



## Update: April 2019

Dear Friends

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

Thank you to everyone for their prayers and messages for our Team Leader Stephen Keyworth and his family after he was taken seriously ill at our office last week. Stephen remains in a critical condition in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, so please continue to uphold him and his family in prayer. Any **further updates will be published on our website** under 'Latest'.

Our Update this month includes the results of our recent election for the person to be our **President in 2020-21**, along with information about some **Easter resources**.

Amongst the events listed below is our **Assembly at the Telford International Centre in May** - please encourage your church members to book in before the closing date at the end of this month.

Beth, Hilary, Mary, Mike, Paul, Tracey and Wale  
*Faith and Society Team*

### This month's featured stories:



**Young and old campaigning about global warming - writes John Weaver**



**Ewyas Harold Baptist Church - seeking to be beacons of God's light and love**



**A new drop-in centre for vulnerable people in Castle Donington**

## News:



### Baptist Assembly 2019

With just over six weeks until Baptists from all over the country gather for our Assembly, we encourage you and others from your church to book your places before the **closing date of 30 April**. This year's event at the Telford International Centre will focus on 'Growing healthy churches in relationship for God's mission' with the whole event being based on our four key areas of work; Investing in Godly leadership, Equipping churches for mission, Pioneering and planting and Voices in the Public Square. For [full information and booking](#), see our Assembly website.



### Baptists Together President 2020-21

Having received two nominations for the President 2020-21, we have now completed the election process to discern our next President after Ken Benjamin. Thank you to all the churches and ministers who participated in the discernment process. We are pleased to announce that Yinka Oyekan has been elected to serve as our President in 2020-21. We will share more with you in the coming months.



### Baptist Union Council

Justice concerns were at the heart of the latest meeting of Council in mid-March. Council members gathered to consider changes to our Union's ethical investments policy, which had last been updated in 2013. 'Enabling Baptist Voices and Action in the Public Square' is one of the four areas of shared work across Baptists Together, and members heard a presentation about the Joint Public Issues Team. There was also a presentation from the Gender Justice Group, and reflections on the Kingdom of God were woven into the time together. Click here for a [report on the outcomes of this Council meeting](#), to share with your church.

## This month's featured resources:

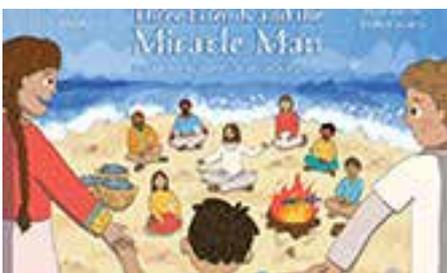


### April Prayer Diary

The [April Prayer Diary](#) is now available to download from our website. The particular themes for this month are:

- Yorkshire Baptist Association
- Our six Baptist colleges
- Easter
- Farmers and those working in agriculture

Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



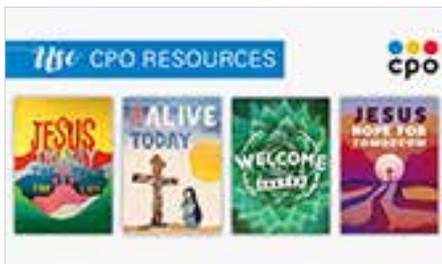
### Three Friends and the Miracle Man

This new children's Easter story booklet from Bible Society takes a fresh look at the gospel accounts of Jesus' life. It is offered at the discount price of £2 per copy in order to support you and your church in your mission. Resources to use this in an all age service, including a video, service guide and colouring sheets are available to download. Copies in Welsh are also available to order. [Click here for details](#).



### Hope at Easter magazine

Forgiveness is the theme of the 2019 HOPE at Easter magazine. This 32-page magazine is devised by HOPE for churches to give away – ideally door-to-door with an invitation to Easter services. Packed full of topical features and testimonies, the magazines are helpful conversation-starters. Click here to [preview this edition and place an order](#).



## Easter Resources from CPO

Easter is a great time to reach out to your community and invite them to experience church and ultimately develop their own relationship with God. CPO has a huge range of resources, from posters, banners and invites to colouring postcards, bookmarks and more, to help you invite and welcome people during this pivotal time in the Christian calendar. [Take a look at some of the latest resources.](#)



## National Real Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunts have recently grown in popularity with families. Most are run as secular events at historic attractions. The National Real Easter Egg Hunt is a way for churches to engage with this culture, have fun and share the Easter story. Resources are designed to engage people with the Easter story. [Click here to find out how to take part.](#)

The **Original, Dark and Special Edition Eggs** are designed to be a personal gift for people of all ages and are available again this year.



## Visual Reflections

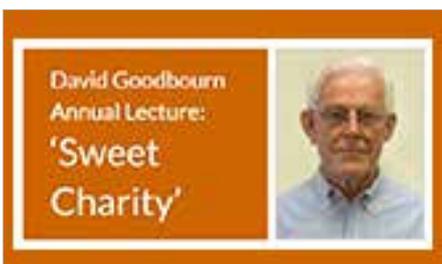
We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. [Click here to find the current selection of images on our Flickr account.](#)

## This month's featured Baptists Together events:



### Church Unplugged - April, May, June dates

The third module of the Crucible course is being taught in Exeter (27 April and 18 May) and London (11 May and 18 June) and addresses the question 'what do we mean by church?' The module explores the process of planting a new church from the research stage to developing a Christian community that is both creative and contextual. [More information](#) is available on the Crucible website, or from Rachel Jay: [rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk](mailto:rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk)



### David Goodbourn Lecture - Tuesday 30 April

This year's David Goodbourn Lecture at the Centre of Theology and Justice is on the theme *Sweet Charity*, and will help us reflect on charity from a theological and justice perspective. The lecture will be delivered by Michael Taylor, former Principal of Northern Baptist College and Director of Christian Aid (one of the UK's largest charities), and Emeritus Professor of Social Theology, Birmingham University. [Click here for more information.](#)



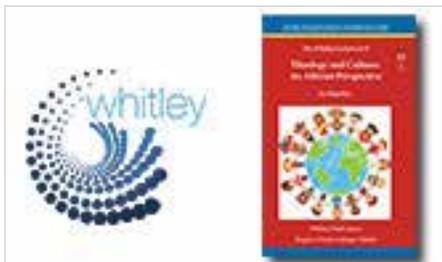
### Firestarters - various dates - May, October, November

Following last year's eight events, a new series of Firestarter conversations have been scheduled for 2019. Firestarter conversations explore Baptist church growth - hear stories of growing Baptist churches, attend interactive seminars on factors influencing church growth, reflect and discuss your own church and its future growth. The next event will be in Bristol on 8-9 May. [Click here for more details.](#)



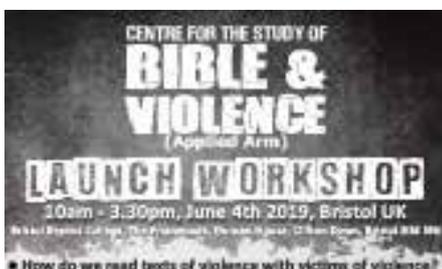
## Baptist Assembly - Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May

Enabling the local church in mission is at the heart of Baptist Assembly this year and the varied programme will be focussing on our four key areas of work creating a weekend where we can gather to inspire, equip and connect. Whether you come for the whole event or just part, engage through the Network Day, the quiet spaces or the celebratory services, we are sure there will be something for everyone. **Book your tickets now.** Closing date 30 April 2019. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Whitley Lecture - Wednesday 22 May

The Whitley Lecture was first established in 1949 in honour of WT Whitley (1861–1947), the Baptist minister and historian who was a key figure in the formation of the Baptist Historical Society in 1908. The 2019 Whitley Lecture will be given by Joe Kapolyo at Bristol Baptist College - click here for **more information**.



## Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence (applied workshop) - Tuesday 4 June

This launch event will take the form of a one-day workshop at Bristol Baptist College. There will be short papers for discussion and other round-table discussions in practically relevant matters relating to this broad area of violent scriptural texts or violent scriptural interpretations. The target audience for the workshop is ministers, social activists who are Christians, and interested others. **Click here for details and booking.**



## The Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence Academic Symposium - Monday 17 June

One of the aims of this new Centre is to promote postgraduate research in the broad field of Bible and violence; and conversation among scholars of different faiths, nationalities and disciplines who are working in related areas. The Centre is now inviting submissions for its launch symposium (academic arm). For this inaugural meeting, all scholarly research papers on the broad subject of Bible and Violence will be considered. Click here for **details of the symposium and information about submitting a paper.**



## Modern Slavery National Summit - 26 June (Manchester) | 27 June (Oxford)

Hosted with Together Free, this summit will help churches learn how to work in partnership with local agencies to make communities slavery-free. The event will include a keynote address from Kevin Hyland, (former first Independent Antislavery Commissioner for the UK) and input from Emily Chalke (founder of Ella's Home and Together Free), Dan Pratt (Founder of Together Free and Antislavery Coordinator for the Eastern Baptist Association) along with Baptist churches and colleges responding to Modern Slavery. **Click here for details.**



## Sam Sharpe Lecture - 22 Oct (London) | 24 Oct (Birmingham)

We are delighted that this year's Sam Sharpe Lecture will be delivered by Professor Verene Shepherd (Professor of Social History at the University of the West Indies in Mona and Director of the University's Institute for Gender and Development Studies) on the theme of Reparations. Click here for [more information and book your free place](#).

### Other featured events:

#### Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Regional Conferences - various dates

We don't believe God has finished with his church in the countryside – if you think your church has great potential to impact your community, but lacks the resources, then come to one of these Regional Conferences. The next one will be at St John's Church, Sharow (nr Ripon) on Saturday 11 May. Tickets £20. [For full details and booking for all dates and venues](#) see the Rural Ministries website.



#### Christian Aid Week - 12-18 May

As Christian Aid Week approaches there is still time to order any resources you might need to celebrate the week. The Christian Aid Week film, available to download, is perfect for showing in a church service and there are worship materials including an order of service, sermon notes and prayer stations to help you journey with the women of Sierra Leone. Click here to find [posters, envelopes and resources for events](#).



#### Marriage Week - 13-19 May

Marriage week is about encouraging and equipping couples to invest in their marriage and relationships. This year the focus is on ingredients for a healthy relationship. For more information see the [Marriage Week website](#).

