



Update: July 2019

Dear Friends

We are delighted to share this message from our Team Leader, Stephen Keyworth:

Over the last three months I have been supported by many prayers. I've known the love and care of many medical professionals who have shared their experience and expertise as they cared for me - but I've also known the love and care of God's people upholding me and my family in prayer.

But over the last few weeks my recovery has been startling in both its extent and speed and it has surprised many of those same medical professionals. Since the beginning of May I have progressed from being winched from bed to wheel chair to now walking without a stick. I have graduated from receiving help with all personal care to completely looking after myself and this last week on Wednesday I came home from hospital almost two months earlier than had been expected and certainly in a much better condition than had been expected.

So praise God for his healing and thank you for your prayers. For me there's still a long way to go and I need a further operation to repair the deformity in my skull - so as you praise God keep praying - thank you - your prayers really do make a difference and I appreciate them very much.

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

This month's featured stories:



The LIFE Community - exciting work that has developed in Axminster



Working to end Modern Slavery - key messages from the recent Summit



Social action award from Cinnamon Project Lab for project with Baptist roots

News:



Update from Baptist Steering Group - June 2019

The Baptist Steering Group offers collaborative leadership through co-ordinating the effective development and implementation of the broad strategy discerned by Council. The Group met at the end of June and you can read the key messages from their meeting on our website - [please share them with your church](#).

This month's featured resources:

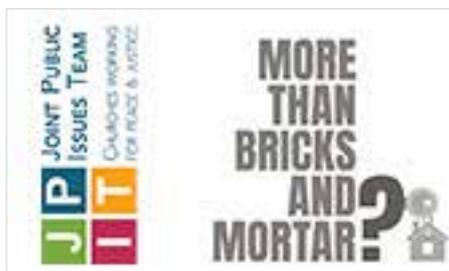


July/August Prayer Diary

The [July/August Prayer Diary](#) is now available to download from our website. The particular themes this summer are:

- Baptists Together Safeguarding Team
- Sea Sunday
- North Western Baptist Association
- The holiday season
- Joint Public Issues Team
- Central Baptist Association
- Young people receiving exam results
- Ecumenical working through CTE, Cytûn and CTBI

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



More than bricks and mortar?

Britain is facing a housing crisis – a claim which few people dispute. This has many symptoms that stretch across the whole of society. So how can we, as the Church, respond to the housing crisis in a way which is sustainable and community driven? Our Joint Public Issues team has just launched this resource offering some background information and four 'think-pieces' to help Christians reflect on the current housing crisis and how they could respond. Click here to [download *More than bricks and mortar?*](#) and other resources.



Wonderful Youth 2019

This year's *Wonderful Youth* resource on the theme of 'No outsiders' has been created for Black History Month (October) to empower young people between the ages of 13 and 16 to become 'The best that you can be'. Please let your youth leaders know about this new five-session resource which is [available to download free of charge](#) and use with young people in your church.



Crucible brochure

Christians across western culture are facing profound challenges and fresh opportunities. The long era of 'Christendom' is coming to an end. Crucible is for Christians with courage and imagination, who suspect that we need to think creatively about incarnating the gospel and planting new kinds of churches in emerging and diverse cultures. It offers training to equip Christians to follow Jesus on the margins. Click here for the [latest Crucible brochure with details of courses, venues and dates for 2019-20](#).



Supporting Pastoral Care

The Assure alarm-monitor wristband puts community at its heart. When the wearer triggers an alarm/alert the first point of contact is family or friends or neighbours - their community. They know the person and are best placed to investigate or escalate. The Assure has SOS alerts, Fall alerts and the unique 'check-in' alarm. If you haven't seen someone for a while and there are concerns over wellbeing, the online Movement Review feature enables you to check that the wearer is up and about, and okay. [Click here for more information.](#)



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:



Firestarters - various dates - 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 Stafford on 1-2 October. [Click here for more details.](#)



Sam Sharpe Lecture - 22 Oct (London - waiting list only) | 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.](#) Please note that, whilst the **London lecture is fully booked**, you are welcome to [add your name to the waiting list](#) on our website, in case of any cancellations. Spaces are still available in Birmingham.



Inter Faith Day - Saturday 2 November

Easy First Steps... in meeting your neighbours of other faiths is open to anyone who is interested in discovering what we hold in common with our neighbours from across the faiths. Organised in partnership with the URC, it will be taking place in London in November, and West Yorkshire on 14 March 2020. [For more information](#), see our website and email Carole to book your place on carole.sired@urc.org.uk

Other featured events:

Tax Justice Sunday - 7 July

Church Action for Tax Justice, alongside the Fair Tax Mark, are inviting churches across the country to find out more about the injustices that lie at the heart of our tax system, celebrate and highlight those corporations that are paying their fair share of tax, and to commit to action on behalf of the poor through supporting campaigns for tax justice. Click here for [worship resources and sermon materials](#).



How to Mission - 8-10 July

Think about your community in a new way. Learn from and with the World Church. Be a part of what God is doing around the world. *How to Mission* is a global conversation about local mission, hosted by BMS in Birmingham. Day tickets available. [Click here for details and to book your place](#).



British and Irish Association for Practical Theology (BIAPT) - 8-11 July

BIAPT conferences are for those who care about how Christian belief and practice inform each other. Delegates from many different backgrounds with an interest in theology and practice, including those in various denominational and ministry roles, as well as theological colleges and universities are welcome. Click here for [details of this conference in Liverpool](#).



Faith in Politics: Wesley Memorial Lecture - Thursday 11 July

Where is the Gospel in the Era of Brexit, Trump, Putin and Hate Crime? The Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, will be hosting the [Wesley Memorial Lecture 2019](#) on Faith and Politics at 19:30 with guest speaker Alan Beith, Rt Hon the Lord Beith, Former MP, Member of the House of Lords, Privy Counsellor. Admission is free, with light refreshments from 19:00.



Fusion Conference - 29-31 August

Is your church involved in student ministry? "The student mission field is larger now than at any other time in history and this is our watch!" The destiny of a generation is at stake and the Fusion conference is a gathering for students and stakeholders. Join students, student workers and church leaders; as we participate in what God is doing across the student world. See the [Fusion 2019 conference website](#) for details.



Christian Resources Exhibition - 15-17 October

CRE returns to Sandown Park this autumn for a three-day exhibition. There is already a full line-up of exhibitors, and details of the seminar programme will be available in September. CRE National 2019 will offer fresh ideas, products and suppliers to local churches and ministers. Advance tickets cost just £4 - saving 50% on the 'on-the-door' entry price. Click here for [details and to book your ticket](#).

