



Update: November 2021

Dear Friends

Welcome to this month's Faith and Society Update with news, resources and events.

Many of this month's resources and events have a **focus on justice**. Whilst the world's politicians gather for the COP26 conference, we feature several resources concerning **climate change** - including two new videos of Baptist minister Dave Gregory, who leads our Baptist Union Environment Network.

Do have a look at our a new range of **Racial Justice blogs** - Paths to Freedom - which build on the series published in 2020. The first two blogs have been launched today, with more to be published in the coming weeks. We also continue to add to our **Disability Justice blogs**, which are ideal for discussion in a small group. And there's another opportunity to hear from David McLachlan as he delivers this year's Whitley Lecture on the the theme of **Does This Cross Have Disabled Access?**

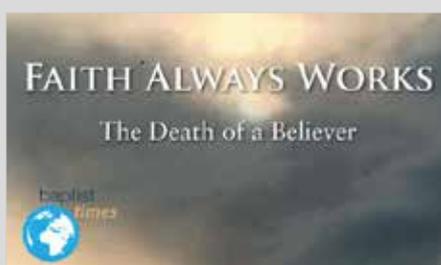
Another new area of our website features our new **Hong Kong Response Project**, being coordinated by Sharon Shek. Find out how your church can support and welcome Hong Kongers moving to the UK.

Don't forget to add the dates for **next year's Assembly** to your diary - 14-15 May - more details to follow.

Our prayer is that you will find ideas below to inspire, challenge and help you and your church.

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

This month's featured stories:



Faith Always Works: the death of a believer - new book by Baptist minister David Meseg who has terminal cancer



COP26 - what can Christians and churches do? We could make a game-changing contribution by acting together



Live stream, live service - how a small church is attempting to bring everyone along as it emerges from the pandemic

News:



Baptist Union Council - report on the October meeting

Baptist Union Council met on 13-14 October - a [report of their discussions](#) is available to read on our website. Here you will also find a list of church stories shared at Council about [how Baptists have impacted their local communities](#) in numerous ways during the pandemic.



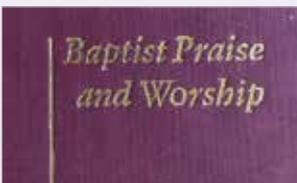
Hong Kong Response Project

The Home Office has estimated that nearly 300,000 Hong Kongers who have British National (Overseas) nationality, and their dependents, will take up a new visa route over the next five years, and will be moving to the UK. We want to help Baptist churches to know more about Hong Kongers and offer practical support for churches. Sharon Shek was appointed to the role of Hong Kong Response Coordinator and is liaising with Baptist churches in welcoming and offering hospitality to Hong Kong migrants. [Find out more about this project in a new section of our website, and register as a Hong Kong-welcoming church.](#)



Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York set up the Families and Households Commission in March 2021 to find out about the pressures and challenges facing all families and households in England today. The Commission will offer practical proposals to the Church of England about ways to maximise support for all families and households, and offer information to other faith groups. Anyone over 18 can take part - [click here to complete their survey](#) - by 18 November.



Request for hymnbooks

We have had a request from Jannet Kale, who supports a Baptist church in Limbe, Cameroon. This church has requested help with obtaining hymn books for worship as the congregation has grown - the Sunday School numbers 150 young children. They are particularly looking for Baptist hymn books, or copies of *Songs of Praise*. If you have any copies you no longer need, please get in touch with Jannet by email to kokovikale@hotmail.co.uk



Coronavirus Guidance

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 - and a revised version of the Buildings Guidance is to be published on Thursday. We continue to monitor and review going forward for both England and Wales. [Please keep checking our website for the latest information.](#)



Association for Church Editors annual Magazine Competition

The search is on for Britain's best church magazine! The Association for Church Editors organises an annual national competition for church magazine editors and for 2022 they are asking for A5 magazines printed in colour (even just on the cover). The closing date for entries is 7 February 2022. [For full details, please see their website.](#)

This month's featured resources:

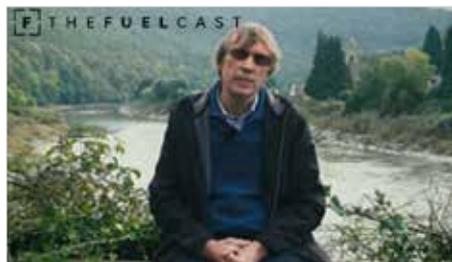


November Prayer Diary

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

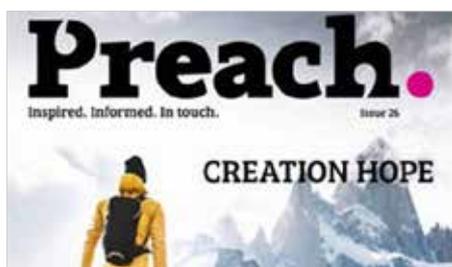
- COP26 meeting in Glasgow
- Remembrance Sunday
- South Wales Baptist Association
- The Faith and Society Specialist Team

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



Videos on climate change from Dave Gregory

Our former President, Dave Gregory, who also heads up our Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN) has been filmed by The Fuelcast talking about climate change. In [the first video](#), Dave reminds us that God's world and people are suffering. It's time for all nations to act for justice, and the sake of future generations. In [the second](#), he tells us that we have an invitation from God to encounter him through his creation, so that we can be left with a deeper and profound sense of its value. Both these videos are available from [The Fuelcast's website](#).



Creation Hope for COP26 resources

If you want to know more about how God's Word calls us to creation care in light of COP26, a [new page on the Preach website includes useful resources](#):

- A free digital copy of *Preach magazine's* issue Creation Hope
- Recording of a Creation Hope webinar held on 2 November which looks at the theology of creation care (with Dave Bookless)
- Links to events, prayer, petition, reports and other ways to take action
- Book list recommended by Dave Bookless

If you have any queries, please email louisa.lockwood@lwpt.org.uk



The Quiet Garden Movement

Started in the 1990s in the UK, the Quiet Garden Movement is a network of over 300 Quiet Gardens set in rural and urban contexts across 14 countries worldwide. Quiet Garden hosts provide their local community with outdoor space for prayer, contemplation, inspiration and rest. The gardens can be found in a variety of settings, such as private homes, churches, schools, prisons and hospitals, and may be either a dedicated space for daily use or a provisional space provided at allocated times. Click here [for more information and to offer to host a Garden](#).



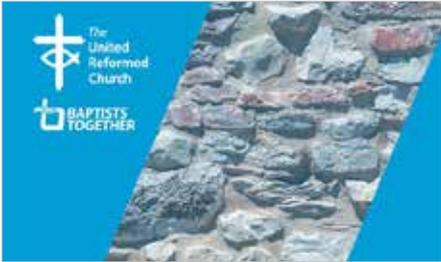
New Racial Justice blogs

Following the launch of our series of blogs last year, we will be publishing a new set over the next few weeks. Last year's series of reflections was conceived by our Racial Justice Hub in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the worldwide protests that followed. This year's blogs build on that series, and ask what happens next. How can we develop an anti-racist church? What does it mean to be genuinely multicultural? Click here [to find our racial justice blogs](#).



Sam Sharpe Lecture 2021

This year's Sam Sharpe Lecture '*Setting The Captives Free – forging the paths to freedom*' was delivered by Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO of Christian Aid last month. If you missed the lecture, or would like to listen again, a recording is now available on our website. [Click here to watch the recording.](#)



A new resource for Inter Faith Week and beyond

The Baptist Union Inter Faith Working Group and the URC Inter Faith Enabling Group have just published a new resource entitled *The use of church buildings by people of other faith communities*. [Click here to download a copy of this resource](#), and other information about Inter Faith Week 2021.



123GO!

Imagine with us... it's Easter 2022, and across the country thousands of people are GOing out onto the streets and into public spaces, creatively sharing **1** gospel, **2** by 2, over **3** days! **123GO!** is a collaboration of the Light College and Collective, The Turning, and RiverTree Ltd seeking to make that amazing vision a reality. [To find out more visit www.123go.life](http://www.123go.life) or join the community at www.facebook.com/123go.life



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.](#)



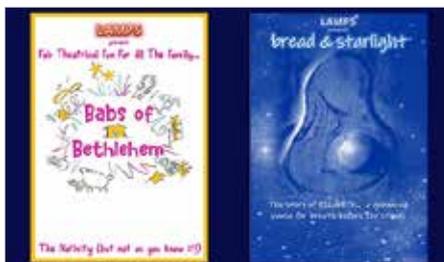
Real Advent Calendar - a fair way to Christmas

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

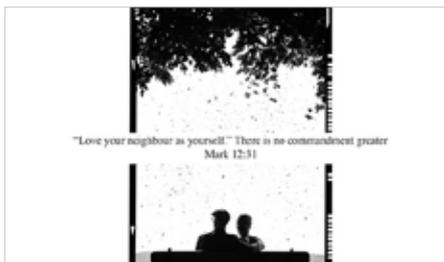


LAMPS Collective - touring live through December 2021

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

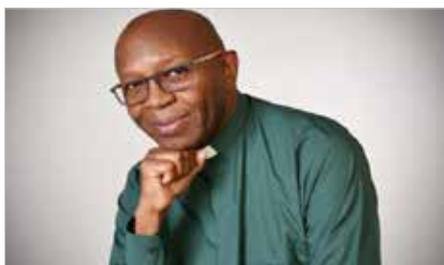
We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. Click here to [find the current selection of images on our Flickr account](#).

This month's featured online events:



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](#).



Whitley Lecture - Wednesday 17 November

The Whitley Lecture in partnership with the Disability Justice Group will present an online lecture at 19:00 on the theme ***Does This Cross Have Disabled Access?*** With David McLachlan, Sally Nelson and Debra Reid. As churches increasingly seek to include people with disabilities, how disability fits into the gospel is a pressing question. Is there a way of understanding God's saving, healing work at the cross that does not equate disability with sin and that avoids people with disabilities feeling like outsiders? [Click here for more information and to join the lecture.](#)



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.](#)