



CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

walking together in ministry & mission

Email Update

July 2019

NEWS

ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY: Around 110 people gathered at Whaddon Way Church in Bletchley on Saturday June 15th. The content of the day was worship, prayer, information, fellowship, and conversations in a friendly atmosphere. Ministers arriving to a new situation in the Association within the past 12 months were welcomed and in particular two new member churches were recognised – Lavendon Baptist church (just north of Olney) and the Glory of God Illuminated Tamil church (in Watford). We welcome these friends to the fellowship of our Association.

The main address was given by Beth Alison-Glenny, reflecting on what shapes people to understand who they are and what are their responsibilities to God and to others, focussed around “Who do you say I am”. In the afternoon we heard from Laura Patterson about Renew 169, a Wellbeing Café venture in Towcester (see the Spring 2019 Association newsletter for more information), from Peter Lloyd of Gretton on a family journey to Tonga that shaped a renewed sense of mission and from Charmaine Howard of Milton Keynes about Parousia – a house of prayer (see miltonkeyneshouseofprayer.org/)

As ever the Association is grateful to the volunteers from Whaddon Way who kindly offered their hospitality and their time.

HOME MISSION UPDATE:

1. **Home Mission giving** from Central Baptist Association churches to the end of June was £119,781 compared to £120,609 for the same period in 2018. Many thanks for your continued generosity.
2. The Association Council agreed grants for 2020 for **Home Mission funded situations** amounting to ca £113,000. Grants are only paid when a postholder is in place.

The next deadline for Central Baptist Association **grant applications** is Friday September 20th. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins or available from the website centralba.org.uk.

HOLIDAY IN SCOTLAND? The Manse on Colonsay is available for the week beginning 14 August 2019 - this particular week clashes with the restart of Scottish schools which is probably why it's vacant. There maybe someone who could utilise it?

It is also open to non-ministers if there is someone in one of the fellowships who would be interested. The rates for the week are as follows:

Ministers: £325 Non-ministers: £425

Anyone interested should email Lynn Scott. (lynn@scottishbaptist.org.uk)

FURTHER STUDY: From the autumn, a new MTH in ministry course will be offered in London by Dr Williams's Library in partnership with the University of Glasgow. This will be a taught course at a central London location. The course is open to anyone interested but there are some bursaries for BUGB accredited ministers for the cost of the course fees available from Dr Williams's Trust, whose remit is benefit accredited ministers of the three traditional Dissenting denominations. If this interests you, or if you have any queries, please get in touch with Stephen Copson.

PRAYER FOCUS 5: BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON: Adam Eakins writes "We have now been in our brand new church and community building for five months after being homeless for a little while. It has been a busy but exciting time. We are holding three gatherings on a Sunday to fit everyone in downstairs while we wait for the work to be completed on the auditorium, along with the rest of the first floor. The new building has seen us grow by about 40-50 people on a Sunday but more than that is the engagement and use by the local community..... **for full prayer focus + PowerPoint presentation download please click here**
<http://centralba.org.uk/prayer-focus-5-broadmead-baptist-northampton/>

PEOPLE

- We were sad to note the death of the **Revd Ken Jarvis**, a retired minister living in Chesham.

We are glad to welcome:

- **Richard Lake**, a minister-in-training at Regent's Park College in Oxford, who takes up the pastorate at Lavendon Baptist church
- **Joshua Severeraj** the pastor of the Glory of God Illuminated church.
- In June **Anne Lane** oversaw her last Footsteps session in Central before retirement in the summer. At the closing 'celebration', she was presented with a gift from the Association.

Moving on in July will be:

- **Hillary Nyika** (Borehamwood), to Ayr;
- **Michale Hogg** (Wollaston) to Brighton Road, Horsham
- **Ruth Gookey** (Harefield) to Christ the King LEP (Walton LEP) in Milton Keynes

RESOURCES

BOOK KEEPING: the following was recently circulated by Richard Wilson, Head of Support Services at the Baptist Union. If you missed it, it may be worth your time reading.

"This month, I'm writing this email on a train on the way back from a very interesting meeting with Data Developments in Wolverhampton. Many of you, like me, will already be familiar with their products Finance Coordinator and Donations Coordinator that a significant proportion of churches use to manage their accounting and gift aid claims respectively. I had the pleasure of a demonstration of their recently launched online accounting package and hearing how hundreds of churches have already signed up. I also spent some time meeting the team operating their church book keeping service that is already used by some Baptist Churches. A book keeping service can be very valuable to a church where they are struggling to find a treasurer with the time and/or skills

to manage the church accounts, or even just to bridge a gap between treasurers, and Data Developments service does seem well suited to many church situations. You can find out more about Data Developments on <https://www.datadevelopments.co.uk>

HOME MISSION RESOURCES: At the recent Central Baptist Association(CBA) Assembly Colin introduced three resources for promoting Home Mission. Please do have a look at them and if possible use them.

There are two videos and a PowerPoint that can be downloaded from here <http://centralba.org.uk/home-mission/>

- One video is of Kings Community church, Letchworth, which is supported by Home Mission, and gives an idea of the impact made by Home Mission giving. <http://tinyurl.com/y2a4asvk>
- The second video is a humorous cartoon asking the question 'what has Home Mission ever done for us?' <http://tinyurl.com/y4sr2k5j>
- There is also a PowerPoint presentation that can be downloaded here <http://tinyurl.com/yxrtpe37>

CHARITY REGISTRATION: the announcement has been made of the intention that from March 2021 charities (in our context churches) with an income exceeding £5,000 per annum will be required to register with the Charity Commission. There is no need to panic! There is expertise within the Baptist Union to help. At the Baptist Assembly, a seminar was run to help churches get acquainted with what is involved in the change. The presentation can be found at <https://www.baptist.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=230344>

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY: the 2019/20 edition is now available. Priced at £3.50 each incl p&p, get in touch with Stephen Copson to order stephen.c@centralba.org.uk.

NORTHALL: Northall Baptist have 45 Mission Praise Hymn Books surplus to requirements. They are the 1999 version (hymns up to 1021). Anyone interested to contact John Hazell (Secretary), Northall Baptist Church Email: northallchapel@btinternet.com Tel: 01525 218142 / 07980 223651.

EVENTS

SAFEGUARDING: Bookings are now being taken for level 3 courses in the Autumn, which are designed for trustees and designated persons for safeguarding. One session will be on October 19th at Rockingham Road Baptist church, Kettering and the other on Saturday November 23rd at Christchurch, Welwyn Garden City. Booking forms can be downloaded from www.centralba.org.uk.

Venues for level 2 courses for the autumn will be announced shortly.

SMALL CHURCH ENCOURAGEMENT DAY: 21st September 10am – 1pm at London Colney Baptist Church. Cost £5 per person. Please book by emailing Colin Pye: Colin Pye colinmpye@gmail.com. See poster for more info https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_6tqLZN0e-qYjdvY2AQ81aN4LuiF1uo8/view?usp=sharing

NOTES FROM CBA COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 2019:

As is often the case, finance took centre stage in the deliberations of the Council, but on this occasion, a major part was involved in giving away money!

Karen Hopkins, Colin Pye and David Shaw introduced the concept of “the Dream Grant”, an initiative to stimulate and encourage creative and imaginative thinking in the churches and to offer grants for 2019 of up to £5,000 to a total fund of £40,000. In this way, monies not spent on Home Mission in 2018 (largely because of unfilled pastorates) would be re-invested in mission projects. The Dream Grant will be flagged up at the Association Assembly and then all churches will be advised of the requirements to qualify and how to apply.

Secondly, the 2020 Home Mission grants schedule was agreed on recommendation of the Grants Committee. A total fund was approved of ca £113,000 spread across 15 grants, encompassing local pastorates, industrial and educational chaplaincies and some ecumenical posts. Work continues to refine the processes of the grants system.

Finally, grants totalling £2,000 were agreed for three churches for evangelism and community engagement grants for qualifying projects.

In other matters, it was agreed to make a gift to Mrs Anne Lane as she steps down from overseeing the Footsteps programme. And a small restricted fund was dispersed to benefit churches and youth work in Buckinghamshire.

The anticipated presentation by 7IM, the Association investment brokers, was unable to take place but the firm’s representative will visit the October Council so the trustees can continue to monitor the effective use of Association funds.

A second significant section on the agenda covered the quarterly report from Joy Cheang, the Safeguarding Officer, who produced for adoption an Association Safeguarding policy and also a job description for a Safeguarding trustee.

Elsewhere Geoff Colmer spoke about pastoral settlements and vacancies, Colin Pye updated Council on his work. Grateful appreciation was expressed for all the hard work done by volunteers on behalf of the Association, whether on Council, on Association committees and groups or representing the Association on other bodies. It is a reminder of how our Association churches benefit from the willingness, enthusiasm and gifts of numerous people who offer their time, energy, resources and prayers to help the churches walk in effective ministry and mission.

Stephen Copson

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