



Dear friends

Welcome to another of the CBA's regular e-mails. Just a reminder that as well as the regular email updates you can keep upto date by visiting the CBA website <http://www.centralba.org.uk/> and facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/centralbap>

Geoff, Stephen, Colin, & Graham
CBA Regional Team

SMALL CHURCHES DAY with Hilary Taylor from the London Baptist Association Small Church Network. Please consider this day if you are part of a small church (under 40) – for encouragement and solidarity! Blisworth Baptist Church, Saturday May 23rd, 9.30am till 3.30pm. £10 per person including lunch. To book a place please contact: sue.barnard@tiscali.co.uk.

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY: A whole new way of Baptists gathering together. One day Assembly on Saturday May16th in Peterborough. An inter-generational experience with worship and a picnic together. For details, go to <http://baptist.org.uk/Group/Group.aspx?ID=247895>

UPCOMING ELECTIONS. It is worth looking at material produced by the Joint Public Issue Team that has a downloadable resource: **Faith in Politics 2015** contains short briefings on 16 key issues that will feature in political debates as the elections draw near. <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/politics-and-elections/elections/>

ALSO [Love Your Neighbour: think, pray, vote](#) offers four short videos on the themes of truth, justice, peace and wellbeing; prayers linked to these themes; postcards which link these themes to questions for hustings or for your own reflection; and four short Bible studies. This pack can be used during worship or to inform Bible-study and house groups and is currently retailing for £7.50. This is accompanied by [Faith in Politics](#), our freely downloadable guide to 16 issues central to political debate, including the Economy, Immigration and Asylum, Human Trafficking and the Environment. This briefing contains one page summaries of each issue and questions for MPs or personal reflection. Our [General Election 2015 webpage](#) also contains numerous links with further information about the issues, what other Churches and organisations are saying about the election and further information, including guidance on holding hustings.

THE ASSOCIATION GRANTS COMMITTEE is seeking to broaden the range of members and would be delighted to appoint another woman to this group. It meets once a year, usually Spring and usually in the day time, and considers the applications from churches and other situations for Home Mission grants. If you would like to know more, please contact Stephen Copson (01462 442548) or the Moderator of the Committee, Martyn Thorne, on 01536 514789.

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY: June 20th at Whaddon Way Church in Bletchley. Speaker Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union.

SIT VAC: The Association is seeking for someone with experience and understanding to work through a risk assessment on the Association structures and life. This happens once a year. If you

would like to know more, please contact Stephen Copson on stephen.c@centralba.org.uk or 01462 442548

HOW WELL INFORMED ARE YOU ABOUT SCIENCE AND FAITH? HOW WELL INFORMED ARE YOU ABOUT SCIENCE AND FAITH? A seminar on Science for Ministers is being organised on Tuesday May 12th in Milton Keynes. If you are interested to find out more or book a place, email Dave Gregory on dave@croxleybaptist.co.uk or phone on 01923 710780 or go to <http://centralba.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CBA-Website-Jan-15-Science-for-Ministers.pdf>

WALKING THE CHILTERN WAY Mary Moody is on sabbatical and trekking round the Association, walking and talking with friends and colleagues, praying and enjoying the views. You can see photos of her progress on <https://walkingtogetherliterally.wordpress.com/> or via the CBA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/centralbap>. She is also raising money for Home Mission and you can contribute via <https://www.justgiving.com/Mary-Moody1/>

HOME MISSION: The Association total of giving to Baptist Home Mission to the end of February was £47,797 (equivalent in 2014 was £43,915). Many thanks for your continued prayers and finance to fund Baptist Home Mission

ROOF REPAIR GRANTS Eagle-eyed readers of the Chancellor's recent budget will have seen that the special fund for **grants for repairing roofing for listed buildings** has been extended and the pot considerably enlarged. And the funding will not be channelled through the Heritage Lottery Fund. Watch out for further details.

BRISTOL BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESENTS: Glass Half Full: Glass Half Empty? Exploring Bi-Vocational Ministry. Tuesday July 14th – Wednesday July 15th 2015 Trinity College, Stoke Hill, Bristol, BS9 1JP. Cost: £75.00 residential; £45.00 non-residential. Book online at <https://eventbrite.co.uk/event/16232405562/> For further details, or a paper booking form, contact conferences@bristol-baptist.ac.uk or phone 01179 469 209.

Increasing numbers of people are involved concurrently in work related to ministry and work in a 'secular' field. For some this dual involvement is not through choice, but presents a practical way of sustaining church-based ministry. For others it offers a welcome opportunity to engage more creatively in mission. Through this event we aim to explore the key questions and challenges that patterns of bi-vocational ministry are presenting by drawing together people from a wide variety of interested groups: those involved in bi-vocational ministry and mission; regional ministers and leaders; representatives from colleges; theologians. The programme for the two days is designed as a structured conversation that will enable a thoughtful and rigorous exploration of the key issues. The intention is that this will be the beginning of an extended process of exploration and research that will shape and inform the work of the groups and organisations that you represent.

Participants We invite you to come as a participant in the conversation to represent your own situation or organisation and to work with others to explore the issues.

- Story tellers: we are looking for those who can share their experience of bi-vocational ministry in either a congregational or mission context
- Listeners: we are looking for active listeners who can help us hear and understand the key issues that arising through the conversation
- Representatives: we are looking for representatives of educational organisations and colleges, denominational leaders, practitioners in ministry and mission, theologians. Would you be able to convene a focus group or deliver a short presentation?

SONG BOOKS supplied free to anyone who can collect. Please contact Anthony Knight of Princes Risborough Baptist Church on 01296 612065 or email akploughb@btinternet.com.

Baptist Praise and Worship (words edition 1991). Standard size: 35 copies available
Large print size: 20 copies available

Songs of Fellowship (combined words edition 1998) Standard size: 10 copies available

BAPTIST MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: www.beofme.org.uk MARRIED COUPLES – GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT! Book on a Baptist Marriage Encounter weekend : 26/28th June at the White

Horse Hotel, Dorking, Surrey; Weekends begin at 7pm on Friday with a buffet meal and end 4pm Sunday afternoon. No-one is denied a weekend because of cost. There is a £20 booking fee. Find out more – visit www.beofme.org.uk or telephone us. *Steve & Glynis Oshea Tel: 01275 839358 E-Mail: stevesos@blueyonder.co.uk*

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL FREE CHURCH SERVICES: Wednesday 6th May 2015 at 11am. Preacher: The Reverend Bob Forrest. Methodist Minister In the North Hertfordshire Circuit. Followed by a Fellowship Lunch.