



CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

walking together in ministry & mission

Email Update

November 2020

NEWS

THE WORLD WE ARE IN.....

Remember to keep an eye on the Baptist Union website – www.baptist.org.uk for updates on Coronavirus advice.

SIT VAC: Broadway Baptist Church in Chesham is seeking to appoint a dedicated and enthusiastic person to the vital role of Youth and Families Worker, to help us further develop God's plan for our Church and town. The closing date is 9th November, 2020. Further details can be found at www.broadwaybaptist.org.uk/jobs, where you will find an application form and a person specification.

PEOPLE

- We welcome **Amanda Pink**, who has joined the chaplaincy team at Milton Keynes University Hospital. **Laura Gimeno** (Great Ashby, Stevenage) has settled in Spain, where she hopes to continue mission work with Spanish Baptists.
- We note at the end of September the death at the age of 99 of **Leslie Jones**, who was a stalwart in lay preaching and pastoring in Hertfordshire over many years, as well as supporting the committees of the old association. We thank God for his faithful service and remember his family in our prayers.

CBA COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Nominations are now being sought from churches for the available places on the Association Council from AGM 2021– residential for Beds and North Bucks plus “skills & experience” places. Please give prayerful thought to this process.

RESOURCES

HOME MISSION: The giving to Home Mission from Central Baptist Association churches up the end of October was £ 218,524 (£183,121 in 2019). Thank you all for your continued generosity, in

particular at this time of great uncertainty and disruption to church life. The 2020 target for CBA is £310k.

Nationally, HM giving is roughly holding to 2019 levels, but a disproportionate percentage of the final total has previously appeared in the last three months.

CBA GRANTS & LOANS: The next deadline for Central Baptist Association **grant and loan applications** is **January 11th 2021**. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Roy Farrant on roy.farrant@centralba.org.uk or can be downloaded from the Association website.

FOR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS: Riding Lights has produced their acclaimed children's show The Selfish Giant on film. Presented in three 15 minute episodes, The Selfish Giant on film can be used for a watch-along party with children's groups, holiday clubs, primary schools or youth organisations tied to churches safely at home. As we look to an unusual Christmas after an extremely lonely and disorientating year for children, this film is a fantastic treat to give to the primary aged children and their families in the lead-up to Christmas.

The film explores the value of friendship and kindness towards each other through storytelling, puppets, original songs and humour, and is adapted from the classic children's story by Oscar Wilde. It's very cost effective no matter the size of the young community, making it a great option for churches both large and small. More information and how to order the film is attached or can be found on our website: <https://ridinglights.org/the-selfish-giant/>

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EVENTS

ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN: Regent's Park College is delighted to be offering an online Advent retreat for women in the Central Baptist Association on Saturday 28th November, 9.30am till 1.00pm. Tickets cost £15. The Birth of a Dancing Star will be led by Revd Jane Day, Tutor for Community Learning. The morning will offer creativity and a safe space for all who want to spend time in the presence of God in an online community. There will be times on and off screen with led activities. For more information and to book please contact Jane Day

atjane.day@regents.ox.ac.uk. Book a place via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/birth-of-a-dancing-star-online-advent-retreat-tickets-123297475067>

WOMEN IN BAPTIST MINISTRY: The Angus Library in Oxford is hosting a Zoom webinar drawing on resources held in the library. You may be interested in joining a session "What's Christ got to do with it? Exploring a Baptist Theological Statement on Women in Ministry" on Thursday 5th November, 7.30pm (London) with Gale Richards. If this is of interest, contact Christine Joynes on christine.joynes@regents.ox.ac.uk for access details.

DIGEST OF CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION COUNCIL October 2020

It was good to welcome back Carol Murray after several months to chair the meeting. Alan Kerry was thanked for acting as Moderator. It was also great to have Geoff Colmer attend, as he eases back into work. The meeting was again in Zoom format.

There were two presentations. One was the annual report by 7IM, the investment brokers. It was noted that the value of investments had increased since inception beyond comparable ways of gaining income.

The second presentation was by Andrew Ginn (Bunyan, Stevenage) and Garry Steel (Desborough) who spoke enthusiastically about a new leadership training course for millennials

[Equip] being developed between Central, Southern Counties Association and Regents Park College. It is hoped that the course will begin in September 2021.

Due to the restrictions on meeting, the Annual Assembly and Ministers' Conference had been held online and appreciative comments had been received, with thanks to Colin Pye for his hard work.

The Treasurer reported a surplus of income over expenditure to the end of September of ca £78k, due largely to the receipt of funds from a closed church. The budget for 2021 was adopted with a projected deficit of ca £120k, which would enable the Association to provide funds for Home Mission grants, maintain the current grants and loan programme, support Footsteps and Equip courses, pay the annual grants and subscriptions, and permit the continued employment of the Regional Ministry Team.

It was also noted that a process of review was underway, including canvassing opinion from churches and minister, to inform discussions and decisions about the shape of the future Regional Ministry Team and priorities of the association.

Council agreed to support the pioneer initiative by an ecumenically-based charity for the new housing developments in Houghton Regis by helping to enable the provision of accommodation for a pioneer and a Home Mission grant for the work.

Other grants were agreed for Bunyan, Stevenage and Haddenham-cum-Dinton to support building projects and a Dream Grant to Life Church, Cuffley to help provide facilities for a Community Hub.

It was noted that the Footsteps training programme would be started again in September 2021. The impact of the pandemic would also be felt in the delay of the full introduction of new procedures for Home Mission grants.

Reports were received from the Safeguarding Officer, a pastoral report on churches, annual reports from those representing the association on other bodies and a report from Colin Pye, who was thanked for his steady flow of communications over spring and summer.

Nominations for Council places for Beds and North Bucks were invited and 5 places under the "Skills & Experience" are open to nomination too. It was hoped that churches would prayerfully consider this process.