



Update: August 2020

Dear Friends

Welcome to our August round-up!

Our hope is that you will get some rest this month and find moments of unexpected blessing. There is so much we could share with you and below you will find a small selection of the ideas, resources and stories that may help a little in the mission to which God has called you in this season.

As we reflect on how we might walk with you this August we are drawn back to our knees. We are drawn into the disciples' story as they walked with Jesus and watched him pray:

We watched awhile as you withdrew to pray. We watched and wanted to follow... but it was hard. We sat and waited while you prayed, we sat and wanted to follow... but it was hard.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray in the storm, in these uncertain times.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we wade through the risk assessments and reams of changing advice.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we look at our friends who seem to have everything sorted and all going well.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we scroll through our phones, through the newsfeeds, Twitter, Facebook and more.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we fear for the future, even though we know we should hope for today.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray in the dark of the night when sleep never comes and our thoughts are all mangled.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as walk in community. As we see the young man curled up on the bench and glimpse sadness in the young woman's eyes.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we decide the wrong from the right.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray, to listen, to sit in the stillness and breathe in the depth of your love.

Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray, to lift up your name and to call for your Kingdom to come here on your earth.

Diane, Hilary, Jane, Mary, Mat, Mike, Paul, Steve and Wale
Faith and Society Team

This month's featured stories:



'When the people can't come in, the message must be out'- Ryde Baptist Church

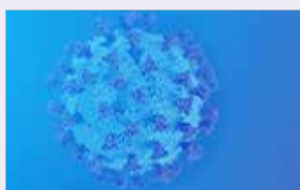


'Extraordinary acts of kindness' shown by ordinary people during lockdown



Improving mental and spiritual health, digitally - as more access faith online

News:



Coronavirus Guidance

The Government has announced changes to the regulations regarding the opening of places of worship, and on 29 June released **detailed guidance for churches in England** related to this. We are continually updating our guidelines for churches to reflect the latest guidance and ensure that everyone is kept safe. Please see the **Essential Guidance area** of our website for **information about re-opening church buildings**, a **template for risk assessment** and **guidance on church worship**. Our **Guide for churches as employers** has also been updated in light of Government guidance.



Baptists Together Magazine and Annual Review

Ministers and Church Secretaries should now have received a copy of the Summer 2020 *Baptists Together* magazine along with our Annual Review for 2019.

Additional copies of the magazine are available to order from our online shop as usual. You can also **order extra copies of the Annual Review free of charge** from our online shop - and the full Annual Report is available to download from our website at www.baptist.org.uk/annualreport



Deposit Account

Please accept our apologies that there is an error in the Deposit Account advert in the printed version of *Baptists Together* magazine. The interest rates have changed, and the wrong advert was included in the printed version. The Current Rates are 1.00% on 1 year fixed rate deposit, 0.45% on 3 month notice account and 0.20% on 7 day notice account. These rates are subject to regular review. **For the latest figures, please check our website.**



Young Christian Climate Network

We were really excited to see Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) launch at the beginning of August! This new network is an action-focused community of Christians in the UK aged 18-30, choosing to follow Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice. Go and follow them across social media, and if you know any Christians in the 18-30 bracket who are looking to act on climate change, put them in touch with the network or make an introduction via hello@yccn.uk !

This month's featured resources:



August Prayer Diary

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

- East Midland Baptist Association
- International Youth Day
- The Core Leadership Team
- Baptist Colleges
- The Joint Public Issues Team

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



Baptists Together Webinars

The last few months have seen enormous changes to the life of local church communities. We have been offering a range of webinars for churches on practical and more reflective topics. Recordings of each one are available on our website if you missed them. To access the recordings, please use the link www.baptist.org.uk/coronawebinars



New resources from Anna Chaplaincy for Older People

Anna Chaplaincy has published a series of five booklets offering practical help and guidance to carers providing spiritual support to older people or others in residential care. The aim of these guides is to give you the confidence and skills to enable those in your care not only to cope emotionally and spiritually but even to thrive, despite challenging circumstances. [Find the series at brfonline.org.uk](http://brfonline.org.uk)



10 reads for your summer

Last year Andy Goodliff offered 10 possible books to read over the summer. This year our summer is looking somewhat different, but if you have any time to read, here are ten more books that will stimulate faith. Have a [look at Andy's recommendations](#) on our website.



Renew Wellbeing

Renew Wellbeing helps churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion in partnership with mental health teams to improve mental and emotional wellbeing. While the Renew spaces are closed temporarily due to the Covid-19 outbreak they have produced some online training for churches looking at setting up an online Renew Community with a view to opening an actual Renew space once restrictions have been removed. [Click here to find out more](#). During the lockdown, **Ruth Rice** has also been offering a 'daily dose' video with thoughts and prayers, which are available on her Vimeo channel.



A Wellbeing Menu for the Church

During this difficult time, many people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. This document, compiled by Ruth Rice of Renew Wellbeing, highlights some of the organisations which can offer support to churches as they decide how to engage in the arena of mental and emotional health. [Click here to download the document](#).



Racial Justice webinars

We've hosted or worked alongside Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to host a series of Racial Justice webinars in the past few weeks to inform and raise awareness of racial justice issues. If you missed them, all are available to view on our website at: www.baptist.org.uk/multiculturalevents



missional adventure

The #missionaladventure web portal is a new area of our website which is the place for you to discover a world of missional opportunities for you and your church... With ideas to inspire you, training to equip you, and networks to connect you, all just a click away! The team is building up a bank of **100 missional adventure stories**, and stories 11-20 have just been added to the website. Have a look at this new area of our website at www.baptist.org.uk/missionaladventure.



msm online course - starting September 2020

mission shaped ministry online is a one-year part-time learning journey in a supportive online community which will equip you for a lifetime of good practice and learning in planting and sustaining fresh expressions of church. The course runs over 15 Monday evenings, and will be hosted by Simon Goddard. [Click here to find out more.](#)



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 online events:



Baptists Together Prayer Broadcasts - 19:00 Wednesday

Since the coronavirus restrictions came into force, we have been offering an online time of prayer led by our General Secretary Lynn Green and other guests. During August these are being held every Wednesday evening at 19:00. [Please use the link www.baptist.org.uk/prayerbroadcasts](http://www.baptist.org.uk/prayerbroadcasts) to publicise these prayer broadcasts to your church family. Previous broadcasts are also available to watch from the same page on our website.



In the Midst of Life, We are in Death: Black Women therefore Must Breathe - Friday 28 August

Professor Cheryl Townsend Gilkes is the Professor of African-American Studies and Sociology and Director of the African American Studies Program at Colby College (Waterville, Maine). She will be exploring why black women must breathe. This one-hour session will begin at 14:00. [Please click here to join the webinar](#), which is being organised by the Sam Sharpe Partners.



Small Church Connexion Webinar - Saturday 12 September

Are you part of a small church? Join in this 2-hour webinar starting at 10:00 to hear from speakers on Connecting – UP (with God), IN (with church - with and without tech) and OUT (with the community); Going back into the building; The new normal - How might you do church differently in the future? What has God been saying to us about our call? Are we in the right place? Is mission our priority? There will be an opportunity to discuss these topics in break out groups. Please register your place by contacting Hilary Taylor at: hilary.taylor@tiscali.co.uk



COVID-19 and BAME - Tuesday 29 September

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Britons have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 virus. Figures show that while BAME people make up only 14 percent of Britain's population, they account for 35 percent of all coronavirus patients in intensive care. This one-hour webinar, beginning at 19:30, is being jointly hosted with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and will feature speakers: Dr Chi-Chi, Dr Vivienne Lyfar-Cisse and Wale Hudson-Roberts. [Click here for more details.](#)