Christian 'gap year' for all ages

DNA is a year-long, church-based discipleship journey running from September - July each year. DNA has just begun its 23rd year, preceded by 10 years (87-97) as training in evangelism (Tie) Teams, 1300+ potential leaders trained and transformed! A new model for 2020 will bring DNA in reach of anyone called to do it. We are about to become much more accessible, more flexible and more creative. Click here for the [new promo video to find out more](#) or [sign up for a taster day.](#)



## 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 - January - April

The Crucible course is open to anyone interested in thinking afresh about discipleship, mission and church in a changing context. Between January and April the Crucible teams will be teaching two modules:

- '*On the Edge*' – mission and ministry in marginal urban and rural contexts (Manchester and Southampton).
- '*Becoming Human*' – exploring the dynamics of Jesus-centred discipleship (Exeter and London).

Click here [for more information or to book your place](#), or contact Rachel Jay: [rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk](mailto:rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk)



## JPIT National Conference - Saturday 7 March

JPIT's 2020 national conference in Derby ***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.](#)





## Inter Faith Day - Saturday 14 March

*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 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](mailto:carole.sired@urc.org.uk)



## Baptist Assembly - 8-10 May

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**. **Booking will open later in January** on the Assembly website.

## Other featured events:

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

#### 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.



### Disability Inclusion in our Churches - various dates Feb and March

Many churches struggle with the right language, welcome and inclusion for people living with disability so Christian charity, Through the Roof, is organising one-day workshops to help. These events will offer new ideas and resources, and share powerful stories of how God is being glorified through disabled people...stories the whole church needs to hear. **Click here for more information**.



### Christian Resources Exhibition - 4-5 March

CRE returns to Stoneleigh Park this Spring for a two-day exhibition, which is your one-stop shop for church supplies, resources and ideas. **CRE are offering Baptists Together free tickets by using this link to book**.



### Faith in the Second Half - 4-7 May

Whether you are firmly in later life, have retired recently, or are reflecting on life now your children have left home, this conference (from Keswick Ministries, partnering with Faith in Later Life) in the beautiful Lake District aims to provide teaching and insight into a variety of aspects of later life. From thinking about your own purpose, to how to engage older people in your community, or care for someone with dementia, there will be lots to take away. **Click here for details**.

