



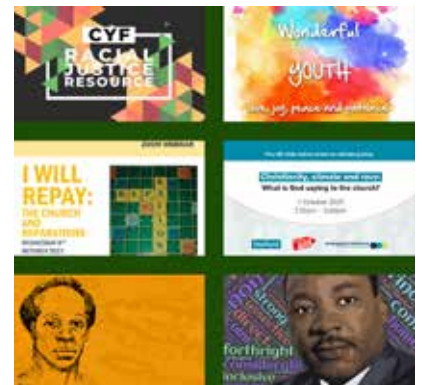
Update: October 2021

Dear Friends

Welcome to this month's Update email, with a wealth of news, resources and events.

Black History Month has been celebrated in Britain every October for nearly 20 years, highlighting and celebrating the achievements of black communities and uncovering their hidden history.

As Baptist Christians, we are called to speak positively into the racial justice issues which were highlighted so clearly during 2020 following the death of George Floyd. Amongst the range of materials listed below are several resources and events which will help you and your church engage with racial justice – not only in Black History Month, but throughout the year. The new *CYF Racial Justice Resource* and this year's edition of *Wonderful Youth* will be of particular interest to those working with children and young people. We also highlight four events taking place this month - *I will repay* (6 October), *Christianity, Climate and Race* (7 October), the *Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture* (21 October) and *60 years on* (29 October). Look out too for a new area of our website highlighting the Racial Justice Advocacy Forum - being launched soon.



We hope that you and your church community will be blessed by the information and ideas you find below.

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



“Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”
John 13:34 (*The Message*)



This month's featured stories:



'An attractive place of freshness and light' - a major refurbishment of East Leake Baptist Church



Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26 - a call to Government from UK faith leaders



'Pray for Burma' - A Baptist church bringing the plight of Burmese Christians to its local community

News:



Baptist Union Council - a request from the new Moderator

The next Baptist Union Council takes place on 13-14 October, when there will be space to hear, reflect and celebrate how Baptists have responded in the pandemic. New Council moderator Seidel Abel Boanerges is encouraging churches to share their story. [Click here to find out more about Seidel, the work of Council and this request for stories.](#)



Prayer Broadcast from Baptist Union Council - 13 October

Join in prayer with our Council during the evening of their meeting - starting at 19:00 on Wednesday 13 October. Our prayers will be led by General Secretary Lynn Green and recently retired General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation, Tony Peck. Please encourage your church to join in with this prayer broadcast - [click here to access the broadcast.](#)



Grants for churches from Baptist Building CIO

Baptist Building CIO has announced its latest round of Empowering Change Fund grants with a deadline of 30 November 2021. The grants are aimed at small scale standalone building projects for smaller churches (often in rural or deprived urban areas) where the involvement of Baptist Building CIO will make a big difference. [Click here for more details.](#)



Coronavirus Guidance

Whilst the vast majority of the previous legal requirements have been removed, we recommend that it is both sensible and appropriate for churches to continue to take some measures to limit the spread of Covid-19. Churches have a responsibility to protect their staff, congregations, communities, and other users of their buildings. However, it is now down to each church to determine for itself what these measures should be. Our main guidance documents have been updated with suggestions of questions that churches should now consider and recommendations of best practice. We continue to monitor and review going forward for both England and Wales. [Please keep checking our website for the latest information.](#)



Storage of a prayer tent

Steve Ford has contacted us as he is looking for a church to provide storage of a large marquee-style tent used for Gospel mission throughout the UK. The storage area needed is about 7m x 2.5m x 1m. For more information, please contact Steve on stevefordpilgrim@gmail.com

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:

- Good Money Week
- Homelessness Sunday
- Black History Month
- Northern Baptist Association
- Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer - 'Courageous Life!'

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



Joining the Dots Podcast

The CYF (Children, youth and families) Round Table wants to serve our Baptist Family in its calling to minister to children and young people in the church and community. You might be thinking that that doesn't apply to you and your church - but our reading of the Great Commission is that it's not just for those over 18! Joining the Dots is a podcast that draws on the wisdom of experts and the experience of those on the ground to help start the conversation in exploring the context of the child so that the dots between home, church, community, school and faith begin to join up. [Click here for more information and to listen to the podcasts.](#)



CYF Racial Justice Resource - just launched

This Racial Justice Resource, developed by our Children, Young People and Families Round Table, is for those who work with children and young people. It aims to speak positively into the racial justice issues which were illustrated so clearly during 2020 following the death of George Floyd. Through history, reflection and questioning we hope to create space that will open new avenues for conversation. [Click here to download the booklet.](#)



Wonderful Youth 2021

Wonderful Youth is made up of four biblical sessions to empower young people between the ages of 13 and 16 to become 'the best that you can be'. This resource enables young people to reflect on their Christian faith, and allows Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic to see their image reflected in the resources. [Click here to access this year's resource](#), which features sessions on the first four Fruit of the Spirit identified in Galatians 5. The resource is particularly suitable for use during Black History Month, but can be used with your young people at any time. [The resources created for 2018 and 2019](#) are also available to download from our website.



I Will Stand - Harvest resource from BMS World Mission

In the Middle East, North Africa and Asia, fearless Christians are stepping out in faith and living the gospel in hard places, no matter the cost. And this is why BMS World Mission is inviting your church to support them. With your support, BMS can send Bibles, equip isolated Christians to access Bible training, partner with church planters and pray for persecuted believers, and share stories that will inspire your whole congregation. [Click here to access the video and other resources](#) designed to help your church support Christians in hard places.



Pumpkin Heroes™

Pumpkin Heroes is a **free pack** of Christian resources to help children aged 4-10 in your church group or family enjoy autumny, half-term, Halloween fun! **Get the right pack for you from pumpkinheroes.com** Whether you run an action-packed Pumpkin Heroes event/party or simply let the children watch the brand-new *Patch the Pumpkin Show*, in church, online or at home – all include fun-filled games, crafts, activities, Patch's *Be Generous Challenge* and of course, the new story and film, *Patch the Pumpkin, Being Generous*.



Sharing Jesus resource

The Sharing Jesus evangelism resource from Fresh Expressions was launched at the end of September. It is a very significant and useful tool as it helps churches take existing outreaches and do something missional/evangelistic with them. Click here **[for details about this new resource](#)**.



Motivating Mission

Great Commission has just launched a new resource called Motivating Mission. This free downloadable resource takes the 'Couch to 5k' model for running and applies it to the way we share our faith. It's full of top tips and resources to guide people onto the next step of faith-sharing - whether you feel like you're on the couch as a reluctant witness, taking first steps as a nervous first-timer, or a 'seasoned pro'. **Click here for details**.



10:10 - a new resource from The Ugly Duckling Co

10:10 is an innovative wellbeing resource to help young people discover how to live differently and find their best life. Built on the foundations of positive psychology and spirituality, it explores ideas like thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, healthy relationships, coping strategies and how to look after the mind, body and soul. It features a series of films, expert content, group discussions, creative exercises, experiments and additional downloadable resources. **Click here for more information**.



The Crucible Course

The Crucible course will continue online in the autumn. Two modules 'After Christendom' and 'Church Unplugged' will run weekly for 6 weeks (with a mid-module break) from early October. These modules will be offered on a 'pay-as-you-feel' basis to make them as accessible as possible. We are hoping to facilitate some local 'learning hubs', where there are enough participants within reach of each other, and online 'communities of practice' (in partnership with Urban Life) to follow up each module. **More details in the brochure** or at **www.cruciblecourse.org.uk**. Any enquiries to **admin@urbanexpression.org.uk**



Slavery-free Communities

Many victims / survivors of exploitation access services from churches, writes Dan Pratt, editor of a new book exploring theologies and faith responses to modern slavery. Click here to **find out more about this book and the online launch** taking place on 19 October. Copies of *Slavery-Free Communities: Emerging Theologies and Faith Responses to Modern Slavery* **can be bought from our online shop**.



Loneliness in Older People

Written for Faith in Later Life by Professor Keith Brown and Karen Grimshaw, and endorsed by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Longevity, this guidance resource expertly sets the context of loneliness amongst older people (in the UK) as well as the work that Christian organisations are involved in in this area, and shares helpful ideas and tools to enable groups and individuals in engaging with loneliness in a variety of contexts. [It is free to download.](#)



Real Advent Calendar - a fair way to Christmas

The Real Advent Calendar is designed to support outreach work, mission and is a great way to share the Christmas story. Each calendar includes a 24 page Christmas story activity book, the chocolate is Fairtrade, and it supports charitable causes including a baby clinic in Kenya and Fairtrade farmer community schemes. Real Advent Calendars cost £4.50 each, with a discount and free delivery when purchasing a case of 18 if buying at www.realadvent.co.uk



Satellite before Christmas

This Christmas, the team at 4Front Theatre (who also provided the online children's programme at our Assembly this year) is offering a 1-hour-long fun faith-filled pan-tivity performance filled with festive fun for all! Join Larry and Tim for laughter, songs, fun and festive silliness as they prepare for an out-of-this-world Christmas party, but will the discovery of a strange glowing space rock ruin all their Christmas plans? There are three types of performance available - Filmed performance (£150), In-person performance (£450 + travel and accommodation), the DIY 4Front show (£150). For more details or to enquire about booking a show, please email: christmas@4front-theatre.com



LAMPS Collective - touring live through December 2021

LAMPS is offering two shows this year to bring everyone back together again for some theatrical family fun!

Babs of Bethlehem: With angels at the window, wise men at the door and preparations underway for a mysterious VIP guest, will innkeeper Babs ever be able to slow down enough to notice what really matters?

Bread and Starlight: This poignant and beautiful one-woman show tells the story of Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, and a very special Advent visitor. Bread and Starlight combines story-telling, song and space for reflection in a grown-up pause for breath before Christmas. For details of both shows and booking see www.lampscollective.com



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:



I will repay - Wednesday 6 October

This webinar, hosted by the Racial Justice Advocacy Forum, The National Church Leaders Forum and The Movement for Justice and Reconciliation, will explore the issue of reparations - one of the most topical, yet misunderstood issues in both church and society. Join Professor Robert Beckford, Eleasah Louis, Revd Ronald Nathan and Dionne Gravesande as they explore various perspectives and positions on reparations. [Click here for details and to register.](#)



Christianity, Climate and Race - Thursday 7 October

What is God saying to the Church? This online event seeks to help the UK Church find its place in climate action by resourcing, equipping and informing on climate and racial justice issues, and will consider: Is climate justice biblical or purely political?, Is climate justice a part of God's mission?, How is it related to other social justice concerns such as racial justice? What can churches do about this? [Click here to book your place.](#)



Thrive 2021 Conference - 8-9 October

Thrive encourages networking among the spouses of UK Baptist ministers at all stages of ministry or mission, from training through to retirement. The Thrive Conference takes place every two years, and is a great opportunity to take some time out from your normal routine, be refreshed spiritually and enjoy the company of fellow Baptist ministers' spouses. The theme of this online Conference, is 'New Life' and the main speaker will be Chris Duffett, artist and evangelist. [Click here for more information.](#) Registration forms for the conference can be obtained by emailing thrive.baptist.networks@gmail.com



Christian Resources Exhibition - 12-14 October

CRE will be back at Sandown Park to show you how dozens of organisations are responding to the new challenges of a changed world. Aware that some form of social distancing may still be necessary, the exhibition will be in the Esher Hall and Surrey Hall, allowing the creation of wider aisles in both halls and a possible one-way system. Other safety measures will depend on government stipulations at the time. The organisers have offered readers of our Faith and Society Update a **free ticket** when you [click the link from this email.](#)



Prayer Broadcast - Wednesday 13 October

Join in prayer with our Baptist Union Council during the evening of their meeting - starting at 19:00. Our prayers will be led by General Secretary Lynn Green and recently retired General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation, Tony Peck. Please encourage your church to join in with this prayer broadcast - [click here to access the broadcast.](#)



Sight Loss Sunday - 17 October

When someone begins losing their sight, they are often no longer able to contribute to church life as they did when they were sighted. Sight Loss Sunday is encouraging churches to become more aware of the needs of blind and partially sighted people in their communities and to allow them to use their gifts, talents and abilities once again. [Resources are available for free download](#) with braille and large print editions available by calling 01858 438260.



CIO Online Training for Baptist Churches - Wed 20 October

This is an opportunity to explore in greater depth the legal structure for charities known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It will be of interest to charity trustees who are assessing the risk profile of their church and considering a change to the legal structure of their church. Hosted by BUGB Legal Services Manager Caroline Sanderson and Esther Campsall from Anthony Collins LLP. [Click here to register.](#)



How will our colleges support my CMD? - Wed 20 October

Tim Fergusson will be in conversation with Simon Jones from Spurgeon's College, Rosa Hunt from Cardiff Baptist College, Glen Marshall from Northern Baptist College and Anthony Clark from Regent's Park College, about their offer of support for our ongoing learning and formation. [Click here for details and to join this webinar.](#)



Sam Sharpe Lecture 2021 - Thursday 21 October

Sam Sharpe was a Baptist deacon and enslaved person who played an important role in the 'Great Jamaican Slave Revolt' of 1831-2. Since its launch in May 2012, the Sam Sharpe Partners have hosted an annual lecture. This year, the Sam Sharpe Lectures in conjunction with House of Commons present this lecture being delivered online by Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO of Christian Aid, on the theme 'Setting The Captives Free – forging the paths to freedom'. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Bible Sunday - 24 October

Bible Sunday is about celebrating the Scriptures. The Bible Society's 2021 resources include a sermon, videos, prayers, and fun, engaging resources for young people and children of all ages - in English and Welsh. An entire worship service available free of charge! You'll find these resources a powerful reminder that God's word changes lives and his promises remain true. [Click here for more information.](#)



60 years on: the legacy of Martin Luther King's first London sermon - Friday 29 October

On 29 October 1961, Martin Luther King Jr preached in the UK for the first time. He had been invited to speak at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church as part of a flying visit to London which included an anti-apartheid rally and some TV interviews. Now 60 years on, the church is hosting an event to explore the ongoing significance of his message for the UK. [Click here for details and to book your ticket.](#)



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer - Monday 1 November

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Monday in November, in 2021 this will be on 1 November. This year the theme is 'Courageous Life!' encouraging women to be courageous because the Lord is by our side. The material includes ideas for how to celebrate the Day of Prayer, and prayer points from our sisters around the world. [Click here for details and to download the resources.](#)



Incarnate Network Autumn Gathering - 2-4 November

The Incarnate Network is planning a small, relaxing, reflective get together in November to muse on the events of the past two years and encourage one another in our pioneering mission and ministry. It's a low-key opportunity to meet up with others to refuel and reflect on the weird and wonderful times we are living in. There will be some structured sessions and input but there will also be plenty of space to chat, relax and explore. [Click here to find out more and book tickets.](#)



Discernment, dialogue and the Church Meeting: A way forward - Thursday 4 November

Hosted by [Project Violet](#) on Zoom, Prof Rachel Muers, University of Leeds will introduce the recent World Council of Churches work on discernment in the church. The Revd Ruth Moriarty will respond from a Baptist perspective, reflecting her research on church meetings. [Click here for more details and to register.](#)



Triologue 8th Annual Preachers' Conference - Saturday 13 November

This free conference via Zoom on the theme 'The Ecumenical Pulpit' promises to be an exciting event to discover how different church traditions prepare and deliver the Sunday sermon and what we can learn from another preaching tradition. This is truly an ecumenical event that will be given by our guest lecturer Dr Joe Aldred. **To register and to find out more about this conference** please email Samuel Thomas at sydenham_ntcog@hotmail.com



Inter Faith Week - 14-21 November

The aims of Inter Faith Week, which is led by the Inter Faith Network, are to: strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels; increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society; increase understanding between different people of religious and non-religious beliefs. The Week is timed to begin each year on Remembrance Sunday to enable people of different backgrounds to remember together the service of soldiers and civilians of all faiths and beliefs and to reflect on peace. [Click here for this year's resources.](#)



Table webinar - Wednesday 24 November

South West Baptist Association is hosting this free webinar for those who are wanting to explore setting up missional communities and want some creative ideas. The speaker is John Good, Baptist Pioneer in Poole who has created a great resource to help small groups explore what might be involved in become a missional community. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Baptist Assembly - 14-15 May 2022

We are busy planning next year's Baptist Assembly in Bournemouth, when our keynote speaker will be Alan Donaldson, newly appointed General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation. This year's Assembly will be a hybrid event with the opportunity to join with some of the sessions online. Please save the date, and plan to join us in person, or online. [Further details are available on the Baptist Assembly website.](#)



Satellites - 9-13 August 2022

Satellites is a new five-day summer gathering designed to inspire teenagers to live with God at the centre of their lives all year round. Organised by Youthscape, it's taking place at the East of England Arena in Peterborough, 9-13 August 2022. Tickets are already on sale - and there's a super saver ticket rate of just £85 as an incentive to book this far in advance. [Click here for more information.](#)

Webinar recordings

Don't forget that you can catch up on all our webinar recordings which are available from our Resource Library. [Click here to find them.](#)