British Baptist history - a brief introduction

An English Baptist church is formed in Amsterdam under leadership of Thomas Helwys and John Smyth, following contact with the Mennonites.

Martin Luther launches the Reformation in Germany. The radical Anabaptists reject infant baptism.

Helwys returns to England and forms the first General Baptist Church in London.

The Baptist Church House is built in London as a national identity for the Union.

The Deaconesses Order established as was The Home Mission Fund.

Baptist Union Council passed an historic resolution apologising for the Union's part in the transatlantic slave trade.

Women ministers officially recognised and trained by the Baptist Union.

Baptists Together is launched as the new national identity and Lynn Green becomes the first female General Secretary.

Formation of the Baptist Missionary Society

Abolition of Slavery with William Knibb, BMS missionary, an important campaigner.

Area Superintendents (Regional Ministers) created

The Futures Process led to a slimming down of national resourcing with increased responsibility given to the regional associations.

Regional Associations were formed following the denominational consultation in 1996.

The Baptist Union, originally created in 1813, is reorganised to become an umbrella body for all Baptists.

Baptist Unions were formed in Wales and Scotland during the 1860s.

Area Superintendents (Regional Ministers) created

Baptist Church House is built in London as a national identity for the Union.

Formation of the Baptist World Alliance

Women ministers officially recognised and trained by the Baptist Union.

Baptists Together is launched as the new national identity and Lynn Green becomes the first female General Secretary.

For further information visit the Baptist Historical Society at baptisthistory.org.uk also the main Baptists Together website at baptist.org.uk/history