



## ***Update: March 2025***

Dear Friends

We live in challenging times, and yet... And yet together through Christ, we hold the most precious gift to the world – HOPE.

As we are busy preparing for Assembly and the mission conference we are holding in conjunction with BMS World Mission, we are reminded of Jesus' Gospel words expressing his intentions to establish his rule. In this Jesus sets the mandate for the Church - as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, 'all things are under the Lordship of Christ'.

Partaking in Christ we stand at the same time in the reality of God and in the reality of the world. The whole reality of the world has already been drawn into, and is held together in, Christ. History moves only from this centre and toward this centre. Christianity offers up a story which is of the entire world, not a small section of it. In this story God advocates from the beginning, through the Trinity, for his world. Or as Moltmann says: 'The divine Trinity is so inviting and so strong that the divine reflects itself in true human community and takes human community up into itself, 'that they also may be in us.' (John 17:21).'

Do join us for the Baptist Assembly on 16-17 May where we will gather as a Baptist community to learn more about Christ and our part in his world. And in these challenging times, may you continue to be beacons (or bearers) of Christ's hope in the places and among the people you find yourselves.



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

**Whilst we've carefully chosen these resources and events because we hope they will be useful to you and your church family, we are not directly responsible for the content from other groups and organisations.**

*Feel free to forward this email to others in your church, or encourage them to sign up to receive our regular emails by completing the form at the bottom of every page of [our website](#).*

## This month's featured stories:



Mission focus at latest small church hub - 21 people gathered last week at Perry Beeches Baptist Church for the 4th hub



2025 Intercultural Church and City Transformation gathering - 'A vibrant exploration of cultural diversity, unity, and hope'



Fresh Streams calls Baptist churches, ministers, and individuals to a day of prayer and fasting on 27 March

## News:



### Election for President 2026-27

**A reminder** that details of the four people who have been nominated to be President of the Baptist Union 2026-27 have been sent to every church and minister eligible to vote. We would like as many as possible to be involved with the process of discernment, so please **share the profiles with your Church Meeting**. **Voting this year will primarily be online and will be open until 31 March.**



### Baptist Assembly - 16-17 May

This year's Baptist Assembly will explore what we can learn about local mission using global insight. This national gathering is taking a lead on mission, evangelism and discipleship, offering a **mission conference** where inspiration, discernment, storytelling, resourcing and sharing good practice takes place. BMS World Mission will be taking a lead role as we hear from the global majority. This will provide teaching and resourcing for mission which can make a difference in our local communities. Click here to **find out more about what's being planned.**

## This month's featured resources:



### March Prayer Diary

The **March Prayer Diary** is now available to download from our website.

The particular themes this month are:

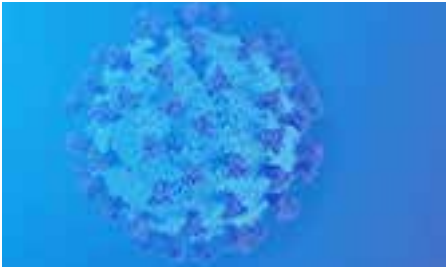
- The World Day of Prayer - 7 March
- Yorkshire Baptist Association
- The Ministries Team
- The Baptists Together Week of Prayer
- Mothering Sunday - all those who offer us the care of a mother

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



### Praying Together 2025 - Week of Prayer 23-30 March

This year we are continuing our commitment to prayer for our mission, for God's coming Kingdom in our communities, that the whole Body of Christ will live and witness to Jesus every day, and to express our lament as we pray into the Project Violet research findings. We have some prayer resources available on our website including a weekly prayer reflection from members of our Core Leadership Team and others. We encourage our churches to include these prayers during our Week of Prayer, and to join our Prayer Broadcast - click here **for details.**



## National Day of Reflection for the Covid-19 pandemic

Sunday 9 March 2025 is the **Day of Reflection** across the UK for the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an opportunity to come together to remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time. Our **President Steve Finamore** has written a prayer for churches to use on this day - [click here to find the prayer](#).



## Project Violet Lament - resources for churches & individuals

**Project Violet's** request for change 57 is that Council calls the Baptists Together movement into a **period of lament** for all that the research has discovered. Council welcomes the offering of prayers, liturgy, poetry, song and art and other creative approaches to help us express our lament in this period. As well as the **Liturgy of Lament** we shared last month, there are some new creative responses to aid your prayers. Please click here to [access these resources](#).



## Act on Poverty course from JPIT

Poverty blights the lives of people in the UK and around the world. But poverty is not inevitable. Choices that are made, and that we make, force people into poverty and trap them there. This means we can make a difference. JPIT has partnered with Christian Aid, Church Action on Poverty, The Trussell Trust, and others to create resources to help you and your church gain a deeper understanding of experiences of poverty, and enable you to call for action. There are **two versions available** - the six session course would be ideal as a Lent study.



## CTE Lent course information

As Lent begins on Wednesday 5 March, Churches Together in England (CTE) has compiled a list of resources from their national Member Churches and partner organisations.

Click here to [find out more about these Lent resources](#).



## Slow Wisdom

Too often churches end up arguing about teacups rather than discerning the mission of God together at the Church Meeting. *Slow Wisdom* is a fresh take on how Baptists can discern well together in the local church. The *Slow Wisdom* video and training resource is based on the book of the same name by Baptist minister the Revd Dr Ruth Moriarty, based on her academic research. [Click here to access the five videos with discussion questions](#) suitable for use by ministers and local churches as a learning resource, [alongside her book](#).



## Emerging Leaders Program

The Emerging Leaders Program from the Anabaptist Mennonite Trust seeks to equip and develop emerging leaders to respond with creativity and courage to our changing and unpredictable times. The program aims to equip participants to grow as catalysts, peacemakers and leaders embodying a Jesus-centred presence in their faith communities, fields of interest, networks or local neighbourhoods. Click here [for more information](#) about this 9 month leadership development program.



## The Week of Prayer for Science

Christians in Science, along with other science-faith projects are organising a week of prayer for Science from Thurs 7 - Sat 16 March. Our **Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN)** has provided one of the daily videos. Click here for [links to all the videos](#) which have been produced for each day of the Week of Prayer (being released at 06:00 each day). There will also be an online evening of prayer on Monday 10 March - click here [for more information, and to register](#).

## This month's featured events:



### What did the Anabaptists ever do for us? - Wednesday 12 March

At this event to mark the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, Ruth Gouldbourne will deliver a lecture at Scottish Baptist College, Paisley on the distinctive contribution of the Anabaptists - covering themes such as toleration, women's freedom, and pacifism. For more information, email [scottishbaptistcollege@uws.ac.uk](mailto:scottishbaptistcollege@uws.ac.uk)



### Hong Kong Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 12 March

Prayer is one of the ways to support Hong Kongers and local pastors and leaders in ministry. The Baptists Together Hong Kong Response Project will be holding the next online Prayer meeting at 19:00 where Les Tam will share his personal journey of faith and ministry since moving from Hong Kong to the UK in 2022. During this session, Les will reflect on the unique challenges faced by ministers transitioning to a new cultural and religious context. You are invited to be inspired and pray together. [Click here to register](#).



### AI & Ethical Use in Churches & Faith-Based Organisations - Thursday 13 March

This hybrid seminar (in London, or online) from the Free Churches Group will address how AI can transform faith-based work, from organising services and social action to optimising resources and improving outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised groups. The Keynote Speakers will be the Revd Professor David Wilkinson – ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science) and Sara Speicher – World Association for Christian Communication (WACC). [Click here for more information and registration](#) (places are limited).



### Firestarters Conversations - Saturday 15 March

Firestarters conversations are opportunities to hear the stories of growing churches, attend interactive seminars on factors influencing church growth, and reflect and discuss your own church and its future growth. This year the conversations will focus on microchurch and scattered models of church. This event will be held at West Clayton Baptist Church in West Yorkshire. Click here [for more information and booking](#).



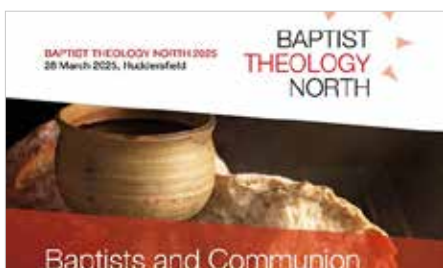
## Praying Together 2025 Prayer Broadcast - Tuesday 25 March

The next live, online national prayer gathering will be taking place between 19:30-20:00. [Click here to join in this time of prayer](#). Please share this and encourage others to pray too.



## Constituency Action Network Webinar - Wed 26 March

To help resource Constituency Action Network (CAN) churches, JPIT holds one-hour webinars towards the end of each month, providing a chance to reflect and listen to guest speakers and learn from each other. The next webinar will have a focus on refugees and will include guidance from Ruth Dunlop Price of Together with Refugees. Churches which are not yet members of CAN will be very welcome to attend. Click here [for more information and to register](#) to join the session at 12:30 or 19:00.



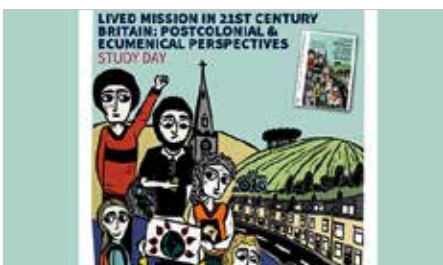
## Baptist Theology North - Friday 28 March

There will be a focus on Baptists and communion at this year's Baptist Theology North, taking place in Huddersfield. The day will feature keynote addresses, younger emerging scholars and short paper options, with a focus on conversation as much as information. The keynote addresses exploring Baptists and communion are from Chris Ellis, Linda Hopkins, Sarah Ducker and Ben Jones. At lunch participants will share a reformation-style communion liturgy led by Keith Jones. Click here [for more information](#).



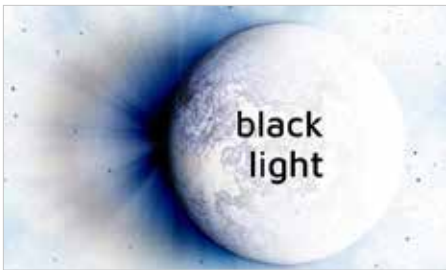
## Incarnate Houseparty: Simply Present - 1-3 April

The next Incarnate Houseparty, being organised by the Anabaptist Mennonite Network, will be held in Bromsgrove. The Houseparty is a relaxed gathering for those involved in pioneering, church planting and missional community. There will be input, conversation, prayer, reflection and space to connect with others. Throughout the event we'll be exploring the importance of active listening and accompaniment in mission, discipleship and our own spiritual formation. Click here [for details and booking](#).



## Lived Mission in 21st Century Britain: A study day - Wednesday 9 April

Join authors and editors in Manchester for a study day looking at some of the key chapters in the new book *Lived Mission in 21st Century Britain* and be involved in stimulating discussions about what a new missiology in Britain may look like. Full price tickets are £58.00 which includes a hot lunch and refreshments through the day (25% discount available for students, emerging scholars and unwaged people). [Click here for details and booking](#).



### **Black Light Course - Starting 1 May**

The Black Light course was developed 28 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 from 1 May until the end of June - click here [for more information and to register](#).



### **Baptist Assembly - Friday 16 - Saturday 17 May**

We hope you and your church will join us for our mission conference as part of this year's Baptist Assembly, where we will:

- Discern together how global insight can have local impact and make a difference in our local communities
- Come together to listen and commit ourselves to God's call to mission for us as a Movement in these days
- Share communion, study the Bible together, celebrate all that God has been doing through the past year and discern his call to us going forward
- Celebrate the lives of those who have died this year and those ministers and mission personnel being commissioned.

For full details about the weekend, [see the Assembly website](#), and book your place.



### **David Goodbourn Lecture 2025 - Tuesday 20 May**

*Just knowing:* How do we create knowledge that does justice to marginalised voices, enabling them to speak, but in a way that protects their dignity and mobilises action from those with the power to make changes? This lecture will explore Project Violet and is being given by Project Violet co-leaders Jane Day and Helen Cameron. Click here [to find out more and register](#) for the online lecture.



### **Messy Church Conference - Friday 20 - Sunday 22 June**

'All together' is a conference like no other! Join the Messy Church team for a weekend of inspiring keynote speakers, informative workshops, Messy Church sessions and fun together with the global Messy Church family. The conference will be exploring how we welcome people of all ages, abilities and from all backgrounds to Messy Church. Click here [for further information and booking](#).