



BAPTISTS TOGETHER

monthly information and resource update

September 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 King Street Baptist Church in Thetford. This town centre church is making the most of its central location to be engaged in outreach to the community.

If you a Church Secretary, please look out for the next edition of our **Baptists Together** magazine which will be coming in the post to you next week. We will be sending you three copies of the magazine along with two copies of **Transform** - please share them with your church. As always, **additional copies are available to order** from our online shop and it will soon be able to **download from our website**.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



Keep up-to-date with news from around our Union and beyond in the Baptist Times area of our website



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



Read about King Street Baptist Church a town-centre church in Thetford in the Eastern Baptist Association



Training Opportunities

We are planning training days on the Development of Church Buildings (4 October) and Churches registering as CIOs (date in November to be confirmed). We are also planning webinars on Church Accounts (21 September) and Introduction to CIOs (16 November).

Please check our website for details and booking.



Demos Christian Partnership Survey

Demos is a charity based in London that conducts research with the aim of influencing the Government. They're working with the Good Faith Partnership to conduct a piece of research exploring church social action. They are particularly interested in exploring partnership working between churches and non-Christian organisations for social purpose. They are surveying church congregations of all denominations to understand how these partnerships are formed, for what reasons, their successes and their challenges. **Click here to access the survey.**



Marketing for Baptist Churches

"We need more young people to come to our church", "We want to demonstrate our Social Action.... AND engage with our Community", "We want to look the best we can when people visit". Roger Bauckham has been a member of a Baptist Church for the past 20 years and these are some of the questions which have come up at various times. His personal mission is to help and encourage churches to take some practical steps towards making these things happen. [Find out more.](#)

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](#).



Crucible course – launching in Exeter and London

The first module is 'After Christendom' – exploring the challenges and opportunities of our changing culture. How do we share our faith authentically and effectively now that the church is a minority community on the margins of a plural society? This will run over two Saturdays at South Street Baptist Church and Spurgeon's College. See the website for [more information](#) or contact Rachel Jay by email to: rachel@urbanexpression.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](#).



Life's first cry - BMS World Mission

Mothers and babies in Afghanistan need your help. That's why BMS World Mission is asking your church to support Life's First Cry. Their new appeal is perfect to use in your harvest service or giving Sunday and, more importantly, it has the power to help us save the lives of mothers and babies in Afghanistan's mountains. A [leader's guide](#), [video and other resources](#) are available to download from BMS.



'Share a Meal' harvest pack

This coming Harvest, HOPE and World Vision are working together to bring communities together with Share A Meal. The [Share a Meal pack has ideas and resources](#) to help you enjoy a fun time with family, friends and neighbours to help put Harvest back at the centre of church and community life, encouraging a culture of hospitality and generosity. Once you've got your pack, simply choose your Share a Meal party date and invite your guests.



Sowing Success in Malawi Harvest Resource

Operation Agri's latest harvest resource shows the impact the Baptist development charity and its partners are having on people around the world. Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries, has suffered floods, drought and devastating harvests. Their partner African Pastors' Fellowship is teaching farmers new ways to sow, nourish and protect crops. The harvest resource pack can be [ordered from Operation Agri](#).



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.



World Vision's Pumpkin Heroes

Pumpkin Heroes is a free pack of easy to use resources all designed to help children age 4-10 in your church, school and family have fun this Halloween. Join Patch the Pumpkin as he heads out on a new adventure to shine light into Halloween. With a fantastic story book, cartoon film, activities, crafts, games and a sing-along-song, you can be sure your kids will have fun discovering all about helping and caring for others this Halloween. [Click here to get your free pack of resources](#).



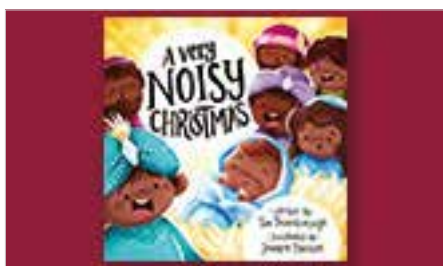
The Meaningful Treat Pack - A Real Halloween Treat

Quite often people feel that there has to be more to Halloween than dressing up as serial killers or monsters. The Real Halloween campaign is a way to challenge children to explore the Christian faith, to do good and to enjoy great Fairtrade chocolate. It is a chance for 5-11 year olds to shine this Halloween. Each box costs £30 (with 30 packs per box) and also includes an ideas sheet for leaders. [Click here for details](#).



Community Re:Paint

Community RePaint is a UK paint reuse network, sponsored by Dulux, that collects leftover paint and redistributes it at an affordable cost to individuals, families and community groups in need. Two schemes produce our ReColour paint, which is available to purchase at prices starting at just £1 a litre, in Brilliant White and 18 other colours in Matt or Silk emulsion. The paint can be delivered by national courier if required. [Visit the Community RePaint website](#) to find out more.



A Very Noisy Christmas

This book by Tim Thornborough and Jennifer Davison is for children aged 2-6 years old and is a fun and fresh retelling of the Christmas story that comes with invitations to make some noise, so that children can join in as parents read to them. But it also shows children that at the heart of the Christmas story is something we should all be quiet and see: God's Son Jesus was born. It would make a wonderful Christmas gift and is [available to order](#) from The Goodbook Company.

This month's featured Baptists Together events:



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.



Church Accounts Webinar - Friday 21 September

In partnership with ACAT, the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers, we will be hosting a webinar at 13:00 looking at church accounts. The webinar will be aimed at Baptist Church treasurers wanting to understand what they need to do to put together a good set of church accounts and cover topics including receipt and payment accounts, accruals accounts, annual reports, independent examination, record keeping, accounting for pensions. Participants will be able to ask questions and we hope it will prove useful to both new treasurers and those wanting a refresher. [Click here to join the webinar.](#)



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



Incarnate Network Retreat - 26-27 September

An opportunity to get away and recharge your batteries in the beautiful Cotswold countryside at Shipston-on-Stour. There will be a gentle programme, which you can participate in as you wish. Activities offered will include meditations, walks, bread making, films and a creative space. There will also be opportunity to meet with a listener, if you would find that helpful. Meals will be eaten together and will not be silent. Click here for [more information and to book a place.](#)



Redeveloping Church Buildings - Thursday 4 October

This training session will be held in Birmingham and will consist of five sessions from the Baptist Union Corporation as Property Trustees, Rapleys Surveyors and Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP covering: Property trustee involvement and requirements, Appointing Surveyors and Heads of Terms, Charity Law requirements and property trust issues, Property transactions including acquisitions and development documentation, and Construction and tendering process. [Click here to book your place.](#)



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.](#)



Serampore College Bicentenary - 19-20 October

Serampore College, the oldest university in India to be in continuous operation, is celebrating its bicentenary in association with the Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture, the Centre for Baptist History and Heritage, and the Baptist Historical Society. Marking the occasion will be an academic conference in Oxford celebrating the heritage of Serampore and considering the future of Mission. [Click here for more information.](#)



Training Young People for Mission - 22-26 October

This is an exciting opportunity for young people aged 16-18 to spend five days of high quality, creative and fun training at St George's House in north Devon. The young people will be equipped and inspired to go back to their churches to help facilitate the church engaging and working with its local community. [Click here for more information.](#)



King: Montgomery to Memphis - Saturday 27 October

Screenings of this extraordinary film about Martin Luther King Jr are being planned. The next screening will be at New Road Baptist Church, Oxford, with other dates in Manchester and Derby to be confirmed. At each screening, there will be a post-film panel discussion with leading contributors. [Click here for further information and to book.](#)



Baptist Assembly - 18-19 May 2019

Save the date to join us for our two-day Baptist Assembly at The International Centre, Telford. Booking opens in mid-January and [information will be available from the Baptist Assembly website](#) later in the year. We are planning to include some seminars on the Saturday especially for church secretaries, treasurers and deacons/leaders/trustees. Please get these dates in your church diary and encourage your church family to join us.

Other featured events:



Neighbourhood Chaplains Roadshow - various dates

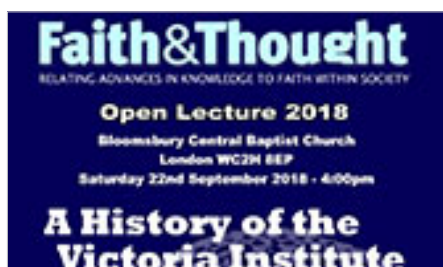
September-November

Around one-fifth of the UK population (9 million) are lonely, in what's being called the 'loneliness epidemic'. Neighbourhood Chaplains connects local churches with their communities in new ways, helping tackle loneliness through befriending, and offering practical help towards meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Volunteers offer acts of kindness, prayer, and links to local churches for neighbours who want to explore more. [Find out more](#) on the Neighbourhood Chaplains website, and [book for one of the Roadshows this Autumn](#).



Education Sunday - Sunday 9 September

For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education, on the second Sunday in September. The theme for 2018 is 'Faith and Works' and resources have been written by a group representing a range of traditions and agencies. Click here to [find out more and download the resources](#).



Faith and Thought Open Lecture - Saturday 22 September

The Revd Dr Ian Randall will present a lecture focusing on the early history of The Victoria Institute (now Faith and Thought). Formed shortly after the publication of Darwin's Origin of Species, how did the early institute address matters of conflict between science and religion? The lecture will be given at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London at 16:00 and will be followed by the Faith and Thought AGM. [Click here for details and booking](#).



Fit for Function: Fit for the Future 2: *Communities, Briefs and Bids* - Tuesday 2 October

This ecumenical event at Leominster Priory in Herefordshire is open to anyone who works, supports or volunteers at a place of worship. The day will be full of useful presentations, networking opportunities and breakout sessions; offering a range of perspectives on engaging with the wider community, working with different professionals and accessing funding. [Click here for details](#).



Germinate Leadership Programme - from October 2018

Applications for the 2018 Germinate Leadership Programme are now open. This 18-month programme helps lay and ordained leaders from all denominations to develop creative, entrepreneurial skills for rural church leadership, and includes four short residencies, a leadership style review, mentoring and work shadowing. [Click here to find out more](#).



Engaging with the Issues - 4 October and 5 February

One of a series of Round Table Discussions on topics that are engaging the hearts and minds of the community, churches, local and national government at Free Church House in London. *Spiritual Care in Community Health Care Settings - Community Chaplaincy* will be based on the shared experience of individuals working in Community Health Care Chaplaincy. [Click here to find out more](#).



National Christian Dance Fellowship conference - Sat 6 Oct

The Christian Dance Fellowship of Britain (CDFB) was born in 1990, and is part of the broader International Christian Dance Fellowship, an organisation fostering links between national dance fellowships across the world. Their National Conference will be held at Seaford Baptist Church in East Sussex and will give the opportunity to celebrate all that God is doing through the art form of dance. [Click here for more details.](#)



Just Voices Conference - Thursday 11 October

Just Voices is a new conference with intention of hearing voices for justice. The inaugural conference at Yiewsley Baptist Church, West London, is a Women's Conference for Men – an opportunity for men to hear and engage with issues of sexism, prejudice and unconscious bias experienced daily by the women in our lives and to learn how we can address issues of inequality. [Click here for more details and booking.](#)



Firm Roots Conference - Saturday 13 October

Firm Roots Cancer Support started in 2012 as an organisation which offers prayer, spiritual, practical and emotional support to people affected by cancer and their families. The organisation has grown over the last few years with more Firm Roots Cancer Prayer Support Groups starting across the country. Their first national conference at Kirkheaton Parish Church, Huddersfield, is for churches to hear about the work of Firm Roots, with a view to offering similar support and a Cancer Prayer Support Group in their church or area. [Click here for further details.](#)



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.



'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 for more details.



Inter Faith Week - 11-18 November

This is a week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation; [read a story of Baptist involvement in Inter Faith Week](#) in November last year. It was at one of over 700 hundred activities and events. This year Inter Faith Week is from 11-18 November. How about going along to an event near you? Find out more on the [Inter Faith Week website](#).



Engaging with the Issues - 14 November and 3 April

One of a series of Round Table Discussions on topics that are engaging the hearts and minds of the community, churches, local and national government at Free Church House in London. *Dementia - Caring for the Carers as well as those who have dementia* will enable churches and individuals to learn from others in looking at opportunities to meet these needs in the local community. [Click here to find out more.](#)



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.



Caring in a Culturally Diverse World - Friday 23 November

This interactive day at Sobell Study Centre, Oxford is an opportunity to hear people of enormously different backgrounds and world views teasing out how we care for ourselves and one another in a world and workplace where things can't be fixed. Our experience comes from experience in our discipline of end of life care and dealing with patients and relatives who are deeply distressed by their situation. [Click here for course details and booking.](#)



Engaging with the Issues - 29 November

One of a series of Round Table Discussions on topics that are engaging the hearts and minds of the community, churches, local and national government at Free Church House in London. *Dying Matters* will enable participants to explore the contemporary aspects of death and dying and look at ways to provide safe spaces where these issues may be explored. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Introduction to Palliative Care and Spiritual Care - Monday 3 December

This course at Sobell Study Centre, Oxford is an introduction to the concepts of palliative and end of life care, followed by an exploration of the essential practice of offering spiritual care to the patients/clients that we meet every day. (Priorities for Care of the Dying Person, 2014). [Click here for course details and booking.](#)