



Update: May 2022

Dear Friends

As we share these articles and resources from across Baptists Together, we are eagerly anticipating Assembly. We are very much looking forward to an opportunity to meet many of you in Bournemouth. We are keen to help build deeper relationships across our movement and getting to know you is very important to us.

As a Team we are approaching Assembly with a desire to listen well and understand better the contexts and spaces we inhabit together as Baptists. Please do come and say 'hi' and tell us a little about yourself, and if you haven't yet registered to come along, there's still time!

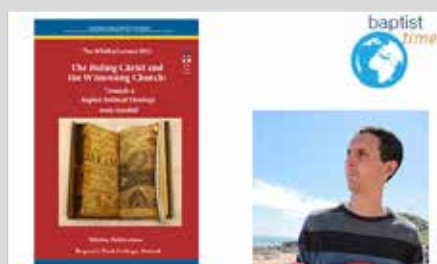
Diane, Hilary, Jane, Mary, Mat, Mike, Paul, Sharon, Steve and Wale
Faith and Society Team



This month's featured stories:



Baptist Union Presidency for Tim Presswood in 2023-24 - 'sharing fully in Christ's Great Banquet'



The Church is Political: living with our disagreements. How can we love one another in the face of profound disagreement?



Capturing faith communities' 'monumental contributions' during the pandemic - campaign launched by Spurgeon's College

This month's featured resources:

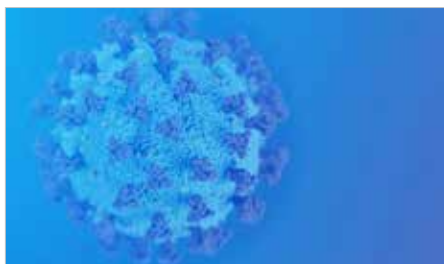


May Prayer Diary

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

- East Midland Baptist Association
- Hayley Young - our new President
- The Baptist Assembly
- Christian Aid Week
- Thy Kingdom Come

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previous suite of guidance on re-opening church buildings, church worship, and children's, youth and families work, has been replaced by a single guidance document laying out some principles to consider.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! *(A donation is suggested, but leave the box blank to claim for free).*



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 Wymondham Baptist Church in the Eastern Baptist Association - 'Creativity and Courage'. 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.



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:



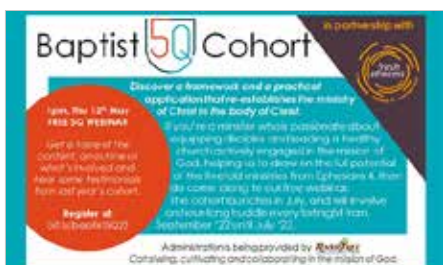
Black Light Course - May-June

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 by 8 May 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. 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.*



DNA Christian Discipleship and Leadership taster days - 14 May (Luton) / 25 June (Zoom)

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.](#)



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.](#)



Parish Nursing: Explore Online - Monday 23 May

Join in on Zoom to find out about parish nursing, what it is and how it works - with no strings attached. Hosted by Regional Nurse Coordinator Dawn Stephens with input from parish nursing services around the country. Explore what parish nursing could offer to your local community. Free 1-hour sessions will be hosted at 10:00, 13:00 and 19:00 - just choose a time that is convenient for you and contact enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk for the Zoom link.



CYF Racial Justice Roadshow - Tuesday 24 May

To accompany the CYF Racial Justice resource launched earlier this year, we are delivering national racial justice roadshows. This online session will help unpack how you can use the resource in your specific environment and feel more comfortable and knowledgeable about engaging with the topic of racial justice with your young people. [Click here for more information and booking.](#)



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](#)



The return of Firestarters in 2022 - various dates in June and July

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.](#)



CYF Racial Justice Roadshow - Friday 17 June

To accompany the CYF Racial Justice resource launched earlier this year, we are delivering national racial justice roadshows. This online session will help unpack how you can use the resource in your specific environment and feel more comfortable and knowledgeable about engaging with the topic of racial justice with your young people. [Click here for more information and booking.](#)



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.](#)



Sixty One Festival – 4-7 August

Sixty One is a brand new festival for students and young adults, a God-charged space to prioritise the presence of God, awakening deeper calling and confidence in life's next steps. Organised by Fusion and New Wine, it is happening at the East of England Showround in Peterborough. [Click here for more information](#) and follow them on social media on [@sixtyonespace](#).



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.](#)



World Council of Churches Assembly - 31 Aug-8 Sept

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, under the theme 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity'. Public registration is open to anyone who is interested in participating in WCC 11th Assembly. Registrants will have access to most assembly programmes, and will encounter and experience the assembly with thousands of participants from all over the world. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



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. This will be available as an in-person lecture with refreshments afterwards, and also online if you are unable to join us in Oxford. [Click here for details, and to book your place.](#)