

Bicentenary on R4

A GATHERING marking the 200 years of the relationship between Jamaican and British Baptists is set to reach a worldwide audience on Sunday.

BBC Radio 4 will broadcast the early morning service at Cannon Street Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham live at 8.10am, the first of three services that day celebrating the bicentenary.

There will be contributions from Lynn Green, General Secretary of our Baptist Union, David Kerrigan, General Director of BMS World Mission, plus a recorded message from Neville Callam, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. Karl Johnson, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Jamaica, will preach at both morning services. Karl Henlin, former President of the Jamaica Baptist Union, will speak in the evening celebration at 6.30pm. The acclaimed Town Hall Gospel Choir, which sung at this year's Baptist Assembly, will perform, while the New Testament reading will be conducted in both Jamaican Patois and English.

It is hoped that Baptists around the UK and beyond will tune into the early service, either as it happens or later on BBC iPlayer.

'This is going to be a unique service, an absolutely brilliant occasion where Baptists around the world will be celebrating 200 years of partnership between Jamaican and British Baptists,' said Wale Hudson-Roberts, Racial Justice networker for our Baptist Union.



'Two hundred years ago George Liele went to Jamaica to establish churches. Soon after John Rowe was called to help and develop these churches.

'So now, we as Baptists, both Jamaican and British, feel it is absolutely appropriate to reflect and celebrate this very special milestone.'

Mr Johnson said the friendship between Jamaican and British Baptists, which had been forged through years of slavery, colonisation and the arrival of the Windrush from the Caribbean to the UK, had stood the test of time and represents 'a powerful testimonial of mutuality,

collaboration, respect and continuity.'

'The Baptist Union and BMS are interwoven in much of our story as a faith community and we are grateful that in recent years this friendship has enjoyed a kind of 'revival', primarily linked to the journey you have been on arising out of the Apology.

'We thank God for the opportunity to accompany you on that journey in search of wholeness and harmony in racial and multi-cultural relationships and pledge to be 'as Christ to you' in pursuit of that goal.

'There is no doubt in our mind that God has been and will continue to be with us as friends and partners and we can justly invite others to study and embrace our story as a template worthy of emulation.'

'Let no one be a stranger', is the theme of the early service, and Bryan Scott, Team Leader at Cannon Street, described it as the 'guiding principle of the two centuries old relationship between Jamaican and British Baptists,' before adding, 'We at Cannon Street Memorial Baptist Church hope and pray that this theme will be a value that is deeply imbedded in our world at large. ... Let no one be a stranger.'

The Free Churches and the MPs

LEADERS of the Free Churches were also among the faithful at the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat conferences this year, making the most of the opportunity to meet with politicians before the general election.

Representatives of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, the Salvation Army and the Society of Friends have been visiting party conferences for several years now, talking with MPs – including ministers – local councillors, MEPs and party activists.

They're a very visible presence at these conferences, with their clerical collars, chains of office and uniforms – and deliberately so as they believe it's important, especially at a time when politics has a bad name, to demonstrate their conviction that the political process is important and Christians and churches should be part of it.

They also want, through these visits, to affirm those who live out their vocation through political activity, and pray with Christians who are active within their parties.



The pattern at each conference was for the church leaders to meet with individual politicians to explore issues of mutual concern.

At the Labour conference in Manchester the delegation met with several shadow ministers and MEPs, raising with them issues such as gambling, credit unions, how to measure 'well-being' and the impact of the Scottish referendum.

In Birmingham the group met with Conservative MPs and councillors, discussing foodbanks and the causes of poverty; homelessness and the housing

crisis; gambling and alcohol addiction; how Christians can advocate for peace in a conflict-ridden world; and ways that churches can engage with and influence politicians.

The Lib Dem conference in Glasgow saw the delegation discuss with several government ministers and peers issues as wide-ranging as localism, mental health, climate change, legal aid, immigration, the situation in Iraq and advertising payday loans on children's television.

Faith and Society Team Leader Stephen Keyworth (pictured top left at the Lib Dem conference with MP Simon Hughes, front right) said he was impressed with the willingness of politicians to engage with the churches, often at a deep level.

'We had some very open and honest conversations about nitty gritty issues both at home and abroad,' Stephen said.

'Politicians clearly think churches are worth talking with and want us to engage with them locally and nationally. And as one MP said to us, they also value our prayers for them.'

For more read: bit.ly/1sXulQl

Kerensa backs Christmas campaign

AN award-winning stand-up comic, Paul Kerensa, has teamed up with the Christian communications network – ChurchAds.net – to raise awareness about the true meaning of Christmas.

Kerensa, also a writer for sitcoms like *Miranda* and *Not Going Out*, and author of books including *So A Comedian Walks Into A Church...Confessions of*

a kneel-down stand-up, features as a number of character voices on three new ads scheduled to hit the airwaves in early December as part of the Christmas Starts with Christ Campaign. The campaign is backed by all major Christian denominations.

'For me, Christmas normally ends in a mess but this campaign reminds us it starts with Christ. These excellent ads spoof the

daytime tabloid talkshows and hopefully, these commercials will remind listeners that in the birthday party this Christmas, we shouldn't forget the birthday boy,' said Kerensa.

All churches can use the free resources available at www.ChristmasStartsWithChrist.com

New appointments at HEBA

The Heart of England Baptist Association has confirmed three appointments to its regional ministry team.

Adrian Argile is to be the new Regional Minister-Team Leader, succeeding the Revd Keith Judson, who left at the end of September.

Adrian has been a member of HEBA's Regional Ministry team since 2007. In a document sent to the Association's churches, he said, 'I have been delighted to be part of an Association that has shared my heart for growing healthy churches.'

'I am in full agreement with its mission, strategy and strategic objectives, although it is important to recognise that we are on a journey and each year we need to review and renew the objectives. My hope, as Team Leader, is to build on this work and especially see a deepening mission focus.'

There will also be two new regional ministers. One is Dave Ellis, pastor of Small Heath Baptist Church in Birmingham and a member of the Baptist Steering Group.

He said, 'I am a pastor at heart who loves worshipping the Lord, with a passion for mission. Born



and bred in Wolverhampton to Jamaican parents, I have been involved in the Baptist Church since I was five years old.

'I've had the privilege of being the minister of two wonderful churches for 25 years and served on a number of Baptist, ecumenical and community groups over the years. Currently I serve on the Baptist Steering Group, the BU Council and as a member of Fresh Streams core leaders team.

'I am greatly encouraged by our Association's new two-year vision with its focus on mission and commitment to growth.'

Dave will take up his post in January 2015. Also joining the team then is Alison Mackay, who has for the past 11 years been the senior minister of Leytonstone United Free Church in East

London. She returns to the Midlands after being at Yardley Wood Baptist Church in the 1990s.

She said, 'It is with great joy that I take up this new position as Regional Minister in the Heart of England Baptist Association.

'I am committed to active community involvement and have been grateful to serve as a MET Police Chaplain, school mentor, and founder trustee of Leytonstone Youth Matters. I believe in ecumenicalism and finding creative and exciting ways to do mission together. I am passionate about matters of inclusion and discovering ways that can allow all people to encounter God's love.

'I am really looking forward to coming back to the Midlands area, and getting to know the stunning scenery found here.'

Together with current Regional Minister Barrie Smith, the Adrian, Dave and Alison will form the HEBA Ministry Team with effect from January 2015.

The Commissioning Service for this new Regional Ministry Team will be held on Sunday 1 February 2015 at St Peter's Baptist Church, Worcester.

message in First World War commemorations
bit.ly/ZwhkjE

> Winning the battle for a better prayer life: Most of us would agree that we need to lift our prayer life to a higher level, but how?
bit.ly/1wCFYx

> Working at height - are you

safe? Advice from Baptist Insurance for one of the biggest causes of fatalities and major injuries
bit.ly/11uvkVZ

> Cuban pastor's criminal charges threat: Baptist pastor and religious freedom activist told to break ties with "counter-revolutionary elements"
bit.ly/1wbsTb6

BWA Congress speakers

THE keynote speakers for the 21st Baptist World Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa next year have been confirmed.

They are Peter Chin from South Korea, Donald Ndichafah from Cameroon, Dimitrina Oprenova from Bulgaria, Anthony Carroll from the Bahamas, Luiz Soares Silvano from Brazil and Joel Gregory from the United States.

Chin is senior pastor of the Global Mission Church in Bundang-Suji district in South Korea. He earned degrees from several schools in the United States.

Ndichafah is a vice president of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship, and was general secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. Oprenova is associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Sofia, president of the Bulgarian Baptist Women's Department and a member of the Executive Committee of the European Baptist Women's Union.

Carroll is senior pastor of Antioch Native Baptist Church in Nassau and former president of the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Education Convention.

Silvano is pastor of Bacacheri Baptist Church in Curitiba, Paraná, and president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. Gregory is professor of preaching at Baylor University's Truett Seminary in Texas and distinguished fellow of Georgetown College in Kentucky.

For more visit <http://bwanet.org/congress>

Inter faith dialogue

A DAY seminar exploring inter faith dialogue, and how we can make it fruitful for all parties while remaining true to our faith, will take place at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church next month.

Hosted by the London Baptist Association during inter faith week, the event is called: How Can Interfaith Engagement Be Fruitful?

The Revd Nadim Nassar and St. John Wright of the Awareness Foundation will be facilitating the day.

They will explore a biblical grounding for inter faith engagement, before exploring the following questions:

How inter faith engagement can help us to grow in our own faith; How can evangelicals take part in inter faith engagement and still be secure in their faith? Can inter faith engagement ever be harmful?

The seminar is open to everyone, and will equip people to engage with those of different faiths in a variety of contexts, including the workplace.

It takes place on 22 November, 10.30-3.30. There is no charge.

For more on Inter Faith Week, visit www.interfaithweek.org/

THIS Sunday (19 October) is Freedom Sunday, a day of worship, prayer and action on human trafficking. Resources have been created by the Joint Public Issues Team.

For more visit <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/freedomsunday/>

JOBS

**Parish Nurse, Loughborough Baptist Church
Regional Minister, East Midlands Baptist Association**

For more details visit: www.baptist.org.uk/jobs

DEATH

RAW, Margaret - died on 13 September 2014. All are welcome to attend the committal at Randalls Park Crematorium on Thursday 6 November at 10.15. This will be followed by a service of thanksgiving at 12.30 at Sutton Baptist Church

BAPTISMS

Attleborough Baptist Church, Nuneaton, Warwick: Gayle Ramsey 1
Colchester Baptist Church, Essex: Kerryann Jenkins, Prashanthi Perinpanayagam, Franka Ramkinson 3
London Road Baptist Church, Lowestoft, Suffolk: Joshua Thompson & Hayley Webb 2
Teddington Baptist Church, Middlesex: Eleanor Clark, Emma Wilkinson, Anna Wilson. 3

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to phobson@baptist.org.uk

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