



# CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

walking together in ministry & mission

**Email Update**

**December 2019**

## NEWS

**SABBATICAL:** Geoff Colmer will not be available from the 13<sup>th</sup> January till the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 due to sabbatical leave. If you have issues to raise or queries to ask during this period, please in the first instance contact Stephen Copson or Colin Pye.

**WOMEN IN MINISTRY:** In the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the first women entered a Baptist Theological College to train for ministry, the Baptist Union has appointed the Revd Jane Day as Centenary Enabler, to encourage and network women in ministry. There will be a conversation day with Jane on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30 till 14.00 at Christ the King, Walton LEP Milton Keynes. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with Lisa Kerry ([lkkerry@aol.com](mailto:lkkerry@aol.com)) or Ruth Gookey ([r.gookey@gmail.com](mailto:r.gookey@gmail.com)).

**A GATHERING FOR THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, 13:30 till 16:00 Bunyan Baptist Church, Stevenage. Please promote this with YOUR workers and encourage them to join the conversation. *“The CBA and Bunyan Baptist Church are together hosting an afternoon for anyone and everyone in the region who works or volunteers in CYF ministries, either hands-on or behind the scenes....we hope to encourage on another, learn from each other, and build a support network going forwards.”* It would be really helpful if those intending to come would let us know by email so we have some idea of viability. Colin Pye & Andrew Ginn. Emails: [colinmpye@gmail.com](mailto:colinmpye@gmail.com) or [andrew@bunyan.org.uk](mailto:andrew@bunyan.org.uk).

For more information go to: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sRqigT-bwAxEy3yrgjJNCle8\\_cWCfQtL/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sRqigT-bwAxEy3yrgjJNCle8_cWCfQtL/view?usp=sharing)

**PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTIST UNION: The Rev Ken Benjamin** is coming to Mount Pleasant Baptist church in Northampton on Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 to lead a day on “Where do we grow from here?” All are welcome. See leaflet at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/188PJuQTKMoZuMHP4sO5xk6BA1t2Rt5JR/view?usp=sharing>

**BAPTIST INSURANCE:** The Autumn edition of our sponsor’s **Baptist Insurance Company’s** Expressions Newsletter is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yx2hcrvs>. As cyber-security continues to grow, they have put together some guidance on what the main risks are and some precautions you can take to avoid falling victim. You can also find features on grant giving, winter advice and home insurance, as well as all of our usual news and much much more.

**PREACHING RESOURCES:** Following last October's well-attended, successful and enjoyable half-day session on 'Preaching themes in the book of the prophet Habakkuk', the Herts Fellowship of Baptist Preachers (HFBP) will continue this occasional series of exploring preaching themes to be found in the shorter and 'less well-thumbed' books of the Bible. The next session in this series will look at the book of the prophet **Haggai**. It will take place on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020** and be held, as before, at **23 Sherwood Avenue, St Albans, Herts, AL4 9QJ**.

Also as before, the session will be led by Harold Liberty – and, as before, delegates are asked to pay a nominal £10 to attend. Principally, this will cover the cost of refreshments. The format for the session will be: Noon for 12.30pm: Arrive; 12.30pm to 1.30pm: Lunch; 1.30pm to 3.15/3.30pm 'Preaching themes from Haggai'

To register an interest, please contact Bob Little on [bob.little@boblittlepr.com](mailto:bob.little@boblittlepr.com)

**FOR BEDS CHURCHES:** *Join us in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for a service on Sunday 19 January at 6.00pm, All Saints' Church, Queens Park, Iddesleigh Road, Bedford MK40 4LQ. (Parking adjacent to Debby Day Care, Marlborough Road, Bedford MK40 4PQ, by kind permission of the Westbourne Islamic Centre.)*

Preacher: The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, The Bishop of Bedford

## PEOPLE

- **William Wade** has become the pastor at Life Church, Cuffley.
- **Hayley Young** leaves Panshanger LEP in Welwyn Garden City in January to take up post as the Mission Enabler in the South Wales Baptist Association.

### **DEPUTY HEAD OF FUNDRAISING:**

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) are looking for a creative fundraiser, who is now looking to diversify their fundraising experience and wants to take a step into leadership, to work alongside our department head. This role provides both hands on experience as well as an opportunity to help shape the future of BRF's fundraising.

Full time based in the BRF office in Abingdon but with the opportunity for some home working.

Closing date: 5:00pm on Friday 3 January 2020. For further information visit

[www.brf.org.uk/current-vacancies](http://www.brf.org.uk/current-vacancies)

## RESOURCES

**HOME MISSION GIVING 2019 – YEAR END DEADLINES:** To ensure Home Mission from your church is accounted for in 2019 please can you ensure that cheques are sent to be received by the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, **by Wednesday 18th December**. Online giving needs to be set up to be in the CBA account **by Monday 23rd December**. Thank you to all for your continued support for Home Mission.

**GRANT REQUESTS:** Grant application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, or downloaded from the website [www.centralba.org.uk](http://www.centralba.org.uk). For a bursary grant only available to accredited ministers, contact Karen for a form. The deadline for the next consideration of Central Baptist Association grant applications is January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**THE LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANT SCHEME:** has been extended for a further year until March 2021.

**MISSION STORY VIDEOS:** The following CBA Mission Stories videos are available:

- Union High Wycombe – getting ‘In the picture’ at Christmas <https://youtu.be/fe9LNSs8QAA>
- Broadmead, Northampton – mission opportunities of a new build <https://youtu.be/ZmnlbY1QSLg>
- Speen Chapel Hill Kitchen Café – connection with local community through a Café initiative <https://youtu.be/oaM38x2zQJ0>

**GENERAL ELECTION RESOURCES:** Church resources can be found at the following websites:

- The dedicated Churches Together in Britain & Ireland General Election 2019 website can be found at <https://ctbi.org.uk/uk-general-election-2019/>
- Joint Public Issues Team website: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/general-election-2019/>

**LINKING LIVES UK:** As we approach Christmas, it is a sad fact that 500,000 older people will spend Christmas Day alone in the UK. Linking Lives UK is a national Christian charity which works with churches to reach and support socially isolated older people through befriending projects, social events and activities. Based on a successful model which has been running in Berkshire for 20 years (you can see more of our story in a blog recently published on the [Baptists Together website](#)), volunteers visit one person once a week for one hour. These visits often have a profound impact on both older people and volunteers alike as self-esteem, confidence and general wellbeing improve. There can also be opportunities to pray with those receiving visits if they wish, as well as encouraging attendance at church events and activities if their mobility allows. With 31 such projects operating across England and Scotland, Linking Lives UK is looking for new church partners all the current time. They provide all the necessary training, support, documentation and advice required to establish a befriending project, as well as ongoing guidance.

To find out more about your local community in relation to loneliness and over 65s a ‘Loneliness Heatmap’ has been developed by Age UK and this can be found at <http://data.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-maps/england-2016/>. For further information about the work of Linking Lives UK, go to their website at [www.linkinglives.uk](http://www.linkinglives.uk) or contact Jeremy Sharpe at [Jeremy@linkinglives.uk](mailto:Jeremy@linkinglives.uk)

**THE TRANSLATION OF ENOCH:** Nick Harris, Minister of Aston Clinton BC, has self published his first book. ‘The Translation of Enoch’ *Publisher: Words By Design*  
*ISBN: 9781909075801 Available at the following:* <https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-translation-of-enoch/nick-harris/9781909075801>

Nick explains "The book came about when a member of my church who worked for Lion publishing challenged me to write a book believing I had it in me to do so. The sabbatical gave me the time to take up the challenge. The idea was to write a novel carrying a Christian subtext that would be accessible to a non-Christian market. The Nephilim of Genesis 6 and the story of Enoch who was ‘translated’ (Enoch walked with God and was no more for God took him away Gen 5) had caught my eye and the novel just grew out of what I was subsequently told was ‘stream of consciousness writing’ that found its conclusion in Revelation 21. I hoped that the genre of fantasy fiction might prove fertile ground with readers open to the idea of other worlds; time will tell."

## EVENTS

**SAFEGUARDING:** Two training sessions for 2020 (see website for booking)

- Level 2 (volunteers/new worker) at Walsworth Road BC, Hitchin on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Level 3 (trustees and designated persons for safeguarding) at Southcourt BC Aylesbury on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>

**BAPTIST TWINNING IN ISRAEL:** The twinning organisation is marking 20 years of building bridges between Baptists in Israel and in England. For information, go to <https://www.baptisttwinningisrael.org.uk/news.htm>

**FOR HERTS BAPTISTS: BIG CHURCH DAY OUT - May 23-24<sup>th</sup> 2020 in Wiston House, West Sussex – Special reduced rate tickets through Churches Together in Hertfordshire.** Big Church Day Out is a festival that aims to bring together people from across the Church. It is overtly Christian and combines musicians from across the world for two days of teaching, worship and music on the Wiston Estate in West Sussex (approx. 2 hours by car from Hertfordshire). The festival is open to all and includes special events within the weekend for youth and those leading worship.

Big Church Day Out is a registered charity and they work in partnership with Tearfund. They are ecumenical in approach and are seeking to broaden attendance from across the churches. As well as a range of music, teaching and worship sessions there is a market place with food and drink stalls available. Tickets are available for a day or for the whole weekend, there is space to camp or you can stay off site and travel in from one of the many nearby towns and villages. Big Church Day Out is totally independent of Churches Together in Hertfordshire but this year we have negotiated a reduced fee if you book via the Churches Together in Hertfordshire group (named “Wooburn – Doral Hayes” for historical reasons), this reduces the cost for individuals and groups attending considerably. A full price ticket for the weekend is usually £49 but if you book as part of this group a weekend ticket price will reduce to just £29 for an adult and £23 for 5-16 year olds (children under 4 and registered carers can attend free of charge).

All tickets are paid for directly by those making the booking and are purchased through the Big Church Day Out website and not through Churches Together in Hertfordshire so you can attend as individuals or as a church or youth group totally independently. Our Group closes on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and we have the lowest price available arranged for our Group.

The unique group link is: <http://bcdo.group/2020/wooburn-doral-hayes> Please do click on this link to join our group and purchase your tickets to the Big Church Day Out. Please note the reduction cannot be seen till the end of the booking process but this is before you give any payment details.

**THEOLOGY LIVE!** We'd love to invite you to come to Theology Live! Thursday 23rd January 2020 in London. It's a day conference where you get to engage with what some Baptists in Great Britain are up to today theologically, biblically and practically.

Speakers include Anthony Reddie, Joshua Searle, Craig Gardiner, Gale Richards, Ruth Moriarty, Dave Steell. While some speakers work in Colleges, most are in some form of pastoral ministry and reflecting theologically on the concrete reality of working in church contexts. For this reason we hope it will connect with you. Our heart is that it plays a part in helping Baptists both do and value theology for the insights it brings to ministry, mission and being Christian today.

Tickets are free and can be reserved here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/theology-live-2020-tickets-70892215525>

Some papers from the first Theology Live in 2017 can be read here

[http://www.baptistresearch.org.nz/uploads/6/2/0/4/6204774/pjtr\\_nov\\_2019\\_final\\_.pdf](http://www.baptistresearch.org.nz/uploads/6/2/0/4/6204774/pjtr_nov_2019_final_.pdf)

Andy Goodliff, Steve Holmes and Simon Woodman