



CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

walking together in ministry & mission

Email Update

November 2019

NEWS

LATEST PRAYER FOCUS 9: Carey Baptist Church, Hemel Hempstead

“Carey has just celebrated 340 years of Baptist witness in Hemel Hempstead. We celebrated in some style with food from around the world and with a special anniversary cake made by Jailza from Brazil, who has been recently joining us, with her son, at Sunday worship..” cont'd
For full prayer focus + PowerPoint download go to this link <http://centralba.org.uk/prayer-focus/>

COMMUNION: If anyone is interested in plastic communion cups, Stephen Copson has a few hundred donated by a member church. If you interested please contact Stephen Copson.

PROPHETIC ART: A reminder for those who attended the Minister’s conference: We had the privilege of having **Steph Phillips** from Amphill Baptist Church with us, who demonstrated to us something of her calling in **prophetic art** which blessed us enormously (see here for an article in CENTRAL NEWS about something of her story <http://centralba.org.uk/steph-phillips/>). Steph says “I can be commissioned to paint live, but my heart is to encourage and grow and develop others in their creativity so they can change atmospheres and bring the Kingdom ...my artistic creativity is the vehicle I use to do that – for others it will be different and I love encouraging God’s family to step out in what God has created them to be!”

PEOPLE

- **Ruth and Joe Egan** were inducted as co-pastors at Tring High Street Baptist Church on November 2nd.
- **Fiona Souter** (Church of England) will be licensed in Hatfield at the end of November to serve as the Ecumenical Chaplain at the University of Hertfordshire.

RESOURCES

HOME MISSION GIVING 2019 – YEAR END DEADLINES: To ensure Home Mission from your church is accounted for in 2019 please can you ensure that cheques are sent to be received by the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, **by Wednesday 18th December**. Online giving needs to be set up

to be in the CBA account **by Monday 23rd December**. Thank you to all for your continued support for Home Mission.

DREAM GRANT: At the last CBA assembly we introduced **the Dream Grant**, which made available £40K over the next 12 months to the churches of the CBA for imaginative / creative missional 'dreams' or what has been called missional adventure. The first batch have now been agreed for nearly £12k in total, including grants **towards** a portable baptismal pool, vintage messy church, anniversary day celebrations, a parish nurse, and a family & community worker. We will be welcoming applications for further grants in the near future, and should you wish to apply, please see the information here <http://centralba.org.uk/grants/> where you can also see links to other possible grants.

Application forms for grants are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins, or downloaded from the website www.centralba.org.uk. For a bursary grant only available to accredited ministers, contact Karen for a form.

The deadline for the next consideration of Central Baptist Association **grant applications** is January 10th 2020.

GRANTS FOR EVANGELISM: The Baptist Insurance Company makes grants to churches for evangelistic projects. For more information, go to https://www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/grants/?utm_source=Communicator-email&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Untitled4&utm_campaign=BIC+Oct+19+%5bTEST%5d

EVENTS

BUCKS FORUM EVENT: TURNING THE TIDE: Creating a Wave of Prayer throughout the region. An evening of worship, prayer & inspiration for the region as we prepare ourselves and our churches for the beginning of Advent, Sunday 24th November, Holmer Green Baptist Church, HP15 6TD. 7pm (6:30pm for refreshments)

HOLY LAND TOUR 2020: David Ronco (Hertford) is leading another of his popular introductory trips to the Holy Land next year from November 4th to 12th. 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 more information, visit www.baptisttwinningisrael.org.uk or contact David on dcronco@gmail.com.

DIGEST OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 17th 2019.

The first part of the meeting was given over to a presentation by Adam Long of 7IM, the investment broker used by the Association. This is part of the trustees' prudent monitoring of the assets of the Association. Adam reported that 2019 had seen some volatility in domestic and global markets and 2020 would also probably bring some uncertainties. Nonetheless, trustees were pleased to note that the investment was performing to the agreed level of return.

Karen Hopkins introduced a budget for 2020 that continued the employment of three regional ministers plus support for organisations through subscriptions and donations and also maintained the level of grants programme. This produced a projected deficit of ca £87k, not counting extraordinary receipts, but there was sufficient in reserves to enable this. Council approved the budget with thanks to Karen.

It was noted that the one-off Dream Grant had produced five varying applications for projects and grants were approved by Council; The scheme would be held open as there was still funding left from the original set-aside. Building grants were also agreed for two smaller churches for repairs & maintenance work. The schedule of categories for grants would be re-worked to be more effective and churches would be advised in due course. Finally, support was promised to the project at Houghton Regis, seeking to provide accommodation for a pioneer worker on the new housing developments there.

It was agreed to nominate the Revd Geoff Colmer as Vice-President of the Baptist Union for 2020/1, and the President in 2021/22.

A list of representatives' reports was tabled, illustrating the wide range of activities organisations and supported by the Association with capable volunteers. It was noted that a Safeguarding Trustee is still sought, and Council members and others were asked to keep this in their thoughts and prayers. Other reports were received from Geoff Colmer, Colin Pye, from David Warrington as Baptist Union Council representative and from Joy Cheang, the Safeguarding Officer.

The Council was beginning the process of looking at the coming years, reflecting on the deployment of staff and the availability of funds. The member churches would be involved in this process of discernment in good time.

It was noted that Marjorie Johnston and Alan Kerry would be available to be nominated for a second term of office as trustees. David Warrington comes to the end of his time as a trustee at Assembly 2020. An application for membership had been received, and visitors appointed.

SLC October 2019