



May 2017

Email circular May 2017

NEWS

FOOTSTEPS: THE Footsteps WORSHIP course planned to begin shortly in Chesham has been postponed. Watch out for details of its new dates in due course.

ASSOCIATION MINISTERS'

CONFERENCE: Invitations have recently been sent to ministers about booking for the Central Baptist Association Ministers' Conference in October 2017. If you have not received one, and you think that you ought, please get in touch with Geoff Colmer.



COMING SOON TO A POLLING STATION NEAR YOU.....

You might have noticed that there's going to be a general election. With just six weeks to go, we (JPIT) are working to produce a range of resources to help you in your reflection, discussion and decision making around the election. Ultimately we want all our Church members to feel informed and well equipped as they walk into their local polling station and cast their ballot.

Hot off the press is '[Holding a Question Time Meeting or Election Hustings](#)', a resource offering guidance for holding a hustings in your constituency. We have also produced '[This is a time... reflections on the general election](#)' which provides six reflections on key biblical themes. You may wish to use these for personal reflection, to read out at Church (there are six Sundays until June 8th and six reflections after all), or they could be used in small group discussion.

There are more resources on their way, including an issues briefing and hustings guidance, so please do keep an eye on our #GE2017 webpage:

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/general-election-june-2017/

HOME MISSION GIVING: Thank you for your continued generosity in giving to Home Mission. The total to the end of March was £64.546 as against £54.942 for the same period in 2016.

VILLAGE FESTIVAL: Gretton Christian Festival: May 19th-21st. with Tom Rawls and Martyn Thorne plus worship band Light Wave. Also Messy Church and men's and Ladies' Breakfasts. For more info contact secretary@grettonbaptist.org.uk

CHURCH CLOSURE: With thanks to God for the past witness, worship and community service, we note with sadness that Earls Barton Baptist church in Northamptonshire held its final service on April 23rd.

STAGING WANTED: Belmont Road Baptist Church in Hemel Hempstead is looking to buy some used modular staging for our work with young people. We can collect - is there a Church looking to dispose of some? Contact Mrs Jen Balding on 01442 769913 or minister.belmontroad@ntlworld.com

PEOPLE

MINISTRY:

- **Kevin White** has been called to the pastorate at Spurgeons, Bletchley.
- **Ricky Rew** leaves Spurgeons for Rayleigh Baptist church.
- **Kevin Price** will move to Wellsprings LEP in Wirksworth in the summer

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS: Geoff Colmer's Freeserve account is closing at the end of May, so be advised if you contact Geoff by email, please use geoffreycolmer@gmail.com

BAPTIST UNION: We are pleased to note that the **Rev David Gregory** of Croxley Green Baptist church has been elected as Vice President of the Baptist Union 2017/8 and President 2018/19

ASSOCIATION COUNCIL: We are pleased to note that (subject to ratification at the Assembly in June, **Andrew Openshaw** (Herts) and **David Warrington** (Northants) have been elected to serve on the Association Council from the Assembly.

REPRESENTATIVE REQUIRED: I will be standing down as a Director of Baptist Union Corporation later this year. BUC is the body which deals with loans, property, trusts and legal issues and so forth. The role includes attending a day meeting at Didcot three times a year (travel expenses paid) and the availability to make other visits relating to applications for loans within Central Baptist Association (perhaps one a year on average).

Whilst a Director does not have to have legal training, or finance qualifications, or understand trust issues, or have HR skills, the person representing the Association will need to be able to participate appropriately in the discussions at BUC meetings and process the issues under discussion, so as to feedback information to the Association that will help our trustees do their job more effectively. The term of office is three years with a second period possible to maximum six years consecutive service.

If you are aware of someone who would be interested and good for this position, please get in touch with me. We will ask for a statement setting out what makes the person a good choice, or to have a further conversation about what is involved, please also get back to me. Stephen Copson

YOUTH WORKER POST:

Union Baptist Church is looking for someone dynamic, creative and passionate about God to join our lively church at the heart of multicultural High Wycombe. The current youth work is vibrant and varied, and includes work with Sunday morning and evening groups, a weekly bible study, a weekly Youth Club (Chill), an annual summer trip to Soul Survivor, weekend away and links with Bucks New University and a growing young adults group. We have contact with up to 40 young people a week. The work is well supported by the Church, and an experienced team of volunteers is in place. You will head these up, as well as initiating new ideas and reaching out to others through various events. You will be involved in discipleship, pastoring, evangelism and teaching, but also be encouraged to work with the Church Leadership Team to develop new avenues in our youth ministry and develop the initial stages of links with students in Bucks New University.

We offer you the opportunity to be part of a great team, working with an experienced Minister, staff team and Gap Year worker. We offer a package of personal training and development, 5 weeks annual leave per annum and a salary up to £25,000 p.a.

We believe that God wants to do an exciting work amongst the young people of High Wycombe, and we need the right person to be part of what God has in store. If you believe you are that person, contact the church office on cam@unionbaptist.org.uk for the job description, person specification and other information.

Application should be via detailed CV, together with a covering statement which shows how you fit the requirements of the post. The statement must also clearly detail your conversion and subsequent journey of faith. Closing date: 31st May 2017. Union Baptist Church, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 1NJ. Tel: 01494 473889 email: administrator@unionbaptist.org.uk.

ANOTHER YOUTH WORKER POST: Applications are invited for the position of a part time Christian Youth Leader to develop an established Youth Ministry at Bluntisham Baptist Church, in a rural area of Cambridgeshire. <http://www.bluntishambaptist.org/>

We are a growing church with a clear vision for the future and we are excited about establishing a youth leader role as part of that vision. The successful candidate will continue the youth work at the church and surrounding communities, and develop the youth ministry in line with the job description requirements and our vision for youth: Our vision is to enable young people to understand and see who Jesus is. That our young people will know what it is to live for Him and to become strong Christians through a personal faith.

The post is for 15 hours per week and will involve evening and weekend work. Salary is £10,000 per annum. The full job description can be obtained from our church administrator. The jobholder must be a practising Christian. Applicants should submit their CV, together with a short covering letter setting out their reasons for applying for this position, to our church administrator: Mrs Michelle Gore, Bluntisham Baptist Church, High Street, Bluntisham, Huntingdon PE28 3LD. Email: michelle.gore@bluntishambaptist.org Telephone: 01487 843538

Closing date for applications is Monday 5th June 2017 with interviews for shortlisted candidates taking place during the weekend of 30th June and 2nd July 2017. If you would like an informal chat about this post, please contact the minister: Rev Tim Williamson on 01487 840623 or email him at tim@bluntishambaptist.org

RESOURCES

LISTED BUILDINGS: The *Financial Times* reported on 1 April that the Heritage Lottery Fund is to end its £25m Grants for Places of Worship fund in 2018: grants for the maintenance of church buildings will instead come out of its overall heritage programme. The HLF, part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, told the *FT* that church organisations would still be able to apply for funding for repairs and it would target a similar amount of spending for churches and other religious buildings. The last deadline for new project submissions will be **August** for decisions in November / December. For 2018, churches will need to compete with other heritage and community projects through the 'Our Heritage' (grants £10,000 - £100,000) or 'Heritage Grants' (over £100,000) programmes. Whilst this decision will be subject to representations, churches thinking of applying might well sharpen their pencils....

JPIT: Conversation Welcome and Article 50: After the triggering of Article 50 on 29 March, there is a natural level of uncertainty about what our country's future might look like. As a result, we have launched our brand new resource, Conversation Welcome, which invites Church members to take part in constructive conversations about the sort of society we wish to live in - whether we voted to 'leave' or to 'remain' in the EU referendum.

The resource, suitable for groups of any size, is structured around four questions:

What sort of society do we want to leave for future generations?

How should we treat others?

How should we use our resources?

How should we make decisions?

To download the whole pack, which includes prayers, discussion questions, reflections and videos, [see our Conversation Welcome webpage](#).

ASSOCIATION GRANTS: The next deadline for Central Baptist Association **grant applications** is September 22nd. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins.

ASSOCIATION CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION: Churches will shortly receive the latest issue of the Association Newsletter. Please make sure that this is seen by people in your church. Any comments about content, presentation, format and so forth are very welcome – you may be encouraging or wish to suggest improvements. We want to make sure that this publication is effective, informative and helpful for churches. Please contact Colin Pye on colinmpye@gmail.com. And remember to check out from time to time the Association website for information, news and views.

EVENTS

BUCKS FORUM GATHERING: Sunday 21st May,
Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham at 6.30pm. All
welcome.



ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY: The Association Assembly happens on Saturday June 17th at Whaddon Way Church in Bletchley. Churches have been invited to send representatives and other attenders. The speaker is the Rev Dianne Tidball, President of the Baptist Union.

TRAINING FOR DISCIPLESHIP: Footsteps: this training course for church and congregation members jointly organised by the Association and Regent's Park College has now released the brochure for 2017/18. See what is available on Footsteps 1, Footsteps 2 and Footsteps Pathways days on <http://centralba.org.uk/ministry/953-2/>.

SAFEGUARDING: There is a level 2 course for workers with children & young people/adults at risk at Little Kingshill near High Wycombe on Saturday June 24th. There are a few places left. To book, contact Stephen Copson

