

BAPTISTS TOGETHER

monthly information and resource update

January 2018

Dear Friends

Happy New Year, and welcome to this month's Update full of news and resources for your church.

We begin 2018 with a video story from [Devonport Community Baptist Church](#), which is using lots of creative ways to share the Gospel and engage with their community.

Our [Assembly website](#) has now been updated with more information about this year's Assembly in Peterborough, on 12 May. Do have a look at what's on offer, encourage your church to join us and get ready to book your place(s). Registration will be open from 22 January - 29 April.

I'd also like to highlight the [Joint Public Issues Team conference 'Brave New World'](#) taking place in Manchester on 17 March. This will look at what it means to be a Christian in the midst of our changing world - with keynote speakers Stella Creasy MP and Peter Osborne, columnist at the Daily Mail.

Look out for the three copies of the Spring 2018 [Baptists Together magazine](#) being sent to Church Secretaries around mid-January. Please share these with your church.



As we journey together into 2018 let's reflect on these [words from our prayer diary](#):

The New Year starts off for many with resolutions and promises. We pray for ourselves, to take new steps on our journey with Christ during 2018. Teach us to receive the future you have planned for us; give us a new vision of you, that we may feel your compassion, your anger and your love. May your Gospel flood our lives, infuse our churches with life, flood our world with hope.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



Find our Online Directory
with links to information and resources previously available in our printed Directories.



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



Hear from Devonport Community Baptist Church
in Plymouth, in the South West Baptist Association



Presidential Elections

Nominations for the President of the Baptist Union 2019-20 have now closed. Details of those who have been nominated will be sent to every church and minister before the end of January. We would like as many as possible to be involved with the process of discernment, so please look out for this email, and share the profiles with your Church Meeting. Voting this year will primarily be online and will be open until 31 March.



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.



Pension Webinar

A series of Pension Roadshows took place during Autumn 2017 for treasurers, deacons and ministers - anyone who is a trustee of a local church and member of the Baptist Pension DB Scheme - to inform them about what is happening to address the current deficit in the Scheme and the potential impact it may have on individual churches. For those unable to attend the Roadshows, a [webinar covering the same material](#) was shared in December 2017 which can be viewed and downloaded from our website.



Annual Returns

This is the time of year when we ask all churches to complete an Annual Return. This can be done online or using a paper form. Later on this month all churches should receive an email with their login details for the online system or a paper form. These should be completed by the end of February. [For more information please see our website.](#)



Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in Private Rented Property

Churches that are landlords of residential property (including those churches that rent out a manse to tenants) need to know about forthcoming legislation relating to minimum energy efficiency standards. For more information please see pages 4-5 of the [Guidelines Leaflet PM04](#).



Baptists Together Magazine

The Spring 2018 edition of our magazine, including Transform 48, will be sent from our printers to all Church Secretaries around mid-January. This edition focuses on 'Many cultures, one church' and explores how our increasing diversity should enrich our lives together. Three copies will be sent to secretaries to share in the church. Additional copies are [available to order from our online shop](#) - including discounted packs of ten copies and subscriptions - or it can be [downloaded free of charge](#) from our website.



Your Local Pantry

Your Local Pantry is a volunteer-led community initiative that helps struggling families make their money go further by reducing food shopping bills. Organisations across the UK can now get [tools and support](#) to set up a 'Local Pantry' community food store, after the charity [Church Action on Poverty](#) and its partners launched [Your Local Pantry](#) as a social franchise. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Call for support on treaty banning nuclear weapons

A two-minute video calling on Christians to safeguard God's world through working towards a future free of nuclear weapons has been released by the Joint Public Issues Team. The video explains, in simple cartoons, the basis for the Churches' support for the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which, once ratified, will make the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons illegal under international law. [Click here to view the video.](#)



World Council of Churches Central Committee - Stewarding

The Stewards Programme brings together a group of 20 young people from different church traditions, backgrounds and regions all over the world. From 6 - 23 June, they will serve at the Central Committee meeting in Geneva, bringing their faith, knowledge, and visions to an ecumenical experience of togetherness and friendship as well as experiencing the work of the WCC. Please encourage young people (18-30) to apply by 31 January. [Click here for more information.](#)

This month's featured events:



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



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

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.](#)



Germinate Enterprise Day - 3 Feb | 24 Feb | 30 Mar

This one-day workshop is a fast-moving version of the full Germinate Enterprise programme suitable for those considering starting a business, anyone interested in becoming a facilitator/trainer to guide others through the process, and organisations in rural areas that may be willing to host 'Germinate Enterprise' workshops. [Click here for details of the events in Devon, East Yorkshire and Northumberland.](#)



BMS World Mission Day of Prayer - 4 February

Every year BMS staff in the UK and mission personnel around the world dedicate a day in February to prayer – in all its forms - and have been really encouraged by the number of churches and individuals who have joined in praying in previous years. If you can, please set aside this day in your calendar. Closer to the time, [BMS will have resources available to guide you as you pray](#) on their Day of Prayer.



Mission as a Dialogue: Reaching your community

Suffolk - 10 Feb | Somerset - 17 Mar

This one day event from Rural Ministries will unpack this topic, as we explore how a deep listening to our rural communities will help us share the Gospel. The interactive day has four workshops looking at: understanding your context and getting local statistics; identifying the signs of 'good news'; discerning your existing touch points and forming a strategy. Price: £15. [Click here for full details and booking.](#)



Church Action on Poverty Sunday - 11 February

Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked, and gave them hope. Our churches are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change. That's what Church Action on Poverty's campaigns and projects are for. On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, churches are invited to learn about them and lend your support. Click here for [more information and to download service resources and fundraising ideas.](#)



GDPR Seminars - 22 February | 8 March | 24 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

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.](#)



Shaping our Worship - Wednesday 7 March

The third conference hosted by the Joint Liturgical Group, this one being themed around weddings and funerals, will be taking place at St Aloysius Parish Centre, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London NW1 1TA. Cost: £25 per person, includes lunch. For more information, contact martin.foster@cbcew.org.uk or [see the Group's website.](#)



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.



Brave New World - Saturday 17 March

Be inspired to live justly and faithfully. The Joint Public Issues Team Conference will resource Christians to build a new heaven on earth. Hear from politicians, journalists and experts at Manchester Central Hall, M1 1JQ. [Click here for more information](#).



Thy Kingdom Come - 10-20 May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. How could you and your church commit to pray with God's worldwide family? [Find out more and download resources](#).



Baptist Assembly - Saturday 12 May

Plans are taking shape for our Assembly in Peterborough in 2018. We have [updated the Assembly website with information about this year's event](#) - including the outline programme and details of seminar sessions. We will be continuing to add more information as it becomes available. **Booking 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.



Fresh Streams Theology School - 14-15 June

Do you wish you had more time to reflect on the key issues of our day? Do you share a passion to do theology well at the coal face of ministry and mission? Would you love to spend two days engaging with eminent theologians who will stretch your thinking, with plenty of time for discussion, interaction, and good food and hospitality? Whether you're a church leader, part of a leadership team, a student, or just interested in theology, you'll love [Summer Theology School 2018](#).



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

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

This month's featured resources:



Darkest Hour - study booklet

Darkest Hour (in cinemas 12 January) is inspired by the true story of Winston Churchill's (BAFTA Award winner Gary Oldman) first weeks in office during the early days of the Second World War. Damaris Media and Baptists Together have released a free Companion Booklet for church groups (of any denomination) who want to engage more deeply with this story. This includes discussion questions, a look behind the scenes of the film, and background information on this fascinating slice of history. The [booklet can be downloaded free of charge or you can order a free printed copy](#) - see our website for details.



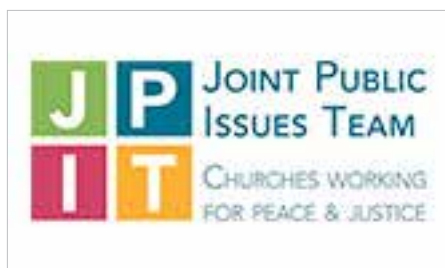
Open Welcome - A Toolkit for Rural Churches

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](#).



Praxis Newsletter

The Joint Public Issues Team produces their Praxis newsletter every month. Each issue contains news, information about events and resources, and provides opportunities to get involved with the social issues which concern you most. Click here for the [latest edition](#) where you can also sign up to receive an email each time a new issue is published.



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](#).