



## **Update: May 2019**

Dear Friends

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

Thank you for your continued prayer for our Team Leader **Stephen Keyworth** and his family. We are able to share the good news that Stephen has been making encouraging progress over the last couple of weeks. The improvement means that he has now moved to a rehabilitation unit. We are thankful for these positive steps knowing there is still a very long way to go. Stephen's family wish to express their continuing gratitude for all the prayers and messages of support they are receiving. Please continue to pray for Stephen, his wife Liz, their children Jonathan, Tim and Naomi, and his parents Bryan and Janet, as well as their wider family.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone who will be joining us at our Assembly in Telford (18-19 May) - an email will be sent during the week before Assembly to all those who have already booked with further details to help your preparation for the weekend. Please look out for this, and ***check the Assembly pages of our website*** for the latest information.

Did you take part in '**Living Lent**' - responding to the call to climate action by making significant personal commitments to changing our lifestyles for the climate? So what next? **Have a look at the follow-up blog.**

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

### **This month's featured stories:**



**How the workplace can inform our faith**  
- five blogs by Terry Young



**Chew Magna Baptist Church**  
- becoming more outward-facing in recent years



**The silent epidemic of loneliness** - the church can be a key part of the answer

## News:



### Baptist Assembly 2019

With just over two weeks until Baptists from all over the country gather for our Assembly, **online booking has now closed**. 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. If you have not yet booked your place, **tickets will be available on the day** - but please be aware that, to meet our safeguarding requirements, the **tots', children and youth programmes are now full** and any additional children arriving on the day will need to stay with their parent/guardian throughout Assembly. For **full information**, see our Assembly website.



### Baptists Together Magazine

Three copies of the Summer 2019 edition of our magazine will be sent to all Church Secretaries this week - please look out for these, and distribute them to your minister and church treasurer. This key edition focusses on our four key areas of work: Investing in Godly leadership, Equipping churches for mission, Pioneering and planting and Voices in the Public Square. Additional copies are available to **order from our online shop**, or you can **download a copy from our website**.



### Transform 52

Also being sent with your church's copies of our magazine are two copies of Transform 52 for the church secretary and treasurer. This invaluable document is for church leaders and officers to keep as it contains much useful reference material for churches. **Transform 52 and previous editions** can also be found on our website.

## This month's featured resources:



### May Prayer Diary

The **May Prayer Diary** is now available to download from our website. The particular themes for this month are:

- Heart of England Baptist Association
- Christian Aid Week
- Our Baptist Assembly
- Baptists Together President, Ken Benjamin

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



### Thy Kingdom Come

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost (from 30 May - 9 June) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. **Download prayers and ideas to help you pray** as an individual, with your family and as a church or small group from the Thy Kingdom Come website.



### London City Mission – Together in the Gospel

Together with the city's churches, London City Mission shows God's love in practical ways and shares the life-changing message of Jesus with the least reached of our capital - those living in poverty, on the margins of society or from other religions. Will your church partner with them and help to share the good news with the least reached people of London? Click here for **further details and to receive a Together in the Gospel partnership brochure** for your church.



## Faith in Politics Podcast

In this month's episode of the Joint Public Issues Team's Faith in Politics podcast, Bethan and Will interview Baroness Hilary Armstrong, a Labour member of the House of Lords and the Chief Whip under Tony Blair. Baroness Armstrong talks about how her faith has impacted her understanding of politics, and the way she has served in public life.

[Click here for this, and previous, episodes.](#)



## Encountering people of other faiths

Baptist Christians in the UK are likely to encounter people of various religion and belief traditions in a whole variety of ways and contexts. Our Inter Faith Working Group has produced a series of resources that aim to provide a brief introductory overview to people of other religions or beliefs - Buddhist, Hindu, Jew, Muslim, Sikh. [Click here to download these new resources.](#)



## Pentecostals and Charismatics in Britain

This new book, published in April, draws upon the scholarship of eminent academics and practitioners in the field of Pentecostal and Charismatic studies, who together consider the history of pentecostal and charismatic movements, their relationship with mainline Christian churches and their engagement with the social, economic and political world. [Copies are available to order from SCM Press.](#) There will also be three book launches in Birmingham (7 May), London (13 May) and Manchester (26 June). [Click here to register to attend.](#)



## 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 - May, June dates

The third module of the Crucible course is being taught in London (11 May and 18 June) and Exeter (18 May) 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)



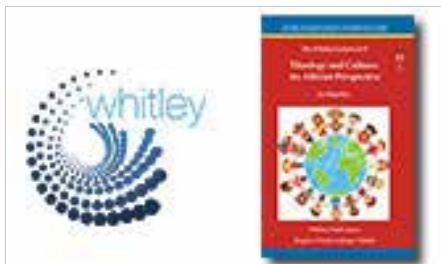
### Firestarters - various dates - May, October, November

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**

We are looking forward to seeing you and your church at Assembly in Telford! If you've already booked, please look out for further details which will be sent during the week before Assembly. Online booking has now closed, but you can still **buy your ticket on the day** - please see our website for details. Please be aware that, to meet our safeguarding requirements, the **tots', children and youth programmes are now full** and any additional children arriving on the day will need to stay with their parent/guardian throughout Assembly.



### **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](#).



### **Visual Thinking - Monday 10 June**

This intensive one-day workshop at Wokingham Baptist Church is all about unlocking our potential to think visually so we can enhance our ability to communicate better with colleagues and church partners, capture concepts and ideas and bring a fresh approach to how we work and express ourselves. Contact the SCBA office for more details [office.administrator@scba.org.uk](mailto:office.administrator@scba.org.uk)



### **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:

#### 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. [Click here](#) to find out more about [this year's theme](#). 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](#).



#### Can we heal the divide? - Monday 13 May

In the wake of Brexit, we continue to experience a growing polarisation amongst our communities. How do we move forward to heal these divisions? How do we 'reach across the aisle' instead of remaining in our own echo-chambers? How do we really understand the other side of the argument so we can engage with each other again? This evening at the Swedish Church in London will examine these questions as well as those posed by the audience. [Click here for details.](#)



#### Quiet Day - Saturday 25 May

Take time out from busy lives to pray, reflect, meditate and discover how the words of Jesus in John 1-21 can transform our lives today. A quiet day at the Ammerdown retreat centre in Somerset, led by retired Baptist minister Andy Ladhams on 25 May. The topic is 'Security – I am the Good Shepherd, John 10:1-21'. [Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)



#### National Month of Prayer for toddler groups – June 2019

This annual prayer focus encourages churches to pray for the work of their toddler groups as they reach out to serve the needs of families in the local community. This year's theme is 'From a little seed' from the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32). In the month of prayer, let's pray that they will be places where children, parents and carers can find a welcome, encounter the love of God and find a place to 'make their nests'. [Click here for resources.](#)



## 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 Berwick Baptist Church on Saturday 8 June. Tickets £20. [For full details and booking for all dates and venues](#) see the Rural Ministries website.



## God's resource for life's challenges - Saturday 15 June

BRF and Woman Alive magazine invite you to their annual women's event at Guildford Baptist Church. Six popular speakers, including Lyndall Bywater, will highlight the riches of the Psalms, the best-loved book of the Old Testament, in which our deepest experiences find voice. [Click here for information and bookings](#) or call 01865 319700.



## Holy Habits Training Day - Tuesday 25 June

Holy Habits is an exciting new discipleship resource based on Luke's portrait of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. BRF is pleased to announce the first Holy Habits training day for church leaders and lay colleagues, with founder Andrew Roberts. The event takes place at Wantage Methodist Church. [Click here for information and bookings](#) or call 01865 319700.

