



Update: November 2020

Dear Friends

We are very aware that so many of you are paddling hard to stay afloat in these times and we offer this update to help and enable you, not to add any weight to your already crowded boat!

You will find here lots of excellent resources and ideas; we fervently hope this will be a blessing to you. We don't mean to give you indigestion or information overload, so as you scroll through the contents, please know that our intention is to bless you and even make you smile!

You remain very much in our prayers and we will continue to pray for you and with you. As we meet Jesus in the Gospel story of his ministry we are reminded again and again of Jesus taking time out to pray. We are privileged to have many wise sisters and brothers in our Baptist family who help us to take time out to pray. Can we draw your attention to the **Advent Quiet Day** on **Thursday 3 December** being led by Beth Powney and Geoff Colmer? Let's step aside together and come in prayer to our Father who loves us and who is **I AM** and is in the midst of the storm with us.

Diane, Hilary, Jane, Mary, Mat, Mike, Paul, Steve and Wale
Faith and Society Team

This month's featured stories:



Baptist Union Council - a report of the first online meetings in October



Carpark harvest produces a bumper crop - a drive-through harvest in Leeds



Inhabiting the space of the other - Simon Jay is part of an Urban Expression team

News:



EU Settlement Scheme

Is there someone in your congregation or community who needs to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme? This is the UK Government's programme to give EU citizens a new immigration status after Brexit. However, some people may find it more difficult to apply, or not know they need to apply at all. If you know someone who might need some support applying to stay in the UK, then check out [JPIT's handy guide for church leaders](#). JPIT is also hosting an online 'coffee break' session at 11:00 on Friday 27 November – a short meeting with experts who can answer any questions, explain the process, and outline how you can support someone through their application. [Click here to register](#).



Foundation Stones

Community engagement organisation, Big Ideas, is inviting Baptist churches to take part in their new project '[Foundation Stones](#)' - painting a commemorative stone to be placed within the foundations of the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Each Foundation Stone will represent a commitment from communities across the UK to learn from the past and to build a future free from all forms of prejudice, discrimination and hatred. To find out more, join Big Ideas for two workshops during Inter Faith Week. Click the links to the workshops on [Tuesday 10 November](#) and [Wednesday 11 November](#) for details.



Reset the Debt

The impact of Covid-19 has been profoundly unequal. The poorest in our communities have been hit hardest by lockdown debt. If we don't act now, families could be held back by Covid debt for years to come. We think it's time to [#ResetTheDebt](#). Could you write to your MP, asking them to support our call to [#ResetTheDebt](#)? [Click here to discover more](#).



Presents with a Purpose

[Operation Agri](#) is a development charity which supports Christian-led rural and urban development projects in three continents, showing the love of Jesus in action by attacking the basic causes of poverty amongst some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, regardless of their religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Their focus is agriculture, education, health, livelihoods and social justice. [Presents with a Purpose](#) enables you to make a gift to friends or family in the form of a donation to one of these life-changing projects.



ACE Magazine Awards 2021

The search is on for Britain's best church magazine. Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE). For the 2021 competition, which closes on 1 February, awards will be made for any sized church magazine, excluding A5, and printed in colour. [Click here for details and to submit your church magazine into the competition](#).



Presidency Nominations - 2022-23

We are now inviting nominations for the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2022-23. The President may be female or male, lay or ordained, and will be chosen because of gifts and experience which will help to communicate our Baptists Together vision and mission priorities. [Click here for details of how to make a nomination](#). Nominations must be received by 31 December 2020.

This month's featured resources:

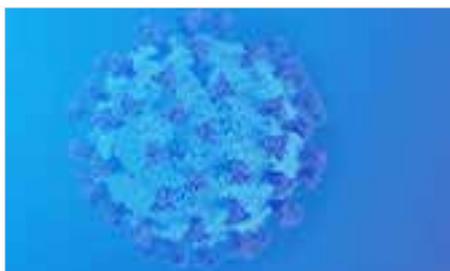


November Prayer Diary

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

- Day of Prayer for the Media
- Remembrance Sunday
- Inter Faith Week
- The West of England Baptist Network - Webnet
- The Northern Baptist Association

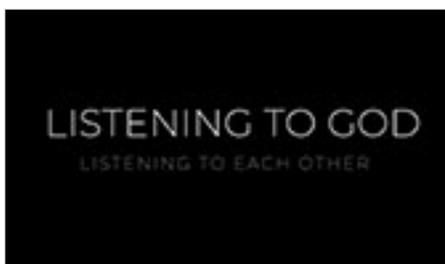
Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



Coronavirus Guidance

We are continually updating our guidelines for churches to reflect the latest Government guidance and ensure that everyone is kept safe.

Please see the **Essential Guidance area** of our website for the latest information.



Listening to God

This autumn, in a joint project with the Mission Forum and The Fuelcast, we are offering a series of films where people from all corners of the Baptist family share how they have heard God speaking during 2020. These films are reflections suitable for personal and group study and consider who God is, his mission, his Church and his future for us as Baptists, which you and your group may like to reflect on as well. Click here [to access these videos](#).



Faith, Wellbeing and Mental Health

There is so much uncertainty as we face Coronavirus. It's now more important than ever to look after our mental health as a priority. With this in mind, we have created a **new area of our website to support church congregations**. It is not a definitive list of all the resources available; if you know other useful ideas, websites or books that could be shared across Baptist churches please contact the Team at faithandsociety@baptist.org.uk.



Remembrance Sunday

Eastern Baptist Association Regional Minister Nick Lear has put together some resources that any churches can use for Remembrance Sunday services (8 November). This has been prepared with a view to being accessible to all ages. [Click here for details and to download the resources](#) - video files and a printed version of the service.



Searchlight Theatre - Remembrance resource

Searchlight Theatre and Jeff Lucas have put together an online resource for Remembrance which can be purchased from their website. The material is based around clips from their successful stage production of 'Woodbine Willie: Poet and Padre' with some lovely insights and thoughts from Jeff Lucas. [Click here for details and to order a copy](#).



Inter Faith Week 2020

Inter Faith Week 2020 will take place from 8 - 15 November. Its aims are to strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society, and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. [Have a look at the Inter Faith Week website for ideas and resources.](#)



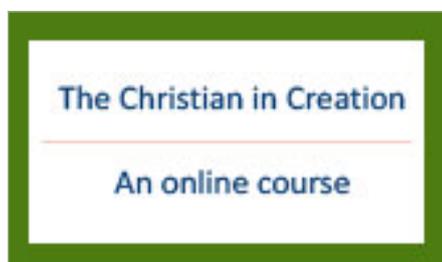
Advent and Christmas resources

This year our celebrations of Advent and Christmas will look a bit different to 'normal'. We have compiled some resources from a variety of sources which may be helpful to inspire you as you plan your services. These are available on our website at www.baptist.org.uk/advent2020. If you have come across any other resources that you'd like to share, please let us know by emailing the Faith and Society Team at faithandsociety@baptist.org.uk



EBF Advent Project

This year's challenges have taught us to use technology better than in the past. And so, the European Baptist Federation (EBF) is offering the EBF family an Advent Project - 'sharing' preachers in the EBF region to keep our bonds of love and fellowship. They are looking for preachers who would like to serve another church in the EBF region, and churches who would like to welcome a preacher from another part of the EBF. If you would like to participate in this EBF Advent Project, [please fill in this questionnaire](#) by Friday, 13 November.



The Christian in Creation course

In November Churches Together in Boscombe (Bournemouth) will start an online course called 'The Christian in Creation.' Most of the church's teaching in the area of the environment has been related to 'creation care' and stewardship. This is clearly a responsibility God has placed on humankind. But the Bible has much more to say. [Click here for more information and how to register for the course.](#)



The Bible doesn't tell me so

This important new book from Baptist minister, Helen Paynter, addresses aspects of domestic abuse and coercive control which can take on a particular form in Christian communities. It is written specifically for victims and survivors of abuse and control, the friends and family members who want to help, and church leaders and congregations who may be in ignorance or denial of the extent of domestic abuse in Christian circles. [Click here for details.](#)



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 online events:



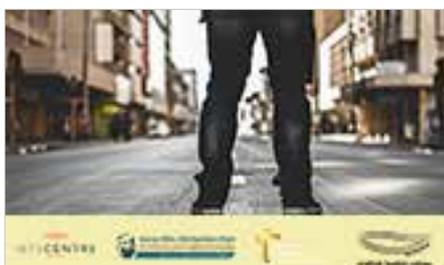
Baptists Together Prayer Broadcasts - 19:00 Wednesday

Since the coronavirus restrictions came into force, we have been offering an online time of prayer led by our General Secretary Lynn Green and other guests. [Please use the link www.baptist.org.uk/prayerbroadcasts](http://www.baptist.org.uk/prayerbroadcasts) to publicise these prayer broadcasts to your church family. Previous broadcasts are also available to watch from the same page on our website.



Modern Slavery and Trafficking: Engaging Theologies for Churches and Faith Groups - Monday 9 November

The Centre for Baptist Studies and Regent's Park College, Oxford, in partnership with Together Free are offering this online lunchtime seminar (starting at 12:30) with speakers Dan Pratt, John Weaver, Marion Carson and Kevin Hyland. To register (free) and receive the Zoom meeting link, please email christine.joynes@regents.ox.ac.uk



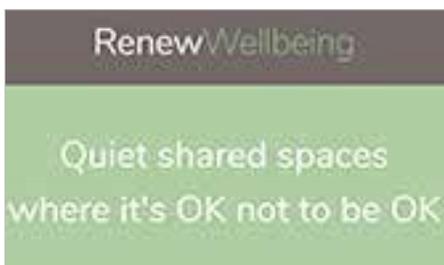
The McClendon Lecture: Inhabiting the City - Friday 13 Nov

The McClendon Chair for Baptist and Evangelical Theologies and the International Baptist Theological Study Centre invite you to join this conversation. Keynote speaker Ryan Andrew Newson will introduce the topic and invite us to reflect on what it means to live as followers of Jesus Christ in contemporary, plural urban societies. The organisers hope this will be a stimulating and illuminating theological conversation across Europe and beyond. [Click here for more information.](#)



Small Church Connexion webinar - Saturday 14 November

An opportunity for leaders of small churches to share stories of both the joys and the challenges of this season and to pray together in break out groups. There will be time to share plans for Christmas in the 'new normal' and a presentation by Phil Barnard about charity registration! The webinar will take place from 10:00 - 12 noon. Register your place today with Hilary Taylor hilary.taylor@tiscali.co.uk



Renew Wellbeing Retreat Day - Tuesday 17 November

Renew Wellbeing helps churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion in partnership with mental health teams to improve mental and emotional wellbeing. This online retreat day, starting at 10:00 will be an opportunity to spend time with God, with input from Shaun Lambert, Ruth Rice and each other. The retreat is free and open to all - not just those already engaged with Renew Wellbeing. Please book in with mandy@renewwellbeing.org.uk



Equipped to Engage with Science - Saturday 21 November

This one day course from the Faraday Institute, is for lay and ordained church leaders, to enrich their understanding of the science-faith dialogue. It is designed mainly for those who have a reasonable level of theological understanding and pastoral experience, but may have no background in science. Speakers include Baptist minister, and former President Dave Gregory. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and to be equipped to address scientific issues in their church. The cost is £15 per person. [Click here to book your place.](#)



INVEST Trainee Programme Open Evening - Tuesday 24 Nov

INVEST is a year-long opportunity to explore mission in creative and innovative ways based within a missional context in the South West of England. It is for anyone who is a follower of Jesus who wants to spend a year growing deeper in their faith while serving the mission of God in some incredible settings in this stunning part of the world. This webinar, starting at 19:45, is also an opportunity for church leaders and pioneers from the SWBA family who might be interested in hosting a placement to find out more about INVEST. The event is free, but [please click here to book](#).



Incarnate Workshop - Wednesday 2 December

The Incarnate Network is launching a new series of online workshops called 'Attentiveness & Action', which will explore the tension that many pioneers experience between 'being' and 'doing'. This first one will look at 'Being a non-anxious presence', and will be led by Roy Searle from 10:00 - 11:30. Cost: £5pp. Click here [for more details and to book](#).



Advent Quiet Day - Thursday 3 December

After the fantastic response to our last online Quiet Day in June, Geoff Colmer, BUGB vice president and team leader at Central Baptist Association, and Beth Powney, team leader of Eastern Baptist Association, are back! They will offer us a further guided opportunity to be still and reflect, timed to coincide with the start of Advent. The day will run from 10:00 - 15:00 with input throughout the day and plenty of space for us to sit alone in the presence of God. [Join the webinar on YouTube](#) and look out for more details on our website nearer the time.



Fresh Streams National Leadership Conference - 11-13 January 2021

Fresh Streams is moving online for 2021 with their National Leadership Conference. The theme will be 'Back to the Future' using Jeremiah 6:16 as the key text, recognising that there is no return to what has been described as 'normal' as we look ahead into 2021. The church needs to be both prophetic and apostolic and be 'co-creators of the future with God rather than curators of the past for God' (to quote Roy Searle). [Click here for more details](#).

Webinar recordings

Don't forget that you can catch up on all our webinar recordings which are available from our Resource Library. [Click here to find them](#).