



Update: August 2019

Dear Friends

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

We are looking forward to ***Baptist Assembly being in Bournemouth next year*** and as it is now a Bank Holiday weekend, the draft programme has us gathering on the evening of Friday 8 May for an opening celebration and finishing around lunchtime on Sunday 10 May. We really hope you will be able to join us. As the weekend is now a bank holiday, ***we encourage you to book your accommodation early***. We have been able to negotiate some special rates at selected hotels in close proximity to the venue through Reservation Highway which may be of interest to you. [Please see the Assembly website for details](#).

We are also delighted that this year's ***Sam Sharpe Lecture*** will be delivered in October 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. Due to the lectures' increasing popularity, and the world-renowned speaker, there are two opportunities to attend this year. Whilst the London lecture was fully booked, we have been able to ***relocate to a larger venue*** at Imperial College and so booking for has been re-opened for this lecture on 22 October. Places are also available to book at the Birmingham lecture on 24 October. [Click here to book your place](#).

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

This month's featured stories:



The Cairn - a new community of God's people in Knowle West



Bridge Builders: 'My vision is that churches become centres of reconciliation'



Baptist Historical Society Summer School - Helping Baptists to know their story

News:



Communications Assistant

Are you a creative person, keen to explore new challenges, contribute ideas, listen and learn? The Faith and Society Team are looking for a communications assistant who can actively contribute and support our national communications and resourcing for churches. Interested, or know someone who may be? Then [read the full details here](#).



Who are Baptists?

Explaining Baptists Together isn't easy. So we've created this small PowerPoint and PDF to explain who we are, how we work and what we do. [Click here to download](#).



Lift the Ban

The Joint Public Issues Team is campaigning for asylum seekers to have the right to work after six months, as part of the Lift the Ban coalition. The coalition argues that the current ban is unfair, and wasteful of both public money and the talents of our population. Giving asylum seekers the right to work would help provide a route out of poverty, save public funds, and aid integration. It is also supported by two thirds of the public. Click here for [details of how you can take action](#).



Home for Good's new Homecoming Project

A new initiative will be launched on 8 August 2019 to encourage churches to redirect their support from orphanages and towards family-based alternatives. Home for Good, the Christian charity founded by Dr Krish Kandiah, will be launching the Homecoming project to inspire and equip Christians in the UK to support the 8 million children in institutions to come home to family.

[Click here to sign up to learn more](#) - follow on social media @homecomingproj - or email info@homecomingproject.org

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.



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.



Season of Creation

September is a great time to reflect on the wonder of creation - churches often have a Harvest Festival at this time. For churches that wish to go beyond 'We Plough the Fields' and invite participants to wrestle with the plight facing our planet because of human action, please take a look at the [wide variety of resources available from Season of Creation](#).



Light Parties

Light Parties are a great way for churches to engage with their local communities, building relationships and having the opportunity to share the gospel. Scripture Union's free pack contains a new mix of ideas for games, crafts and ways to share the good news of Jesus at Halloween - and includes party plans for children, youth and all-age. Click here to [order your pack and download extra resources](#).



Pumpkin Heroes

World Vision's free Christian alternative for Halloween is ready! Pumpkin Heroes includes a new story and film - Patch the Pumpkin and the Peace Club, with new games, crafts and activities too. This year the theme of Peace and Friendship also gives children aged 4-10 the chance to make and send Buddy Bracelets to children living in refugee camps where World Vision works. [Register now to access the resources](#).



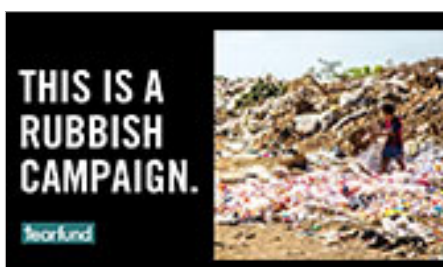
Meaningful Treat Pack

The 2019 Meaningful Treat Pack is a resource designed to help with mission work on, and leading up to, the eve of All Saints (Halloween). Each pack includes a pouch, a bag of chocolate buttons and an Activity Poster with 8 challenges. One of the challenges this year is to design a Fairtrade chocolate bar called 'The Sight Bar'. Profits from the sales of this bar will give up to 25 people the gift of sight by funding eye operations in the developing world. [Click here for details](#).



Energize

Urban Saints has thousands of engaging and adaptable biblical sessions, training articles and support resources available for every leader and helper in your church or youth group. Start your free trial today and discover why over 10,000 people use Energize... Search the database for 28000 ideas for ages 3-4 up to 15+ to spring board your creativity and super charge your sessions. Get 30 days free - full membership: £20 per month or £240 per year. [Click here for more information](#).



Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign

Our world has a rubbish problem. Two billion people live among piles of waste and every year up to a million people die as a result. CocaCola, PepsiCo, Nestle and Unilever sell billions of plastic products in countries where waste isn't collected. Add your voice - ask them to stop being rubbish. Church resources including a guide to running an event at church to help people explore a Christian response to consumerism, or organising litter picks in the local community are also available. [Click here for details](#).



Amazing Grace film

Receive a £100 gift to your church/charity by hosting your own local cinema screening of Aretha Franklin's 'Transcendent' 'Spine-tingling' film #AmazingGrace and use the official Viewer's Guide from Ethos Media to help people explore the message behind the film. [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) | 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. **Please note** that, to allow us to accommodate larger numbers of delegates, **the London lecture will now be taking place at Imperial College.** [Click here for more information and book your free place in London and 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



Baptist Assembly - 8-10 May 2020

We are looking forward to Baptist Assembly being in Bournemouth next year and as it is now a Bank Holiday weekend, the draft programme has us gathering on the Friday evening for an opening celebration and finishing around lunchtime on Sunday. We really hope you will be able to join us. We encourage you to book your accommodation early. [More details of the event itself](#) will be posted on the Assembly website as soon as they are available.

Other featured events:

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.



The State of Diaspora Mission in the UK - 6-7 September

The Centre for Missionaries from the Majority World in partnership with Global Connections and All Nations Christian College is putting together this mission consultation at All Nations College. The aim is to enhance collaboration among diaspora churches and equip them to be a blessing to all peoples in the UK. [Click here for details and booking.](#)



Beyond Coexistence: Interfaith in Action - Sunday 8 September

The Board of Deputies of British Jews would like to invite Baptists to a half-day conference in northwest London on interfaith relations, addressing some of the most topical questions in interfaith relations - How can people of faith challenge racism together? - How should we talk to each other about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? - How can we act together for social justice? Tickets are £5 including a kosher lunch. Numbers are limited and [tickets must be booked in advance.](#)



Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Regional Conference - 14 September

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 needs some help, then come to this conference in Craven Arms, Shropshire. Tickets £20. For [full details and tickets see the Rural Ministries website.](#)



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. [CRE are offering Baptists Together free tickets by using this link to book.](#)



Inter Faith Week - 10-17 November

The Inter Faith Network for the UK has launched the 2019 Inter Faith Week programme. It provides a tremendous opportunity to highlight the contribution of faith groups to society, and to encourage bridging beliefs and backgrounds in our local communities. The Inter Faith Week website contains a number of [useful planning resources.](#)



Beasts of Bethlehem - looking for venues

Looking for a really special event to invite people to this Christmas? LAMPS Collective's fabulous family musical, Beasts of Bethlehem, is highly accessible, huge fun for all ages and has the baby in the manger firmly at its heart. [Click here for further information on hosting a show.](#)

