



Update: April 2022

Dear Friends

After Jesus had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them,

"Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you". John 13:12-15



As we walk towards Easter, we invite you to join us as we reflect together on Jesus' example of washing the feet of the disciples; even the feet of Judas Iscariot, knowing betrayal was imminent. Kneeling in stillness and tending even the dustiest of feet helps us a little to glimpse something of the overwhelming, self-giving love Jesus has for us and the example he has set before us.

The update we share with you today includes stories, resources and things to encourage you as we journey together along the often dusty road with Christ. Our prayer this Easter is that we might bless each other as we serve and that you might be blessed as you encounter afresh the deep love of God.

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

This month's featured stories:



Baptist Union Council: Find out more about the topics for discussion and outcomes from the March 2022 meeting



How is your running? Pain-free, or painful? A discussion opener to assess how your ministry is going, by William Wade



A special farewell: Yorkshire Baptist Association held an event to mark the retirement of regional minister Mary Taylor

News:



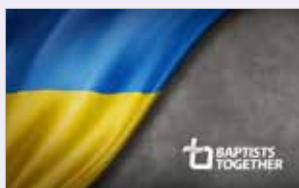
Election for President - 2023-24

Thank you to everyone who took part in the process to discern our next President. The outcome of this discernment is that **Tim Presswood**, regional minister in the North Western Baptist Association, will serve as our President in 2023-2024.



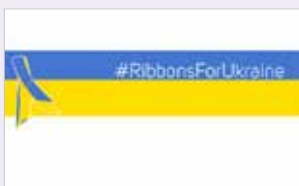
Baptist Assembly 2022

We are delighted to announce that BBC Songs of Praise will be filming at Assembly through the day on Saturday for an episode dedicated to Baptists Together to be broadcast on 26 June 2022. They want the programme to be a celebration of who we are. We hope you will want to join us at Assembly and be part of this opportunity to talk to their 1 million viewers. Please also use the [promotional video](#) to encourage your church members to join us - in person or online.



Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

We have been hugely encouraged by the number of Baptists registering interest in our involvement with the government's Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. To support those who have offered accommodation, we are offering a Zoom meeting on 13 April to explain possible routes forward regarding matching, explore some safeguarding and practical considerations, and respond to questions. To read [more about the scheme and sign up](#), please see the [Ukraine area of our website](#).



Ribbons for Ukraine

What if you can't offer a spare room or personally donate large sums of money to support Ukrainian refugees? Perhaps *Ribbons for Ukraine* is just thing for you and your church/school/community? £10 will buy you enough ribbon and pins to make 140 #RibbonsForUkraine. Sell them in your church, local community, school, shops or club for a minimum of £1 each and make a lasting difference for some of the countless families who have had to flee from their homes. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Applications for JPIT's 22-23 Internships are now open!

These three opportunities are aimed at recent graduates aged 21-30 and are 12-month, full time, living wage roles, which offer someone the opportunity to explore their gifts and skills in the context of an active and welcoming team. One of the roles is full time with the Joint Public Issues Team, with a focus on communications, engagement and research. This role works alongside the rest of the team to produce resources and tools for effective campaigning and engagement. The other two roles are split between working for JPIT and working in the office of an MP (one Conservative, one Labour). These roles offer an opportunity to work on the frontline of political life, whilst also engaging with effective campaigning and advocacy whilst working with JPIT. Closing date for all applications is 18 April. [Click here to find out more](#) and sign up for the [webinar on 7 April](#) giving more information.

This month's featured resources:

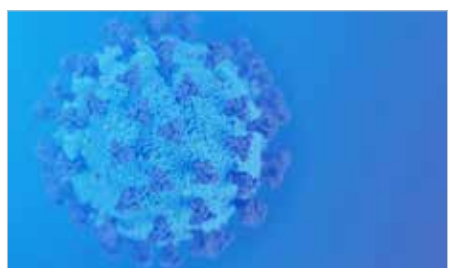


April Prayer Diary

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

- Baptists Together Safeguarding Team
- Eastern Baptist Association
- Easter
- Churches Together in England, Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

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



Coronavirus Guidance

Our guidance has now been altered to reflect the UK Government's removal of statutory requirements relating to Covid-19 in England. This includes considerations for churches as we 'learn to live with Covid'. Our previous suite of guidance on re-opening church buildings, church worship, and children's, youth and families work, has been replaced by a single guidance document laying out some principles to consider. This includes details of the on-going regulations for Wales.

[Please keep checking our website for the latest information.](#)



Platinum Jubilee – a celebration of faith and service

Get ready to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service. Bring your community together, plan a party, involve everyone of all ages in 70 acts of service, give everyone a commemorative gift. Help local schools, youth groups, uniformed organisations and toddler groups to celebrate. And, for the grand finale, invite everyone to a special church service on Pentecost Sunday – the final day of the four day Platinum Jubilee celebration. [Ideas and resources are now available](#) from a partnership facilitated by Hope Together.



Defender of the Faith - Platinum Jubilee gospels

The Pocket Testament League wants to seize the opportunity to give churches and supporters throughout the UK the opportunity to use this special anniversary to share the good news about Jesus by flooding the UK with 100,000 limited edition Platinum Jubilee Gospels. Each contains the full text of John's gospel of John in addition to the words of the National Anthem and a quote from the Queen about the Christian faith that she holds dear. [Order free Platinum Jubilee Gospels](#) to share in your community today!



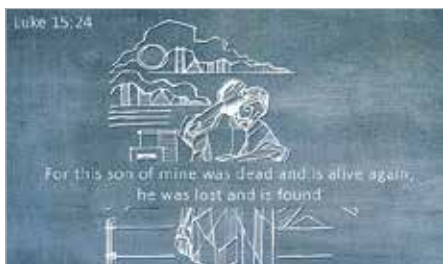
Home Mission area of our website

We have recently refreshed the look of the [Home Mission area of our website](#). Included in this is an inspiring new [Home Mission feature video](#) from Sutton St James Baptist Church in the East Midland Baptist Association - 'Open the doors and love people'. You'll also find other stories from your association along with information about Home Mission and resources. We will be adding more to this area in the future.



Share the Good News in your community this Easter

Baptist churches and many others across the UK are using Good News evangelistic newspaper in their Easter outreaches, which is produced by Baptist editor Andrew Hallway. Copies of the Easter issue are still available, containing testimonies of celebrities and 'ordinary' Christians and Easter-themed articles. [Click here to read the Easter issue and place an order](#), or call 0115 9233424. At only 20p per copy plus p&p it's great value (sold in packs of 25). Good News is a member of the EA and a registered charity.



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 events:



DNA Christian Discipleship and Leadership taster days - April-June

Do you... Dare to dream about your destiny in God? Realise that your dream demands development? Want your life to make a difference? DNA is for EVERYONE; whether for you it is a Christian gap year, sabbatical, education or alongside work and family. Find out more about how DNA can help you at one of their Taster Days. [See their website for details.](#)



David Goodbourn Lecture 2022 - Tuesday 26 April

In this lecture, *After Pestilence*, speaker Professor Mario I Aguilar (University of St Andrews) will be exploring the centrality of social justice within the Church and the social gospel. This lecture is being presented by the Centre for Theology and Justice, and hosted by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). [Click here for more information and registration.](#)



IBTS Ethics Conference: 4-6 May, Amsterdam

This conference '*The Heart of Christian Ethics: exploring the sacredness of life, justice, forgiveness, truth and love*' is for pastors, leaders, students, researchers, academics and also those from fields of politics, journalism, social work, development and education. Students, researchers and academics are also invited to contribute papers engaging with relevant chapters of Prof David Gushee's new publication: *Introducing Christian Ethics*. [Click here for details.](#)



The return of Firestarters in 2022 - various dates from May

Firestarters is a grassroots friendship of growing Baptist churches helping other churches to grow through honest, open conversations with church leaders and teams. For 2022 there are five conversations scheduled across the country. At each at least two fast-growing churches will share their stories of the last year and look ahead to a season of new opportunities and new challenges. [Click here for details.](#)



Black Light Course - May-June

The Black Light course was developed 24 years ago by Les Isaac and Stuart Murray Williams to engage with contemporary concerns about racism and injustice. It explores the presence and contributions of black people in the Bible, in church history and in Britain today. It celebrates the remarkable growth of the church in Africa and the exciting 'reverse mission' impact on Europe. Running weekly through May and June - [click here for more information and to register](#).



IBTS: We are all made of stories - May and June

Youth and children's workers across the EBF region are working with children and young people suffering from trauma. This could be for multiple reasons: poverty, refugee experiences, war, religious persecution, or natural disasters. What does this mean for our practice? This residential of 3 days (17-19 June) in Bampton near Oxford will be combined with a 5 week online course (starting 9 May) which requires 3 hours of work per week. [Click here for more details](#) on the IBTS website.



5Q Cohort 2022 - Thursday 12 May

In partnership with Catalyse Change and RiverTree, Fresh Streams is inviting you to be part of the third Baptist 5Q cohort starting this July. Working with a Baptist team of facilitators, led by Simon and Ceri Harris, this cohort is for all ministers who are 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. The cohort launches in July and will involve an hour long huddle every fortnight from September '22 until July '23. [Click here to find out more](#) and register for the free taster webinar at 13:00 on Thursday 12 May.



Baptist Assembly - 14-15 May

Book now to join us as we gather in person at Bournemouth to hear what God is saying to us as a movement with many creative connecting and conversation spaces. ***As well as our whole weekend tickets, we have now released individual tickets for Saturday, Saturday evening and Sunday with some special offer prices if you book before Easter.*** Following the huge success of our online Assembly last year we will also be broadcasting live our main sessions on YouTube, and are ***encouraging all our churches to join in online for our Sunday worship service*** when our speaker will be Alan Donaldson, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation. We also encourage you to connect with others on ***Friday evening*** before the start of Assembly at Westcliff Baptist Church. [Further details are available on the Baptist Assembly website](#). *If you test positive for Covid at the time of Assembly, we ask you to join online rather than coming in person - but refunds will be available if you need to cancel due to Covid.*



Festival of Church Music - Saturday 21 May

In Harmony Free Church Choirs is recruiting choirs and individual singers for the Free Church Choirs Festival of Church Music at Lichfield Cathedral, on the theme of 'Unity'. For further details, including a list of music to be sung, please [see the Free Church Choirs website](#).



From the Ground Up: JPIT Conference - Saturday 11 June

Tickets for JPIT's 2022 conference taking place online and at Oasis Hub Waterloo are now available!

- What does social justice look like where you are?
- Where do we find hope in our neighbourhood?
- What can we learn from those who are already doing this work?
- How can local change be part of changing the bigger picture?

Join this one-day conference to reconnect with fellow changemakers and be re-energised to work and pray for peace and justice.

Want to find out more? [Check out the details and book your space](#)



CMD: Attentive to Rhythms of Grace - Monday 20 June

In October 2020, Baptists Together launched a CMD Handbook setting out expectations of recognised Baptist ministers for their continuing ministerial development (CMD). The approach centres on five habits of CMD which ministers are asked to adapt to their own needs and contexts. This workshop supports the Habit of Attentiveness and is closely connected with Geoff Colmer's Presidency and his theme of Attentive to Rhythms of Grace. [Click here for details and a link to book.](#)



New Housing Summit - Tuesday 21 June

Churches Together in England and the New Housing Hub are hosting this day at Regent Hall in London to discern together what God is saying to the churches nationally about our response to the significant amount of new housing. Speakers include Bishop Guli and Mike Moynagh. [Click here for more details and to book your place.](#)



Satellites - 9-13 August

Satellites is a new five-day summer gathering designed to inspire teenagers to live with God at the centre of their lives all year round. Organised by Youthscape, it's taking place at the East of England Arena in Peterborough, 9-13 August. [Click here for more information.](#)



Thrive 2022 Conference: All for Jesus - 14-16 October

Thrive encourages networking among the spouses of UK Baptist ministers at all stages of ministry or mission, from training through to retirement. The Thrive Conference is a great opportunity to take some time out from your normal routine, be refreshed spiritually and enjoy the company of fellow Baptist ministers' spouses. The next conference will be in Northampton with main speakers Ken and Sue Benjamin. [Get a booking form](#) by completing the contact form on the Thrive website.



Sam Sharpe Lecture - Wednesday 19 October

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Sam Sharpe Project and to mark the occasion, the annual lecture will be delivered by Prof Kehinde Andrews at the Maths Institute in Oxford. More details will be coming soon, along with a link to book your place - but please save the date.