



December 2017

NEWS

The Moderator, Council members and Regional Ministers wish you peace and joy as you prepare to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ once more at Christmas. May you find faith, fun and festivity!

VOLUNTEERS! Plans for Baptist Assembly 2018 are progressing well. The Assembly is being held at Kingsgate Conference Centre, Peterborough on 12th May 2018. Given the geographic position of Peterborough in relation to our association, BUGB is asking about the recruitment of volunteers to help with stewarding the event. A team of around 20-25 people, aged 18 and above, is needed. If you are interested to learn more, ask Stephen Copson for an information sheet.

CHAIRS AVAILABLE: King's Baptist Church in Stotfold has some 140 chairs in varying conditions that need a new home, preferably for a donation (towards cost of new ones). (They are sort of pale cerise/salmon). Please contact the Church Office 01462 730521 for more details.



DATA PROTECTION: The new BUGB Guidance leaflet for churches on Data Protection to bring it into line with the new regulations (GDPR) which come in next May can be found at https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/368695/BUC_Guideline_Leaflet.aspx. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW THIS AFFECTS YOUR CHURCH.**

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED: The Baptist Union operates a pastoral fund for ministers and church workers. If you have a need or know someone who is in a place where a grant would be a help, please see here for outlines, conditions and contacts. https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/259551/Pastoral_Fund.aspx

PEOPLE

Paul Brooks has been affirmed as lay pastor by the church at Abbots Langley, Herts.

RESOURCES

FINANCE - DEADLINES: .

GIVING TO HOME MISSION: for funds to be included in the 2017 target it is important that if paying by cheque these are received by our Treasurer, Karen Hopkins by **Friday 15th December** in order to clear the account and be transferred

to the Baptist Union by year end. All on line transfers should be done by **Thursday 21st December**.

HOME MISSION GIVING by the Association churches to the end of October 2017 was £216.192, down from £245.631 in 2016 equivalent period. Experience suggests that a significant part of the appeal arrives in the last two months of the calendar year, and whilst we thank churches for these donations so far, we hope that it will be possible to get near to the 2016 final total of £329.478. Nationally the September total was £2.853.711 as against £2.826.513 in 2016.

GRANTS DEADLINE: Applications for any of the range of Association grants should be received by the Treasurer for consideration by **January 5th 2018**. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, or downloadable from the Association website.

FOOTSTEPS: It is not too early to be thinking of engaging with the Footsteps training course held in Milton Keynes starting in September 2018! 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

EVENTS

PENTECOST 2018: Note for the diary. An ecumenical service is being planned in Hertfordshire on the evening of Pentecost Sunday in 2018.

KETTERING DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP: News of the latest events in the area are available at <http://www.kdfbc.co.uk/>. They include several Advent or Christmas events. Take a look.

MODERN SLAVERY SUMMIT: Co-hosted by the Clewer Initiative (an Anglican undertaking) and Eastern Baptist Association. January 27th Norwich; March 3rd Cambridge; March 17th Chelmsford. Training is by the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority with Input by Local Police. The day will look at how to spot the signs and report your concerns; how to work in partnership with local agencies to make your community slavery free. If interested please contact Stephen Copson for details.

HOLY LAND TOUR: David Ronco (Hertford) is leading another of his popular introductory trips to the Holy Land in April 2019 (3rd – 11th). This nine day tour is ideal for first time visitors exploring key Biblical sites in Galilee, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. As well as walking where Jesus walked the trip also provides unique opportunities to meet local Christians and understand how the Lord is working today through his church in Israel/Palestine. For a review of his last trip and a brochure for this next one visit www.baptisttwinningisrael.org.uk or contact David on dcronco@gmail.com