



April 2018

NEWS

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY: June 16th at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley with key speaker the Revd Dr David Gregory of Croxley Green Baptist church and President of the Baptist Union 2018/19 on “Divine Windows”. Further details have been sent to all church secretaries.

HOME MISSION GIVING: To the end of February 2018, churches in Central Baptist Association gave £43,649 to Home Mission (as against £39,458 for the same period in 2017). Many thanks for your generous giving.

ASSOCIATION MINISTERS CONFERENCE: Fliers have now been sent out for this event in October. If you have not received one, and you think you should have done please get in touch with Susan Garvin on susan.g@centralba.org.uk

PASTORS’ STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL 4th-11th October 2018: Rev Stuart Davison, Team Leader of the South Eastern Baptist Association, is leading another small (12) group tour to Israel for pastors and church leaders. In addition to visiting key Biblical sites in Nazareth, Galilee, and Jerusalem this trip will include meeting with Arab Pastors and visiting Baptist churches. This is a unique opportunity to understand more about the complex situation in Israel/Palestine and see how the Lord is working there today through his church. To make it more available Baptist Twinning in Israel has kept the cost cheaper than general Holy Land tours. For more detail visit www.baptisttwinningisrael.co.uk and to express interest contact liz-admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

DATA PROTECTION (GDPR) – ONLY TWO MONTHS TO GO! The subject of Data Protection is one which churches should not ignore irrespective of their size or the amount of personal information they hold or process. The Baptist Union have produced a new webpage with information to help churches meet the requirements of new legislation coming in towards the end of May. For further details go to: https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/302154/Data_Protection_and.aspx Please note that policy documents and guidance are still subject to change before the end of May, as they are still awaiting the ICO’s guidance on some matters.

NATIONAL NEW HOUSING CONFERENCE: 28th April 2018: Finchampstead Baptist Church 10-4pm: In these times of housing crisis in which building new homes has been defined as a government priority, many cities, towns and villages are experiencing growth through new housing. Our challenge as Christians is how we respond to these new communities with welcome and blessing.

The New Housing Hub is a network that has been established to inspire, resource and connect pioneers, churches and individual Christians across the country and from all church traditions to respond to this challenge and engage with these new communities. This conference is an opportunity to gather together to learn from and with one another, to be resourced and to build relationships, particularly with those from similar contexts and geographic

areas, so that together we can make a difference and see God's kingdom come in new communities across our nation.

If you are interested in exploring what it would look like to engage with new housing near you, or if you are already committed to missionally engaging with new housing, don't miss out on this exciting conference!

Come along and bring a team. Here's the link with more info and to book your place. Baptists Together are very kindly facilitating the booking

https://www.baptist.org.uk/.../51.../Housing_Hub_Conference.aspx

PEOPLE

MINISTERS ON THE MOVE:

- Dan Foster moves in the summer from Welwyn Garden City, Howlands to Pembury
- Chris Short is leaving Park Street for Victoria Road Eastbourne.

DIGITAL EVANGELIST VACANCY: The Christian Enquiry Agency is seeking a digital evangelist (0.5 post). Are you passionate about engaging with people asking the important questions of life, love, death and everything? Could you increase our reach beyond the 15,000 contacts per month on our website? Can you offer strategic thinking and creative flair in a world of social media developments? Would you enjoy responding to the various enquirers in email conversations? We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic, evangelistic, creative and strategic person. This is an exciting opportunity for the right candidate, with ideas for taking us into the next stage of our online developments. You will be of strong and broad theological background, able to respond to enquirers pastorally and with biblical competency. You will need to write and present a range of information about Christianity to keep updating the website, and be technologically competent on a range of online platforms. You will need to network with UK churches and agencies to increase use of our website. For a full job description go to <https://christianenquiryagency.org.uk/vacancy/> Closing date 11th April; Interviews in London on 3rd May 2018. This post was first advertised in January. Previous applicants may re-apply.

CHILDREN/FAMILY WORKER AND YOUTH WORKER POSITIONS: Biggleswade Baptist Church are looking to appoint a Children/Family Worker and a Youth Worker to work with our children and young people to help them grow in the knowledge and love of God. Hours: Part-time - 20 hours per week each post. Salary: £19,000 - £21,000 pro rata. Closing Date: 23rd April 2018. For more information please visit www.bbchurch.org.uk.

CELEBRATING, SURVIVING AND THRIVING – WOMEN IN BAPTIST MINISTRY: Thursday 28th and Friday 29th June 2018, 10am till 15.30pm. IMC, 24 Weoley Park Road, Birmingham, B29 6QX. See <http://www.baptist.org.uk/womenministry> for further details.

ON YER BIKE..... Many of you will remember Helen Wordsworth as the Association Mission Enabler before she left to take up a post in Parish Nursing Ministries UK. Well, you may wish to support Helen in her fundraising efforts. See below for details

Peterborough Cathedral is 900 years old this year! The NHS is 70! And Helen and Rob are celebrating 40 years of marriage! We wanted to find a way of doing this that would benefit others and link all three special anniversaries... So we are planning to cycle 900 miles across France in May, in aid of Parish Nursing Ministries UK, a charity that places registered nurses with churches to help people of all faiths and none in their local community have better health and wellness. The charity aim to have nurses in 220 churches by 2020. Would you like to sponsor us?

Fill in our form or go to “Just Giving” and look for Helen and Rob’s Cycle 900 page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/helen-wordsworth>. Thank-you!

RESOURCES

WOMEN SPEAKER DATABASE LAUNCHED: A database of women who can speak at local, national and regional Christian conferences and events has been launched. See the feature in the Baptist Times Online.

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/517515/Women_speaker_database.aspx

MONEY FOR YOU! Did you know that the Baptist Insurance has a grantmaking programme, including for evangelistic initiatives? Go to <https://www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/about-baptist-insurance/grants/index.aspx>

FOOTSTEPS: It is not too early to be thinking of engaging with the Footsteps training course held in Milton Keynes starting in September 2018! This will be of interest and use to leaders, emerging leaders and generally anyone keen to explore their faith more deeply. Come and learn together about life, discipleship and God. If you would like someone to come and speak in your church about the course, please get in touch with Anne Lane on anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk

ASSOCIATION GRANTS: Applications for Association grants should be sent to Karen Hopkins, the Treasurer, by Monday May 14th to be considered for the next tranche of decisions. Application forms can be obtained from the Association Treasurer or download from the website.

EVENTS

BUCKS FORUM GATHERING: Sunday 13th May, 6pm at Speen Baptist Church. Speaker: Stephen Walker-Williams. All very welcome.

THY KINGDOM COME: 10th to 20th May 2018: An invitation from the Bishop of Hertford “In 2017, across the globe, churches from 85 countries got involved including over 50 denominations - Catholic, Pentecostal, Salvation Army, Methodist, Baptist, the Redeemed Christian Church of God and many more.

The greatest contribution that any of us can make is to encourage our churches to join together in the ten days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, asking our people to pray for those they know to come to know Christ. But also

1. Firstly, please may I invite you to participate in the Beacon Celebration at St Albans Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday (20th May, 6.30 p.m.) and invite others to join you?

2. Secondly, we would love to put together an ecumenical team of ‘Thy Kingdom Come Welcomers’ for the Pentecost Beacon Celebration at St Albans Cathedral on Sunday 20th May. “

If the thought of being an ecumenical welcomer attracts someone in your congregation, please get in touch with Stephen Copson.

MARRIED COUPLES – GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT! Book on a Baptist Marriage Encounter weekend : 18th – 20th May 2018 @ The Ibis Hotel, Chesterfield North. 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 booking fee. Find out more – visit www.beofme.org.uk or telephone us on 01275 839358. Steve & Glynis O’Shea.

CBA COUNCIL

DIGEST OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ON MARCH 22ND 2018.

There was discussion on the way we operate Home Mission. A change in funding allocation from the Baptist Union had allowed the opportunity to look at the Association’s priorities, policies and procedures. A helpful discussion paper had been drawn up by the Association Grants Committee. It was received as a good document and careful consideration was needed in reflecting on implications of implementing any recommendations.

Funding had been identified in the budget for a sessional safeguarding post, and it is hoped that this will be advertised soon. As with other charities, the expectation is for charities that do not directly work with children, young people or adults at risk nonetheless to reflect a serious concern in their activities and the values they promote. The Association will consider what this might mean. Possibly a safeguarding policy and a designated trustee.

Karen Hopkins reported that the annual report and accounts had been received from the independent examiners. These were adopted by the Council, signed off and will be reported on at the Assembly in June. Income and expenditure to the beginning of March was in line with budget expectations. A job description had been drawn up for an assistant to the Treasurer and churches would be circulated for possible volunteers. Proposals relating to the Treasurer and Independent Examiner were agreed, and will be put to Assembly.

It was noted that John Moysey, whom some may recall as the first Treasurer of Central Baptist Association, had died recently. Council paused for a moment to give thanks for his life and Christian service. Colin Pye was still away on sabbatical and making the most of the time. He returns in mid-April.

Broadmead (Northampton) had expressed gratitude for a grant to assist their ambitious re-building project. (This had utilised a restricted fund in the Association’s reserves). Tim Edworthy (Buckingham) was given a bursary grant toward his sabbatical reading. Responding to a call from the Baptist Union to encourage more “Millennials” at the Assembly, Council also agreed travel expenses for up to five young people.

It was noted that the Association is looking to implement changes required to fulfil the requirements of General Data Protection Regulations [GDPR], and any changes needed in the work of the Association. It was noted that these regulations are proving a challenge to many congregations.

Assembly will be on Saturday June 16th with David Gregory the main speaker, on his theme of “Divine Windows”. The Council appointed Karen Hopkins as our second nominee on BMS World

Mission Council, and noted that David Fleming had been elected as the Bedfordshire resident representative on Council for his second term.

The next meeting is on June 7th. Please continue to remember the Moderator, Treasurer and Council members in your prayers, as well as the Regional Ministers and support staff who help them.