



Update: June 2025

Dear Friends

It was lovely to see so many of you at **Baptist Assembly** a few weeks ago. It was such a privilege to be together, eat together and worship God together. We are continuing to share talks and snippets from Assembly you might find useful in your particular contexts; please do check out the link below and follow us on social media.

We are now looking forward to Assembly 2026 in Harrogate. We are keen to get details to you as soon as possible – watch this space!

The focus on mission across our Baptist movement is so important for us. One of the things many commented on at Assembly was the encouragement from Lynn to be attentive to and be ready for all God is doing in communities up and down the country. We are grateful to Mission Forum for helping us to begin a conversation and we will be sharing more in coming weeks.

In the midst of the conversations and discussions, the parable we reflected on at Assembly resonates. The story Jesus told of the shepherd seeking the lost sheep. Leaving his flock to search, the shepherd calls for all to join in celebration when the one little sheep was found. What a beautiful picture, reflecting the overwhelming love of God for us all.

The resources in this update are just some of the tools that we hope might be useful for you as you share with others the love of the Good Shepherd whose life is laid down for us; may you be blessed in all you are and bring.

Diane, Hannah, 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:



Rest and encouragement at a Small Church Hub
'We discovered the variety of opportunities offered by our churches for people to explore faith,' writes Hilary Taylor of the latest Hemel Small Church Hub.



Developing our ministry - and building.
Minister Geoff Bentley shares an update on how Aintree Baptist Church is building God's kingdom in its community.



Everyone Everywhere: a conversation with Alan Hirsch.
Alex Harris reflects on a day inviting practitioners, planters, and leaders to think about sharing Jesus and starting churches.

News:



Baptist Assembly 2025

It was great to see many of you at Baptist Assembly last month at West Bromwich. We have started to publish some of the recordings and will be sharing more in due course which we would encourage you to share with your church family. Currently Lynn's talk, the commissioning of ministers and pastors as well as photos of the weekend are available. Don't forget to get the 2026 details in your diary - 15 – 17 May in Harrogate, [initial information is currently available on our website and more updates coming soon.](#)



Chris Duffett's Baptist Assembly paintings to support Home Mission via sealed bids auction

At the 2025 Baptist Assembly, Baptist Minister and Artist Chris Duffett created two paintings - 'We Are A Royal Priesthood' and 'How Deep, How Wide' as he listened to God during the gathering. The originals are now being offered for sale via a sealed bids auction. All proceeds will go to Home Mission. Click [here for further details on both the pieces and how to participate in the auction.](#)



IBTS Apprenticeship Programme 2025 - 2026

This one-year opportunity is for emerging leaders who are engaged in local ministry with a growing interest in education, theology, and mission. The programme will equip young leaders to serve more effectively in their existing contexts. It will run from September 2025 to September 2026 and each apprentice will receive a stipend to support their participation. Applications are open until the end of June 2025, with interviews for shortlisted applicants in July. Find out [more about the apprenticeship here.](#)

This month's featured resources:



June Prayer Diary

The [June Prayer Diary](#) is now available to download from our website.

The particular themes this month are:

- Heart of England Baptist Association
- Pentecost
- Refugee Week
- Support Services Specialist Team
- Military Chaplains

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. 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.](#)



Messy Momentum Launch

Messy Momentum focuses on enabling and supporting Messy Churches across the country to grow their engagement with young people. This is aimed specifically at young people aged 9+ years old, who have grown up through Messy Church, encouraging them, together with their parents and carers, to grow in their Christian faith, deepen their relationship with God and their peers, and use their gifts within the church. At these online events you will find out what this could look like for your Messy Church and what training and resources are available to support your team. Click [here to find further information on the meetings that will be run over various dates in June and July.](#)



Shine Your Light

Get ready for Christmas - Shine Your Light is a united initiative of denominations, prayer networks and streams (including Baptists Together), with a vision of taking carol services, nativity and other Christmas events from within church buildings out into shopping centres, village greens and community centres. This year it will take place from 12-14 December.

Click [here to find out more about the initiative.](#)

This month's featured events:



Gather and Grow Seniors Ministry - Saturday 7 June

This onsite forum, jointly hosted by Faith in Later Life and London City Mission, provides an opportunity for church leaders, seniors workers and their teams to share ideas and explore innovative ways to serve and disciple the older generations. Delve into the rich ministry of ministering to older adults and renew your vision to make a lasting impact in your area. [Click here for more information and to book.](#)



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.](#)



Prayer Broadcast - Tuesday 17 June

Join us for our online national prayer gathering as we continue in dedicated and heartfelt prayer for God's mission and ministry through our Union. The next prayer gathering is on 17 June at 19:30 and will be streamed on YouTube. [Click here for more information.](#)



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.](#)



ChurchWorks Family Hubs toolkit launch - Tuesday 24 June

ChurchWorks have worked collaboratively with partners Spurgeons and the Gather Movement to produce an online Family Hubs toolkit providing clear next steps for churches to take in building and navigating relationships with local authorities. At the online launch, they will share more of its content and plans for the distribution of the toolkit. [Click here for more information and booking.](#)



BWA Congress Virtual Registration - 7 - 12 July

Join this powerful time online of worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching and more with this opportunity to gather with Baptists across the globe and learn how God is at work in and through our global family. Virtual registration is open so you can still experience the event of the 23rd Baptist World Congress. This will give access to plenary sessions (with interpretation available in a number of languages) and Bible studies, along with the opportunity to connect with participants around the globe through their interactive virtual platform. [Click here to register.](#)



JPIT Conference - For Goodness Sake - Saturday 8 November

Save the date for the Joint Public Issues Team 2025 conference when Christians longing for justice from around the UK will gather together at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. Plan to come along to be inspired, to meet friends old and new, and to empower and equip each other to work for justice and peace in our local churches and communities. More information to follow soon.