



March 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 **12th 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) 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.

CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY: June 16th at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley with key speakers the Revd Dr David Gregory of Croxley Green Baptist church and President of the Baptist Union 2018/19 on "Divine Windows"

THY KINGDOM COME – 10th TO 20th MAY 2018: An invitation from the Bishop of Hertford *"In 2017, across the globe, churches from 85 countries got involved including over 50 denominations - Catholic, Pentecostal, Salvation Army, Methodist, Baptist, the Redeemed Christian Church of God and many more.*

The greatest contribution that any of us can make is to encourage our churches to join together in the ten days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, asking our people to pray for those they know to come to know Christ. But also:-

- *Firstly, please may I invite you to participate in the Beacon Celebration at St Albans Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday (20th May, 6.30 p.m.) and invite others to join you?*
- *Secondly, we would love to put together an ecumenical team of 'Thy Kingdom Come Welcomers' for the Pentecost Beacon Celebration at St Albans Cathedral on Sunday 20th May.*

If the thought of being an ecumenical welcomer attracts someone in your congregation, please get in touch with Stephen Copson

ANNUAL RETURNS: As a Church Secretary, you will recently have received an invitation to send in the Annual Returns form to the Baptist Union. Please make sure that this paperwork is 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.

PEOPLE

- **Peter Montague** is inducted on March 3rd as pastor at Totteridge, High Wycombe.
- **Gary Steel** has been called to Desborough
- **Vanessa Rye** has been called to Princes Risborough.
- A reminder that **Colin Pye** is on sabbatical until mid April.

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

GRANTS: Applications for Association grants should be sent to Karen Hopkins, the Treasurer, by Monday May 14th to be considered for the next tranche of decisions. Application forms can be obtained from the Association Treasurer or downloadable from the Association website.

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

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

FURTHER INFORMATION ON DATA PROTECTION: Further information from the BUGB for churches on Data Protection including draft policy documents can be found at

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/302154/Data_Protection_and.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 to check availability and for further details.

EVENTS

BEYOND THE DREAM? presented by Bright Black Forum. Marks the 50th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. 24th April 2018, 9.45am till 4.00pm at Highgate Baptist Church Centre, Highgate, Birmingham, B12 0YL. Tickets £20 including lunch and refreshments. Contact Stephen Copson for details.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING:

LEVEL 2: FOR VOLUNTEERS

- Fuller Baptist church in Kettering on **Saturday, March 10th 2018 (Fully Booked)**
- Welwyn Garden City on **Saturday March 17th 2018 (Fully Booked)**
- Seer Green on **Saturday April 21st 2018**
- Walsworth Road, Hitchin on **Saturday 19th May 2018**

LEVEL 3: FOR TRUSTEES AND DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSONS

- High Street, Tring on **Saturday 23rd 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. You can also find this information on the web site at <http://centralba.org.uk/home/safeguarding/>.

BUCKS FORUM GATHERING: Sunday 13th May, 6pm at Speen Baptist Church. Speaker: Stephen Walker-Williams. All very welcome.

HOLY LAND TOUR 2019: David Ronco (Hertford) is leading another of his popular introductory trips to the Holy Land next year from April 3rd – 11th. 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.baptisttwinningisrael.org.uk or contact David on dcronco@gmail.com