



November 2017

NEWS

SMALL CHURCH DAY 11th Nov 'Let's Talk Mission' has been CANCELLED - In the light of low numbers booking, the decision was taken to cancel the day. Apologies to those who were hoping to come, but as one of the real benefits of these days comes from the 'cross fertilisation' of experience and ideas, it was felt best to not to proceed at this point. It is always possible for this to be re-scheduled, so please do let Colin Pye know (colinmpye@gmail.com) of your interest.

MONEY AVAILABLE: a reminder that the Gale Family Trust makes small grants (£1.000-£2.000) for projects by Association Baptist churches in Bedfordshire, and a particular remit to fund small building work, repairs or maintenance. To apply, please get in touch with the Trust via Mr Alistair Law, Northwood House, 138 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK40 2QW alistair.law@garnerassociates.co.uk Tel: 01234 354508.

HOLY LAND TOUR: David Ronco (Hertford) is leading another of his popular introductory trips to the Holy Land in April 2019 (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 a brochure for this next one visit www.baptistwinningisrael.org.uk or contact David on dcronco@gmail.com

MURSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH (just south of Milton Keynes) has decided to close. There is a collection of chapel artefacts that the church is willing to pass on to anyone that is interested, and willing to collect. The list falls largely under the headings: * Church Fixtures & Fittings; * Communion Items; * Crockery, etc., * Bibles, Hymn Books, etc. If you do have an interest please get in touch with Stephen Copson for a full list.

BERKHAMSTED BAPTIST CHURCH has a fold-up portable screen/room divider surplus to requirements. Individual sections are 180cm high and 61cm wide. There are seven sections. Contact Ruth Montacute on ruth.montacute@ntlworld.com Suggested donation £50.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING:

- Level 2 at Park Road Baptist church (Rushden) on the morning of **Saturday 25th November.**
- Level 3 at Sundon Park BC, Luton on the morning of **Saturday 25th November.**

To reserve places, please get in touch with Stephen Copson / further details + application forms can be found on the web site www.centralba.org.uk/ministry/safeguarding

FINANCE: Giving to Home Mission: For funds to be included in the 2017 target it is important that if paying by cheque these are received by our Treasurer, Karen Hopkins by **Friday 15th December** in order to clear the account and be transferred to the Baptist Union by year end. All on line transfers should be done by **Thursday 21st December**.

Home mission giving by the Association churches to the end of September was £190,600, down from £222,313 in the 2016 equivalent period. Experience suggests that a significant part of the appeal arrives in the last quarter of the calendar year, and whilst we thank churches for these donations so far, we hope that it will be possible to get near to the 2016 final total of £329,478. Nationally the September total was £2,522.625 as against £2,509.913 in 2016.

PEOPLE

- Stephen Plummer has moved into the association and is working as a Chaplain at a MHA Care Home in Shefford.
- Kevin White will be inducted to the pastorate at Spurgeons Bletchley in November.
- Nikki Jenkins is no longer a co-opted member of the Association Council as she stands down from Baptist Union Council.
- Marjorie Johnston has been confirmed as the Bucks resident Council member.

RESOURCES

FROM THE CHARITY COMMISSION: *Getting external scrutiny of charities right*
Charity trustees have a legal duty to have an external scrutiny of the charity's accounts once the income goes over £25,000. The options are audit, or if small enough, independent examination. We've recently published new [directions and guidance for independent examiners CC32](#), which are effective from 1 December 2017. Trustees should make sure that your examiner has a copy of the new guidance. Examiners need to follow CC32 to carry out the examination properly.
For more information on the accounting, reporting and external scrutiny requirements read [charity reporting and accounting: the essentials \(CC15d\)](#).

GRANTS: Applications for any of the Association grants should be received by the Treasurer by January 5th 2018. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, or downloadable from the Association website www.centralba.org.uk/grants/

OPPORTUNITIES: Free Churches Group advertises for chaplaincies and occasional volunteer roles with local education oversight structures. See <https://www.freechurches.org.uk/vacancies/>

FAITH and POLITICS: partners or apart?

The Joint Public Issues Team has produced some material "The Art of the Possible" for study in groups. It can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/ya4l423r>



Art of the possible

CHARITABLE STATUS: Want to explore the possibilities of Charitable Incorporated Organisation status for your church? See here

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/507646/Charitable_Incorporated_Organisation.aspx?redirected=1

EVENTS

BRIDGE BUILDERS will be running their next residential *Transforming Church Conflict* course on the **4 – 9 February 2018** at Felden Lodge in Hertfordshire. Please note the early bird rate for this course is **£840**, offering a **£80 discount** which expires on **26th November 2017**, which includes all training materials, accommodation, meals and refreshments for the week.

The course is designed for anyone within a church leadership role (lay or ordained) who would like to develop new skills in handling tension and difference within their communities. See here for details:

<https://www.bbministries.org.uk/course/transforming-church-conflict-a-foundation-course-for-church-leaders-6/>

The aims for the course are::

1. To **develop leadership skills** in handling tension and conflict
2. To **increase participants' self-awareness**;
3. To **transform participants' attitude** towards conflict, and to give greater confidence for engaging with tensions and conflicts in church life; and
4. To **equip participants with practical skills and tools**.

Y-PRAY? 4th-6th May 2018. An exciting weekend conference for younger women at the Kings Park Centre, Northampton. What do you get if you put a guest speaker, a gifted worship leader and young Christian women in one place for a weekend? You have prayer and praise, laughter and tears, thinking and speaking, sharing and caring. You have Y-Pray!

'I thoroughly enjoyed the last conference – I left with ideas for new ways to pray, and I'm looking forward to 2018.' (Rhianyd, 25, student)

Y-Pray means why pray? Take a moment in your hectic life to meet to develop a stronger prayer life. Y-Pray? Means youth pray – join other young women from all denominations in a weekend of sharing prayer. Keynote speaker for 2018 is Emily Owen - with her humour and amazing testimony to God's grace through times of severe ill-health she is an inspiration. Incredible entertainment is provided by Steve Price, one of Britain's top illusionists, who will amaze you with his conjuring and challenge you with his heavenly perspective. Our worship leader is Helen Pollard, whose great musical gifts and spiritual approach will help us raise our voices and hearts to God.

Places are limited so book now! Visit www.wwdp.org.uk/ or contact Mary Judd at office@wwdp.org.uk

Y-PRAY is sponsored by the Women's World Day of Prayer – England, Wales and Northern Ireland