



## ***Update: April 2025***

Dear Friends

This Lent, as a team, we have been reflecting on some of the last sayings of Jesus. As is the case with much of what Jesus says, we could spend hours quietly reflecting on and pondering the power, love and grace that fills his words. We know that many of you will be taking advantage of the plethora of resources and reading plans that are available to accompany us through Lent and we hope you are finding this a rich blessing on your journey.

However, as we look around us and notice the suffering of many across our world, perhaps this is a moment to pause at the foot of the cross as we move towards Good Friday and the hope of Easter Sunday. Silently we wait and watch with the women and with Jesus' disciples in the darkness that covered the land. The overwhelming mystery of Jesus' death and the impossibility of fully comprehending the depths of Christ's agony leave us silent.

We can marvel at Jesus Christ's incredible power to love. As we marvel, we are again reassured of his loving power in any suffering we may experience, knowing that because of the cross we will never suffer alone. As we cast our eyes from the cross towards our wider world, we can be confident that in the seeming forsakenness of this world, Christ has endured the worst for us all.

We pray that this Easter we may be bold in our confidence of God's love for our world. Love that chose to give up everything and to endure the most painful of deaths. And may we, together, bow the knee to the Risen One, that at the name of Jesus every tongue, indeed every thing, declares that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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:



'A tool for growth, creativity, and renewal'- new video resource designed to help churches reflect on their mission and ministry



Churches are invited to share a special edition of John's Gospel to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day



Going green at Derby Urban Church - how a national grant helped make our building more environmentally sustainable

## News:



### Election of President 2026-27

Thank you to everyone who took part in the discernment process and voted in our Presidency election. As a result of this process, Alex Afriyie has been elected to serve as our President in 2026-27 and will take office at Assembly 2026. His theme as President will be 'Walking Worthy'. An interview with Alex will be published in the Baptist Times in the coming weeks. We remind you that, as no nominations were received for the 2025-26 President, and following a proposal from CLT and Trustees, Council agreed that there would be a fallow year with no President in 2025-26.



### JPIT Internship Opportunities 2025-26

Are you (or do you know) a young Christian who is passionate about issues of justice and peace? Do you want to explore the intersection of faith, policy, and politics, and potentially pursue a career in one of these fields? The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is recruiting to two full time paid internship positions: one focused on Communications (to start as soon as possible) and the other on supporting local churches to build relationships with their MPs (to start in September 2025). The interns will be working as part of a small ecumenical team on a diverse range of tasks and initiatives including communications, policy, campaigning and supporter engagement, contributing to the public advocacy and political engagement work of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. [Click here for full details](#) - including access to a webinar giving more information. **Application deadline is 22 April.**

## 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:

- South Eastern Baptist Association
- Baptist Colleges preparing women and men for leadership
- Easter hope
- Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN)

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



### Youthscape Essentials

Youthscape Essentials is an innovative course that increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today. Whether you're running a community project, a church youth group, or occasionally helping out on a Sunday morning, the course is designed with you in mind! It's not about the numbers of young people attending, it's about putting God at the centre of your youth ministry. This 10-week online course (10 September - 19 November) facilitated by our CYF Round Table **is being offered free** to all ministers and CYF workers nationally. Places are limited to 25 so it is advisable to book as soon as possible. [Click here for details.](#)



### Journal of Baptist Theology in Context Issue 12

The Journal of Baptist Theology in Context aims to provide a place to publish Baptist scholarship - giving a voice to scholarship and deep theological reflection. JBTC is alive with real theology rooted in real lives. With an Editorial by Sally Nelson, the [latest issue of this journal](#) contains the following articles:

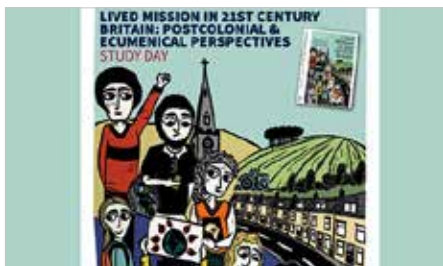
- *Equality: can it bear the weight placed upon it?* — G Michael Thomas
- *Baptists and Bonhoeffer: A Conversation with Craig Gardiner, Tim Judson and Andy Goodliff*



### The King of Kings - film in cinemas on 11 April

This star-studded animated film starring Kenneth Branagh, Pierce Brosnan and Uma Thurman (to name a few) is a creative animated retelling of the life of Jesus. The backdrop to the film is inspired by Charles Dickens who wrote 'The Life of our Lord' for his children and read it to them every Christmas. The film is based on this with Charles reading his book and one of his young children imaginatively seeing the story. It is well suited to young people of primary age in years 3,4,5 who are part of a church group wanting to creatively explore the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus this Easter. It is also helpful to parents to reflect on how they share faith with their children. [Watch a trailer](#) on the King of Kings film website. A [church activity pack](#) from Kova International is also available to download.

## This month's featured events:



### 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.](#)



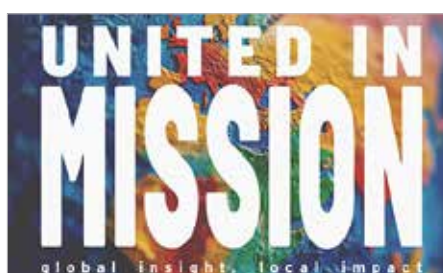
### Black Light Course - Starting 1 May

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.](#)



### Hong Kong Prayer Meeting - Tuesday 13 May

Many Hong Kong parents face immense challenges in raising up teenage children while helping them grow in faith, especially when adjusting to a new culture in the UK. You are invited to join this online prayer gathering, where Wendy, a mother with two teenagers, will share her personal journey. She will talk about the struggles and blessings of immigration, the joys and tensions of parenting, and how she has leaned on God every step of the way. [Click here 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.



### **Contributions and Struggles book launch - Wednesday 28 May**

Join with the Baptist Historical Society at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London for the launch of *Contributions and Struggles: Some Theological Explorations*, a collection of essays by distinguished Baptist theologian Brian Haymes (1940–2024), published in his memory and in thanksgiving for his life. The event at 14:30 will include an act of worship, celebrating the faith that shaped Brian's life and work. All are welcome to attend in Bloomsbury but for those unable to be there it will also be available on Zoom. Contact Stephen Copson for the link ([secretary@baptisthistory.org.uk](mailto:secretary@baptisthistory.org.uk)).



### **Being Missional Today conference - Tuesday 10 June**

Being Missional Today is a festival of missional thinking exploring the impact of disruptions in church and world, the liminality of this current season, and the role of reconciliation practices. This ecumenical gathering is sponsored jointly by the Church Urban Fund, Coventry Cathedral, the Iona Community and Reconciliation Initiatives. Click here [for more information and booking](#).



### **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](#).