



# CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*walking together in ministry & mission*

**Email Update**

**March 2020**

## NEWS

**BAPTIST UNION VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTION:** A reminder that nominations have now been made for the President of Baptists Together for 2021-22. The CBA has warmly nominated Geoff Colmer, Regional Minister and Team Leader with the association.

The two candidates are:

Geoff Colmer (nominated by the Central and East Midlands Baptist Associations)

Alex Harris (nominated by the Heart of England and West of England Baptist Associations)

For your prayerful reflection here are the links to both candidates profile videos.

- Geoff: <https://tinyurl.com/rzaebvv>

- Alex: <https://youtu.be/tgshjg5Klsw>

**SPRING 2020 CENTRAL NEWS:** edition focuses upon PRAYER particularly in relation the way in which this supports and encourages mission. See here to download <http://centralba.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CENTRAL-NEWS-Spring-2020.pdf>



**BAPTIST UNION CORPORATION:** The Association is looking for a suitably qualified person to act as a Director of the Baptist Union Corporation. This body oversees matters pertaining to legal, charity, listed building and provision of loans, among others. Is there anyone in your congregation suitable and interested?

Expressions of interest are invited from people with an interest and awareness of Baptist church life, who are not fazed by the detail of the Corporation responsibilities; who bring some expertise and insights to the role and who are available for a daytime meeting in Didcot three times a year, plus an occasional local visit to support a grant application if a CBA church makes an application. To learn more, please contact the current BUC Director, the Revd David Warrington ([acbc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:acbc.pastor@gmail.com)) or Stephen Copson. ([Stephen.c@centralba.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.c@centralba.org.uk))

### PRAYER FOCUS 13: BIGGLESWADE BAPTIST CHURCH

Following contact with Ali Boulton and the New Housing Hub, and Ruth Rice from Renew Wellbeing, BBC sensed a call from God to "pioneer a Renew space on a new housing estate." Kings Reach is an estate that is being built and will eventually contain some 2,000 homes. "We have increasingly encountered people feeling isolated and cut off on the estate and felt God telling us to get involved, to provide a space where anyone could come and feel safe, to chat, to receive unconditional love, and to be signposted to relevant agencies and groups within the wider community and the church. King's Corner is our response to that call" says BBC Pastor Rev.

Martin Ceaser. ... ..... cont'd here <http://centralba.org.uk/prayer-focus-13-biggleswade-baptist-church/>

**CHILDREN & YOUNG FAMILIES WORKERS:** 23 CYF (Children & Young Families) workers gathered from across the CBA, tussling with Big Questions about belonging and identify as we collaborated together, sharing ideas and insights..." ... a great afternoon!!



**ONLINE UPDATING:** The Baptist Union will shortly introduce the option of online updating of church information on their database – details of ministers, secretaries, treasurers. Please note that it would be helpful if, when changing details, you also remember to let Stephen Copson know about changes of details for ministers and secretaries, so the Association database can be kept up-to-date.

**“A LITTLE MORE CONVERSATION, A LITTLE MOR ACTION PLEASE?”**

Eight female ministers from the CBA met with Jane Day, the BU's Faith and Society Centenary Development Enabler, on the 21st January. Perhaps because her title is so baffling I think we all came with very little idea what the day would entail and yet in a simple conversation we were all really blessed..... see here <http://centralba.org.uk/a-little-more-conversation-a-little-more-action-please/>



**OUR SPONSORS THE BAPTIST INSURANCE COMPANY HAS A NEW WEBSITE:**

“We are extremely pleased to announce that the new Baptist Insurance website is now live. With a contemporary new look and feel, it has been designed to enable you to find the information you need much more easily, while being adaptable across traditional PCs and mobile devices. If you have any trouble locating something you can always call our team who will be happy to direct you to the right place on **0345 070 2223**. We would also like to hear what you think and you can email comments and feedback to: [enquiries@baptist-ins.com](mailto:enquiries@baptist-ins.com).”

**HOLIDAY TIME!** Booking is now open for the Baptist Union of Scotland's accommodation at Prospect Cottage, Findochty. For a brochure, contact Stephen Copson or go direct to Lynn Scott direct tel: 0141 433 4552 or [lynn@scottishbaptist.org.uk](mailto:lynn@scottishbaptist.org.uk). This opportunity is open to all staff and not just ordained ministers.

## PEOPLE

A new lay preacher, a probationer member of the Herts Fellowship of Baptist Preachers is Chamindra Leeniyagoda. You can contact Chamindra on [chamindra\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:chamindra_2@hotmail.com) or 07982 510154.

**SABBATICAL:** Geoff Colmer will not be available from the 13<sup>th</sup> January till the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 due to sabbatical leave. If you have issues to raise or queries to ask during this period, please in the first instance contact Stephen Copson or Colin Pye.

## RESOURCES

**TREASURES EMAIL:** As Karen Hopkins is standing down in June, to make the transfer simpler, her email addresses to be used in the time between should be **centralba.treasurer@gmail.com**

**GRANTS & LOANS:** The next deadline for Central Baptist Association **grant applications** is Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, or

downloadable from the website - [www.centralba.org.uk](http://www.centralba.org.uk). Applications for bursary grants for ministers are available from Karen, email as above.

## EVENTS

**CBA ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL MEETING:** Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King, Milton Keynes with key speaker Carl Smethurst. Book the date!

**BAPTIST ASSEMBLY:** We are looking for some 18-35's who might be interested in going to the **Baptist Assembly** this year. There are a limited number of tickets (32) nationally that are being discounted to £30 for a weekend ticket – pretty good! (This doesn't include accommodation). Could this be you or do you have anyone in that age bracket who might be interested? Please contact Colin Pye [colinmpye@gmail.com](mailto:colinmpye@gmail.com) for the discount code.  
<http://baptistassembly.org.uk/tickets>

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING:** see website for booking.

The level 3 (trustees) event at Southcourt (Aylesbury) and the level 2 (volunteers) events at Hitchin and Broughton are all now fully booked.

Venues for the forthcoming months will be circulated shortly.

**JOINT YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT:** for the EBA, CBA and EMBA 21-22 April 2020 at Buckden Towers. More details at: <https://www.easternbaptist.org.uk/event/youth-leaders-retreat/>