



Update: November 2019

Dear Friends

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

This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday and we have updated our *Remembrance prayers* with a link to some reflections in British Sign Language from Baptist minister Susan Myatt and friends, which can be downloaded to use in your church.

With the **General Election on 12 December**, our Joint Public Issues Team will soon be launching a new resource for churches - *Love, Pray, Vote*. This will include policy briefings on key issues, including Public services: housing, education, social care, healthcare; Poverty in the UK; Refugees and Migration; Climate Emergency; Britain in the world: defence, aid, trade; Union in the UK; Brexit. They will also include questions for reflection on these issues, and questions to ask your MP candidates at hustings events.

We are currently reviewing our **national communications** and would really value your thoughts and reflections. We have created a survey which should only take 10 minutes to complete and would help us enormously. Please [click here to access the survey](#) - many thanks.

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

This month's featured stories:



A modern day psalm of longing and lament - by Jonathan Brewer



Celebrating 100 years of ordaining women to Baptist ministry - by Clive Burnard



A Home Mission video sharing the story and vision of Ilfracombe Baptist Church

News:



Nominations for Baptist Union President 2021-22

Baptists are being invited to ***nominate the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2021-22***. The President will help to communicate our vision and mission priorities, bringing their own unique insights and experience into their leadership, and may feel led to bring a particular emphasis within the overall strategy. Full information was sent to all our churches in September. Click here to [find out more about how to nominate someone](#) - please be aware that the ***nomination process will close on 31 December***.



Baptist Union Council meeting this week

Baptist Union Council is meeting today and tomorrow and we invite you to join us in prayer. Click here for the [full agenda, information about who your local representative is and details for the live prayer event on Wednesday evening](#).



National Communications Survey

We are currently reviewing our national communications and would really value your thoughts and reflections. We have created a survey which should only take 10 minutes to complete and would help us enormously. Please [click here to access the survey](#) - many thanks.



Party Conferences

Delegations of church leaders from the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, the Quakers and the Salvation Army attended the conferences of the main political parties this autumn. Read the [reflections of our Public Issues Enabler](#) Beth Allison-Glenny, on her experience at the Conservative Party Conference.

This month's featured resources:



November Prayer Diary

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

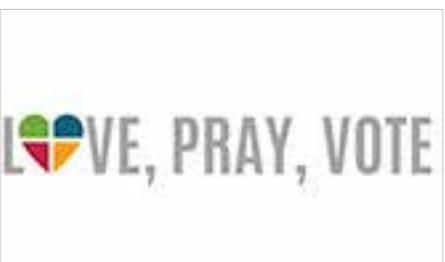
- Eastern Baptist Association
- Remembrance
- Inter faith Week
- Our governance - Council, Trustees and Baptist Steering Group

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



Resources for Remembrance Sunday

We have updated our [Remembrance prayers](#) with a link to some reflections in British Sign Language. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland also have some resources for Remembrance Sunday available to download or order, including an order of service, PowerPoint presentations and free ebook versions of *Beyond Our Tears: Resources for Times of Remembrance*. [Click here for details](#).



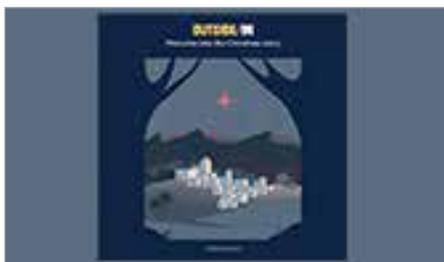
Love, Pray, Vote

How do we respond as Christians to another election? We have written this resource in our role as part of the Joint Public Issues Team to help churches and Christians navigate the issues that come with another election. The resource will include everything from prayers, practical and legal advice for churches around elections, as well as some guides to the political debates. [Click here to download these resources](#).



Christmas Unwrapped

For the past 25 years Slough Baptist Church has been involved in a Church-School project called 'Christmas Unwrapped' and 'Easter Cracked'. Since then has developed locally and nationally and provides a warm and positive experience for children and staff to share some of Christmas / Easter story. If you'd like to find out more please get in touch with Wayne Dixon on wayne@ccschools.org.uk - and if appropriate, visit a session during the week of 25-29 November.



Lifewords - OUTSIDE/IN resources

The Christmas story draws those on the edges into the heart of the action. Everyone is welcome. OUTSIDE/IN tells this radical story of Christmas using accessible Bible text, with large print, braille and British Sign Language resources also available. [Find out more from the Lifewords website](#) or call 020 7730 2155.



Stir up a Pud

Looking for new ways to connect with your community? Retired Baptist minister, Derek Allan introduces an idea that combines Christmas pudding and conversation. Stir up a Pud is an evening event just prior to Advent to which church members can invite contacts to come and mix their Christmas pudding, enjoy some fun and hear a simple presentation of the Good News. [Click here to find out how to put on a Stir up a Pud outreach event.](#)



The Real Advent Calendar

This year's fairtrade Advent Calendar comes with a 24 page Christmas story-activity book illustrated by Martina Peluso. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way. The calendar is foiled for freshness and behind each of the 25 windows is part of the Christmas story and a delicious festive-shaped Fairtrade milk chocolate. [Click here for details and to order.](#)



Faith in Politics Podcast

In the first episode of Season 3 of Faith in Politics, Joint Public Issues Team intern, Cameron interviews Andy Flannagan, Director of Christians in Politics. Andy offers valuable reflection on how we can not only 'listen well' but 'disagree well' in turbulent times. [Click here to listen to this podcast and earlier episodes.](#)



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 - two dates in November

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 events will be in Reading on 6-7 November and Sheffield on 19-20 November. [Click here for more details.](#)



CIO training day - Thursday 28 November

This day in Bristol, led by our Legal and Operations Team and Esther Campsall from Anthony Collins LLP, is an opportunity to explore in greater depth the legal structure for charities known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO. It will be of interest to charity trustees who are assessing the risk profile of their church and considering a change to the legal structure of their church. [Click here for more details and to book your place.](#)



JPIT National Conference - Saturday 7 March 2020

JPIT's 2020 national conference in Derby *Renewal and Rebellion: faith, economy and climate* invites you to join in looking at the big challenges we all face – rethinking economic structures and taking radical steps towards climate justice, and how we can all act to change them – in faith, for people and for planet. Speakers include: Ed Miliband, MP and co-host of 'Reasons to be Cheerful' podcast, Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, and Ross Greer, Green MSP. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Inter Faith Day - Saturday 14 March 2020

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 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. As it is now a Bank Holiday weekend, we will be 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](#) will be posted on the Assembly website as soon as they are available.

Other featured events:

Inter Faith Week - 10-17 November

Inter Faith Week aims to strengthen good inter faith relations, to highlight the contribution that faith communities make to society, and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. The Inter Faith Week website contains a number of [useful planning resources](#).



Neighbour Sunday - 17 November

The [Neighbourhood Prayer Network](#) and [Faith in Later Life](#) are working together to invite churches to join in praying for our neighbours as part of the first Neighbour Sunday. [Resources are available to download](#).



LAMPS performances - Christmas

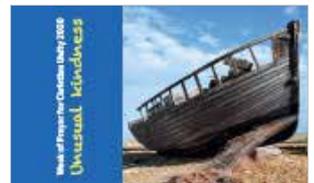
There is still time to book a LAMPS performance for this December! Bread and Starlight (a grown-up pause for breath before Christmas) and Beasts of Bethlehem (our fabulous family Christmas show) are great ways to reach out to your community this Christmas. [See the LAMPS website for details](#).



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18-25 January 2020

Next year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity needs some forward planning!

The service resources which have been prepared are well suited to involve schools/children. To take the best advantage of this mission and evangelisation opportunity, please do **start now** to contact your local schools or drama group and ask them to help you make the service as vibrant as possible. See the [resources available from the CTBI website](#) - in particular the ideas on page 12.



LAMPS performances - Easter

Planning ahead for Easter 2020 and want an inspiring way to reach out to your community? Then why not think about hosting 'The Passion', a powerful original LAMPS production that has been touring with great success for the last two years to churches, cathedrals and schools in the UK. The events leading up to the first Easter are recounted from the viewpoints of Simon Peter, Mary Magdalen and a Roman centurion named Marcus in this simply staged and highly accessible production which speaks with huge power. Click here for [more information and details on how to book a show](#), or call Sam on 01235 543087.

