



monthly information and resource update

February 2018

Dear Friends

Members of a Yorkshire Baptist Association church have been celebrating the life and legacy of an inspirational Baptist – and building closer links with their community. [Read their story](#) in this month's featured Home Mission story.

Please note that **registration for Assembly is now open** - please [book by 29 April](#) using our secure online booking process. Please encourage your church to join us - full information is available on the website.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team



The February Prayer Diary is now available to download
Please print out a copy for those unable to access it



Read the key messages from our Baptist Steering Group - who met in Birmingham with All Team Leaders in January



Read about Hope Baptist Church in Hebden Bridge in YBA, celebrating the life of John Fawcett



Presidency 2019-20 Election

Having received two nominations for the 2019-20 President, we are now engaging in an election process to discern our next President after Dave Gregory. We hope you will be keen to engage with this important decision, and urge as many ministers and churches as possible to be involved in this discernment process. [Information about the candidates](#), and details of how to participate and vote have been sent to all ministers and church secretaries (by email or post). Voting this year will primarily be online and will be **open until 31 March**.



Baptist Assembly - Saturday 12 May

Registration for our Assembly in Peterborough is now open - please book your place(s) by 29 April. We have [updated the Assembly website with information about this year's event](#) - including the outline programme and details of seminar sessions, and news about [this year's children's programme being led by iSingPOP](#). Please use the [Assembly poster to publicise the date](#), and encourage your church members to join us - we'd love to see you there.



Information from the Legal and Operations team

Information is now available on our website on the following topics:

- Data protection and new GDPR
- BUGB CIO Consultation - now closed
- New Conflicts of Interest guideline leaflet
- Automatic disqualification of charity trustees - new rules
- Registered charities filing deadline reminder
- Charity Commission News latest edition
- Garfield Weston Anniversary Fund for capital projects



Reminder for Church Treasurers

All our treasurers should have received a letter by email where possible, or post, concerning the 2018 subscription. We would like to encourage all churches to consider paying their subscription by direct debit, to help our Finance Team. If your treasurer has not received this letter, please contact our Support Services Team to request a replacement, by email to supportservices@baptist.org.uk



Annual Returns

This is the time of year for churches to complete their annual return for the Baptist Union. Church Secretaries should have been sent details of how to do this by email (or a paper form if we don't have a valid email address). Annual Returns should be submitted by the end of February.

For more information please see our website.



Updated Guidance Leaflets for Church Treasurers

Many of our Treasurers will be preparing annual accounts for the year just ended. In order to assist with this, we have published **updated guidance leaflets and templates** on a number of relevant topics. If you need assistance on a specific issue in relation to your church accounts please contact Richard Wilson by email to supportservices@baptist.org.uk. Alternatively, have a look at the **guidance available from the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT)** using the username 'Baptist' and password 'Didcot'.



BU Scholarship Scheme

This scheme offers one bursary tenable for up to three years so that a minister can take time out to engage in full-time doctoral studies. This will become available again from Autumn Term 2018 – further details from Ian Millgate in the Ministries Team – imillgate@baptist.org.uk. The closing date for applications is 31 March.



Update from the Inter Faith Working Group

Do you have a mosque near you? Our Inter Faith Working Group encourages you to visit on 18 February which is **Visit My Mosque Day**. The **Interfaith Working Group has a Facebook page** and a **section of our Union's website where you will find information and links to resources**. If you're interested in making friends and building community in a multi-faith context and networking with others involved in similar work, the Group would love to hear from you - by message through the Facebook page or via their website contact form.



Briefing on Universal Credit

The Joint Public Issues Team has updated the briefing on Universal Credit to fully explore the problems with the design that persist even after the amendments to the process revealed in the November budget. The briefing explains that Universal Credit's design problems turning it from a poverty reducing measure to a poverty increasing measure. JPIT believes that the roll-out of Universal Credit should be paused until these design and implementation flaws are rectified. Click here to [read the updated briefing](#).

This month's featured events:



Mission as a Dialogue: Reaching your community

Suffolk - 10 Feb | Somerset - 17 Mar

This one day event from Rural Ministries will explore how a deep listening to our rural communities will help us share the Gospel. The interactive day has four workshops looking at: understanding your context and getting local statistics; identifying the signs of 'good news'; discerning your existing touch points and forming a strategy. Price: £15. [Click here for full details and booking](#).



Church Action on Poverty Sunday - 11 February

Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked, and gave them hope. Our churches are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change. On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, churches are invited to learn about them and lend your support. [Click here for more information and to download service resources and fundraising ideas](#).



Whitley Lecture - various dates from 21 February

Helen Paynter will be delivering the 2018 Whitley lecture '*Dead and Buried? Attending to the voices of the victim in the Old Testament and today*'. Dates for the lecture are 21 Feb - Cardiff; 27 Feb - Oxford; 28 Feb - Bristol; 26 Apr - Glasgow; 2 May - London. [Click here for more details](#). For further information, contact Helen Paynter on paynterh@bristol-baptist.ac.uk



Germinate Enterprise Day - 24 Feb | 30 Mar

This one-day workshop is a fast-moving version of the full Germinate Enterprise programme suitable for those considering starting a business, anyone interested in becoming a facilitator/trainer to guide others through the process, and organisations in rural areas that may be willing to host 'Germinate Enterprise' workshops. [Click here for details of the events in East Yorkshire and Northumberland](#).



The Youth Evangelism Conference - 24 Feb | 12 May

Following the theme of #gospeloffensive, the Youth Evangelism Conference will empower and equip Leaders to lead evangelistic youth ministries. The YEC recognises the need for the church to go on the #gospeloffensive. Two keynote presentations and seminar options will ensure the youth leaders present are not of those who shrink back, but of those who believe and are saved (Hebrews 10:39). [Book your place](#).



Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 2 March

Many Churches Together groups host a meeting as part of the Women's World day of Prayer. Resources for this year's theme, 'All God's Creation is Very Good!', have been written by women in Suriname in South America. This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Modern Slavery Summit - 3 Mar | 17 Mar

The Eastern Baptist Association is hosting two events with The Clewer Initiative, in Cambridge and Chelmsford. The events are designed to give you a thorough grounding on what modern slavery looks like in the UK, and how you can spot the signs - with a particular focus on how to work effectively in partnership with local agencies like the police. Click here for details of the events in [Cambridge](#) and [Chelmsford](#).



Incarnate Houseparty - 6-8 March

Bookings are now open for the next gathering 'Reimagining Discipleship' at Somersal Cottages in Derbyshire. This annual gathering provides a great opportunity to meet with others who seek to follow Jesus at the margins and experiment with what it means to live out the Gospel in new and challenging contexts. Click here [for more details and booking.](#)



Shaping our Worship - Wednesday 7 March

The third conference hosted by the Joint Liturgical Group, this one being themed around weddings and funerals, will be taking place at St Aloysius Parish Centre, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London NW1 1TA. Cost: £25 per person, includes lunch. For more information, contact martin.foster@cbcew.org.uk or [see the Group's website.](#)



'John Bunyan and Slumbering Dissent' - Thursday 8 March

The Centre for Baptist History and Heritage, Oxford with the Baptist Historical Society are hosting this lecture at Regent's Park College by Professor Curtis Freeman (Duke University Divinity School) to launch his book *Undomesticated Dissent. Democracy and the Public Virtue of Religious Nonconformity*. There is no cost to attend but please book your place by emailing paul.fiddes@regents.ox.ac.uk



GDPR Seminars - 8 March | 24 March

The commencement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is looming. It will have an impact on all churches and you need to be fully compliant with it by 25 May 2018. The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT) is holding half-day seminars in different locations to give practical guidance on this new legislation, with particular relevance to churches and faith organisations. [Please see the ACAT website for more details.](#)



Faith in Seniors - Saturday 17 March

Romford Baptist Church is hosting this day conference covering a range of topics opening up a Biblical view of God's purposes in later life, including practical and spiritual support for those affected by dementia etc. Speakers Jennifer Bute, Louise Morse, Roger Hitchings, Janet Jacob and Debs Fidler will be considering topics including faith in dementia, the vision of the church for our older generation, understanding and supporting caregivers and dealing with loneliness. [For details and to book your place](#), please see the Pilgrims' Friend Society website.



Brave New World - Saturday 17 March

Be inspired to live justly and faithfully. The Joint Public Issues Team Conference will resource Christians to build a new heaven on earth. Hear from politicians, journalists and experts at Manchester Central Hall, M1 1JQ. [Click here for more information](#).



Baptists on the Journey to Justice: - Saturday 17 March Equity and Reconciliation Across Two Centuries

A study day reflecting on the reception and development of the book: *Journeying to Justice: Contributions to the Baptist Tradition across the Black Atlantic* (2017), with speakers from the UK and Jamaica. The day will survey the historical background and present impact of the 'Apology' for slavery made by our Union, together with associated themes of justice. [Click here for more information](#).



Millennial discipleship challenge - Saturday 17 March

Run by Freedom in Christ this interactive workshop at The Well in Sheffield will unpack what it means to disciple to 18-35s. It will explore the huge change in culture that has taken place and outline the trends that explain why young adults are rejecting the church. It will unpack the way that this generation communicates and explain how to adjust in order to communicate effectively and relevantly. Discount price for Baptists Together of £25 a ticket from £30 for the day - please phone 0118 321 8084. [Click here for more information about the day](#).



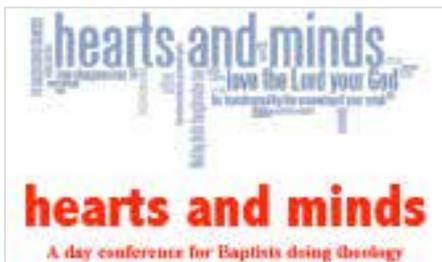
Beyond the Dream? - Marking the 50th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr - Tuesday 24 April

Fifty years after the death of Martin Luther King, how do we regard his ministry, activism and its relevance for today? Bright Black Forum is convening this [conference at Highgate Baptist Church in Birmingham](#) to explore and provide a more holistic and comprehensive appraisal of MLK's work, whether his non-violent struggle bore fruit and whether it is relevant in today's context. Please [click here to book your place](#).



National New Housing Hub Conference - Saturday 28 April

Many cities, towns and villages are experiencing growth through new housing and our challenge as Christians is how we respond to these new communities with welcome and blessing. The New Housing Hub is a network established to inspire, resource and connect pioneers, churches and individual Christians from all church traditions to respond to this challenge and engage with these new communities. Click here for [details about this conference at Finchampstead Baptist Church and book your place\(s\)](#).



Hearts and Minds - Thursday 3 May

This day conference for Baptists doing theology will be held at South Wales Baptist College. In addition to the keynote address from Kang-San Tan (Director of BMS World Mission) there is space for people to present papers about a range of theological topics - sharing part of the research they are working on as part of a post graduate course, or ideas about a topic which is of particular interest to them. To present a paper, contact Peter Stevenson by 23 March at pks@swbc.org.uk To book your place contact Anita Monks by 19 April at am@swbc.org.uk



Annual Lecture of Baptist Historical Society - Thurs 10 May

The [Baptist Historical Society](#), in collaboration with the Centre for Baptist History and Heritage (CBHH) will be hosting two lectures at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London beginning at 14:00. These will be given by Keith Jones on 'Baptists in Europe' and Gale Richards on 'Being a BEM Woman Minister' (titles provisional). This day replaces the mini-conference that the CBHH usually holds in May.



Thy Kingdom Come - 10-20 May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started as an invitation in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. How could you and your church commit to pray with God's worldwide family? See the [new video](#) produced for this year. [Find out more and download resources](#).



Christian Aid Week: Together, we're stronger than the storms - 13-19 May

Vilia lost everything when the hurricane hit Haiti in 2010. But Christian Aid's partner built her a safe new home – strong enough to stand up to hurricanes. This Christian Aid Week, tens of thousands of Christians will join together to raise money for people like Vilia. Will you join them? [Watch the film](#) and go to the [Christian Aid website](#) to find out how you can get involved.



Big Church Day Out - 26-27 May | 1-2 June

Big Church Day Out (BCDO) is the UK's largest annual gathering of the wider church that creates a space for all denominations and ages to gather each year for two exciting days of worship and celebration. BCDO is held on two sites - Wiston House in West Sussex and Capesthorne Hall in Cheshire. Everyone is welcome to join for an amazing time away with your friends and family, creating memories together that you will never forget. [Click here for details.](#)



Fresh Streams Theology School - 14-15 June

Do you wish you had more time to reflect on the key issues of our day? Do you share a passion to do theology well at the coal face of ministry and mission? Would you love to spend two days engaging with eminent theologians who will stretch your thinking, with plenty of time for discussion, interaction, and good food and hospitality? Whether you're a church leader, part of a leadership team, a student, or just interested in theology, you'll love [Summer Theology School 2018.](#)



Celebrating, Surviving and Thriving - Women in Baptist Ministry - 28-29 June

The Gender Justice Hub and the BME Women Ministers' Network present a 24-hour conference at IMC in Birmingham for Baptist women ministers, non-ordained women in a qualifying office, MITs and those exploring a call to ministry. With Pat Took, Gale Richards, Helen Roberts and Dion White in inter-generational dialogue. Worship led by Amie Buhari. Cost £100 (residential) or £75 (non-residential), bursaries available. [Click here for more information and to book your place.](#)

This month's featured resources:



Darkest Hour - study booklet

Darkest Hour (in cinemas 12 January) is inspired by the true story of Winston Churchill's first weeks in office during the early days of the Second World War. Damaris Media and Baptists Together have released a free Companion Booklet for church groups who want to engage more deeply with this story. This includes discussion questions, a look behind the scenes of the film, and background information on this fascinating slice of history. The booklet is available to [download from our website](#) or [printed copies can be ordered free of charge](#) from our online shop.



Faith in Politics

Faith in Politics, an exciting new podcast series that features guests discussing topics from current affairs that link in with faith, has been launched by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). Each monthly episode will feature lively discussions from the world of politics from a faith viewpoint, interviews and a 'musing slot', covering topics such as poverty, inequality, peace-making and the environment. Each [30-minute podcast](#) will be released on the last Thursday of every month and can be downloaded from the JPIT website.



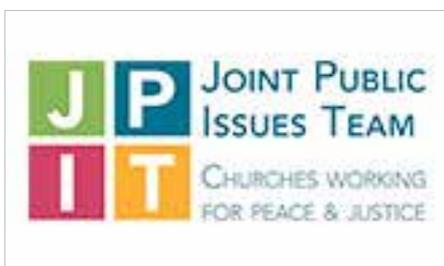
Lent Study Resources

Lent begins on Wednesday 14 February. If you're looking for a resource to help you or your small group journey through Lent, have a look at the [reviews of new resources](#) in our *Baptist Times* book review section. Here you will find new reviews on *Songs of the Spirit*, *The Art of Lent*, *BBC Radio 4 Lent Talks*, and *The Way of the Carmelites*.



The Real Easter Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. This year there are five types of Real Easter Eggs available, each containing a new edition of the Easter story in the box. Click here to [find out more and place an order](#).



Praxis Newsletter

The Joint Public Issues Team produces their Praxis newsletter every month. Each issue contains news, information about events and resources, and provides opportunities to get involved with the social issues which concern you most. Click here for the [latest edition](#) where you can also sign up to receive an email each time a new issue is published.



HOPE at Easter

HOPE has created a new 28-page magazine for churches to give away door-to-door with an invitation to Easter services. [HOPE at Easter is available to pre-order](#) and will be sent out from CPO at the end of February. Copies are free - donations of 10p a copy are welcome to cover print costs and HOPE covers the other costs. There is a handling and delivery charge based on the quantity ordered.



Mission Academy Live

Mission Academy Live is series of 10 FREE innovative video based sessions, each one empowering young people as missional disciples within a small group context. With a focus on peer to peer evangelism, each session will provide teaching, discussion, and testimony, all leading to a practical response for young people to share faith with their friends. This first of its kind evangelism and discipleship tool encourages young people to be intentional, authentic and obedient to the call and command of Christ to 'Go, and make disciples' (Matt 28:20). [Register FREE for Mission Academy Live here](#).



Visual Reflections

We regularly post visual reflections on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. These high quality images can be used for personal reflection and in churches, with our blessing. Click here to [find the current selection of images on our Flickr account](#).