



### ***Update: December 2025***

Dear Friends

This Advent we pray.....

**We pray** that you, your church and your community know the transforming power of God's love which stepped into this world.

**We pray** you know, and are able to point to, the hope and peace that comes with Christ's birth. Hope and peace beyond measure and certainly beyond our understanding.

**We pray** in the midst of fear and gloom in the communities around us, the light that is uncontainable in Christ's birth, will shine brightly.

**We pray** that together we will walk into Christmas and beyond, in confidence to follow Father, Son and Holy Spirit into whatever the future holds, speaking truth with the gentleness and humility of the Christ Child.

**We pray** you know God's richest blessing this Christmas.

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

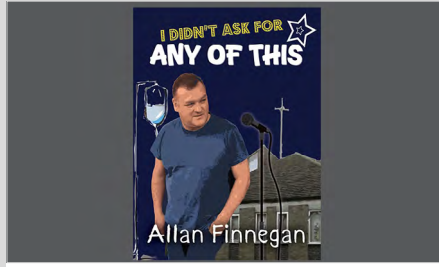
**Whilst we've carefully chosen these resources and events because we hope they will be useful to you and your church family, we are not directly responsible for the content from other groups and organisations.**

*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:



**Celebrating rural mission - Ruth Leigh on the LoveRural conference**



**'I used to go to church, but...'  
Minister Allan Finnegan introduces his new book**



House of Commons  
Work and Pensions Committee

### Two-child limit

**A decade of faithful persistence.  
How Baptist voices contributed to bringing the two-child limit to an end, by Public Issues Enabler Steve Tinning**

## News:

### Baptist Assembly – 15- 17 May 2026



Early Bird tickets may have finished, but individual day tickets for Baptist Assembly 2026 are now on sale, giving you more flexibility in how you join us. You can still make the most of our group offer – buy four tickets and get the fifth free, perfect for gathering a group from your church. Baptist Assembly isn't just for ministers or church leaders – it's for everyone who is part of our Baptist family. Come and connect with others from across our national community, hear inspiring stories, and be encouraged as we unite in mission together. [Visit the Baptist Assembly section of our website](#) to stay up to date and to book your tickets today.

### Presidency Nominations 2027-28 Now Open



There is still the opportunity to nominate 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 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.

### Where now for visible unity?



Gale Richards reports from the recent Faith and Order World Conference of the World Council of Churches, and in so doing appeals to British Baptists to pursue a deeper ecumenical formation. [Read Gale's article on our website.](#)

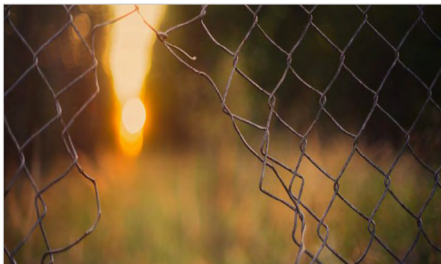
## Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Updates

### Response to the Budget



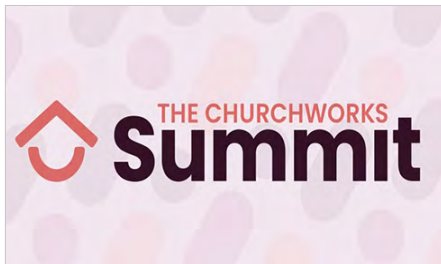
Paul Morrison, Public Issues Advisor for the Joint Public Issues Team, looks at how the Budget will impact poverty, inequality and other justice issues. [Read more on the JPIT website.](#)

### What are the Government's asylum reform proposals?



On 17 November 2025, the Government announced major proposed changes to UK asylum policy. Drawing on similar policies implemented in Denmark, the stated aim is to “restore order and control to our borders” and deter people from seeking asylum in the UK. In response, leaders from the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches expressed concern that the changes did not reflect an approach that prioritised human dignity, but instead would ‘place more demands on vulnerable individuals and an overstretched system’. [Read more here.](#)

### ChurchWorks Summit



The Baptist Union is represented on the ChurchWorks Commission whose vision is to bring together the Church and the Government to support the vulnerable in our communities. Tickets are now on sale for their annual summit on Friday 27 February 2026, in Central London. Looking primarily at issues linked to the mental health crisis, poverty, and supporting vulnerable children, the summit also hopes to equip local churches to work with public services, including Local Authorities and the NHS. [Find out more here.](#)

## This month's Baptist Resources:

### December Prayer Diary



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

The themes this month are:

- North West Baptist Association
- Small Church Connexion
- May God's light and peace be over us during Christmastime
- Year ending

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



## New Level 1 in Safeguarding Film



Our latest Level 1 Excellence in Safeguarding Film is now available for all Baptist Churches free of charge! This short film is designed to be shown annually in one of your services or at a church members' meeting. The film is available to [download through our website](#).

## 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](#).

## Praying Together – Last Prayer Broadcast of 2025

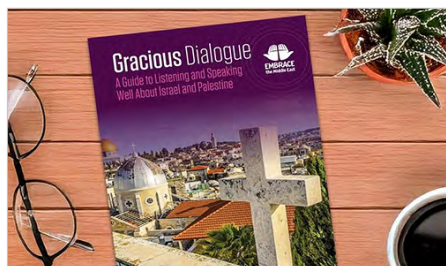


Our last prayer broadcast of 2025 took place on Wednesday 26 November. For this prayer broadcast there was the focus on Christmas outreach and peace-making where Lynn was joined by the Revds Jo and Andy Williams, from The Blackley Centre in the Yorkshire Baptist Association.

You can [watch the livestream replay on our Youtube channel](#).

## Wider Resources:

### Embrace the Middle East – Gracious Dialogues



Embrace the Middle East has launched Gracious Dialogue: A Guide to Listening and Speaking Well About Israel and Palestine, a four-week course by the Revd Su McClellan. Designed for churches and small groups, it combines biblical reflection, historical context, and empathy exercises to foster understanding and grace-filled conversation around this complex and sensitive topic. [Find out more here](#).

For other resources to help you and your church reflect upon the situation in the Middle East, visit [our resource page here](#).

## Proximity Christmas Resources



Proximity, an urban mission resource hub, has launched its Christmas in a Box resources for 2025 — a complete, ready-to-use set of tools to help churches and community groups run impactful carol services and Christmas events, especially in estates and urban communities. The resource is available at the click of a button — ideal for churches wanting to share the message of hope, joy, and Jesus with their community this Christmas. [Click here find out more](#).

## Help for your Christmas outreach



Share the meaning of Christmas with your community through Good News newspaper. It contains testimonies of changed lives and a Christmas message by evangelist J John. Good News gets people thinking about faith. [Click here find out more.](#)

## Children's comic, Kids Alive!



Kids Alive! is a fun, faith-based weekly magazine for children aged 7–12. Published by The Salvation Army, it's packed with Bible cartoons, puzzles, jokes, competitions, colouring activities, and features on current events, films, and TV programmes. While produced by The Salvation Army, the content is suitable for all churches and is widely used in Sunday schools, after-school clubs, and outreach events. [Click here to find out more.](#)

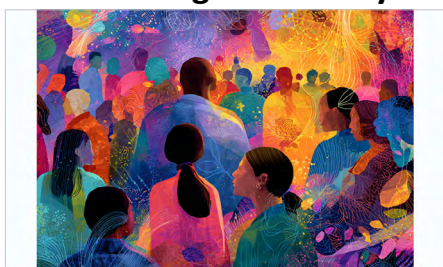
## Lamb Teddies Share Faith and Hope Across the UK



A nationwide initiative is giving visually impaired children the chance to experience the gospel through specially designed lamb teddies that play accessible Christian audio stories. Led by Torch Trust, the Hope for All project aims to distribute 200 of these free, faith-filled resources over the next two years. Each soft, comforting lamb features high-quality audio from the Jesus Storybook Bible, offering both spiritual encouragement and valuable sensory support for children with sight loss. For more information, [click here.](#)

## Special Highlighted Events:

### 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 Upcoming Events:

### 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.](#)



## Discerning the Mind of Christ – 9 January 2026



An online conference exploring how we discern the mind of Christ takes place in January. Discerning the Mind of Christ - Slow Wisdom in the Local and Wider Church is a joint online conference with the Centre for Baptist Studies, Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies, and Georgetown College. Held on two consecutive Fridays, 9 and 16 January 2026, between 14:00 and 16:00 UTC. [Find out more here.](#)

## Fresh Streams Leadership Conference – 12 – 14 January 2026



Awaken 2026, the annual Fresh Streams Leadership Conference, takes place from 12–14 January 2026 at Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre, Staffordshire. Centred on the theme Awaken, the event invites leaders to encounter God afresh, renew vision, and find courage for ministry today. With worship, teaching, seminars, and space for reflection and connection, the conference offers a vital opportunity for spiritual renewal and unity across the Church. [Book your place here.](#)

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18 – 25 January 2026



Materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) 2026 have been offered by the churches of Armenia on the theme of 'One Body, One Spirit'. The materials draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. [Resources are available to order or download from CTBI here.](#)

## 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.](#)

## Baptist Worship Old and New: The Legacy of Stephen Winward – 5 March 2026



A day conference at Regent's Park College jointly organised by the Centre for Baptist Studies and the Baptist Historical Society takes place on Thursday 5 March 2026. [More details can be found here.](#)

## Everyone, Everywhere National Conference - 17-18 March 2026



Be Empowered to Multiply at the next Everyone, Everywhere National Conference, Northampton, 17–18 March 2026. Ness Wilson (Pioneer UK) will be equipping Baptist women leaders to lead boldly on the first day and inspiring everyone to share faith and grow Christian on day two. Save the dates and find [out more by clicking here](#).

