



## monthly information and resource update

**May 2017**

Dear Friends

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

With less than a fortnight to go, preparations for our **Assembly in Harrogate** are nearing completion. To ensure a speedy entrance on the day, **don't forget to print and bring your ticket** included in your confirmation email. One of the agenda items within our AGM at Assembly is the **proposed change of legal status of the BUGB charity**. Please see the information below about the **Resolution being brought to Assembly**. There will also be an **informal Q&A session** in the Queen's Suite at 09:45 (before the Assembly opening celebration) which will give you an opportunity to find out more about the proposal and ask questions.

Since our last Update, the news of our forthcoming **General Election** has been announced. Please have a look at our website for **links to resources for churches in the run-up to voting** on 8 June. These include some reflections and prayers, and the new **This is a Time resource from the Joint Public Issues Team** offering six brief reflections on key biblical themes.

Stephen Keyworth  
*Faith and Society Team*



**Baptists Together magazine**  
Four copies of our Summer 2017 edition, Beacons of Hope, have been sent to every church.



**The May Prayer Diary is now available to download** from our website. Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



**Read about Pill Baptist Church - three different expressions of church** in the West 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. There will also be an **informal Q&A session** in the Queen's Suite at 09:45 (before the Assembly opening celebration) as an opportunity to find out more about the proposal and ask questions.



## 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.



## 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 [mloew@baptist.org.uk](mailto:mloew@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:



### 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](#).



### Baptist Assembly - Saturday 13 May

It's now less than two weeks until our Baptist Assembly! We will be sending out an update by email on Friday to all those who have booked to join us. In the meantime, [visit the website](#) to find out more about the programme and special offers on accommodation and rail fares. If you have already booked your tickets, we look forward to seeing you there!



### Rural Ministries Annual Conference - Saturday 13 May

**Whole-life Discipleship** at The Well, Retford, Nottinghamshire, cost £30. For many, their Christian 'work' only happens in 5% of their lives when involved in 'church activities'. Imagine how different things could be if we can get Christians to give God control of ALL their lives, to have 'whole-life discipleship'. Neil Hudson of the LICC will be helping us develop a culture of whole-life discipleship in our churches, communities, and workplaces. Click here [for more information and booking](#).



### Faith in our Families - Leaders events - May-July

Parents are the biggest influence on their children. They have more than 30 hours a week with their child, compared to the Church's one hour on a Sunday. However, many parents don't know where to start with nurturing their children's faith at home. Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking session with Andy Frost, Director of Share Jesus International. Click here for [details of dates and venues and book](#) your complimentary place.



### 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.



### Big Church Day Out - 27-28 May and 2-3 June

The Big Church Day Out gathers Christians from all over the country, of all ages for a weekend of worship, family fun, music and celebration. This vibrant expression of church unity is enjoyed by thousands of guests every year, and stands as the biggest annual evangelistic event in the UK as groups and families invite many of their un-churched friends. The Big Church Day Out's vision for 2017 is one event in two locations, with 45,000 people coming together as one big family to worship and to celebrate all that is good. [Watch the promo video](#) to find out more and [find full details on their website](#).



### 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](#).



### Shaping our Worship - Wednesday 13 September

We shape our worship, our worship shapes us. All are welcome to attend the second conference hosted by The Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain from 10:30 - 16:00 at St Aloysius Parish Centre, London (next to Euston Station). Speakers include Graham Maule, Andrew Carwood, Geraldine Latty and Carey Luce. Cost: £25 per person including lunch. For [more details see the JLG website](#), or email: [martin.foster@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:martin.foster@cbcew.org.uk)



### 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:



### General Election Resources

How should we approach the General Election campaign? A number of organisations are aiming to resource Christians in the run up to voting on 8 June. [Links to these resources](#) are available on our website, including a link to [download \*This is a Time - six brief reflections on key biblical themes\*](#) - from the Joint Public Issues Team, and a [guide to planning a hustings meeting](#).



### 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.



### The ministry of an army chaplain

Cole Maynard has been a Baptist army chaplain for 20 years. He is currently blogging for the Baptists Together website from South Sudan, where he is on deployment as part of UNMISS, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan. [Click here for an insight into Cole's ministry](#)