



## July 2018

### NEWS

**ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY:** On Saturday June 16th, people converged from around the Association on Whaddon Way Church in Bletchley. There was music and inspiration and conversation and information and the formal business meeting. The main speaker was David Gregory, President of the Baptist Union and a minister at Croxley Green in Hertfordshire, taking his theme of divine windows and exploring how science far from being in opposition to religion actually offers people a glimpse of the divine. The afternoon session had short talks on seeing the divine in science, music and pastoral care in chaplaincy. Thanks to Steve Summerfield and the volunteers at Whaddon Way for their practical help.

**GDPR AND THE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY:** There may still be some of you who have not completed the consent form needed under GDPR regulations to allow the Association to hold your information, and for it to be published in the Association Directory. If you have not already completed the online consent form please do so by following the link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQbYJTODevkrjg6kp39rQo8JTwAogS3oK7rBFWjqDIUwMPXA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQbYJTODevkrjg6kp39rQo8JTwAogS3oK7rBFWjqDIUwMPXA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

or alternatively you can contact Sue Barnard [sue.barnard8@gmail.com](mailto:sue.barnard8@gmail.com) - even if you are going to say "no".

A copy of the CBA privacy statement can be found at: <http://centralba.org.uk/about-us/privacy-notice/>

The Association Directory for 2108/19 has been delayed until the Autumn as there were too many consents not received to make it useful.

**LOST PROPERTY:** Did you leave behind at the Association Assembly some books on Baptist History? If so, contact Stephen Copson to be reunited with them.

**HOME MISSION:** Churches in Central have contributed to the end of May £96,428 to Home Mission (£104,724 in 2017). Many thanks for your continued generosity to support the work of ministry and mission across the Baptist Union.

**CHURCH MISSION REVIEW:** The latest edition of **CENTRAL NEWS** has a very different intention behind it to usual (please see this link <http://tinyurl.com/ybzowzhr>). You will see that it is entitled '**CHURCH MISSION REVIEW EDITION**', and the hope is that it will be a tool that will be used by the leadership team of your church, and perhaps the whole church community. We live in a context and culture that is rapidly changing, and the place and effectiveness of our churches within that has altered immeasurably in the last 50 or so years. This **CENTRAL NEWS** comes as an attempt to encourage each church to start asking important questions about how to 'connect' missionally with a culture that is increasingly disconnected from the Christian faith we cherish.

**A NETWORK FOR CONNECTING WORKERS with Children & Young Families:** Baptist churches have a long and varied history of engaging with children, young people and families (CYF). Recently, a round table of representatives from Baptist churches, Colleges and Baptist

Together Regional Ministers has been formed, with a national mandate to **reflect, inform, inspire** and **raise the profile** of CYF ministry across Baptists Together and beyond.

The newly emerging CYF Network in the CBA is coming together to help support and encourage those involved in any kind of children, youth or families ministries within the CBA, whilst also aiming to engage with the Round Table process connecting our regional conversations with the national big picture. Currently Rev Andrew Ginn (Youth Specialist and Senior Minister) at Bunyan Baptist Church, Stevenage and Rev Jon Bishop (Youth Specialist and Associate Minister) at Croxley Green Baptist Church are looking to build up a list of all those engaged in this kind of activity so we can get the ball rolling. However, if there are others would like to come together to help shape and drive the CYF Network we'd love to hear from you, especially if you have specific skills and passions for Children's and/or Families Ministry.

In the meantime if you are or know of someone who works with Children, Young People or Families in our Association then please encourage them to fill in the contact form here:

<http://eepurl.com/duPb1b>

We will begin by using this to send out information about useful resources that come along, but we hope to use this in the future to help us meet together to pray, dream and inspire one another.

Yours in Christ, Jonathan Bishop, Associate Minister Youth & Children, Croxley Green Baptist Church

**INFORMATION SOUGHT:** Tring High Street is seeking to contact any other churches that have installed destratification fans as part of their building eco-endeavours. If you have information to share, please contact Kevin Ashton on [kevin.ashton2@btinternet.com](mailto:kevin.ashton2@btinternet.com)

**VOLUNTARY ASSISTANT TREASURER:** The Central Baptist Association is looking to appoint a voluntary Assistant Treasurer with the requisite skills and experience. For more information and a job description, please contact Karen Hopkins on [kahopkins66@gmail.com](mailto:kahopkins66@gmail.com)

## PEOPLE

- **Matt Archer** moves on from Cuffley Free in the summer.
- **Kate Young** will arrive at Cotton End in the summer, to take up a minister-in-training post.
- **Elaine Youngman** leaves Hoddesdon after finishing her preparation at Spurgeon's College and has settled at Morden.
- With sadness we note the death on June 1<sup>st</sup> of **Jeff Taylor**, a retired minister living in Northants.

**STUDY LEAVE:** **Stephen Copson** will be on extended study leave from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Geoff Colmer or Colin Pye with your queries. In particular, Geoff Colmer will take the lead on responding to safeguarding queries.

## 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)

**GRANTS:** The next deadline for Central Baptist Association **grant applications** is Friday, September 28th. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins or via the website.

**HOLIDAY CLUBS DBS CHECKS:** Is your church running a holiday club or Holiday At Home event this year? Don't forget to make an early start on the DBS checking process for all those who will be leaders and helpers. Some points to remember:-

- Any leader or helper who has a current DBS check in place for other work with children or adults at risk will not need a new check if the current one is still in date.
- A check done by another organisation, e.g. for a teacher or a nurse, will not be valid for church work unless the individual is registered with the update service.
- You don't need to carry out DBS checks for 16 or 17 year olds helping with holiday clubs, but remember that they must be supervised at all times and do not count towards your supervision ratios.

For more information on who needs to be checked, please go to our DBS guidance note using the following link: [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/452419/BUGB\\_Guide\\_to.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/452419/BUGB_Guide_to.aspx)

**NEW PUBLICATION: BIG QUESTIONS** by Andrew Goldsmith minister of Ampthill BC. Some questions seem like massive obstacles to faith and to exploring Christianity further. How would you answer these:

- Is there a God?
- Hasn't science made God irrelevant?
- How can a good God allow suffering?
- Isn't Christianity basically just a myth?
- What is the meaning of life?

*Big Questions* outlines a 5-week course for any church to run, exploring and engaging with some of the biggest questions which our friends, family, colleagues and culture ask.

The book is aimed at the church but also suitable for individuals exploring these questions.

Andrew comments "the book relates to an event we created here at Ampthill Baptist Church in Bedfordshire. We've run a 5-week course exploring some of the biggest questions people ask and seen very encouraging responses in terms of conversations, engagement and attendance. Over the past 3 years we've had over 120 different guests, the huge majority with no prior church connection".

Available on Amazon as print edition or for the Kindle.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Big-Questions-Equipping-Engaging-community/dp/1986596354>  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07DLSMHMX>

## EVENTS

**PASTORS' STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL 4th-11th October 2018:** Rev Stuart Davison, Team Leader of the South Eastern Baptist Association, is leading another small (12) group tour to Israel for pastors and church leaders. In addition to visiting key Biblical sites in Nazareth, Galilee, and Jerusalem this trip will include meeting with Arab Pastors and visiting Baptist churches. This is a unique opportunity to understand more about the complex situation in Israel/Palestine and see how the Lord is working there today through his church. To make it more available Baptist Twinning in Israel has kept the cost cheaper than general Holy Land tours. For more detail visit [www.baptisttwinningisrael.co.uk](http://www.baptisttwinningisrael.co.uk) and to express interest contact [liz-admin@seba-baptist.org.uk](mailto:liz-admin@seba-baptist.org.uk)

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The forthcoming safeguarding training mornings (9.30-13.00) will be:

**LEVEL 2 COURSES:** For new workers or those wishing to refresh skills.

- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October** at Houghton Regis Baptist Church
- **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October** at Olney Baptist Church

**LEVEL 3 COURSES:** For trustees, church leaders and designated persons for safeguarding.

- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November** at Little Kingshill Baptist Church, Bucks

See Association website for details and booking form. Please note the original information for Little Kingshill had an incorrect email address for Stephen Copson. The correct one – [stephen.c@centralba.org.uk](mailto:stephen.c@centralba.org.uk) – is now on the website flier.