



April 2017

NEWS

IMPORTANT: Geoff Colmer's & Colin Pye's Freeserve accounts are closing at the end of May, so be advised if you contact Geoff by email, please use geoffreycolmer@gmail.com and Colin use colinmpye@gmail.com

IN BOOKS:

Ed Stephen Copson and Peter Morden: Challenge & Change – English Baptist Life in the eighteenth century. “Baptists, by their nature, are not a settled people – change is central to who we are. Understanding who we have been, ways we have changed and what has shaped those changes at different times helps us make more sense of who we are now. This book, a rich and deep collection of accounts of who Baptists have been and why, tells us an important part of our story in ways that are transformative and enriching for today”. Revd Dr Ruth Gouldbourne, Minister, Bloomsbury Central Baptist church, London. Price £25 plus p & p and available to order from www.baptisthistory.org.uk.

Paul W. Goodliff, *Shaped for Service. Ministerial Formation and Virtue Ethics*. Eugene OR: Wipf & Stock/Pickwick, 2017. 313 pp. ca. £30 pbk.

Formerly Central Area Superintendent / Regional Minister Team Leader, and former Head of Ministry at BUGB, Paul Goodliff, has just published a new book on ministerial formation, entitled *Shaped for Service*. It uses a virtue ethics lens through which to imagine how we might be both formed for ministry, and continue to be shaped for the challenges of ministering in today's challenging contexts. Virtue ethics are explored as both spiritual/character forming and intellectually shaping, and within the communities of practice that are our colleges as well as the wider 'guild' of those who practice ministry, Dr. Goodliff advocates a focused and wise discipleship as the core of what it means to minister in Christ's name. He uses both narrative and discussion of the visual arts, to enrich this understanding of how we are formed as ministers. Nigel Wright says of this book, "...Goodliff writes with the authority and wisdom of one who has served as a pastor, as a pastor of pastors, and as a denominational leader", while the Australian pastoral theologian, Dr. Neil Pembroke says "In this important new book on formation for ministry, Paul Goodliff gets it exactly right in taking a whole-of-life approach....Goodliff has that rare ability to connect with profound theological and philosophical thinking in a way that is both accessible and engaging." Paul is currently co-minister of Abingdon Baptist Church and a writer and theologian.

Myra Blyth and Andy Goodliff (eds.) *Gathering Disciples. Essays in Honor of Christopher J. Ellis*. Eugene OR: Wipf and Stock/Pickwick, 2017. 268 pp. ca. £27

Chris Ellis is one of the leading liturgical theologians of our day, and had served in three pastorates before his appointment as Principal of Bristol Baptist College, followed by his post as Minister of West Bridgeford Baptist Church. He is now retired in

Yorkshire and teaching at the Anglican/Baptist theological college, St Hild's in Sheffield. To celebrate his many achievements, Andy Goodliff (minister of Belle Vue Baptist Church, Southend-on-Sea) and Myra Blyth (Tutorial Fellow at Regent's Park College, Oxford) have edited a collection of essays by both established and younger Baptist theological thinkers, writing in response to the hymns that Chris wrote, largely while at the Ecumenical pastorate in Central Swindon where he ministered in the 1980s. Available from the usual sources, this fascinating collection of essays explores issues as varied as how worship confronts the powers, the Triune Creator in theology and hymn, and chapters on baptism, the Lord's Supper and discipleship. Steve Harmon writes "...it serves as a splendid showcase of the impressive theological work now being done by Baptist theologians in, with and for their own tradition, but also in, and with, and for the whole church. An indispensable resource for the renewal of ecclesial life in Baptist and Free Church communities."

PEOPLE

- The **Revd Dawn Saunders**, a Methodist minister, now has pastoral oversight of Newton Longville, Milton Keynes within her responsibilities.

RESOURCES

GRANT APPLICATIONS: The next deadline for Central Baptist Association grant applications is May 12th. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins on kahopkins66@gmail.com.

EVENTS



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: There are still a few places available for level 2 courses at *Olney* (May 13th) and *Lt Kingshill* (June 24th) and also level 3 course at *The Abbey Centre, Northampton* on May 13th. Contact Stephen Copson to reserve places stephen.c@centralba.org.uk

ASSEMBLY: Central Baptist Association ASSEMBLY happens on **Saturday June 17th** at Whaddon Way Church in Bletchley. The Speaker is the incoming President of the Baptist Union, the Revd Dianne Tidball with her theme "As in Heaven....." See your church noticeboard for details.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: The next **Baptist Expression of Marriage Encounter** weekend is on 2nd -4th June 2017 at The Ibis Hotel in Chesterfield North. Check out the website www.beofme.org.uk and book onto the weekend.

BELIEF(Bedford): an ecumenical training course: ***Ethics in our time***. Wednesday's from 26th April 2017 to 24th May 2017:

- 26th April 2017 - **Ethics and Migration** - Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills, Inter Faith Advisor Diocese of St Albans
- 3rd May 2017 - **Just War** - Revd Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, Retired Principal and Warden of St Michael's College Cardiff and Ethicist
- 10th May 2017 – **Environmental Ethics** - Revd Dr John Weaver, Chair of the John Ray Initiative
- 17th May 2017 - **Ethics & Poverty** - Sue Richardson, Christian Aid Relations Development Officer
- 24th May 2017 – **Ethics and Medicine** - Rev Dr Nick Goulding, Professor of Pharmacology & Medical Education

At St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF, 8pm to 9.30pm. £5 per perso, per session (including refreshments). Payable on the day. No need to book. For events later in the year, see www.beliefbeds.org



BUCKS FORUM GATHERING event. Sunday 21st May 6.30pm Broadway Baptist, Chesham. All welcome.

CONNEXIONS: OCTOBER 13-15 2017: Kings Park, Northampton: With Rupert Lazar. All Change: unpacking the story of Ruth. If you are a minister, please show this to your spouse.

You are invited to join us for our Connexion Weekend later this year where Rupert Lazar will be our guest speaker. This is a weekend exclusively for those married to people in Baptist ministry, mission and training, including those who have retired or been widowed. This is an event which is held only once every two years, and is open to both men and women. Booking forms and more information can be found

on our website www.baptistconnexion.org.uk. We suggest you might ask your church to pay for the weekend, as an investment into your well-being. Feel free to email secretary@baptistconnexion.org.uk if you need more clarification.

CONVERSATION WELCOME: Exploring the future of the UK after the EU Referendum. A one day workshop to introduce a new resource from the Joint Public Issues Team. **Thursday 27th April**, Queens Road Baptist Church, Coventry, CV1 3EG. Further Details at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8pwzqkKmWasek9XRG9uTHJ5eIU/view?usp=sharing>

and <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8pwzqkKmWasakZkRXEtM2ZLUHc/view?usp=sharing>