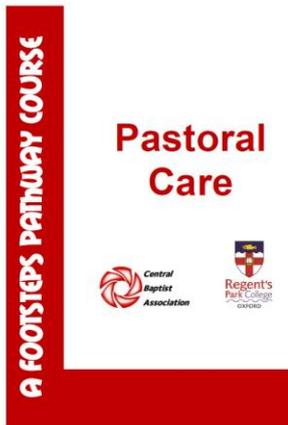




December 2016

NEWS



FOOTSTEPS PATHWAYS (course): There is a Pastoral Care course at Rockingham Road BC in Kettering on Saturday January 14th and Saturday February 4th, 2017. Cost is £50 per person. See www.centralba.org.uk for details and booking form or contact Anne Lane (anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk) or Adrian Ward (adrianward316@gmail.com)

FOOTSTEPS PATHWAYS (day session): Welcoming People with Additional Needs at Christ the King, Milton Keynes on 4th March 2017. with Rev Jonathan Edwards, Ambassador for Prospects [largest Christian Learning Disability Charity in the UK] and Transitional Minister of Caversham Baptist Church.

- consider what the Bible teaches us about disability and welcome
- explore both challenges and opportunities
- reflect on a strategy for your local church

For details and booking form, go to www.centralba.org.uk and click on "Footsteps"

TRUSTEES! The Association is planning a training day on March 11th 2017 with Malcolm Broad, former Treasurer of the Baptist Union. Watch out for more information soon.

HOME MISSION: the total of giving from Central Baptist Association churches to the end of October 2016 was £245.631 as against £230.479 in 2015. Many thanks for your continuing generosity. As every year, a disproportionate amount is received for Home Mission in November and December (the CBA target is still ca £80.000 over these two months), so thank you in expectation of what we are about to receive!

PEOPLE

- **Joshua Sunderaraj** has become Senior Pastor at West Watford Free Church

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Association organises training sessions on **safeguarding** for the churches using material supplied by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Due to the popularity of these sessions, we are seeking to expand our pool of volunteers to deliver.

The key qualities are being able to deliver material with good communication skill, an understanding of safeguarding issues in the local church context and a willingness to work as part of a training team. The requirement would be one or two Saturday mornings per year. If you have someone in your congregation with qualities and would be interested to talk about helping churches in the Association, get in touch with Stephen Copson.

EVENTS

BRIDGEBUILDERS: There are places available on the Bridgebuilders' **Leading with Emotional Maturity** course on **20 – 23 February 2017**. This cost is £530. This is a three-day residential training course, designed to enhance your capacity to offer mature leadership within your church. It draws on the insights of Family Systems Theory, and provides a safe forum for processing challenging situations in ministry. For more details, go to <https://www.bbministries.org.uk/course/leading-with-emotional-maturity-feb-2017/>

ALSO: RESPONDING TO CRITICISM: Thursday 12 January 2017, 9.30-4.30: London. The specific aims of this workshop are:

- Practise some skills for handling difficult criticism
- Do a personal “attitude check”: what are you modelling?
- Work on a case-study that you bring
- Develop your own framework for maintaining perspective
- Plan some strategies for changing a predominantly negative culture

See <https://www.bbministries.org.uk/course/responding-to-criticism-workshop-bloomsbury/>

FIRE CAMP 21-25 JULY 2017: Fire Camp is the collaborative, camping, mini-festival for Baptists and friends on Mersea Island, Essex. It is a grass-roots Baptists initiative in its second year. The 2017 theme is intriguingly called ‘Heaven and Earth’ and will explore the question, ‘what does it look like to welcome heaven rather than wait for it?’ Tickets are now on sale at www.firecamp.org.uk

RESOURCES

GRANT APPLICATIONS: The next deadline for Central Baptist Association **grant applications** is January 6th 2017. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins.

ASSOCIATION GRANTS: The schedule of grants available from the Association has been adjusted. Watch out for new literature arriving soon or visit the web site by [clicking here!](#)

CRUCIBLE: A new element of the Crucible course in 2016-17 is a series of webinars following each of the weekends. For those unfamiliar with this term, these are web-based seminars. Each will be an hour long, a mixture of presentation and interaction that can be accessed from your computer and either watched live or as a recording. There will be no charge for these webinars, and you do not need to sign up in advance – just log in when the webinar starts or watch a recording later. To access these webinars, use following link <http://www.brethren.org/webcasts> and there will be a link box to click on, posted at the bottom of the webinar description, that will direct you to the webinar room.

Details of the first two webinars are “Post Everything” on Thursday December 15th at 7.30pm and “Augmented Margins” on Thursday January 19th at 7.30pm. The Crucible programme is organised by Urban Expression.

FROM THE BAPTIST UNION RETREAT GROUP: to people of the male kind. The following link is a questionnaire about a retreat option specifically designed for men. If you wish to complete this survey, please return to the Treasurer at BURG as indicated. Follow the link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B19iZajJSOVfeUpBNTdYQW5rVG8/view?usp=sharing> for the survey.

AND FINALLY

Our thanks to Sue Barnard for each month preparing this newsletter for despatch.

AND FINALLY FINALLY

Best wishes to you from the Carol Murray, Karen Hopkins, Geoff Colmer, Colin Pye and Stephen Copson as you enter the celebration of Christmas season with all its get-togethers, fun and carols as we welcome once more the Christ –child. But don't forget those who find themselves left outImmanuel; God is with us!