



monthly information and resource update

April 2017

Dear Friends

Welcome to this month's Update full of news and resources for your church.

As we prepare for our [Assembly in Harrogate in May](#), we are looking forward to meeting up with Baptists from around our Union. Don't forget that **bookings close on Monday 24 April**.

Thank you to all our churches, ministers and personal members of our Union who assisted in the discernment process to find our **President 2018-19**. Now that voting has closed we can announce that our President for 2018-19 will be David Gregory. Please look out for a *Baptist Times* piece later this week and keep David in your prayers.

If you've been to the [Baptists Together website](#) in the last day or so you will have noticed that we've made some changes! We hope that these will help you to find the information you're looking for and will enable you to discover more about who we are as Baptists. Do take time to have a look at the refreshed site.

Four copies of the Summer edition of our [Baptists Together magazine](#) will be coming to each Church Secretary a week after Easter. ***If you are a Church Secretary***, please look out for these and distribute them to your leadership. Additional copies are available to order from our online shop (including subscriptions and discounts for bulk orders). It will also be available to download free of charge from our website.

As we prepare to remember again the events of Holy Week, may we all experience afresh the gift of the risen Christ as we celebrate Easter.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



Baptist Union Council met in mid-March. Read about the main topics of discussion and the outcomes.



Palm Sunday material to share in worship. Includes prayer, reflection, poetry, drama and images



Read about Community Church Robertsbridge developing its outreach in the South of England Baptist Association



Proposed Change of Legal Status of BUGB charity

The Trustees of the Baptist Union of Great Britain have been consulting with key stakeholders and members of BUGB regarding the proposed change to the legal status of the BUGB charity. Click here for a [copy of the letter](#) dated 17 January 2017 sent to BUGB member churches. In March, the Council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain agreed to recommend the Charitable Incorporated Organisation model to the Assembly; click here for the [Notice of the Resolutions](#) to be put to the Assembly in May 2017.



April Prayer Diary

The **April Prayer Diary** is now available to download from our website and features:

- The South West Baptist Association
- The Support Services Team
- A prayer for Easter
- The Northern Baptist Association
- Our six Baptist Colleges

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



Taxation Alert

Ministers and Treasurers are asked to note that a further Tax Alert on the subject of reimbursed manse light and heat expenses was posted on the website Treasurers Area on 29 March.

Please [click here to access the Treasurers' area](#).



Deposit Accounts

The Baptist Union Corporation Directors have agreed to a relaunch of the Baptists Together Church Deposit Accounts from 3 April 2017 that will now include a 3 Month Notice Account and a 1 Year Fixed Account alongside the Standard 7 Day Notice Account. Advertising of these **new accounts is currently on the BUGB website**, and all churches will receive details with their annual subscription letters in due course. The interest rates applicable to each of these account is also available on the BUGB website, as are the Terms and Conditions for these accounts.



National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage increases from April 2017

The annual uplift in the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage (for those aged 25 and over) come into force this month, with the National Living Wage rising from £7.20 to £7.50 per hour. The new hourly minimum rates are as follows - Age 25 and over: £7.50; 21-24: £7.05; 18-20: £5.60; Under 18: £4.05; Apprentice: £3.50.



Support for Study

Accredited Ministers who want to study for a degree at a higher level than they have already achieved are reminded that our Union offers grants from the Further Studies Fund to help with the costs. These are at a fixed rate for taught Masters and a proportion of fees for research degrees. For further information contact Ian Millgate in the Ministries Team – 01235 517705 or imillgate@baptist.org.uk. Closing date is 31 May each year for grants for the following academic year.



Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science

This three year funded ecumenical project, based at St John's College, Durham University aims to resource all levels of Christian leadership in their engagement with questions, challenges and opportunities created by science. The project needs to hear from Baptist leaders and there is an opportunity for you to contribute to this significant piece of research by filling in a **10 minute online survey**. The survey is open to all Baptist ministers - who do not need to be from a scientific background.



Introduction to Safeguarding booklet - available soon

A new resource will soon be available for churches to help new volunteers as they take up roles working with children or adults at risk. The *Introduction to Safeguarding* brochure provides a simple introduction to the key points for church based volunteers and workers. If you are the Designed Person for Safeguarding for your church, you can use the brochure, alongside your church's safeguarding policies and procedures, as a starting point before the volunteer attends the *Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding* course. Please [check our website for this new resource](#).



Pinterest

Do you use Pinterest – the website for sharing creative ideas? It's a brilliant resource for creative inspiration and includes ideas for Sunday school, prayer spaces, worship, Messy Church, holidays clubs to name a few. [Baptists Together now has a Pinterest account](#) and would love to share the ideas that have worked in your church. If you are interested, please contact our Communications Enabler Mike Lowe by emailing m Lowe@baptist.org.uk



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:



Justification and Justice Symposium - Saturday 8 April

Five hundred years ago Martin Luther spearheaded the Reformation. Many years later Martin Luther King led the Civil Rights Movement. Two very different men, living in different ages, both challenging injustice. This symposium at Spurgeon's College, London will investigate the histories of both Martins and apply them to our churches. [Click here for details and to book your place](#).



Conversation Welcome - Thursday 27 April

A new resource from the Joint Public Issues Team about exploring the future of the UK after the EU Referendum. This one day workshop at Queens Road Baptist Church Coventry, will provide an opportunity to engage with the resource which can be used in a local church context, and as a tool for mission and engagement in the local community. The day costs £10 which includes a light lunch, refreshments and resources. Click here to [find out more and book your place](#).



Pray for Schools fortnight 7-21 May

Pray for Schools fortnight aims to bring together people from local churches and others involved in education – parents, students, teachers, governors, staff and volunteers – to pray strategically for schools in their area and those involved in them. Click here for [more information and resources](#).



Inaugural David Goodbourn Lecture - 10 May

The [Centre for Theology and Justice](#) is to be launched at 16:30 at Luther King House, Manchester with the inaugural David Goodbourn Lecture, *'Is justice enough? A radical Christian response to the current humanitarian and ecological crisis'* - presented by Father Augusto Zampini (currently the theological adviser to the UK aid-development agency CAFOD). Refreshments will be available at 15:45. CTBI will also be hosting its Annual General Meeting earlier in the day and you are also very welcome to attend. Click here [to register for this free event](#).



Baptist Assembly - Saturday 13 May

It's now only five weeks to go until our Baptist Assembly. If you haven't yet booked your tickets then please do so soon as the **closing date for bookings is 24 April**. Why not encourage others in your church by showing the video from Lynn Green and David Kerrigan inviting you to join us, or the video from Ben Francis who will be sharing something of what God is doing in South East Asia at this year's Assembly? [Visit the website](#), to find out more about the programme, special offers on accommodation and rail fares, and to book your place. If you have already booked your tickets we look forward to seeing you there!



Children and Family Ministry Course Open Day - 17 May

The Certificate in Children and Family Ministry at Bristol Baptist College takes a family focussed approach to youth and children's work looking holistically at the family unit. As well as biblical and sociological perspectives on family there is a specific focus on the range of practical skills needed to support and minister to parents. The Open Day will be from 11:00 - 14:00 or [visit their website to find out more about the course](#).



Thy Kingdom Come - 25 May - 4 June

Join the global wave of prayer. Baptist churches are being invited to take part in a global wave of prayer in the period between Ascension and Pentecost 2017. Thy Kingdom Come is an initiative of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and seeks to unite Christians in praying together for people to know Jesus Christ. [Click here to find out more and order or download resources](#).



Further Faster UK Conference - 7-8 July

Finchampstead Baptist Church is hosting the Further Faster UK Conference in partnership with Lead Academy. It features a team from North Point Church in Atlanta (one of the largest churches in the USA) sharing their experience of creating a church that unchurched people love to be part of. North Point has had great success in reaching and discipling unchurched people. UK practitioners will also be sharing how they contextualise the North Point formula into a UK context. Click here for [more information and registration](#).



Sam Sharpe Lecture - Saturday 7 October

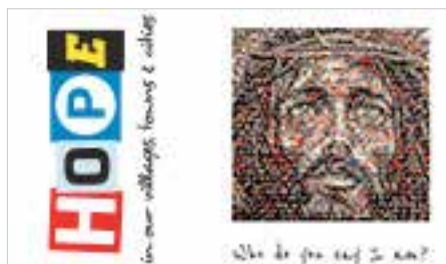
The Sixth Annual Sam Sharpe lecture will be taking place at 19:00 at Perry Rise Baptist Church in London. This year's lecture will be given by Karl Johnson - General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Please [click here to book your free place](#).

This month's featured resources:



One Friday

One Friday helps churches and community groups to find new ways of telling the Good Friday story outside the walls of the church. It will take many different forms - an event in the open-air, a project in a local school, an exhibition in a community venue, or a procession that retells the story in a series of locations. The One Friday website has [downloadable ideas and resources that can be adapted to any setting](#), including contemporary artwork and customisable publicity. This year the most imaginative projects will benefit from an award of £1000 and four awards of £200.



Who Do You Say I Am?

These new Easter resources from HOPE include a book, a 4-minute film and an explorers' course to use as we make Jesus known. The [Talking Jesus research](#) shows that four in ten people in the UK don't know if Jesus was a real person. Use *Who Do You Say I Am?* and make your Easter services great guest services this year, helping people to discover who Jesus is, why he died and what his resurrection means for us today. [Find out more from the HOPE website.](#)



A Place to Call Home?

Britain is facing a housing crisis – a claim which few people dispute. This has many symptoms that stretch across the whole of society. For some it means no home at all. *A place to call home?* is the latest resource from the Joint Public Issues Team and is a set of six bible studies for small group discussion focusing on a range of issues around housing. Click here for [more information and to download the resource](#).



New books by British Baptists

Several new books have been published by British Baptists recently, covering history, theology and ministry. Click on the titles for more information about them:

- [Challenge and Change: English Baptist life in the Eighteenth Century](#) – edited by Peter Morden and Stephen Copson
- [Gathering Disciples: Essays in Honor of Christopher Ellis](#) – edited by Myra Blyth and Andy Goodliff
- [Shaped for Service: Ministerial Formation and Virtue Ethics](#) - by Paul Goodliff



Moving Stories

Migration has always been a part of the human story, and there are several accounts of different people movements in the Bible. These nine new studies bring a blend of biblical, historical and contemporary material and have been written by people whose own stories have been shaped or impacted by a significant people movement. The studies aim to enable individuals and groups of people within our churches to think about migration, in the light of the word of God in the Bible. [Click here to download Moving Stories.](#)



Journeying to Justice

This new book provides the very first comprehensive appraisal of the tumultuous journey towards equity and reconciliation amongst British and Jamaican Baptists across two centuries of Christian missionary work, in which slavery, colonialism and racism has loomed large. Edited by Anthony G Reddie, it brings together scholars and practitioners, lay and ordained, from a variety of culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds, all speaking to the enduring truth of the gospel of Christ as a means of effecting social, political and spiritual transformation. Priced £24.99, you can [order your copy from the publisher](#).



Conversation Welcome

The EU Referendum campaign was, at times, bitter and divisive. People on both sides felt misrepresented and misunderstood. Many of us are uncertain about what the future holds. The new *Conversation Welcome* resource is designed to bring people, with their many different thoughts, hopes and concerns, together and help churches explore the important underlying questions about the sort of society we wish to live in and wish to leave to future generations. [Download a copy](#) from the Joint Public Issues Team website.



Community Re:Paint

Time to redecorate? Do you need paint? Community RePaint is the answer! We are a non-profit distributing company that collects reusable, leftover paint and re-distributes it at very low cost to individuals, families, communities and charities in need, improving the wellbeing of people and the appearance of places across the UK. We can also now supply larger quantities of re-manufactured paint in a range of 19 colours plus Brilliant White. [Click here to find out more](#) or contact Simon Edwards on simon.edwards@resourcefutures.org.uk



The Promise - resources from Damaris available soon

Damaris will be providing resources based on powerful historical drama *The Promise*, set to be released in cinemas on 28 April. The film is set during the last days of the Ottoman Empire, in 1915, as the Turkish authorities are about to begin a terrible persecution of the Armenian people. It reminds us of the plight of today's refugees and persecuted minorities. The resources will offer church groups a chance to act, reflect and pray around these issues.



Cinnamon Network funding

Cinnamon Network aims to make it as easy as possible for local churches to transform their communities by reaching out and building life-giving relationships with those in greatest need. They can offer funding for small local community-based projects including, for example, chaplaincy to care homes. [Find out more on their website](#).