



March 2017

NEWS

ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY 2017: The Central Baptist Association Assembly and AGM is on Saturday June 18th at Whaddon Way Church in Bletchley. The main speaker is the Revd Dianne Tidball, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. See poster in your church for details.

ASSOCIATION COUNCIL: The Council meets on Thursday March 30th. Please remember the members in your prayers as they seek to monitor and develop our shared life as members of the Central Baptist Association.

CONNEXIONS: OCTOBER 13-15 2017, Kings Park Northampton: With Rupert Lazar. All Change: unpacking the story of Ruth. If you are a minister, please show this to your spouse.

You are invited to join us for our Connexion Weekend later this year where Rupert Lazar will be our guest speaker. This is a weekend exclusively for those married to people in Baptist ministry, mission and training, including those who have retired or been widowed. This is an event which is held only once every two years, and is open to both men and women. Booking forms and more information can be found on our website www.baptistconnexion.org.uk. We suggest you might ask your church to pay for the weekend, as an investment into your well-being. Feel free to email secretary@baptistconnexion.org.uk if you need more clarification.

FREE! Bunyan Baptist Church (Stevenage) has about 200 chairs which still have use left in them and that they are therefore looking to pass on to anyone who is interested. They are comfortable and can be stacked 2-3 high. Collection would need to be on March 30th from 1pm onwards or any time on March 31st. Ideally they'd like them to be collected in one go, rather than a few here and there, although anyone interested in 50 or more is also welcome to get in touch. They are happy to give them away for free providing they are collected, but any donation would be gladly received. They are also advertising them in various other places, but if there is a church, or anyone else who could make good use of them, please get in touch with Nicola on nicola@bunyan.org.uk.

PEOPLE

- **Laura Gimeno** has been appointed minister in training at Great Ashby Stevenage.
- **John Graham** has become pastor at West Watford Free church.
- **Shaggy Abdon Shortley** is joining the ministry team at Ampthill as Associate Pastor for Discipleship In April.
- **Adrian Ward** leaves Desborough for Oakes Baptist church, Huddersfield.

- **Hayley Young** will be inducted in April as the minister at Panshanger LEP in Welwyn Garden City.

RESOURCES

HOME MISSION GIVING: Central Baptist Association giving to Home Mission in January 2017 amounted to £22.782 as against £18.887 for the same month in 2016. The national total was £268.7289 as against £219.596. Annual figures cannot of course be extrapolated on the basis of one month's giving!!

GRANT APPLICATIONS: The next deadline for Central Baptist Association grant applications is May 12th. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins on kahopkins66@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE GRANT FUND: I came across this resource and wondered whether it would be of interest to anyone looking to provide Christian literature in their neighbourhood (*Stephen Copson*).

<http://www.speakingvolumes.org.uk/>

LENT RESOURCE - 'BEACONS OF HOPE' [Baptist Union]

During Lent we will be producing a set of reflections that are primarily designed to be used by congregations in Sunday services, but will also be of value for personal reflection during this season. They explore how we are called to be 'beacons of hope' in our world. Each week will explore familiar Lenten themes with a particular emphasis on how these relate to issues such as poverty, equality, the environment and politics. The first reflections will be available on our website from Ash Wednesday, next week.

THY KINGDOM COME This looks like a great prayer initiative! - 9 days of prayer Ascension to Pentecost 2017. Some great resources available - see https://www.thykingdomcome.global/.../2016_unbranded_booklet... these pocket prayers are provided to help you pray daily, whenever and wherever you can, between Ascension and Pentecost. Also see the introductory video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4m9h3FoeXNA>

EVENTS

BUCKS FORUM 'GATHERING' event @ Sunday 21st May 6.30pm Chesham Broadway Baptist Church. Speaker Lou Webber. "An opportunity to connect with other friends from local Baptist churches."

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: There are still places available on these safeguarding training courses:

- **Level 2 (primarily for workers)** – May 13th at Olney; June 24th at Little Kingshill (near High Wycombe).
 - **Level 3 (trustees & designated safeguarding officers)** – May 13th at the Abbey Centre, Northampton.
- Cost is £5 per person. To reserve places please contact Stephen Copson on stephen.c@centralba.org.uk
See <http://centralba.org.uk/ministry/safeguarding/> for further details.

