



monthly information and resource update

December 2017

Dear Friends

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

This month's **Home Mission story comes from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Coalville**, where older generations have been meeting and sharing their experience and memories with a younger generation through a new after-school club.

We'd like to particularly draw your attention to **BBC's *Songs of Praise*** being broadcast at 15:00 on **Sunday 10 December** - recorded recently at Hope Baptist Church in Plymouth, and including an interview with the minister, Andrew Gardiner. It all came about after the show's producers were moved by Andrew's story, following his diagnosis with bowel cancer in May last year. During his treatment he has experienced sudden bursts of creativity, writing numerous songs and poems testifying to his faith in God. See the Resources section below for **news about Andrew's Advent and New Year poems** - available to order as bookmarks - which make great giveaways at your Christmas services.

Our Resources section also includes links to other materials which we hope will be helpful to you and your church during the **Advent and Christmas** period, including resources from our Joint Public Issues Team.

May God bless you in this time of Advent.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



Read the latest update from the Baptist Steering Group meeting in November in Paignton



The December Prayer Diary is now available to download
Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Read about Ebenezer Baptist Church's after-school club in the East Midland Baptist Association

Presidential Nominations

Presidency Nominations

Baptists are being invited to nominate the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2019-20. The President will help to communicate our vision and mission priorities, bringing their own unique insights and experience into their leadership, and may feel led to bring a particular emphasis within the overall strategy. Click here to **find out more about how to nominate someone** - please be aware that the nomination process will close on 31 December.



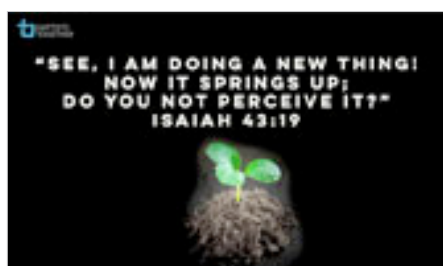
Baptist Union Council Meeting - November

Our Council met at Swanwick last month, when the focus topic was mission and pioneering facilitated by Roy Searle and Simon Goddard. For the first time, the Council prayer time was streamed live through Facebook so that people across the country could join in praying with Council members. Click here to [find out more about the outcomes of this Council meeting](#).



General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Guideline leaflet L13 Data Protection has been updated to reflect the new GDPR which apply from 25 May 2018. It is essential that churches familiarise themselves with these new legal requirements. Click here to [download a copy of this leaflet](#) from our website.



Share your story

Across the country there's a real sense of this being a season which is characterised by innovation and creativity in mission. Simon Goddard and Roy Searle, as the Baptist Together National Pioneer Co-ordinators, would love to get a fuller picture of the 'new thing' that God is doing amongst us. Your church or project might be eligible for a small grant, courtesy of the Baptist Insurance Company - [share your story before 31 December 2017](#) to be eligible



Online Directory

Our website contains a vast amount of information and resources for churches and individuals. We have now added a landing page giving quick access to information about Baptists Together which was previously available in our printed Directories. This includes lists of our member churches, accredited ministers, partner organisations and structures. Click here to [have a look at our online directory](#).



Registered Charities Online Filing

Churches with a financial year end of 31 December that are registered with the Charity Commission should have met their online filing requirements by the 31 October deadline. Those that are overdue must now submit the relevant documents asap.



Keep up to date with Baptist news!

The Baptist Times News Round-up is a fortnightly email with links to recent stories and reflections on our website. Last month's most popular stories were a report from November's [meeting of Baptist Union Council](#), and a feature on the Home Mission-supported [Pulborough Brooks Baptist Church](#), an outward-looking church building God's kingdom in Pulborough. Click here for [more information on the Round-up](#), including how to subscribe.



A new-look online shop

Did you know that we have an online shop? It has just had a makeover so please take a look at the cards, resources and publications we have on offer. Here you can pre-order your *Baptists Together* magazine subscription to begin with the Spring 2018 edition, being published in January. [Click here to browse the shop.](#)



Young Choir of the Year

BBC One's Songs of Praise is looking for the UK's Young Choir of the Year 2018. If you are part of a young choir and think you've got what it takes, this could be the competition for you! Entry to the competition will close on Thursday 14 December. [Click here for more details, and to apply.](#)



Stewards needed for Conference of European Churches

Are you between 18 and 30 years old and keen to join 100 other young adults from across Europe in Serbia next year for an amazing ecumenical experience? Then you should have a look at CEC's Stewards Programme for the General Assembly in Novi Sad. The General Assembly includes worship, Bible studies, thematic plenary sessions, and workshops that relate to the main thematic areas of the Assembly 'Witness, Justice, Hospitality'. [Click here for more information.](#)



Alert - Photo and image copyright compliance

Following recent cases of churches and charities being fined for using photos without permission, Churches Together in England has issued a reminder about the need to obtain copyright permission before use. Always be careful to check the licence / copyright arrangement for each photograph you may wish to use, and never harvest images from the internet, other than through the appropriate photo libraries where you may need to pay a fee. [Please click here for further information.](#)

This month's featured events:



Pensions Webinar - Friday 8 December

Through the autumn we have been running Pension Roadshows for churches that are members of the Baptist Pension Scheme Defined Benefits (DB) Scheme. If you haven't been able to attend we are running a Webinar on 8 December at 13:00. [Click this link to join the Webinar.](#)



Whitley Lecture - various dates from 8 January

Helen Paynter will be delivering the 2018 Whitley lecture '*Dead and Buried? Attending to the voices of the victim in the Old Testament and today*'. Confirmed dates for the lecture are 8 Jan - Manchester; 21 Feb - Cardiff; 27 Feb - Oxford; 28 Feb - Bristol; 26 Apr - Glasgow; 2 May - London. [Click here for more details.](#) The lecture can be delivered at other venues around the country in 2018. For further information, contact Helen Paynter on paynterh@bristol-baptist.ac.uk



Christian Supply Chain Tradeshow - Wednesday 10 January

Christian Supply Chain Buying Group (CSCBG) work with Christian charities, schools, colleges, churches, conference and retreat centres to save them time, money and resource on their purchasing costs. They combine the purchasing power of Christian member organisations to obtain improved prices and discounts from suppliers on a large range of quality products and services. **The show at Hothorpe Hall** is FREE - to help you be good stewards of your resources.



CIO Training - Tuesday 23 January

The BUGB Legal and Operations Team and Yorkshire Baptist Association will be hosting a further training day on Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) at Cemetery Road Baptist Church in Sheffield and will run from approximately 11:00 until 15:00. Esther Campsall from Anthony Collins LLP will be presenting together with Caroline Sanderson from BUGB. [Click here for further details and to book your place\(s\)](#). Bookings close on 12 January.



Incarnate Encounter - 26 - 28 January 2018

This is an opportunity to gather the collective wisdom of years of experimentation in living out the gospel and being church. Over an action-packed weekend in the Portsmouth area we will enjoy time reflecting together with other pioneers from around the country, and learning from one another, experience a session from the Crucible Course - and much more. Click here [for more information and to book your place](#).



GDPR Seminars - 27 January | 22 February | 8 March

The commencement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is looming. It will have an impact on all churches and you need to be fully compliant with it by 25 May 2018. The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT) is holding half-day seminars in three different locations to give practical guidance on this new legislation, with particular relevance to churches and faith organisations. [Please see the ACAT website for more details](#).



Incarnate Houseparty - 6-8 March 2018

Bookings are now open for the next gathering 'Reimagining Discipleship' at Somersal Cottages in Derbyshire. This annual gathering provides a great opportunity to meet with others who seek to follow Jesus at the margins and experiment with what it means to live out the Gospel in new and challenging contexts. Click here [for more details and booking](#).



Faith in Seniors - Saturday 17 March

Romford Baptist Church is hosting this day conference covering a range of topics opening up a Biblical view of God's purposes in later life, including practical and spiritual support for those affected by dementia etc. Speakers Jennifer Bute, Louise Morse, Roger Hitchings, Janet Jacob and Debs Fidler will be considering topics including faith in dementia, the vision of the church for our older generation, understanding and supporting caregivers and dealing with loneliness. [For details and to book your place](#), please see the Pilgrims' Friend Society website.



Baptist Assembly - Saturday 12 May

Plans are taking shape for our Assembly in Peterborough in 2018. We are currently updating the website ready for launch in January, and bookings will open on 22 January. Please use the [Assembly poster to publicise the date](#), and encourage your church members to join us - we'd love to see you there.



Celebrating, Surviving and Thriving - Women in Baptist Ministry - 28-29 June 2018

The Gender Justice Hub and the BME Women Ministers' Network present a 24-hour conference at IMC in Birmingham for Baptist women ministers, non-ordained women in a qualifying office, MITs and those exploring a call to ministry. With Pat Took, Gale Richards, Helen Roberts and Dion White in inter-generational dialogue. Worship led by Amie Buhari. Cost £100, bursaries available. Booking details to follow but to reserve your place now, email mary.taylor@yba.org.uk



Signs of God Summer School - 13-19 August 2018

For several years, Signs of God has provided teams of British Sign Language Interpreters for our Baptist Assembly. Signs of God holds a biennial Summer School which will be held at the University of Wolverhampton in 2018. This will include six days of teaching by experienced BSL tutors and interpreting tutors, visiting speakers on a range of related topics from theology to BSL, lectures and practical training. Click here for [more details and booking](#).

This month's featured resources:



Advent and Christmas Resources 2017

As we move through Advent and towards the joy of Christmas, we have compiled a collection of resources and links which you might find useful for reflection or planning. These include reflections and resources to aid preparations during Advent, including a script for a 'Very British Nativity' from our Joint Public Issues Team. Click here to [access this collection of resources](#).



Bookmark giveaways for Christmas and New Year

Baptist minister Andrew Gardiner, who is battling cancer, is to be featured on Songs of Praise this weekend. During his cancer treatment he has experienced sudden bursts of creativity, writing numerous songs and poems testifying to his faith in God. Andrew's Advent and New Year poems have now been printed on bookmarks and he is encouraging churches to both read them aloud during services, and order copies to give away. [Click here to find out more](#) and contact Andrew to order bookmarks at risinghopeplymouth@gmail.com.



Something to give

HOPE is inviting Christians to make a journey this Christmas to take a glossy Christmas HOPE magazine to every home in their area and to sing carols on the streets. The Christmas HOPE magazine features comedian Miranda Hart, Sky Sports and former Blue Peter presenter Simon Thomas, and toy store entrepreneur Gary Grant. As well as competitions and giveaways, there's a children's story using the Bethlehem Journey resources. These link with the Christmas Journey to Bethlehem carols booklet produced in partnership with Bible Society, Sports Chaplaincy UK, and Integrity Music. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Ensure no one spends Christmas Alone

Christmas should be one of the happiest times of the year for everyone; yet for millions of people across the UK it can be the gloomiest. They experience Christmas as one of the most lonely times as businesses around the country shut their shops, leaving them with no place to go. Premier is aiming to help people across the UK to go to places so that they can spend their Christmas with others. [If you're running a Christmas Day event for people who might be on their own](#), then make sure you let Premier know about it to add to their national listing of all the Christmas day events happening across the UK.



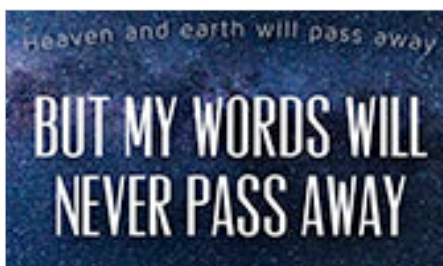
Open Welcome - A Toolkit for Rural Churches

Open Welcome, a new resource from Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre, is designed to help rural churches consider how they might use their building to offer welcome and hospitality to those in their community, both residents and visitors. This [free resource is available to download](#) from their website.



Crossing the Threshold Toolkit

Launched nationally in November 2017, the fully-revised and expanded *Crossing the Threshold* toolkit offers a step-by-step guide to managing a church building project. Published by the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA) in collaboration with the Diocese of Hereford, this newly updated resource is packed with advice, hints and tips for any group taking a community development approach towards adapting a church building for wider community use, while balancing the needs of existing worshippers. Click here to [download the resource](#).



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](#).