



## ***Update: August 2025***

Dear Friends

One of the immense privileges of holding Scripture in our hands is the opportunity to take a breath and spend time with particular passages. Delving deeper, asking God to help us listen and live in the power of the Word is fundamental to life.

The book of Ephesians is full of invitation to sit, reflect and pray. At the start of chapter 5 there is a short exhortation which could fill our minds, hearts and souls for many hours, shaping our lives as we step forward together. As we offer this August update, we are holding the words before us:

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

Wow, that's some call to us! In the certainty of God's love, we seek to imitate the One who gave up everything for us. In doing so, we pray that in some small way we can contribute a fragrant offering as we live together in love.

This August of 2025, may you know the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love. .

Diane, Hannah, 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:



**'A remarkable prevailing of peace over bloodshed'**  
What an unlikely WW2 truce on a remote Japanese island can teach us about living out Christianity in a hostile culture.  
By Jamie Megoran



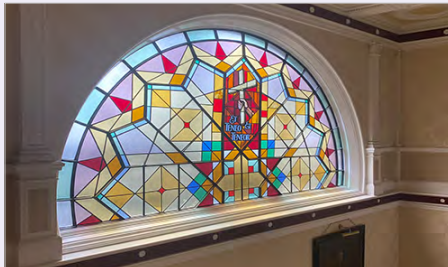
**'Leading a church is sacred work, but it often feels lonely and relentless'**  
After encountering many leaders who were paying a heavy price emotionally, relationally and spiritually, Simon and Ceri Harris have written a book to help them attend to their internal life



**'During the week, 97 people asked for prayer'**  
Daniel Pulham reports on an Easter outreach that asked passers by if they would like the church to pray something on their behalf

## News:

### Support for Students following closure of Spurgeon's College



Spurgeon's College announced on 31 July 2025 that the College has entered the insolvency process, resulting in the immediate closure of the College. We recognise the impact this will have and that this news is deeply concerning and disruptive for all their students. Our Ministries Team is working with other partners across Baptists Together to support all Baptists who are part way through or about to start a programme of study and/or ministerial formation for accredited Baptist ministry or Recognised Local Ministry. The page which is regularly updated with [signposting and information](#).

### Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories Statement



Baptists Together, BMS World Mission and the Baptist Union of Wales have issued a joint statement about the devastating suffering in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank. It draws together many of those offering leadership across our Movement including Regional Team Leaders, College Principals, Specialist Team Leaders, President, General Secretary, the Moderators of Council, the Trustee Board and others. We are asking Individuals and Baptist churches to also join the signatories. Other resources are offered to enable our communities to deepen our listening, learning and engagement? [Read the statement and sign up.](#)

### Calling previous members of the Joppa Group



Were you a member of the Joppa Group? Do you have historic papers about it? An invitation-based roundtable event is being co-convened to mark the 40th anniversary of the group's founding. [Find out more and how to get involved.](#)

## Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Updates

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



Christians longing for justice from around the UK will gather together at Reach Conference Centre in Derby for the JPIT conference 'For Goodness Sake'. 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. They have recently announced the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani as their first keynote speaker. [Bookings are now open](#).

### Christians Urge Abandonment of Fossil Fuels



On Wednesday 23 July a letter on behalf of 18 Christian organisations and denominations – including the Baptist Union, United Reformed Church and Methodist Church – was delivered to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The letter urged the abandonment of fossil fuels and expressed deep concern that further oil and gas extraction might be permitted by the government under its regulatory processes. [Find out more about the letter here](#).

### Reach out in peace: Positive preparation for times of unrest



When tensions rise in communities, churches can be agents of peace, compassion, sanctuary, solidarity and support. In the blog, JPIT suggest five ways that church leaders can prepare positively – to be ready to lead, respond and care well at times of unrest. [Read more here](#).

### This month's featured resources:

#### August Prayer Diary



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

- London Baptist Association
- Quiet Revival in military training bases
- The work of our ecumenical instruments
- Northern Baptist Association
- The staff and students at our Baptist Colleges

Please [print out a copy](#) for those unable to access it.

### Shine Your Light



[Shine Your Light](#) is a united initiative of denominations, prayer networks and streams (including Baptists Together), with a vision of taking carol services, nativity and other Christmas events from within church buildings out into shopping centres, village greens and community centres. This year it will take place from 12-14 December.



## I Will..... Leave a Lasting Legacy



The Baptist Union of Great Britain with BMS World Mission have now launched a new church resource to help those considering an ongoing blessing to support God's mission both in the UK and overseas. 'I Will..' aims to provide church leaders a way to help congregations reflect on their ongoing Kingdom legacy. This will be through a range of worship resources from small group material to a Sunday service. The material is flexible and could be used for a one-off Sunday focus through to an entire series looking at Kingdom legacy. They include an opportunity to leave a gift to both organisations through a free online or over the phone Will writing service. [Click here for details.](#)

## Disability Awareness Sunday - 28 September



Join hundreds of churches across the UK - and the world – to explore and celebrate disability inclusion. The 2025 Disability Awareness Sunday resource explores 1 Samuel 16:7 'God looks at the heart', and being 'Made in God's Image'. Through The Roof have provided resources and handouts to help churches, this year's resource was written by award-winning Christian author Emily Owen who lost her hearing overnight aged 21. [Find out more about Disability Awareness Sunday and the resources available.](#)

## This month's featured events:

### Insurance, Legal Responsibilities and Finance Webinars – Monday 22 September



From September, Baptist Insurance Company with our Support Services Specialist Team are offering a series of Zoom webinars.

- Session One: Understanding Your Church Insurance Policy - 22 September 19:30
- Session Two: Keeping People Safe - 27 October 19:30
- Session Three: Financial support for Churches - 17 November 19:30

[Find out more and to sign up.](#)

### Both/And Church: Micro Meets Congregation – Tuesday 16 September



St Hild Centre for Baptist Ministry is hosting a free online symposium asking the question - *Could the church be revitalised by linking the missional effectiveness and leadership development strengths of micro-churches and 'disciple-making movements' with the stability and resources of traditional church structures?* Join this half-day online symposium as participants explore these emerging hybrid 'best of both' models and identify practical approaches for enhancing community outreach and spiritual formation. Organisers encourage contributions on the day from practitioners in various situations. [Click here to find out more about the event.](#)

## A Bible English Course for Hong Kong Believers in the UK – Starting Tuesday 16 September



Are you, or do you know a Cantonese speaker from Hong Kong, now living in the UK, and finding it hard to fully connect in an English-speaking church? Do you ever feel like you're missing out on what God is saying because of the language barrier? The Hong Kong Response Team are running an online English Course open to anyone. Click [here to find out more](#).

## Fresh Streams Day of Prayer and Fasting - Thursday 25 September



Fresh Streams is inviting Baptist churches, ministers, and individuals across the UK to unite in a dedicated day of prayer and fasting. On this day, we are encouraged to:

- Pray for mission
- Pray for God's Kingdom to come
- Pray for the Body of Christ

[Find out more here](#).

## Small Church Connexion Webinar - Thursday 25 September



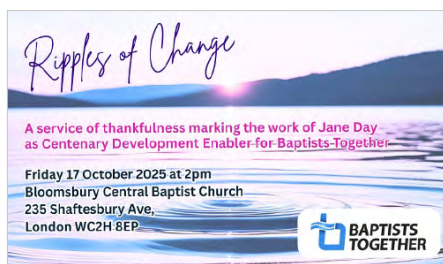
The Small Church Connexion are hosting a webinar on Thursday 25 September 10am on the topic of 'Ensuring church is fit for purpose: a story of transition'. Mike Sherburn (Watchet Baptist Church and on Fuelcast frequently) will be speaking. All churches are welcome but particularly the smaller ones. [To find out more click here](#).

## Praying Together 2025 Prayer Broadcast – Wednesday 8 October



The next live, online national prayer gathering will be taking place between 19:30-20:00. [Click here to find out more and join in this time of prayer](#). Please share this and encourage others to pray too.

## Ripples of Change - Friday 17 October



A service has been organised to mark the role Jane Day served in our Baptist family as Centenary Development Enabler. It will combine thankfulness for the progress made, as well as a time of lament for many of the findings of Project Violet. The service will start at 14:00 and is being held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London. [Find out more here](#).

## Reconciliation in a Time of Conflict - Saturday 18 October



Drawing upon experiences from the Holy Land and Ukraine, what does the Christian ministry of reconciliation look like in a time of conflict? What are the challenges faced by those in the context of war, and what might we learn about being reconcilers in a society increasingly characterised by cultural division and conflict? This event is being held in the John Laing Centre within the precinct of Coventry Cathedral. [For more information and to book your place click here.](#)

## The Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture - Monday 27 October



The Sam Sharpe Partners invite you to the 2025 Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture. This year, we welcome Dr Selina Stone, Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at the University of Edinburgh, for an inspiring evening of theological reflection, justice-seeking, and liberative learning. Her lecture, titled 'Free Indeed: From Theological Mis-Education to Teaching for Liberation' will explore how theology can either bind or break us—and how we might reclaim theological education as a tool of spiritual and social transformation. Click [here to find out more](#) and read a recent [read a recent Baptist Time article on the lecture.](#)