



Update: May 2021

Dear Friends

Over the last year or so we have faced vulnerability in new ways. The vulnerability of our own bodies and health, the vulnerability of our church fellowships, of our communities, of the businesses in our communities; the vulnerability of jobs, livelihoods and homes.

Last month, as we celebrated Easter and Christ's resurrection, we also sat with the vulnerability of Jesus who, on Good Friday, emptied himself and became obedient to death; the ultimate vulnerability. With Pentecost around the corner we reflect on and rejoice in the indwelling of the Spirit of God through the lens of this vulnerability.

The picture of Jesus asleep in a boat in the middle of a potentially life challenging storm, is the picture of ultimate vulnerability - and yet ... And yet, the Christ, the Almighty God stands and stills the storm, shows us that vulnerability and power are not separate. Love and faith, vulnerability and power are met together in God.

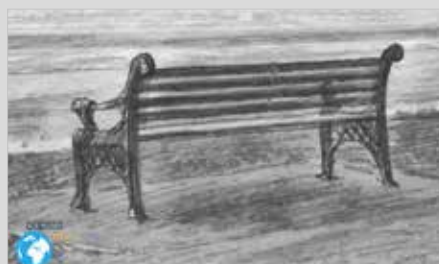
As we are confronted by our own vulnerability, part of our role in the Faith & Society Team is to help a little as you dwell in the midst of those who are vulnerable. We want to resource you, pray with you and maybe, just in a small way, walk with you as you stand and walk with those who are most vulnerable. Our prayer as we point to resources in the email below, is that today you will know the deep, deep love of God who joins us in our vulnerability and leads us on.

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

This month's featured stories:



'trypraying across the Dales'
- Skipton Baptist has been joined by churches across the Yorkshire Dales



'Grief is a deep wound with no visible scar' -
Interview with Baptist author Richard Littledale



Churches on the frontline in England and Wales -
Dr Kang-San Tan on the challenge to leaders

News:



Meet the Team videos

'Meet the Team' is a short series of videos introducing several people who work in our national Specialist Teams. Click here to [find out more about some of the people who work in the Teams](#) - including two members of our Faith and Society Team! These films include footage of Baptist House filmed prior to lockdown.



Baptists Together App

Our website baptist.org.uk contains a huge range of information and resources for our churches, with over 6000 pages to explore! To help you find the key and most up-to-date information for your church, we are excited to [launch our new Baptists Together App](#) which can be downloaded free of charge to your phone from baptist.org.uk/hubb. Download it now for easy access to our website.



Join the UK church Relay to COP26

Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) are coordinating a 'Relay to COP26', asking that the UK government uses its influence to ensure no country gets pushed into debt because of climate change. All ages are welcome to take part in the Relay and there are a wide variety of volunteer roles which they would appreciate your support with. [Route, dates, and sign-up can all be found on their website.](#)



Anabaptist-inspired communities

In February 2020, the Anabaptist Mennonite Network organised a gathering which discerned a desire to encourage and nurture Anabaptist-inspired communities in this country. Two appointments have been made to initiate, develop and support these new communities - Lynsey Heslegrave and Barney Barron, both Baptist ministers, are responsible for connecting and supporting new Anabaptist initiatives, in their own regions and further afield. [Click here for more information](#), or contact lynsey@amnetwork.uk or barney@amnetwork.uk.



Applications for the London Baptists Leadership Year 21-22 are now open!

This unique internship programme, for 18-25 year-olds, offers the opportunity for young adults to explore, experience and better understand leadership within the diverse context of today's urban environment. Application Deadline: Friday 14 May. Interview Dates: 19-21 May.

For more details and how to apply email internship@londonbaptist.org.uk



Could you design the new CTE Forum logo?

Churches Together in England needs a logo for the 2022 Forum and needs it fast! Can you help? The inspiration for your logo should be the theme for the 2022 Forum - *Reconciling Hope - a broken Church for a broken World*. A prize of £200 is available for the selected logo, which needs to be submitted **by Monday 10 May**. [Click here for more details.](#)



WCC Stewards Programme 2022

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites ecumenical youth to be stewards at the 11th Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 2022. The Stewards Programme aims to bring together a dynamic and diverse group of 160 young people from all over the world, from 21 August to 10 September. The deadline for applications has been extended to 30 June. [Click here for details.](#)

This month's featured resources:

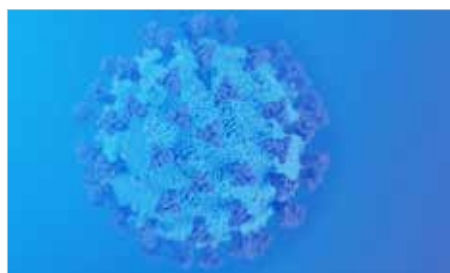


May Prayer Diary

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

- The ministry of our President Yinka Oyekan
- Christian Aid week
- The Baptist Assembly
- Pentecost
- London Baptists

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, which has been updated to reflect the easing of lockdown restrictions.



Baptists Together magazine mailing

The new edition of our magazine is being set to all our ministers, church secretaries and treasurers this week. Along with this edition you will find a copy of the Annual Review 2020, *Transform 58* and a Racial Justice magazine. We hope that you and your church family will find these resources to be valuable - additional copies of the *Baptists Together* magazine and the Annual Review are [available to order from our online shop](#). *Transform 58* and the *Baptists Together* magazine can also be [downloaded from our website](#).



TableTalk for Change

Following any significant trauma or event, whether that's a global pandemic or something closer to home, there's a need to recover well. But how do we do that? Rather than rush into the new and firmly shut the door on what has gone before, it's important to take time to reflect on what we've been through, acknowledge how we're feeling, and look to what's ahead. This set of TableTalk questions provides the opportunity to talk about the past, present and future. [Click here for more information](#) and to order a pack of cards and access to the online version.



JPIT briefing on the new Police Bill

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill is currently progressing through Parliament. The Bill has been the subject of controversy, especially around proposed limitations on protests – but what is actually included in this wide-ranging piece of legislation? And what do Christians have to offer into the debate? Our Joint Public Issues Team has prepared this briefing, which describes the scope of the Bill and explores key areas of interest and concern. It also offers a brief guide to the foundational theology and Christian traditions of protest, and why Christians might choose to engage in conversation around this particular issue. [Click here to access this resource](#).



Politics in the Pulpit?

This new lectionary-based preaching resource from JPIT is available by video and podcast. In weekly 30 minute episodes, they'll ask how reclaiming the justice issues present in the biblical texts helps us to be good news in the world today. Each week will feature a different guest in discussion with Beth Allison-Glenney to discern the political dimensions present in the Scriptures. Together, they will reflect on how they connect with the week's current news and our role in the Kingdom of God. We hope this will be a useful and inspiring tool to resource preachers and worship leaders. Episodes will be released on Tuesday mornings. [Click here for the latest episode.](#)



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:



Faith & Thought Annual Symposium 2021 - Saturday 8 May

Since 1865 Faith & Thought (previously 'The Victoria Institute') has been a forum for those who wish to hold together Christian faith and advances in scientific knowledge. Four excellent and varied speakers are lined up for this year's Symposium 'Future Church' and video presentations of their papers will be released throughout the day. [Click here for details of the programme.](#)



David Goodbourn Annual Lecture - Tuesday 11 May

Hosted by the Centre for Theology and Justice, this webinar 'Untangling the legacies of slavery: Deconstructing Mission Christianity of our contemporary Kerygma' will outline the necessity of deconstructing the problematic history of Christian mission and its relationship to slavery and colonialism, in order to effect a more prophetic and radical proclamation of the Christian faith in contemporary Britain. It will be delivered by Anthony Reddie, Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture. [Click here for more information.](#)



Crucible Course - 11 May-22 June

'Restoring Hope' is the last of six modules from the Crucible course running online during this season of restrictions on meeting in person. It will run fortnightly on Tuesday evenings. This module explores how, in light of God's mission to bring shalom (peace) to all creation, we can live towards that hope and help to create communities of peace. You are welcome to try out the 'Restoring Hope' module – just £40 for four evenings. [Click here for information and registration.](#)



How can a learning community help me? - Wednesday 12 May

In the latest CMD webinar we will be joined by Mary Taylor and Alisdair Longwill, regional ministers with Yorkshire Baptist Association and West of England Baptists Network respectively, and Nike Adebajo, one of the pastors at Network Church, Sheffield. We will talk through what a learning community looks like and what we might gain from being part of one. [Click here for details and to join the webinar.](#)



Baptist 5Q Cohort - Thursday 13 May

Following on from the input of Alan Hirsch and Rich Robinson at their conference in January, Fresh Streams is inviting you to be part of a 5Q cohort starting in July. If you're a minister who is passionate about equipping disciples and leading a healthy church actively engaged in the mission of God, helping us to draw on the full potential of the fivefold ministries from Ephesians 4, then do [come along to this free webinar to find out more](#). For more information contact: Simon Goddard, simon@rivertree.org.uk



Baptist Assembly Online – 13-16 May

We are very excited that, being an online event this year, Baptist Assembly 2021 can be made available to all, offering a unique opportunity to bring a large number of people together to join in worship, prayer, Bible study and consideration of current issues. The sessions will be free for anybody to join via our website – but [register to join us](#) and we'll send you all the links you'll need in advance.

Assembly will start at **19:00 on the Thursday evening** with **In Memoriam** - a time of prayer and reflection on our losses since Assembly 2019.

[See our website for more about the weekend's programme](#), including seminar topics, [information about our keynote speaker Shane Claiborne](#), and registration. We hope you and your church family will be able to join us during the weekend.



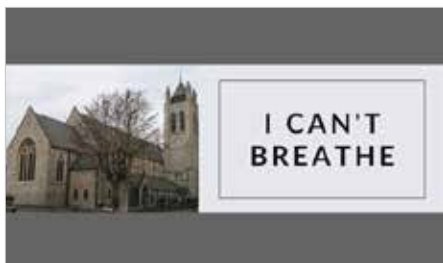
Emotional Rollercoaster training - Wednesday 19 May

With thanks to the [Children, Young People and Families \(CYF\) Round Table](#), training from [Transforming Lives for Good \(TLG\)](#) on their new Emotional Rollercoaster resource has been available to all our regional associations. The final session will be for the Eastern Baptist Association - [click here for more details](#), and book your place for this online training on Zoom.



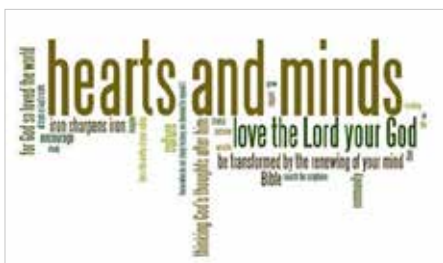
Pentecost - Sunday 23 May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. [Click here for details and resources](#). This year the National Day of Prayer and Worship is also hosting a **Virtual Pentecost** day of prayer - [click here for details](#).



Doing Justice: A National Service of Reflection on the Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd - Tuesday 25 May

This service will host senior church leaders and local Christians at the NTCG Brixton Community Church in south London. They will remember the tragic death of Mr Floyd, as well as challenge churches and communities in Britain and Ireland to stand up for justice, and against racism, ignorance, and hatred. [Click here for more information.](#)



Hearts and Minds conference - Monday 21 June

This online day conference, mainly for Baptist ministers, is an opportunity to present or listen to papers within a friendly, supportive environment. Keynote speaker: Anthony Reddie. To submit a paper, contact Chris Joynes by 1 May 2021 at christine.joyes@regents.ox.ac.uk Click here to [register to attend](#).



Baptist World Congress - 7-10 July

The Baptist World Congress is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for Baptists worldwide to stand together. For the first time in our history, Congress will be offered as a fully virtual event, making it more accessible than ever before. Join us online as the BWA family continues to stand together during this critical time – celebrating our unity across borders, languages, and ethnicities. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

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.](#)