



## monthly information and resource update

**July 2018**

Dear Friends

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

Our **featured Home Mission story this month** is from Strobe Crescent Baptist Church which recently celebrated 150 years of ministry and mission in Sheerness.

Previous editions of our Update advertised the ***Celebrating, Surviving and Thriving - Women in Baptist Ministry*** conference which took place at the end of June. One of the outcomes of this key event is a **statement made by participants for our Baptist family**. Please take time to read through this statement and share it with your church family. Further reflections on the conference will be published in the coming weeks.



Stephen Keyworth  
*Faith and Society Team*



Read the key messages from our latest Baptist Steering Group meeting and share with your church



The July/August Prayer Diary is now available to download  
Please print out a copy for those unable to access it



Read about Strobe Crescent Baptist Church - 150 years of ministry in Sheerness in the South East Baptist Association



### Stipend

The **2019 Stipend has been agreed by BUGB Trustees** with an increase of just over 3% to £23,450. In times of higher inflation it was felt important to recognise the critical contribution our accredited ministers make to the life of Baptist Churches.



### Your Kingdom Legacy

Members of Baptist churches now have the opportunity to have their wills written free of charge. 'Your Kingdom Legacy' packs have now been sent to all BUGB churches following the launch of the scheme this year. Whilst there is no obligation to remember Baptists Together in your will, please consider this prayerfully, in conjunction with your loved ones. Your gift could make a lasting difference that will touch and change lives and communities. **For details, or to download or order additional packs** please see our website.



## Manse Life

Manse life is a new support network for ministers, those to whom they are married and also their children. The aim is to raise the profile of ministerial family life, and ground it in reality. To help people feel less isolated, to find common ground, to reflect, provoke thought, spur faith, share ideas and best practice, and to raise a smile. Click here for [more information](#) from our website.



## Divine Windows

Our President for 2018-19 is Dave Gregory who took office at our Assembly in May. See the videos which Dave has produced to [find out about the theme for his Presidency - Divine Windows](#): glimpses of God in life, the universe... and everything. You can also keep up-to-date with Dave's Presidency through his [Divine Windows Facebook page](#).



## End Hostility - JPIT campaign

The Joint Public Issues Team is launching a campaign to challenge the government's approach to illegal immigration, which they say is leading to destitution, discrimination and distrust. The Team has published their report, [Destitution, Discrimination and Distrust: the web of the hostile environment](#) and is inviting churches, church groups and individuals take action to challenge the hostile environment. A [resource to help youth groups](#) explore what we mean by 'the hostile environment' and consider what a Christian response might be is also available to download.



## 'We want to change perceptions'

Popular recent stories in *The Baptist Times* have included an [interview with Esther Day of London Road Baptist Church](#). Esther has been pioneering a new chaplaincy in Lowestoft, and speaks about wanting to change people's perceptions of Christianity. The interview appeared as [new research by Barna](#) showed that many people remain uninformed about the role church plays both locally and internationally.



## Gap year opportunity

Are you passionate about the outdoors and willing to serve others? Each August Abernethy Trust, a group of Christian outdoor centres in Scotland, has a new group of people on a Gap Year join its House and Kitchen and Maintenance Teams. It's not too late to join - [click to here to find out more](#).



## Baptist Holiday Apartments in Minehead Somerset

The trustees of Walter Fabry's estate bought 1 The Esplanade in Minehead in 1975 and converted it into eight holiday flats, including some suitable for people with disabilities. The apartments are suitable for between 1 and 9 people - two of which can be joined together for a group of up to 17 people. Accredited Baptist Ministers and mission personnel are entitled to a discount of 25%. [Find out more from the Apartments' website](#). To check last minute availability and special offers, email [info@bha-minehead.org.uk](mailto:info@bha-minehead.org.uk) or call Angela (Mon-Sat, 9-5) on 01643 703473.



## This month's featured events:



### Multiply Learning Community - Wednesday 11 July

Join the next gathering in Birmingham of the Multiply learning community - for Baptist churches exploring a multi-congregational approach to mission and ministry. This time we'll be hearing stories about 'missional communities', and exploring with one another the implications as we consider or move forward with a multi-congregational approach. [Click here for more information.](#)



### Rural Mission Sunday - Sunday 15 July

Rural Mission Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate the life of the rural church. Why not take this year's theme 'Growing Together' as the theme for your service? [Rural Mission Sunday resources](#) include brief reflections on some key Bible passages that explore different kind of growth in church communities, prayers and songs and a suggested service outline.



### Festival Recovery Retreat - 6-9 September

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre would like to bless hard working youth workers with a weekend of refreshment and refilling. After the excitement of summer festivals, youth workers/pastors are invited to 'Festival Recovery' at CCHC to reflect, refresh, refill and rejoice. For more details, and to book, please **contact the Centre on 01424 830033.**



### SCBA Gender Identity Training Day - Saturday 8 September

There are few resources available for those looking to understand and make sense of the gender identity issues children and young people are dealing with. SCBA are running another Building Your Compass training event in Kidlington. Click here for [further information, and to book.](#)



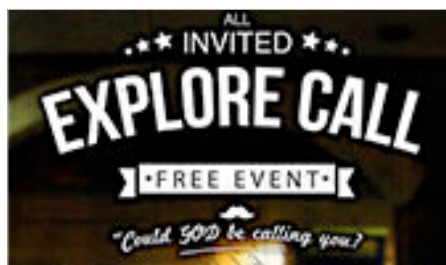
### Baptists Together Mission Conference - Sat 15 September

"We are in an exciting time for Baptists across the UK, one characterised by increasing creativity and innovation in mission. The timing seems right to bring together stories of what God is doing to encourage and inspire one another to respond to his invitation and join the adventure." This day at the Beacon International Centre in Stafford will begin and end with plenary sessions and keynote speakers including Alan Hirsch, with a choice of seminars making up the rest of the programme. [Click here for details and booking.](#)



### Firestarter - various dates, September and October

A series of 24 hour 'Firestarter' events hosted by Baptist churches experiencing unusual growth have been organised – to see if this accelerated growth can become normal within our Baptist family. Firestarters are conversations involving nine of these fast growing Baptist churches, with each event offering 24 hours to 'learn, expect and act'. Click here [for more details of the dates and venues](#), and book your place.



### Explore Call - Saturday 22 September

Could God be calling you to overseas ministry, pioneering, evangelism, Baptist ministry, preaching or something else? With presentations from BMS, Bristol Baptist College, Urban Expression and the Heart of England Baptist Association, this is a day at IMC in Birmingham to hear from those who are actively serving and teaching. Take time to explore, talk, pray and seek God together. For more information and to book your place, please contact Adrian Argile at [aa@baptist-heartofengland.org](mailto:aa@baptist-heartofengland.org)



### Germinate Conference - Saturday 13 October

Through keynote speakers, case studies and workshops, the Germinate Conference, 'More than belonging' in Coventry will explore what it means for rural Christians to do more than belong to their churches and communities. Both inspiring and practical, the day will bring together individuals, churches, agencies and networks involved in rural mission and ministry. Early bird price available until 30 June. [Click here for details.](#)



### Christian Resources Exhibition - 16-18 October

CRE - Britain's leading exhibition of church resources - will be back at Sandown Park, where around 200 exhibitors will be offering resources for every aspect of church life. CRE is developing a fresh and highly-focussed programme of features and seminars to complement their wide-ranging exhibition. [More information is available](#) from the CRE website.



### Sam Sharpe Lecture - Thursday 18 October

Sam Sharpe, born in 1801 in Jamaica, was an enslaved man, a Baptist deacon, a freedom fighter and the main instigator of the 1831 Slave Rebellion in Jamaica which was instrumental in bringing about the abolition of slavery. The seventh annual Sam Sharpe lecture, at the University of Roehampton in London, will be given by Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, Priest Vicar at Westminster Abbey and Chaplain to the Queen) who will be exploring issues of justice. [Click here to book your free place.](#)



### 'Stories on the Street' training - 8-11 November

'Stories on the Street' is a resource produced by Mosaic Creative enabling churches to be catalysts for change in their communities. This practical and creative course in Birmingham will explore the use of art and drama and other creative means to bring familiar Bible passages to life and equip church members with skills, ideas and simple practical ways of building community and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. Contact Jackie Mouradian at [Jackie@mosaiccreative.co.uk](mailto:Jackie@mosaiccreative.co.uk) for more details.



### Tearfund's Big Quiz Night - Saturday 17 November

Tearfund are looking for at least 500 churches and groups to join in the fun and help them raise £150,000 for Tearfund's work around the world. [Sign up today](#) and, a little nearer the time, you'll be receiving a special Big Quiz pack, featuring everything you'll need to run (and publicise) your event. The pack includes a USB stick with the entire quiz, including special filmed inserts.



## This month's featured resources:



### Wonderful Youth

Few resources helping young people to reflect on their faith draw on culturally diverse images, exercises and activities. Written by contributors from two multicultural Baptist churches, *Wonderful Youth* aims to affirm, both theologically and culturally, all young people between the ages of 13-16. Focussing on Ephesians 1: 1-14, it is designed to be used during Black History Month in October 2018. Click here to [download this new free resource](#).



### A prayer for Brexit

Baptist minister Jonathan Beer is urging congregations to pray for the Brexit separation negotiations, whatever our political views. At this significant point in history (and perhaps for many of us one of the most important political decisions of our lifetimes), could your church make this topic a focus in the coming weeks? Jonathan's [short reflection and prayer](#) are available on our website.



### 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](#).



### Make a Meal of It

A coalition of faith based charities have formed 'Christians Together Against Loneliness' to tackle isolation amongst older people. The coalition is launching a resource called '[Make a Meal of It](#)', which supports churches and local agencies to run a community meal with older people. The ideas in the pack provide ideas to help both large and small events.



### Light Party Pack from Scripture Union

Want to share the light of Jesus this Halloween? Scripture Union's Light Party Pack is designed to help your church or organisation run a Light Party for children and young people in your community. It's full of ideas for games, crafts and ways to talk with children and young people about the good news of Jesus. [Order your free pack](#), from Scripture Union's website, to help you host a fantastic Light Party.



### Jumpers for Goalposts

The World Cup is well underway but it's not too late to make the most of the opportunity to connect with the young people in your community. Scripture Union's free downloadable resource pack, 'Jumpers for Goalposts' is full of hassle-free, easy to run ideas to help your church share faith through football and other sports. Click here to [find out more and download your free pack](#).