



## February 2018

### NEWS

Plans for **BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 2018** are progressing well. As you will hopefully be aware the next Baptist Assembly is being held at Kingsgate Conference Centre, Peterborough on **12<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. The Baptist Union is seeking a team of volunteers to help with stewarding the event. A team of around 20-25 people is needed, aged 18 and above. A draft letter is available which gives the details of what is required and how people can volunteer. Please ask Stephen Copson ([stephen.c@centralba.org.uk](mailto:stephen.c@centralba.org.uk)) for a copy if you are interested.

**BAPTIST ASSEMBLY BOOKINGS are NOW OPEN.** Come and be part of the day of worship and celebration. [www.baptistassembly.org.uk](http://www.baptistassembly.org.uk).

**ANNUAL RETURN:** Church Secretaries will recently have received an invitation to send in the Annual Returns form to the Baptist Union. Please ensure that this information is completed on line or sent in by the deadline to enable the Baptist Union to keep its records up-to-date and maintain a list of correct contacts and current information about churches.

**TREASURERS:** If you think it would be helpful for the Association to organise a day for treasurers, aspiring treasurers or potential treasurers, then please tell Stephen Copson, and add what sort of areas you would find useful to explore.

### PEOPLE

- **Andrew Muchunga** has stood down as lay pastor at Wigginton
- **Elaine Youngman** has settled as a Spurgeons College minister-in-training (Hoddesdon) at Morden, to start in the autumn
- **Colin Pye.** A reminder that Colin is on sabbatical until the middle of April.
- **Gold Hill** has an extensive list of people able to preach and lead worship and these are happy to be invited to churches within a 10 mile radius of Gold Hill. If interested, please contact Maria Bond on [Maria.Bond@goldhill.org](mailto:Maria.Bond@goldhill.org)

### RESOURCES

**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](mailto:anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk)

**FINANCING MINISTRY and MISSION TOGETHER:** The final 2017 giving to CBA churches to Baptist Home Mission was £316,456. Many thanks to all our churches that gave generously at a time when there is pressure on financial resources. Give thanks for the mission and ministry that your gifts have made possible in local pastorates, training student ministers, chaplaincies and pioneer work in Central and across England and Wales.

**GRANTS:** Applications for Association grants should be sent to Karen Hopkins, the Treasurer, by Monday **March 5<sup>th</sup>** to be considered for the next tranche of decisions. Application forms can be obtained from the Association Treasurer or downloadable from the Association website.

**PASTORALIA:** The College of Baptist Ministers has re-published two booklets by the Revd Dr Paul Beasley-Murray – “A Loved One Dies – help in the first few weeks” and “Happy Ever After – a workbook for Couples preparing for Marriage”. Each priced at £2.50 incl p&p. To orders, contact CBM Treasurer on [peter@collegeofbaptistministers.com](mailto:peter@collegeofbaptistministers.com)

**SAFEGUARDING:** The Baptist Union has produced an updated version of the model safeguarding policy document and procedures which can be found at [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/512218/Model\\_Safeguarding\\_Policy.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/512218/Model_Safeguarding_Policy.aspx).

**Take time to see how your document relates to this new version.**

**NEW SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE FROM BUGB:** The Baptist Union is delighted to launch the new Level 1 Excellence in Safeguarding film. There are 2 films and 3 sets of children and young people’s study materials for use in Sunday School and study groups.

- **Film 1 ‘Excellence in Safeguarding Level 1’** is the all age version designed for use in family services or other mixed age settings. It is based around the story of The Good Samaritan and features a great drama written by Nick Lear, and a set of simple messages about looking after each other and talking about concerns. It can also be used by groups within the church to introduce those who attend to the message that the church takes safeguarding seriously.
- **Film 2** is a slide based version for use at a church meeting. It is designed to be used alongside a review of safeguarding policy and procedures to remind people of the core requirements.

The Sunday School and study materials are available for three different age groups, and can be used in Sunday School, youth Bible study, youth club or similar settings. The study sessions for each group continue the story of the Good Samaritan, last between 50-60 minutes and are designed as a follow up to the film. *Please note that the films are available to download from the website – they are not producing DVD versions. If you are asked to burn it on to a DVD for a church who have limited technology, please contact us before you do so, as we can advise you on the legal requirements for labelling and acknowledging copyright.*

**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](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/368695/BUC_Guideline_Leaflet.aspx)

**Be aware of how this will affect your church**

**HOLIDAY TIME:** The Baptist Union of Scotland has two holiday homes. Bookings are now open to all, with reduced rates for ministers. Current availability is as follows:

- **FINDOCHTY 2018 - Saturday to Saturday** All February weeks; 03 March, 10 March, 24 March, 31 March, 14 April, 21 April, 28 April; 05 May, 12 May, 19 May; 02 June, 09 June, 16 June, 23 June; 18 August, 25 August; All September weeks; 06 October, 20 October and onwards to the end of the year
- **COLONSAY 2018 - Wednesday to Wednesday** All February weeks; All March weeks; All April weeks; All May weeks; 13 June, 20 June; 18 July, 25 July; 08 August, 29 August; All September and onwards to the end of the year.

Please contact [admin@scottishbaptist.org.uk](mailto:admin@scottishbaptist.org.uk) to check availability and for further details.

# EVENTS

**FOR THE DIARY:** The Association Assembly is on **Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>** and the main speaker will be the Revd Dr David Gregory of Croxley Green Baptist church and the incoming President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The theme is "Divine Windows"

## **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING:**

### **LEVEL 2: FOR VOLUNTEERS**

- Fuller Baptist church in Kettering on **Saturday, March 10th 2018**
- Welwyn Garden City on **Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2018**

### **LEVEL 3: FOR TRUSTEES AND DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSONS**

- Wollaston Baptist church in Northamptonshire on **Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> 2018**
- High Street, Tring on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018**

To reserve places on any of these sessions, please see the poster with your Church Secretary or contact Stephen Copson on [stephen.c@centralba.org.uk](mailto:stephen.c@centralba.org.uk). You can also find this information on the web site at <http://centralba.org.uk/home/safeguarding/>.

Sessions are currently being planned for the second quarter of 2018 for level 2 and level 3 training.

**HOLY LAND TOUR 2019:** David Ronco (Hertford) is leading another of his popular introductory trips to the Holy Land next year from April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 brochure for this next one visit [www.baptistwinningisrael.org.uk](http://www.baptistwinningisrael.org.uk) or contact David on [dcronco@gmail.com](mailto:dcronco@gmail.com)