



## ***Update: June 2022***

Dear Friends

As we offer you our June update, we continue to pray for you.

*We pray as you stand on the shore and lean in to hear Jesus speak,  
you will know the overwhelming gentleness of God's love.*

*We pray as you join with many others seeking Jesus on the hillside,  
you will know the power of God's kindness and faithfulness.*

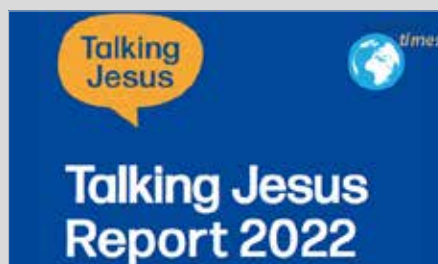
*We pray together;  
may we know joy and peace as the Spirit of God leads us.*

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

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



**Building the Kingdom of God in our little slice of Wandsworth - with help from a small Missional Adventure grant**



**The latest Talking Jesus report is now available - showing what people in the UK think of Jesus, Christians and evangelism**



**Another study of Romans? Bristol Baptist College principal Steve Finamore explains why he's written another one**

## News:



### Songs of Praise

As you may have heard, BBC Songs of Praise was present at our Baptist Assembly last month to film for an episode dedicated to Baptists Together as a celebration of who we are. This edition of the programme is due to be broadcast on **Sunday 26 June 2022**. Check the TV schedules nearer the time for details of the broadcast.



### Baptist Assembly 2022

Thank you to everyone who has offered feedback on this year's Assembly in Bournemouth and online. It will help us in our planning for the future. If you were unable to join us at our Assembly this year, or would like to watch something again, the [main plenary sessions](#) are available to watch from our website. You will also find [a selection of photos from the weekend](#) on our Flickr channel.



### Recognition of new ministers and mission personnel

During our Saturday evening session at Assembly, we commissioned those who had transferred as Fully Accredited Ministers, Pastors, Preachers and Mission Personnel during the past year. Some of our regional Associations created a video celebrating the new ministers in their area to help you pray for the new ministers from across our Union. [Click here to access these videos](#).



### Small Church Hubs

There were many conversations at Assembly about our smaller churches and how to encourage and resource each other more effectively. Hilary Taylor is exploring the idea of setting up of Small Church Hubs - a centre in each county or local area to bring the smaller churches together for training, events, celebrations and resourcing. If you would like **to explore the idea of your church being a hub**, please contact Hilary Taylor on [hilary.taylor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hilary.taylor@tiscali.co.uk)



### Cost of Living Crisis

The cost of living is of major concern for many at the moment. Rising prices in food, fuel and transport are forcing people to make hard choices over how they spend their money. The least well-off are the worst affected, with those choices being narrowed to heating or eating, or skipping meals to feed their children. How did we get to this point? And what can churches do in response? [Read the Joint Public Issues Team's briefing on the crisis](#), detailing the impact on the country and offering ways to respond, and [watch a recording of their recent webinar](#).



### Society for Ecumenical Studies

The Society welcomes members from many different churches and backgrounds, clergy and lay, who are committed to developing a contemporary understanding between Christian churches with regard to the nature of our unity in Christ, for the sake of this troubled world. The society studies the nature and purpose of unity in order to promote understanding and co-operation and more fully live out the prayer of Jesus on the night before he died 'that they all may be one, that the world may believe...'. They are looking for new members to join the Committee. [For more information see the website](#) or email [elizabeth@skerratt-welch.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth@skerratt-welch.org.uk)



### Funding to support women's ecumenical engagement

The Pauline Webb Fund, established to support the development of women's leadership in the work of ecumenism, is now open for applications. [Click here to find out more](#) and to download an application pack. The deadline for the current round of applications is 5pm on Friday 1 July 2022.

## This month's featured resources:



### June Prayer Diary

The [June Prayer Diary](#) is now available to download from our website.

The particular themes this month are:

- The Queen and her Platinum Jubilee
- The Joint Public Issues Team
- The South West Baptist Association
- Refugee Week

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



### Baptists Together magazine and other resources

Our Church Secretaries, Treasurers and Ministers should have all received their copy of the [Summer 2022 Baptists Together magazine](#), [Annual Review](#) and [Transform 61](#) last month. Once you've read them, feel free to pass your copies to other members of your church - or direct them to our website to download these resources. The [full Annual Report, with financial statements](#), is also available to download from our Resource Library. Additional copies of the magazine and Annual Review can be [ordered from our online shop](#).



### 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. 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. The [second series of podcasts has just been launched on our website](#), where you can also listen to all of series one.



### Exploring mental health - with faith at the heart of it

Launched to mark Mental Health Awareness Week, *The Sanctuary Course* is a new small-group resource designed to reduce stigma, raise awareness, and engage communities in meaningful conversations about mental health and faith. [Find out more in this article by Corin Pilling](#), UK Director of Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries, and [download the resource free of charge](#) from Sanctuary's website.



### Politics in the Pulpit?

Each week the Joint Public Issues Team invites a different guest to discuss the political dimensions present in the Scriptures and reflect on how they connect with the week's current news and our role in the Kingdom of God. Discussions focus on the Revised Common Lectionary passages for the following Sunday and are released on Tuesday mornings. [Click here to listen to this week's episode, and catch up on previous recordings](#).



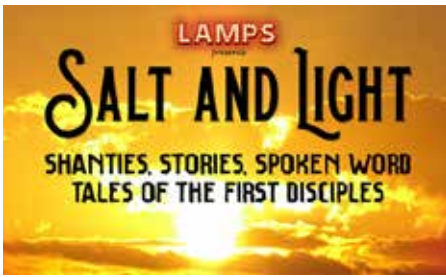
### Resources from Embracing Age

Embracing Age is a Christian charity working towards a world where older people are valued, connected and full of hope. They have recently launched the following helpful resources for churches:

- [Making Moments](#) series - free resources for caring for a loved one with dementia
- [How to adopt your local care home](#) - a free e-book and resources to help churches support their local care home.

Click here to [find out more about Embracing Age](#).





### New show from LAMPs Collective this summer!

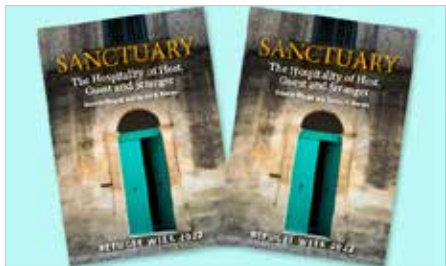
*Salt & Light* is a dynamic ensemble-based drama exploring how a small fishing community on the shore of lake Galilee is thrown into confusion by the advent of a radical new teacher - his miracles, healings and teaching. The same questions are on everyone's lips: Who is this man? Can we believe in him? And if we can't, can we believe in what he does?.. Packed full of shanties, stories and spoken word, Salt and Light is a great show for reaching out to your whole community this summer. [Click here for more details](#) or email [bookings@lampscollective.com](mailto:bookings@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 events:



### *Sanctuary: the hospitality of host, guest and stranger* Bible study resource launch - Thursday 9 June

Join Church of Sanctuary and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland in launching the new Bible study: '[Sanctuary: the hospitality of host, guest and stranger](#)'. This new resource written by Inderjit Bhogal and Jayme Reaves, focuses on the significance of sanctuary for our times in the context of Refugee Week in June. This webinar will also feature contributions from those who have experienced hospitality while being caught up in the asylum system, as well as the Churches of Sanctuary who reach out to those in need. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)



### From the Ground Up: JPIT Conference - Saturday 11 June

Tickets for JPIT's 2022 conference taking place online and at Oasis Hub Waterloo are now available!

- What does social justice look like where you are?
- Where do we find hope in our neighbourhood?
- What can we learn from those who are already doing this work?
- How can local change be part of changing the bigger picture?

Join this one-day conference to reconnect with fellow changemakers and be re-energised to work and pray for peace and justice.

Want to find out more? [Check out the details and book your space](#)



### The return of Firestarters in 2022 - dates in June and July

Firestarters is a grassroots friendship of growing Baptist churches helping other churches to grow through honest, open conversations with church leaders and teams. For 2022 there are five conversations scheduled across the country. At each at least two fast-growing churches will share their stories of the last year and look ahead to a season of new opportunities and new challenges. [Click here for details.](#)



### **CYF Racial Justice Roadshow - Friday 17 June**

To accompany the CYF Racial Justice resource launched earlier this year, we are delivering national racial justice roadshows. This online session will help unpack how you can use the resource in your specific environment and feel more comfortable and knowledgeable about engaging with the topic of racial justice with your young people. [Click here for more information and booking.](#)



### **CMD: Attentive to Rhythms of Grace - Monday 20 June**

In October 2020, Baptists Together launched a CMD Handbook setting out expectations of recognised Baptist ministers for their continuing ministerial development (CMD). The approach centres on five habits of CMD which ministers are asked to adapt to their own needs and contexts. This workshop supports the Habit of Attentiveness and is closely connected with Geoff Colmer's Presidency and his theme of Attentive to Rhythms of Grace. [Click here for details and a link to book.](#)



### **New Housing Summit - Tuesday 21 June**

Churches Together in England and the New Housing Hub are hosting this day at Regent Hall in London to discern together what God is saying to the churches nationally about our response to the significant amount of new housing. Speakers include Bishop Guli and Mike Moynagh. [Click here for more details and to book your place.](#)



### **The Faith Experiment - Wednesday 22 June**

Interested in hosting a community workshop that breaks down the faith/science debate? You're invited to join this Faith Experiment taster session in Birmingham. The Faith Experiment project is a series of workshops exploring questions on the interface of science and faith. It is run by Matthew and Davinder Gardner, both healthcare scientists by background and members of New Hope Baptist Church, Coseley. This event is targeted mainly at church and organisational leaders to enable them to host Faith Experiment sessions for their members and communities in the future. If you're interested in attending the taster session, email: [thefaithexperiment@faithinscience.co.uk](mailto:thefaithexperiment@faithinscience.co.uk) Click here [for more information about the Faith Experiment.](#)



### **DNA Christian Discipleship and Leadership taster day - Saturday 25 June (Zoom)**

Do you... Dare to dream about your destiny in God? Realise that your dream demands development? Want your life to make a difference? DNA is for EVERYONE; whether for you it is a Christian gap year, sabbatical, education or alongside work and family. Find out more about how DNA can help you at one of their Taster Days. [See their website for details.](#)



### **CIO Online Training Event - Wednesday 29 June**

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. It is also of relevance to those considering a CIO as an option for a separate project such as a pre-school or coffee shop. [Click here for details and to register your place.](#)



### Hong Kong Welcoming Church - Thursday 30 June

Sharon Shek, our Hong Kong Response Coordinator is hosting this webinar for our Hong Kong Welcoming Churches and others interested in the Hong Kong Response Project. Different resources have been produced and some churches in Reading and Bristol have had great experiences of welcoming people from Hong Kong. We are happy to invite Yinka Oyeken and Joanna Parmar from The Gate Sindlesham, along with a Hong Kong minister, Walter Wong from Broadmead Baptist Church. They will all share their exciting news and experience in welcoming and helping Hong Kongers. [Click here to register for the webinar](#). Have a look at the HK area of our website [to sign up as a Hong Kong Welcoming Church](#).



### Whitley Lecture 2022 - 18 July (online)

This year's Whitley Lecture is being given by Andy Goodliff on the theme *The Ruling Christ and the Witnessing Church*. He offers us a crafted exploration of what a Baptist political theology might be, beginning with a discussion of church and state and moving into a powerful reflection on what it means today to inhabit a dissenting ecclesiology, one which says 'no' to the power of the state and 'yes' to the Lordship of Christ. [Click here for more information](#) and the [link to join the Lecture](#).



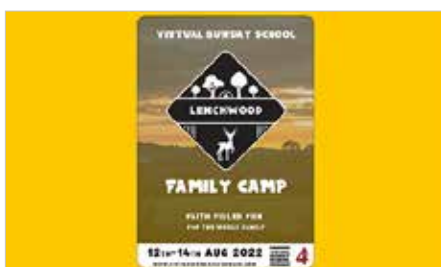
### Sixty One Festival – 4-7 August

Sixty One is a brand new festival for students and young adults, a God-charged space to prioritise the presence of God, awakening deeper calling and confidence in life's next steps. Organised by Fusion and New Wine, it is happening at the East of England Showround in Peterborough. [Click here for more information](#) and follow them on social media on @sixtyonespaspac.



### Satellites - 9-13 August

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. [Click here for more information](#).



### Virtual Sunday School Family Camp - 12-14 August

For two years Virtual Sunday School (who led our Children's programme at Baptist Assembly 2021) has run a super fun virtual holiday club online...But this year they are delighted to be able to gather in person with an event for the whole family. This family camp will be held at Lenchwood Christian Centre in Worcestershire - bring a tent and your camping gear. Day tickets also available for those who live locally. [Click here for more details and to book your place](#).





### **World Council of Churches Assembly - 31 Aug-8 Sept**

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, under the theme 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity'. Public registration is open to anyone who is interested in participating in WCC 11th Assembly. Registrants will have access to most assembly programmes, and will encounter and experience the assembly with thousands of participants from all over the world. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



### **Thrive 2022 Conference: All for Jesus - 14-16 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 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 next conference will be in Northampton with main speakers Ken and Sue Benjamin. [Get a booking form](#) by completing the contact form on the Thrive website.



### **Sam Sharpe Lecture - Wednesday 19 October**

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Sam Sharpe Project and to mark the occasion, the annual lecture will be delivered by Prof Kehinde Andrews at the Maths Institute in Oxford. This will be available as an in-person lecture with refreshments afterwards, and also online if you are unable to join us in Oxford. [Click here for details, and to book your place.](#)