



Update: November 2018

Dear Friends

Welcome to this month's Update full of news and resources for your church.

We are currently revising the way in which we send our regular emails to you, and these changes will be phased in over the next couple of months. This Update from the Faith and Society Team will continue to be sent on the first Wednesday of the month, and will focus on sharing resources and events with our churches and subscribers. We will also be sending another email focussing on sharing news and stories from around our Union. Church Secretaries and Treasurers will also receive a regular email from our Support Services Team with information on finance and legal matters.

Our **featured Home Mission story this month** is from Earlswood Baptist Church in the South Eastern Baptist Association.

Sunday 11 November is Remembrance Sunday which this year marks the centenary of the end of World War 1. We have compiled a **number of resources to help us reflect on this anniversary**.

Stephen Keyworth
Faith and Society Team

This month's featured stories:



**Key messages from
Baptist Steering Group**



**Night shelters targeted
by traffickers**



**Home Mission story -
Earlswood Baptist Church**

This month's featured resources:



November Prayer Diary

The **November Prayer Diary** is now available to download from our website. The particular themes for this month are:

- Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- Remembrance
- Interfaith Week
- South Eastern Baptist Association

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



Remembrance Sunday

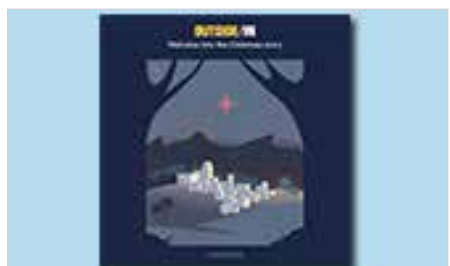
This year we mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

On Remembrance Sunday (11 November) people around the Commonwealth will be reflecting on the lives that were changed irrevocably, and those that were lost. This year gives us the chance to remember, but also to pray and work for peace, looking forward with hope. A number of **resources, including reflections in British Sign Language**, are available on our website.



Meet your MP

Our Joint Public Issues Team is encouraging congregations to build links with their political representatives through its Meet your MP initiative. Why not invite your MP to visit a church project or event, have a coffee or take them on a walk of your local area to highlight issues that church members feel need to be addressed. This is a great opportunity to tell your MP about the issues your community cares about. Click here to **watch an introductory video, and find resources**.



The Christmas Story - accessible to all

Christian charity Lifewords is helping churches and individuals experience the Bible's Nativity story in ways that are accessible to all this year through its free booklet resource OUTSIDE/IN. This illustrated booklet has been designed to give access to the Bible for people who are non-hearing, visually impaired, or who have a lower reading age. The resources include a new downloadable animation for streaming or sharing on social media, with BSL signing included. Torch Trust has also created braille, super-large print and audio CD versions of the booklet. Click here to **order your free OUTSIDE/IN booklets and accompanying resources** or call 020 7730 2155.



Taste and See

Taste and See is a programme for people who struggle with food in some way - because they eat more than they want; because they avoid food as much as possible; others feel that food is dominating their life and they want to change that. The programme runs over 10 weeks, with a weekly 1 hour session to attend at a local participating church. More churches are needed to pilot the course, and at the request of some churches, the material is now available for purchase. **Click here for details**.



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](#).

This month's featured Baptists Together events:



Practical Peacemaking - 10 November and 8 December

Finding Peace in the Spaces In-Between: tools for contemporary peacemaking including Hospitality and loving the 'other', Organising for peace, Faith and peace, Peaceful spaces, De-escalating aggression and violence, Elevating voices of peace, Action and reflection. One module over two Saturdays at Spurgeon's College - run by Peaceful Borders and the Crucible Course - £46 per day. If you have any enquiries please email rachel@cruciblecourse.org



CIO Training Day - Tuesday 20 November

The BUGB Legal and Operations Team and Anthony Collins LLP will be hosting a further training day on Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) at Hill Cliffe Baptist Church in Warrington and will run from approximately 10:30 until 15:30. Esther Campsall from Anthony Collins LLP will be presenting together with Caroline Sanderson from BUGB. [Click here for details and to book your place\(s\)](#) - by Friday 9 November.



Crucible Course - 2 and 16 February 2019

The 'On the Edge' module is an opportunity to explore the dynamics of marginality in church and culture and to help each other discern ways to respond in different contexts, urban and rural. The course is open to anyone interested in thinking afresh about discipleship, mission and church in a changing context. [More information is available](#) from the Crucible website or from Rachel Jay: rachel@urbanexpression.org.uk



Baptist Assembly - 18-19 May 2019

Save the date to join us for our new-look two-day Baptist Assembly at The International Centre, Telford. [Information will be available from the Baptist Assembly website in January](#). We are planning to include some seminars on the Saturday especially for church secretaries, treasurers and deacons/leaders/trustees. Please get these dates in your church diary and encourage your church family to join us.

Other featured events:

Christians in Politics Influence Tour - various

Christians in Politics exists to inspire and equip Christians from across denominations and the political spectrum to respond to God's call to engage in public life. The Influence Tour will be starting in November 2018 and is coming to a town / city near you! [Click here for details](#).



Inter Faith Week - 11-18 November

A week to focus on inter faith understanding and cooperation; [read a story of Baptist involvement in Inter Faith Week in November last year](#). How about going along to an event near you this year? Find out more on the [Inter Faith Week website](#).



Engaging with the Issues - various dates

A series of Round Table Discussions on topics that are engaging the hearts and minds of the community, churches, local and national government - at Free Church House in London. Topics are *Dementia - Caring for the Carers as well as those who have dementia* and *Dying Matters*. [Click here to find out more](#).



Tearfund's Big Quiz Night - Saturday 17 November

Tearfund are looking for churches and groups to help them raise £150,000 for Tearfund's work around the world. [Sign up today](#) to receive a Big Quiz pack, featuring everything you'll need to run (and publicise) your event. The pack includes a USB stick with the entire quiz, including special filmed inserts.



Palliative care study days - various dates

Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care offers a programme of study days, courses and conferences on end of life care, education and research, at Sobell Study Centre. [Click here for course details and booking](#).



Other News



Baptist Spiritual Directors

The Revd Jane Thorington-Hassell would like to thank all those who have responded to her request for those who are trained as Spiritual Directors to contact her. The response has been encouraging and should be useful in trying to profile and encourage the development of a Baptist Network. A basic list of Spiritual Directors has now been compiled and hopefully the Union will consider how this and other information they have can be used. Andy Hughes, Head of the Ministries Team, is looking into this.



'Scientists in Congregations' Funding

How do we raise fresh awareness of the significance of the science-theology conversation in the lives of church congregations? How do we raise the profile of the locally based science professional in his or her local church? The **'Scientists in Congregations'** scheme provides a year of funding for new projects. Churches across England are being invited to [apply for a new round of grants](#) to fund activities aimed at promoting a better understanding between science and faith - apply by 7 January 2019.



Whitley Lecture 2018

Helen Paynter delivered the 2018 Whitley lecture based on the theme *Dead and Buried?: Attending to the voices of the victim in the Old Testament and today*. During the tour of 16 venues, Helen shared her thoughts through a blog. [Find her final blog reflection](#), looking at some of the recurring themes, on our website.