



## ***Update: May 2025***

Dear Friends

In this season between Easter and Pentecost so much seems to be happening! I suspect that Easter, and perhaps the pre- or post-Easter break may feel like a distant memory as focus turns to the months leading into summer. I'm not sure the early church saw the seasons quite in the way we do, but I'm sure there were seasons for them as there are for us. The writer of Ecclesiastes knew the rhythms of our lives *'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the sun ...'* Eccl. 3:1ff

We are noticing a season of baptism and growth in many spaces across our Union. Watch out for the next edition of *Baptists Together* magazine coming in the next few days with many stories and reflections on what God is doing among us, in and through baptism.

For some it is a season to rejoice and be grateful for all those God is adding to the kingdom. For all of us we are called to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit into uncharted water. It maybe stormy or it may be full of warm sunlight, but whatever the season, it is God's.

As Jesus stood with the disciples before ascending, he encouraged them, strengthened them, and answered their questions, *'... It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'* Acts 1: 6-8

Being witnesses is very much our purpose. The resources we offer in this update are to support you in this. And we are so excited about coming together in a couple of weeks at **Baptist Assembly** to talk together and to learn from each other about being witnesses. This is the beginning of the **three year Assembly programme on Mission**; an exciting season in our life as Baptists Together.

God leads us into this season and we step out together, supporting each other and trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit upon us. May you know God's blessing in this season.

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

**Whilst we've carefully chosen these resources and events because we hope they will be useful to you and your church family, we are not directly responsible for the content from other groups and organisations.**

*Feel free to forward this email to others in your church, or encourage them to sign up to receive our regular emails by completing the form at the bottom of every page of [our website](#).*

## This month's featured stories:



How community outreach helps people '2 Be Ready' - Upton Vale Baptist Church in Torquay is serving the local community



Can we make the quiet revival louder? - Phil Knox explores the latest 'revival' research and asks how we need to respond



Pictorial record of Baptist churches and chapels hits three figures on a special page of the Baptist Historical Society website

## News:



### Newly Accredited Ministers 2025

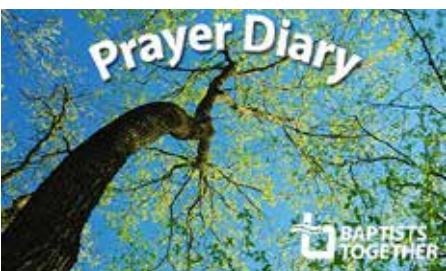
During our Saturday afternoon session at Assembly 2025, we will be commissioning those who have transferred as Fully Accredited Ministers and Pastors during the past year. Some of our regional Associations have created a video celebrating the new ministers in their area. Please be praying for all the new ministers from across our Union whom you will meet in these videos. [Click here to view the videos.](#)



### Baptists Together magazine and Transform 70

In the next few days, churches and ministers will be receiving copies of the Summer 2025 edition of *Baptists Together* magazine 'Baptism - are you ready?' along with the latest *Transform* and an Assembly poster for your noticeboards. All the [magazine articles are also available to read on our website](#), and you can [order extra copies](#) from our online shop. [Transform 70 is also available to download](#) from our Resource Library.

## This month's featured resources:



### May Prayer Diary

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

- Southern Counties Baptist Association
- Christian Aid Week
- Baptist Assembly in West Bromwich
- Newly Fully Accredited Ministers commissioned at Assembly

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



### The Psalms and Hymns Support Fund

The Psalms and Hymns Support Fund can make grants to people in need. Those who are eligible for a grant - in general those who are retired Baptist mission workers or ministers, or their bereaved spouses - should be aware of this resource. For [more information please see the website](#) or contact the Revd Steven Hembery, the grants administrator, at [pandhgrants@gmail.com](mailto:pandhgrants@gmail.com)



## Youthscape Essentials

Youthscape Essentials is an innovative course that increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today. Whether you're running a community project, a church youth group, or occasionally helping out on a Sunday morning, the course is designed with you in mind! It's not about the numbers of young people attending, it's about putting God at the centre of your youth ministry. This 10-week online course (10 September - 19 November) facilitated by our CYF Round Table **is being offered free** to all ministers and CYF workers nationally. Places are limited to 25 so it is advisable to book as soon as possible. [Click here for details.](#)

## This month's featured events:



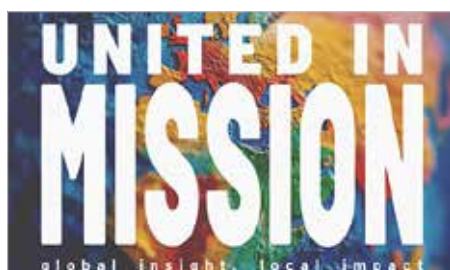
### Hong Kong Prayer Meeting - Tuesday 13 May

Many Hong Kong parents face immense challenges in raising up teenage children while helping them grow in faith, especially when adjusting to a new culture in the UK. You are invited to join this online prayer gathering, where Wendy, a mother with two teenagers, will share her personal journey. She will talk about the struggles and blessings of immigration, the joys and tensions of parenting, and how she has leaned on God every step of the way. [Click here to register.](#)



### Explore online - Thursday 15 May

Discover what parish nursing could offer to your local community by joining on Zoom for a free 1 hour session at 10am or 7pm hosted by Regional Nurse Coordinator Dawn Stephens. Find out what parish nursing is about and how it works. Just choose a time that is convenient for you then ask for the Zoom link by emailing: [enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk)



### Baptist Assembly - Friday 16 - Saturday 17 May

We hope you and your church will join us for our mission conference as part of this year's Baptist Assembly, where we will:

- Discern together how global insight can have local impact and make a difference in our local communities
- Come together to listen and commit ourselves to God's call to mission for us as a Movement in these days
- Share communion, study the Bible together, celebrate all that God has been doing through the past year and discern his call to us going forward
- Celebrate the lives of those who have died this year and those ministers and mission personnel being commissioned.

For full details about the weekend, [see the Assembly website](#), and **book your place by Sunday 11 May.**



### David Goodbourn Lecture 2025 - Tuesday 20 May

*Just knowing:* How do we create knowledge that does justice to marginalised voices, enabling them to speak, but in a way that protects their dignity and mobilises action from those with the power to make changes? This lecture will explore Project Violet and is being given by Project Violet co-leaders Jane Day and Helen Cameron. [Click here to find out more and register](#) for the online lecture.





### Everyone Everywhere national event - Friday 23 May

God is doing a new thing - how can we, as Baptists, be part of it?' Missional strategist Alan Hirsch, and National Director of 24-7 Prayer GB, Dot Tyler, will be part of the next Everyone, Everywhere national event - a day of prayer and strategic conversation on at Kings Cross Baptist Church. Click here [to find out more and book your place](#).



### Contributions and Struggles book launch - Wed 28 May

Join with the Baptist Historical Society at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London for the launch of *Contributions and Struggles: Some Theological Explorations*, a collection of essays by distinguished Baptist theologian Brian Haymes (1940–2024), published in his memory and in thanksgiving for his life. The event at 14:30 will include an act of worship, celebrating the faith that shaped Brian's life and work. All are welcome to attend in Bloomsbury but for those unable to be there it will also be available on Zoom. Contact Stephen Copson for the link ([secretary@baptisthistory.org.uk](mailto:secretary@baptisthistory.org.uk)).



### Gather and Grow Seniors Ministry - Saturday 7 June

This in-person forum, jointly hosted by Faith in Later Life and London City Mission, provides a unique opportunity for church leaders, seniors workers and their teams to come together, share ideas and insights, and explore innovative ways to serve and disciple the older generations. Delve into the rich ministry of ministering to older adults and renew your vision to make a lasting impact in your area. [Click here for more information and to book](#).



### Being Missional Today conference - Tuesday 10 June

Being Missional Today is a festival of missional thinking exploring the impact of disruptions in church and world, the liminality of this current season, and the role of reconciliation practices. This ecumenical gathering is sponsored jointly by the Church Urban Fund, Coventry Cathedral, the Iona Community and Reconciliation Initiatives. Click here [for more information and booking](#).



### Messy Church Conference - Friday 20 - Sunday 22 June

'All together' is a conference like no other! Join the Messy Church team for a weekend of inspiring keynote speakers, informative workshops, Messy Church sessions and fun together with the global Messy Church family. The conference will be exploring how we welcome people of all ages, abilities and from all backgrounds to Messy Church. Click here [for further information and booking](#).



### JPIT Conference - For Goodness Sake - Saturday 8 November

Save the date for the Joint Public Issues Team 2025 conference when Christians longing for justice from around the UK will gather together at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. Plan to come along to be inspired, to meet friends old and new, and to empower and equip each other to work for justice and peace in our local churches and communities. More information to follow soon.