



July & August 2017

NEWS

SUMMER CENTRAL NEWS can be viewed/
downloaded here: <http://centralba.org.uk/central-news-summer-2017/>



HOME MISSION VIDEO: The latest CBA video from **Gretton Baptist Church** can be viewed/
downloaded from <https://vimeo.com/222121651>

FOOTSTEPS: the new session begins in September 2017 and is held at Christ the King in Milton Keynes. See the information on the Association website <http://centralba.org.uk/ministry/953-2/> think about taking part and encourage others to think about it too.

Also see same link for **FOOTSTEPS PATHWAY course and day** coming up....

FOOTSTEPS PATHWAY COURSES Training in Local Church Life and Mission
CBA in partnership with Regent's Park College

Developing Preaching Skills

a seven week course

at Croxley Green Baptist Church,
225 Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, WD3 3LH

- ♦ for those experienced in preaching and those just beginning
- ♦ looking at the principles of preaching God's Word
- ♦ developing skills and confidence for effective preaching

[provisional dates— 7 Wednesdays
from 27th September to 29th November]

8.00 pm for 8.10 pm till 10.10 pm
LED BY REVD ANDREW OPENSHAW,
MINISTER OF NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH, TRING

£50 for the course (£40 if unwaged)
Book church group of 4 (£200) - 5th place free

For more details and application forms go to the Central Baptist Association website,
or contact Anne Lane, Tutor in Community Learning, Regent's Park College, anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk,
07986 323909 or 01276 785068

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2017

FORCES OF FAITH!
APPROACHING SCIENCE WITH CONFIDENCE

REV. JOHN WEAVER, FORMER PRINCIPAL OF SOUTH WALES BAPTIST COLLEGE,
CHAIR OF THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE, CONNECTING ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY

Exploring conversations to discover faith's positive answers to the questions raised by science

- In what ways can the Bible and Science speak with each other?
- What does the Christian faith have to contribute to today's 'hot topics' such as renewable energy, fracking and genetic engineering
- Can science offer us an understanding of suffering in an imperfect world?

OPEN TO EVERYONE living out their faith in local churches and communities
£33 [see booking form for concessions] Bring your lunch, drinks provided
The Church of Christ the King, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HG

9.30 am for 10.00 am till 4.15 pm

Further details and application form on CBA website or from Anne Lane, Tutor in Community Learning, Regent's Park College
www.ba.org.uk 01276 785068 or 07986 323909

a FOOTSTEPS initiative

CHURCH FOR THE YEAR: if you are in Herts and Northants Forum, an invitation to submit applications for the 2018 Forum Church for the Year has been circulated.

CONSULTATION RE FUNERALS: This has been passed on to us to make you aware of the consultation and perhaps ready to respond with your views. The initiative and commentary is rooted in Quaker Social Action, but the matter under consultation is one on which you may have some personal experience or stories to share.

STARTS

From: Heather Kennedy <heatherkennedy@fairfuneralscampaign.org.uk> wrote:
Hello. The government have announced plans to make their funeral fund simpler and fairer. After years of ignoring the problem, the UK Government have recognised that the system is broken and needs to change.

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is consulting on their plans to improve the funeral fund. They especially want to hear from people who have personal or professional experience of the fund. The deadline for responses is Monday 21st August.

Click here if you'd like to respond to the consultation.

Heather Kennedy, Fair Funerals Campaign Manager
QSA— Working for a just world where people put people first.
17 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ

Tel: 020 8983 5059 Web: <http://fairfuneralscampaign.org.uk/> Twitter: @endfuneralpov
fb: www.facebook.com/quakersocialaction
UK registered charity 1069157 and a company limited by guarantee 3524063.

PEOPLE

- **Simon Downing** stood down from ministry at Aston Clinton at the end of June.
- **Richard Starling** has retired from Stanton Road, Luton.
- **Dan Parkes** moves from minister-in-training at Newport Pagnell to Scarisbrick Road, Southport.
- **Peter Pivilachi** has ended his time as minister-in-training at Broughton.
- **Beth Powney** leaves Sandy to become the Team Leader in Eastern Baptist Association.
- **Kevin Price** will be inducted to the pastorate of Wellspring, LEP Wirksworth in September

SITUATION VACANT: The Association is seeking someone to represent on the Baptist Union Corporation. This body deals with property, legal, trust and loan issues. You do not need to be an expert in these areas, but be willing to engage with them and to report back intelligently to the Association. Requirement of a daytime meeting three times a year in Didcot, plus occasional visits to assess loan applications. Travel expenses met. You must be legally able to act as a director. Contact Stephen Copson for more information.

BAPTIST UNION CENSUS 2016: If you missed the return deadline for returning this piece of information, you can still submit your details to the Baptist Union. Blank forms can be found on BUGB website (www.baptist.org.uk/annualreturns) in both Word and pdf format.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY 2017. Copies are now available. They can be ordered from Stephen Copson at £3.50 inc p & p.

Amendments:

- Minister out of pastorate, Herts: Should read **Ray Ashley-Brown** (not Ashley-Smith)
- **Park St, St Albans:** Liz Prince, Church Secretary, Office tel: 01727 768299
- **Desborough Church Secretary:** Mrs.E.Gamston, 9 Bluebell Close, Oakley Vale, Corby, Northants NN18 8LZ 01536 747708 email bethgamston@yahoo.co.uk
- **Trinity Chesham church secretary:** Mrs B.Bayliss, 37 Old Hardenwaye, Totteridge, High Wycombe HP13 6TJ tel 01494 463113 baylissfamily37@btinternet.com
- **Stanton Road, Luton secretary:** c/o The Treasurer, Stanton Road Baptist church.

Church Worker Position Biggleswade Baptist Church (www.bbchurch.org.uk)

We are looking to appoint a full-time staff member to work alongside our Senior Pastor and Leadership Team to assist them in developing our church life. We expect that, in addition, you would also have the opportunity and support to develop your own giftings and ministry. We are happy to consider ordained or lay appointments for this role.

We are a supportive church family and want to be a house of prayer, an equipping centre and a base for missions both locally and further afield. As a church, we are committed to the Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

If you are someone with a heart for worship, prayer, sharing the Good News and making disciples and are interested in this role we would love to hear from you. A more detailed job description and church profile is available from the church administrator, Alison Ertl, by email to office@bbchurch.org.uk. You can also email to make an appointment to chat over the phone with the Senior Pastor. The initial appointment would be for three years and will include a review after two years in post. The salary will be in line with Baptist Union recommendations. **The closing date is Monday 14th August 2017.**

RESOURCES

SAFEGUARDING: Safe to Grow is now available on the Baptist Union website as a free download – see Safeguarding section under resources. See also the wide variety of resource son safeguarding children young people and adults at risk. There is a wealth of experience waiting there for you to use!

There is a level 2 training session at Southcourt Aylesbury on **Saturday September 9th** and a level 3 training (for trustees and designated safeguarding persons) at Newport Pagnell on **Saturday September 30th**. To book places, please contact Stephen Copson.

WELCOME YOUR NEW MP: As our newly elected representatives enter this parliamentary session, we invite you to send your local MP a postcard to say 'welcome', and 'we're praying for you'.

If you'd like to order some specially-designed and completely free-of-charge JPIT postcards from us then please contact Lucy on zwolinska@methodistchurch.org.uk with the number of postcards you'd like and your delivery address.

ASSOCIATION GRANTS: A reminder that the Association has a grants schedule for churches that includes: TRAINING, STUDY BURSARIES, EVANGELISM and SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT projects and SMALL CHURCHES REPAIRS. Contact Karen Hopkins on kahopkins66@gmail.com for information and application forms. The next deadline for applications is **Friday September 22nd**.

PRE-SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE: The Pre-School at Berkhamsted Baptist church has some equipment available (collection required) . There's a mini trampoline, panels to make up a wooden house, wooden kitchen stuff/cooker/washing machine etc and a wooden climbing frame with safety mats.

If you are interested, or would like to see pictures, please contact Stephen Copson in the first instance.

EVENTS

PENSIONS: Meeting about Baptist Pension Scheme on September 9th at Christ Church, Stantonbury in Milton Keynes. Please contact Stephen Copson to reserve places.

CHURCH RECORDS: Regent's Park College is pleased to announce 'Telling and Protecting Your Church Story' training on **Saturday 23rd September 2017, Regent's Park College, Oxford OX1 2LB.**

The training is non-denominational in nature and would be useful for:

- Anyone with responsibilities for church records or archives
- Church Secretaries
- Church Archivists
- Churches that are going through change
- Churches that are struggling with maintaining an electronic archive
- Anyone interested in preserving church records
- Anyone interested in writing and recording the story of a congregation

The day runs from 10am to 5pm, with lunch included with the following lay out:

- **Session 1: Archiving for the Future, 10am - 1pm**
Issues covered will include: electronic archiving, protecting future records, caring for old records, storing records and papers.
- **Lunch, 1pm – 2pm** (Please let us know of any dietary requirements).
- **Session 2: Writing your Church History, 2pm - 5pm**
Develop new skills for writing your church history.
- The cost is £8 per session or £10 for the day. Booking essential. Tickets available at: <https://event.bookitbee.com/12849/telling-and-protecting-your-church-story-6>
- If you would like more information, we would love to hear from you either by email on angus.library@regents.ox.ac.uk or call: 01865 288142.

DAUGHTERS OF DISSENT: CELEBRATING CONSTANCE COLTMAN. Saturday 16th September, 1.00pm at Dr Williams' Library, 14 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AR. Free public lecture hosted by the URC and the Congregational Federation as part of the celebrations marking 100 years since the ordination of Constance Coltman, the first woman to be ordained into a mainstream British denomination. Three leading global scholars will address issues relating to the ordination of women, gender justice and empowerment. There will also be time for questions and conversations. Please contact Dr Eve Parker eve.parker@urc.org.uk as soon as possible if you would like to attend as places are limited.