

Tributes to David

TRIBUTES have been paid to Dr David Goodbourn, a former Baptist Union Trustee, Council Member and General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, who died on Sunday (9 November).

David had cancer, which caused him to step down as a Baptist Union Trustee in August. He had served in this role since 2011, during which time he played a significant part in the Futures process, chairing a group which looked at the new governance structures of the Baptist Union.

Before then David was a president of Luther King House, the centre for theological education in Manchester (2005-2011) and a general secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (1999-2006). He was a member of the central committee of the World Council of Churches and acted as moderator of its sub-committee on programmes.

General Secretary Lynn Green said, 'I was saddened to hear of the death of David Goodbourn over the weekend.

'David has made a very significant contribution to Baptist life over the years, most recently as a member of the BUGB Trustee Board. His



wisdom, clarity of thought, his encouragement and unfailing support were all appreciated so much by his fellow trustees.

'David has offered us an example of embracing suffering on the journey of discipleship throughout his illness. In the midst of our sense of loss we are thankful that he is now at peace with His Lord and we pray for his wife Lynn and the family as they mourn their loss.'

Ruth Bottoms, a former moderator of Baptist Union Trustees, worked alongside David at the World Council of Churches. She said, 'For me, David Goodbourn was the ecumenical diplomat par excellence: knowledgeable, a

good listener, patient, able to interpret different traditions to one another and with a wry sense of humour over the diversity of the church.'

There have been numerous tributes from former colleagues beyond the denomination.

Bob Fyffe, the General Secretary of CTBI, said, 'Having worked with David over a number of years, I can testify to the many people at home and abroad whom David has worked with and influenced. He was also one of the nicest and most Christian people I have had the privilege to know.'

For a longer version of this story, visit bit.ly/1u1RFud

Baptist heritage brought to life

Retford Baptist Church members form company to organise tours of area's unique Christian and Baptist history. By Adrian Gray



Pilgrim Fathers, All Saints, Babworth

Central to their heritage the Catholics have Rome, the Anglicans have Canterbury, the Methodists have Epworth and the Baptists have... where exactly?

In fact some of the most important sites for the origin of the Baptists lie in north Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, so members of the Baptist Church at Retford (itself on the same site since 1691) have formed a group to promote awareness and arrange tours or visits.

The area broadly covered by modern Notts. and Lincs. has a Christian heritage of astonishing richness, but it is one that is largely uncelebrated and even unrecognised by people who live there. In the early seventh century the missionary, St Paulinus, baptised hundreds from the kingdom of Lindsey in the River Trent, after which the area saw some great medieval saints and some important spiritual texts being written.

However from the 1540s it

began to produce many religious radicals, who challenged the restrictive status quo - and some of whom paid with their lives.

From about 1600 local puritans began to abandon the Church of England and move to Holland where, under the leadership of Thomas Helwys and John Smyth, they became Baptists. It is an extraordinary fact that Smyth, Helwys and their successor Murton, all came from within a few miles of each other in Trentside settlements.

Retford Baptist Church members have now formed a social enterprise company, Pilgrims & Prophets, to organise local Christian heritage tours and use them as a basis for fellowship and even evangelism.

The response has been very positive, with the idea of Christian heritage acting as a

bridge to other non-Christian groups. It has also been picked up by the local paper, which is publishing a series of articles about Christianity in the area.

As chairman Gerard Pontier explains, 'We are aiming to encourage Christians and non-Christians to visit our area and explore this wonderful spiritual heritage.'

'It is an opportunity to have a great day or two out and we especially welcome groups who'd like to come and have some fellowship at our church, which is experiencing amazing growth.'

Contact Pilgrims & Prophets via <http://pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk/> or 07586 732462

Adrian Gray is a member of Retford Baptist Church

Baptist Union Council gathers

MISSION and Baptist church identity were among the items discussed by members of Baptist Union Council this week.

The Council gathered in Swanwick on Tuesday and Wednesday. Other issues on the agenda included overall strategy

of our Union, local church engagement in the General Election next year, and further reflection on ministry, taking account of work already done through the ministry review.

Council consists of some 80 members mostly drawn from

churches, Associations, colleges and co-opted delegates. A Baptist Union Council Facebook group fed into the discussions.

A report from this week's gathering will be uploaded to the Baptists Together website in due course.

Pray and fast for the climate

The latest blog from Baptist Union President Chris Ellis focuses on a new prayer initiative for climate change



I'm told it's been a warm year, maybe the warmest on record. Many of us have been basking in sunshine which we have complacently called 'unseasonal'. But deep down we have known that this is likely to be yet another sign that all is not well.

Through our profligate use of resources, and especially our use of fossil fuels, the earth and its climate is out of joint. While for some this means more temperate weather, for others it can mean floods or droughts, lost land and failed crops.

We know that something must change, but again, deep down, we know that we must change – our politicians need to commit more, our communities need to plan more, and we need to use less. Yet we have always found changing ourselves to be so hard. We need resolve, but even more, we need to seek God's help.

Now Christian organisations in the UK are coming together

to launch a year of prayer and fasting for the climate at special services across the country on 1 November 2014. This initiative calls on Christians to pray and fast on the first day of every month to make a stand for climate justice. The coming year is a crucial time for faith communities to act in response to the climate crisis, as momentum builds towards a new international climate agreement to be signed in Paris in December 2015 to stop dangerous climate change.

I want to encourage, no, urge, Baptists to become a part of this prayer movement. Politics is bound up with prayer, economics

is entwined with spiritual disciplines.

We pray to God the creator, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. We pray for God's world, we pray for ourselves and we pray for those who suffer as a result of our selfish policies and actions.

To find out more about the Pray and Fast Climate initiative visit <http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/>

See also information from the Joint Public Issues Team <http://bit.ly/1zjJCL0>

international day of prayer for the persecuted church this weekend

bit.ly/1v3HPuR

> Collective responsibility for school assemblies - why churches should help schools who are seeking to comply with the law on collective worship

bit.ly/1B9279G

> Another approach to Remembrance: it is not enough to remember the past: to honour the past we have to make a difference in the present

bit.ly/1wTenXY

> Next week is Inter Faith Week, and the chair of the Baptist Inter Faith Working Group has written a prayer

bit.ly/1xhsdEU

From the www. baptisttimes.co.uk

Recent stories and comment pieces on *The Baptist Times* website

> The difficulties faced by a Baptist pastor in Cuba are highlighted ahead of an

Baptist service live on Radio 4

BBC Radio 4 is to broadcast its live Sunday morning service from Cannon Street Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham this Sunday, 16 November.

The service is to celebrate the bicentenary of the relationship between the Baptist Unions of Jamaica and Great Britain, and BMS World Mission.

The service and broadcast begins at 08:10am.

It was originally scheduled to be broadcast in October but due to technical problems could not be transmitted.

The speaker is Karl Johnson, the General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union, while there will also be contributions from Lynn Green, General Secretary of our Baptist Union.

The service is part of a series of events celebrating the 200-year relationship between Jamaican and British Baptists, many of which took place in October.

'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.

A link to the service on BBCiPlayer will be shared on www.200years.net and via social media channels.

The Saints and Peace

Two day conferences at Regent's Park College, Oxford

DO we have fellowship with the dead as well as the living?

A day conference at Regent's Park College on 22 November 2014 is on the theme 'Baptists and the Communion of Saints', and is a ground-breaking attempt to re-think Baptist theology and doctrine of the church from the perspective of communion with all saints, living and dead.

Deeply grounded in the historic Baptist theology of covenant, the speakers want to convey their passionate conviction that praying 'with all the saints' makes an enormous difference to being Christian disciples and being the church. The three speakers have all been Principals of Baptist colleges – Brian Haymes, Richard Kidd and Paul Fiddes.

They will also be launching a new book on *Baptists and the Communion of Saints*, available at a discount on the day, and anticipate lively discussion. The day is free of charge.

'Are Baptists peace-makers?' The second day conference, on Saturday 6 December 2014, uniquely brings together German and British Baptist scholars, exploring the movements for peace in 1914.

The churches' peace-movements in modern times began with a significant conference at Lake Constance just before the war broke out. Baptists were deeply involved in this (for example, J.H. Shakespeare, John Clifford and J.H. Rushbrooke) as well as in subsequent peace movements, but other Christian confessions were also engaged. Key speakers include Dr Keith Clements, Baptist scholar and former General Secretary of the Conference for European Churches.

This conference will cost £10 to attend.

Register for both conferences by emailing paul.fiddes@regents.ox.ac.uk



JOBS

Interim Ministries Team Leader, Baptists Together Chaplains, RAF

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

BAPTISMS

Charlbury Baptist Church, Oxfordshire: Dorothy Lanigan 1
Cranham Baptist Church, Upminster: Eddie Glasson, Bob Roach 2
Hope Baptist Church, Plymouth: Lois Allen 1
South Woodham Evangelical Church, Essex: Jackie Wallis and Lizzie Chaplin 2

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