



Update: October 2025

Dear Friends

I AM WHO I AM

When Moses met God in the burning bush, when he heard God sending him to speak to and for the Hebrew people, Moses wanted more! A burning bush that didn't burn and the voice of God wasn't enough when Moses seemed more afraid of the people to whom God was sending him. Moses wanted to know the name of God.

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I am who I am. Exodus 3:13-14

As we look around our world this autumn, many things feel overwhelming and there seems to be anger and fear lurking in our communities. There is so much we cannot change BUT God who spoke to Moses is unchanged.

I AM WHO I AM.

Our hope is in God; God's shelter, is our strength. It is in following the footsteps of Jesus, the Word who is God, that we speak hope in the midst of anger and fear. We determine to follow the servant heart of Jesus who showed us a different way.

The Moderator of the Free Churches Group, Tessa Henry-Robinson speaks so aptly of our hope in this present age; do check this out further down the update.

Our prayer this autumn is that you will be encouraged to hear again the voice of the One who is, and was and is to come, I AM WHO I AM and to hope.

Diane, Hannah, Hilary, Londy, 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:



From Albania to Bedfordshire:
how global mission is
shaping local church growth.
By Dan and Annie Dupree



**What our churches can
offer the world -
a reflection by the
Rev'd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson**



Celebrating Tyndale 500:
churches in Lymm organise 10
day programme around
scripture reading

News:

Baptist Assembly – NOW OPEN



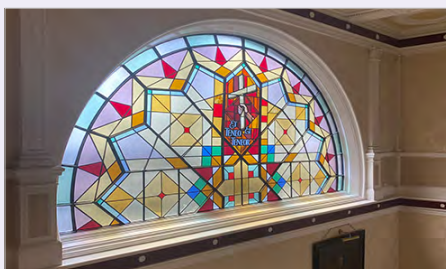
Tickets for Baptist Assembly 2026 are now available. Until the end of the November there is an early bird special offer with an adult ticket reduced to £125. But why not gather others from your church and take advantage of our group offer – buy four tickets and get the fifth free. Visit [The Baptist Assembly area of our website](#) to keep up to date with what's going on at Assembly 2026.

Presidency Nominations 2027-28 Now Open



We are now inviting nominations for the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2027-28. All ministers, church secretaries and treasurers should have received an email from us on Friday 26 September outlining what the role entails, and how to nominate a person for this national role. The deadline for receipt of all nominations is 31 December, and the election discernment process will be held in the first months of 2026.

Support for Students following closure of Spurgeon's College



Read our [recent Baptist Times article](#) on how students impacted by the closure of Spurgeon's College have been supported across Baptists Together with an ongoing call for financial donations.

Core Leadership Team Key Messages



Our Core Leadership Team enjoyed being together at the end of September which was the first onsite gathering since January. As they worshipped, prayed and shared together there was a real sense of unity and a shared heart for the Lord and our Baptist family. Click [here to read the report of the meeting](#).

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Updates



JPIT Conference - For Goodness Sake - Saturday 8 November

Tickets are now on sale for the Joint Public Issues Team 2025 conference when Christians longing for justice from around the UK will gather at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. The Right Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton and the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani have been announced as keynote speakers. Find out more about the conference and [get your tickets here](#).

This month's featured resources:

October Prayer Diary



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

- Homelessness Sunday
- South Wales Baptist Association
- Baptist Union Council
- Faith and Society Specialist Team

Please [print out a copy](#) for those unable to access it.

Applications to the Bill Snelson Young Ecumenists Fund are now open



The Fund supports young Christians (aged 18–35) affiliated with Churches Together in England member churches to engage in ecumenical experiences abroad. are available for study, pilgrimage, volunteering, or other initiatives that promote church unity. Applications close on 31 October . To apply and find out more, visit [the CTE website](#).

Shine Your Light



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.

I Will..... Leave a Lasting Legacy



The Baptist Union of Great Britain and BMS World Mission have launched I Will..., a new resource to help churches reflect on leaving a lasting Kingdom legacy. Designed for flexibility, it offers worship materials ranging from small group sessions to full Sunday services, suitable for a single focus or a whole series. The resource also highlights opportunities to support mission in the UK and overseas, including leaving a gift through a free online or telephone Will-writing service. [Click here for details](#).

Parable of the lost sheep - Bible Study for Youth Groups and Church Leadership Teams



Using the reflection made by Savannah Bell at the 2025 Baptist Assembly, these Bible studies and video are offered as a resource for Youth Groups and Church Leadership Teams. Produced by our national Children, Young People and Families Round Table. [Access the Parable of the Lost Sheep bible study as well other useful resources here.](#)

Invitation to Participate in Global Survey on Children & Youth Ministry



We have been asked to support [InCommon ministries](#) in their aim to gather information from 32 different counties about the strengths, needs, and gaps in children's and youth ministry around the world. This 2025 research initiative is dedicated to assessing where churches stand globally, seeking to advance children and youth ministry worldwide. [Take the survey here.](#)

Special highlighted events:

The Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture - Monday 27 October



The Sam Sharpe Partners invite you to the 2025 Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture. This year, they welcome Dr Selina Stone, Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at the University of Edinburgh, for an evening of theological reflection, justice-seeking, and liberative learning. Her lecture, titled 'Free Indeed: From Theological Mis-Education to Teaching for Liberation' will explore how theology can either bind or break us—and how we might reclaim theological education as a tool of spiritual and social transformation. Click [here to find out more.](#)

Encountering God's Story through scripture and one another - 15-17 June 2026



Encountering God's Story, through scripture and one another - A retreat for children, young people, and family workers. Ministry is a joy, but the reality is that the work we carry can take its toll. We invite children, young people, and family workers from across Baptists Together as we gather to celebrate, seek God, and dwell together in His presence. Find out [more about the retreat here.](#)

This month's featured events:

Small Church Reaching your community for Christ - Saturday 4 October



Join the Small Church Connexion as they explore how churches can more effectively connect with their communities through word, meaningful action and online outreach. At King's Cross Baptist Church, Vernon Square, London WC1X 9EW from 10:00- 15:00. A suggested cash donation of £10.00 on the day (including lunch). Click [here to find out more.](#)

Praying Together 2025 Prayer Broadcast – Wednesday 8 October



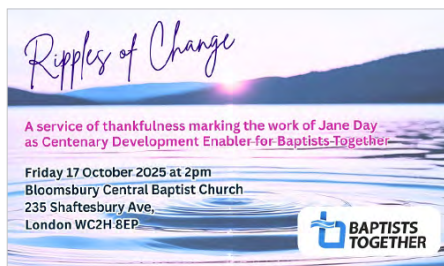
The next live, online national prayer gathering will be taking place between 19:30-20:00. [Click here to find out more and join in this time of prayer.](#) Please share this and encourage others to pray too.

The Creed as Lived Reality - Wednesday 15 October



The Society for Ecumenical Studies invites you to its Autumn webinar. The Revd Professor Paul Fiddes and the Revd Dr Susan Durber will be in conversation, hosted by Fr Dragos Herescu. Marking 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea (325), the discussion will examine the theological contours of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) and the living experience of life in Christ to which it bears witness. This webinar offers an opportunity for reflection, dialogue, and shared learning across traditions. [Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)

Ripples of Change - Friday 17 October



A service has been organised to mark the role Jane Day served in our Baptist family as Centenary Development Enabler. It will combine thankfulness for the progress made, as well as a time of lament for many of the findings of Project Violet. The service will start at 14:00 and is being held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London. There is no need to register but [click here to find out more.](#)

Reconciliation in a Time of Conflict - Saturday 18 October



Drawing upon experiences from the Holy Land and Ukraine, what does the Christian ministry of reconciliation look like in a time of conflict? What are the challenges faced by those in the context of war, and what might we learn about being reconcilers in a society increasingly characterised by cultural division and conflict? This event is being held in the John Laing Centre within the precinct of Coventry Cathedral. [Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)

Insurance, Legal Responsibilities and Finance Webinars – Monday 27 October



Continuing their autumn webinar Baptist Insurance Company with our Support Services Specialist Team are offering a series of Zoom webinars.

- Session Two: Keeping People Safe - 27 October 19:30
- Session Three: Financial support for Churches - 17 November 19:30

[Find out more and to sign up.](#)

Encountering the Anabaptist – Tuesday 4, 11, 18 and 25 November



2025 marks the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. The 'Encountering the Anabaptists' course introduces their history, beliefs, practices and contemporary relevance. It will cost only £20 and will include a copy of *The Naked Anabaptist* by Stuart Murray. For more information, please contact Stuart at anabaptist@bristol-baptist.ac.uk. Click here [to book a place on the course](#).

Equipping Day - Finding Jesus – Wednesday 5 November



Fresh Streams is partnering with the Evangelical Alliance to present Finding Jesus, new research examining how adults in the UK are coming to faith today. Rachael Heffer, Head of Mission at the Evangelical Alliance, will outline key findings from a survey of nearly 300 people who have come to faith in the last five years, highlighting the influences, decisions, and experiences shaping their journeys. The event will take place at Frinton Free Church, Frinton-on-Sea, starting at 10:00. Read more about the [event in a recent Baptist Times article](#).

The Centre for Anabaptist Studies 2025 Annual Lecture – Wednesday 19 November



This lecture examines the contribution of Anabaptists and Quakers—often described as the Historic Peace Churches—to the wider Christian tradition. Marking 500 years of Anabaptism, Stuart K. Masters, teacher, writer, and Quaker scholar, will explore their turbulent origins, theological convergences and divergences, patterns of development, and forms of collaboration. This event will be live-streamed. For further information please contact email anabaptist@bristol-baptist.ac.uk

Everyone Everywhere 18-30s Chat – Monday 24 November



Everyone Everywhere Chats are a series of interactive Zoom calls for 18-30s and the first will take place on 24 November. This will be a space to learn from others on a similar journey, ask questions and be inspired in mission. They'll hear from Savannah Bell about her journey and work as a Baptist pioneer minister. Click [here to book your place](#).

The Intercultural Church and City Transformation (ICCT) Gathering - 5 - 6 February 2026



Join leaders from across the UK in Manchester on 5–6 February 2026, for the Intercultural Church and City Transformation (ICCT) Gathering. Centred on Imago Dei – Made in the Image of God, the event features dynamic speakers, intercultural worship, and four learning tracks, equipping churches and communities to live out unity, justice, and transformation in diverse contexts. To find out more [click here](#).