



## ***Update: August 2022***

Dear Friends

As we continue to pray for you and your church, we hope you manage to get some time for rest and refreshment this summer. We are aware that August can be a busy month for many churches as you seek to serve your community and express the Good News of Jesus in the places to which you have been called. We pray that in the midst of it all you experience more and more of God's steadfast love.

We offer this update in the hope it might bless, help and inform the work you are doing. In particular, we'd like to highlight the encouraging news which was announced last week concerning the Baptist Pension Scheme 'buy-in' and subsequent reduced deficit contributions. This news will make a big difference to churches which had been making large deficit contributions to the Defined Benefit part of the scheme. We're also excited to share news of our President Hayley Young's Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge to raise money for Home Mission - please be praying for Hayley as she and her supporting walkers prepare, and encourage her with a donation if you are able. We're also sharing news of some helpful areas of our website which are well worth a look - especially the updated Home Mission and Listening areas.

Every blessing

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

### **This month's featured stories:**



**President Hayley Young will be donning her walking boots on 11 September to raise funds for Home Mission**



**Opening our homes - Can we respond to the plight of UK children in care in the same way we did for Ukrainian refugees?**



**Suggestions for your summer reads - seven books that will help us think about our Christian faith**

## News:



### Baptist Pension Scheme

An announcement about the Defined Benefit (DB) part of the Baptist Pension Scheme was sent to all Baptist churches last week. This is good news if your church has been making contributions to the Defined Benefit part of the Baptist Pension Scheme. It will ensure pensions will continue to be paid whilst removing risk from the Baptist family. [Click here for details](#), including the letters sent to churches.



### Listening area of our website

Please have a [look at the Listening area on the website](#) which has information on a variety of topics, including human sexuality. This is not an exhaustive area and we are constantly adding and updating as new resources are shared with us.

We are aware that a number of churches are having prayerful conversations about human sexuality. To aid your reflection you may find the 'Listening area' to be a helpful place to visit. It shares the background to the conversations which have taken place over the past few years, as well as [Lynn's recent letter concerning discernment about marriage and Accredited Ministry](#). You will also find suggestions to help facilitate the listening process in your church.



### Local Church area of our website

Earlier this year we updated the Local Church area of our website, which now includes sections particularly designed to help our Church Secretaries, Treasurers, Ministers and Home Mission Reps. The website contains a wealth of content and we hope that this new area will help you find the information you need in your role. Have a look at [www.baptist.org.uk/localchurches](http://www.baptist.org.uk/localchurches) for details.



### Project Violet Research Survey

What was your experience of training for Baptist Ministry? As a Project Violet researcher and Baptist Minister, Helen Stokley is doing a short piece of research about the initial stages of training to be a Baptist Minister. She would be most grateful if as many eligible people (Baptist Minister or a Minister in Training - regardless of gender - who went through Ministerial Recognition Committee before training at a Baptist College) could take part to provide as wide and diverse picture of experiences as possible. [Please complete the survey before 12 August 2022](#) or email Helen at [hstokley@protonmail.com](mailto:hstokley@protonmail.com) if you have any questions.



### Win a year's subscription to RaiseUpFaith

Last month we shared information about the new children's ministry resource RaiseUpFaith. As they develop both the content and functionality that ministry leaders need, RaiseUpFaith are currently conducting a children's ministry survey and are very keen to hear from Baptists. Click here to [take part in the 10 minute survey about children's ministry](#) - one respondent will receive a Children's Ministry Media Setup, including 12 month subscription to RaiseUPfaith and a 55" Smart TV to help you in your children's ministry!



### Exploring doing a PhD?

IBTS in Amsterdam is still open to applications for January 2023. If you (or someone you know) have been considering doctoral work in theology, IBTS still has a few spaces available for a 2023 start. The decision to register for a PhD is a major life step so please [get in touch with the IBTS office for an informal conversation](#) before making a formal application. It is never too early to start the conversation!



## Electronic Organ looking for a new home

Kinsham Chapel is offering a Yamaha model EL-70 electronic organ free to a good home - after closure of the Chapel in Tewkesbury. For more information, or to express interest, please contact Margaret on [ivescamp@mac.com](mailto:ivescamp@mac.com)

## This month's featured resources:



### August Prayer Diary

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

- The Children, Young People and Families Round Table
- Safe holiday travel, and people working in the travel industry
- Young people awaiting exam results
- South Wales Baptist Association

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



### Season of Creation Resources

1 September – 4 October is the Season of Creation. This year, the Joint Public Issues Team is encouraging you to dig in to some just desserts, and explore the relationship between what we eat and our environmental impact. They've put together some resources to support worship leaders in holding a Season of Creation or Harvest service this year. [Click here for details.](#)



### PUMPKIN HEROES - Free autumn kids activity pack

Order your free **Pumpkin Heroes pack** today and have the children aged 4-10 in your church, school, or family join Patch on a COLOURFUL adventure going green - not orange - this autumn and Halloween time! Full of fun, faith-filled games, crafts, activities, and the new story and film, *Patch the Pumpkin, Goes Green*. Together with Patch your children will discover how we can protect our world and all make a difference whether we are big, small, or somewhere in between. PS Limited stock – don't miss out [order today at pumpkinheroes.com](http://pumpkinheroes.com)



### Home Mission Update

Earlier in the year we refreshed the look of the **Home Mission area of our website**. Here you'll find stories from all our associations along with information about Home Mission and resources. Why not start by watching the inspirational **Home Mission film from Limbrick Wood Baptist Church** in the Heart of England Baptist Association. We will be adding more to this area in the future.



### The Influence Course

Christians in Politics have launched The Influence Course, exploring how churches can be salt and light in the public square. Over six sessions, you'll explore what it really looks like to speak and act for change. [Find out more about how you could run the Influence Course](#) with your church.



## Prophetic Activist Scheme (PAS)

PAS is a 6-month scheme run by Christian Aid to inspire, engage and equip young adult (18-30 year-old) Christians in campaigning and activism for climate justice. PAS supports young adults to influence churches across the UK to take action towards the climate justice movement as we follow the Biblical call to do justice (Micah 6:8). The scheme will run from September 2022 to March 2023 and Christian Aid will be recruiting for the scheme throughout August. [Check out the Christian Aid website](#) and [Instagram](#) for more information.



## 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:



### 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.



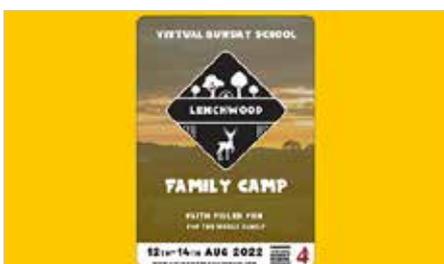
### Satellites - 9-13 August

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. [Click here for more information](#).



### Is the cost of living support enough? - Wednesday 10 August

Join the Joint Public Issues Team and Christians Against Poverty for a conversation about the crisis we find ourselves in and what next steps are needed for families to receive sufficient support. We'll hear from people with first-hand experience of poverty, explore how churches are already in the midst of offering emergency provision and discuss the next steps for government. This event will be held on Zoom and livestreamed on Youtube. [Click here to sign up to receive the details](#).



### Virtual Sunday School Family Camp - 12-14 August

For two years Virtual Sunday School (who led our Children's programme at Baptist Assembly 2021) has run a super fun virtual holiday club online...But this year they are delighted to be able to gather in person with an event for the whole family. This family camp will be held at Lenchwood Christian Centre in Worcestershire - bring a tent and your camping gear. Day tickets also available for those who live locally. [Click here for more details and to book your place](#).



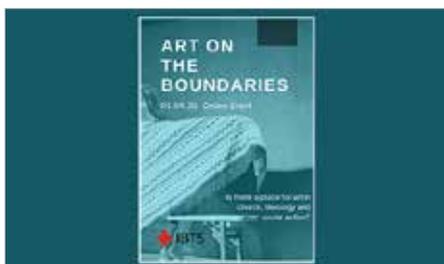
### Explore Online - Tuesday 30 August

Join 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](mailto:enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk) for the Zoom link.



### 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.](#)



### Art on the Boundaries - Thursday 1 September

The IBTS Learning network is moving into the area of art! Led by Victoria Aleksandravicene and Henrikas Zukauskas, they are hosting an online event on 1 September around the question - is there a place for art in church, theology and social action? If you would like to attend this online event, please [click here to register.](#)



### Education Sunday - 11 September

For well over one hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. The theme for this year is 'You are not lost!' - [for details please see the CTE website.](#)



### New Housing Summit - Tuesday 4 October

**Please note new date:** 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.](#)



### 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 on the theme 'Bringing Down the House' will be delivered by Prof Kehinde Andrews at the Maths Institute in Oxford. This will be available as an onsite 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.](#)



### **Life Beyond Borders - Tuesday 8 November**

This free conference and networking event at Liverpool Hope University is being organised by CTBI and the Churches' Refugee Network. It will explore the local, national and international implications of borders on communities, including their impact on the most vulnerable in societies, such as refugees. It will also be a forum that brings together organisations, groups and individuals from across Britain and Ireland who are engaged in asylum and refugee work in some capacity, and will showcase the great work taking place by both church and secular groups. Click here [for more information and to register to attend.](#)