



Update: September 2019

Dear Friends

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

Church secretaries and ministers (and any other subscribers) will be receiving their copy of the Autumn 2019 edition of **Baptists Together magazine** next week. This edition focuses on the Home Mission story and ways in which your giving is enabling ministry and mission. Please look out for your copies, and share stories with your church. As usual, **additional copies are available to order** from our online shop. Electronic versions of **all our magazines can be downloaded free of charge** from our website.



Education Sunday is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in September, as schools and colleges begin the new term. This year's theme is 'Form and flourish - to re-form' and **resources are available to download from the CTE website**. Please be praying for children, young people and staff working in education as they begin the new academic year.

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

This month's featured stories:



**Baptists Together support
for Spurgeon's College
students**



**Jane Day joining the Faith
and Society Team as
Centenary Enabler**



**South Ashford Baptist
Church - celebrating sixty
years of God's faithfulness**

News:



Baptists Together magazine and Transform

The Autumn edition of our magazine will be sent out to churches in the next week, along with two copies of Transform 53 - containing important information for church leaders and officers. Transform 53 and [previous editions of this resource](#) are available to download from our website. Church Secretaries are asked to pass on these resources to the Church Treasurer.



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.](#)



Global Strike for the Climate and Creation Time

1 Sep - 4 Oct marks [Creation Time](#), where churches are invited to reflect on environmental issues. Youth Strike for the Climate are planning the [Global Strike for the Climate](#) on 20 September, followed by a week of action. Young people are inviting others from across the country to join them, to form the biggest event for the climate yet. Why not invite someone who is participating in it to share something about why they got involved during a service?

This month's featured resources:



September Prayer Diary

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

- Season of Creation
- Education Sunday
- Southern Counties Baptist Association
- Northern Baptist Association
- European Baptist Federation

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.



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](#).



Eden Booklet from the Bible Society

Have you seen the [spoken word film Eden](#)? This poem by Dai Woolridge takes you through the narrative of the Bible through four 'beats' – creation, fall, redemption, new creation. Following on from the popular film, the new [Eden booklet](#) unpacks the 'beats' of the Bible story. It can be used as a small group resource, for personal devotions or as an alternative to a Bible or Gospel tract.



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](#).



Crucible Course - various dates starting 19 October

The fifteenth year of the Crucible course begins this autumn, with modules for the first time available in four different cities – London, Exeter, Manchester and Southampton. *After Christendom* will be taught in Manchester and Southampton and *Restoring Hope* will be taught in Exeter and London. It's open to anyone interested in thinking afresh about discipleship, mission and church in a changing context.

[Click here for more information](#) or go to www.cruciblecourse.org.uk or contact Rachel Jay: rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk



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 Women's World Day of Prayer - Mon 4 November

The 2019 Day of Prayer programme has been prepared by the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union. The theme is *Arise and Shine through Service*. A suggested order of service with resources for worship and prayer has been prepared for British churches and **will be available to download from our Resource Library**. Copies will also be sent soon to those women's groups which have requested the resources.



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 - we have been able to negotiate some **special rates at selected hotels** in close proximity to the venue through **Reservation Highway**. **More details of the event itself** will be posted on the Assembly website as soon as they are available.

Other featured events:

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel - 15-22 September

During this week which includes the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September, churches and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of support in favour of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians. [Click here for details and resources.](#)



Great British Beach Clean - 20-23 September

This September, A Rocha are encouraging their supporters to join with others from around the globe for the Great British Beach Clean. [Find out more and register your beach here.](#)



Peacemaking Sunday - 22 September

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is inviting Christians to join with in holding services, silent individual and collective prayer, speaking sermons, and living out Christ's vision of peace. They have produced a [resource to help you](#) - with sermon ideas, activities for children and young people, news about international peacework and ways to get involved in peace and justice.



Once in a Lifetime Summit - 23-24 September

Hosted by A Rocha and the Amos Trust, this two-day Climate Justice Summit in Cambridge will be a chance to discuss why the climate crisis is a justice issue. Those who have the least political and economic power, and the least responsibility for the changing climate, are affected the most. We have a moral and ethical imperative to respond to their call for immediate action. [Click here for details.](#)



Re:Generate: Rural Ministries Regional Conference - 12 October

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 Kilmington, Devon. Tickets £20. For [full details and tickets see the Rural Ministries website.](#)



Churches Welcoming Refugees - 12 October

'Welcome churches' will be hosting a day in London to allow churches to be inspired and equipped as they welcome refugees. As the Church, we need to be ready to respond to the practical and spiritual needs of the people arriving in our communities. [Click here for details and to book your place.](#)



Prisons Week - 13-20 October

For forty years, Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons. [Click here for more information and prayers.](#)



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.**



Bible Sunday - 27 October

Bible Sunday has long been celebrated by the Church, and Bible Society have created some **easy-to-use resources** to help you celebrate with your whole church family. They include a fully written sermon on Psalm 119:129–136, sermon notes so you can more easily adapt the talk to suit your experiences, a poster to promote your event, a donation form for those wanting to support Bible mission across the globe, and activities for Junior Church groups.



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**.



Bread and Starlight - looking for venues

New from LAMPS for Advent this year is 'Bread and Starlight', a one-woman show in which Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, recalls the months of her pregnancy and a very special visitor. Touching on themes of mystery and miracle, what's temporary and what lasts, 'Bread and Starlight' combines storytelling, song and space for reflection - a grown up pause for breath before Christmas. **Click here for details of how to book.**

