



October 2018

NEWS

SAFEGUARDING POST: Central Baptist Association is seeking to appoint a Safeguarding Officer, who will take a lead on safeguarding for children, young people and adults at risk. The post holder's responsibilities will include overseeing the provision of training events using the Baptist Union Excellence in Safeguarding programme, offering appropriate advice to enquirers, liaising with Baptist Union network of safeguarding co-ordinators and Baptist Union Safeguarding Team, and supporting a team of local trainers. There will be liaison with the Regional Minister who holds the Safeguarding brief.

The role will be mainly home-based at an average of 8 hours per week (0.2FTE) at £5.000 pa plus necessary expenses.

For a detailed job specification or an application form, please contact Stephen Copson on stephen.c@centralba.org.uk Closing date for applications is October 12th. Interviews will be held on October 24th in Newport Pagnell.

FOOTSTEPS TRAINING: Due to a lack of participants, Footsteps 2 will not run this academic year. Footsteps 1 will continue as before and there will be Footsteps Pathways days organised as well.

CBA DIRECTORY: After a delay the 2018/19 Association Directory will shortly be available. Each church receives one free copy. If you would like a copy for yourself or an extra copy for your church please contact Stephen Copson. The price is £3.50 incl p & p.

PEOPLE

- **Martin Ceaser** to Biggleswade
- **Matt Cliff** to Chenies
- **Ian Hendry** to Stanton Road
- **Ali Taylor** to Bunyan Stevenage
- **Mike Yates** to Sandy
- **Kathy Williamson** to Welwyn Garden City, Howlands.
- **Amanda Pink** has concluded her ministry at Haddenham-cum-Dinton.

EXCHANGE OFFER:

Dear brother or sister in Christ,

I am a senior pastor in Evansville, Wisconsin – USA. I serve at a Baptist Church called Oak Grove Church. Our congregation has been independent since 2000 when our denomination (American Baptist Church) stepped away from the authority of God's Word in ways we (& other local ABC congregations) could not support. I've been ordained by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Like the Baptist Union in the UK, our ministry has implemented a sabbatical for the pastor every seventh year. This coming summer will be 7 years since I last had a sabbatical. (I'm in the 13th year of service at Oak Grove.) As I was researching sabbatical opportunities and resources I came upon the very helpful *Baptists Together* document "Sabbatical Leave – Information for Ministers.pdf" to which I agree.

I am contacting you in the possibility that I and another pastor/family planning a sabbatical in 2019 may be able to swap locations for some portion of the summer of 2019. I'm open to discussion and certainly have my own questions. My church's website is: www.oakgrovechurch.com

At the outset, I'd like you to know that Oak Grove Church is a vibrant congregation founded in 1856 and deeply rooted in Christ. We would welcome a guest preacher at times, but would not necessarily need his services in the pulpit or pastorally. We have several elders who regularly preach & will be filling the pastoral needs of our growing congregation during my absence. The pastor and his family would have use of my home, library and car/van during his stay in the USA. Evansville is a smaller city (5,000 people) in a quiet rural setting. We are a 30 minute drive to Madison our state capital, 60 minute drive to the Wisconsin Dells (a water park and outdoor tourist location) and 2 hours from Chicago. I have 7 children ages 2 to 18, so our home can accommodate a larger family.

Get in touch with Stephen Copson if you would like to have contact details.

RESOURCES

GRANT APPLICATIONS: The next deadline for Central Baptist Association grant applications is January 7th, 2019. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Karen Hopkins.

ALL CHURCHES TRUST LTD: This trust is connected to the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and makes grants to churches between £500 to £5000. For full range of projects, see www.allchurches.co.uk

GALE TRUST: This charity makes grants of £1.000-£2.00 to Baptist churches in Bedfordshire, usually for building repairs and maintenance. Contact Stephen Copson for details.

EVENTS

BELIEF (BEDFORD): "Faith, Work and Christian Discipleship" Starts on Wednesday 3rd October and runs to 14th November, excluding Wednesday 24th October, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at St. Andrews Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF. The course Tutor is John Weaver. Cost £5 per person per session.

CRUCIBLE: After 13 years based at IMC in Birmingham, the Crucible course launches in **Exeter** in October and London in **November**. The first module to be taught in both centres is '**After Christendom**' – an opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities of our changing culture. How do we share our faith authentically and effectively now that the church is a minority community on the margins of a plural society?

The first module will run over two Saturdays at South Street Baptist Church in Exeter and Spurgeon's College in London.

We are also partnering with Peaceful Borders to offer a **Practical Peacemaking Module** at Spurgeon's on the **10th November** and **8th December**. This is booked separately [here](#).

The course is open to anyone interested in thinking afresh about discipleship, mission and church in a changing context. More information at www.cruciblecourse.org.uk or from [Rachel Jay](#)

PUPPET MINISTRY: Held at Rugby College (CV21 1AR) on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd November 2018, join One Way UK at their biggest event of the year! The European Puppet and Creative Arts Festival is for everyone, adults and children, who want to learn how to share the Gospel of Christ using their creative skills. With over 80 exciting workshops to choose from, two and a half hours of spectacular main stage performances, six competitions, an enormous range of creative arts resources on display and so much more, it's going to be an incredible two days. There is a brilliant set of workshop leaders confirmed for this year's event including: NEW for 2018 - Branden Treu (puppeteer), Mark Shortland (illusionist), Play It By Ear (drama) and Sue Greene (under 5's ministry). Also leading workshops: Bob Hartman, Shane Rootes, Bob Goody (Scripture Union), Tony Vino, Steve & Kay Morgan-Gurr, Dave Hellyer, Lynn McCann (Reachout ASC), Dr Lesley Gray, Jason Westmoreland, Matthew Gray and more! Visit www.onewayuk.com/festival for the full list of workshop leaders.

CBA ADVENT QUIET DAY: On Wednesday 5 December 2018 we are holding a CBA Advent Quiet Day for Ministers at Carey Baptist Church, Moulton, (West Street, Moulton, NN3 7SB), beginning at 10.00am with coffee and concluding at 3.30pm. The purpose of the day is to respond to the invitation of Jesus, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' Mark 6v31, with an opportunity to focus especially on the season of Advent. There will be some input but the day will offer space and quiet for reflection and prayer, a day not so much doing but being. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring a lunch. The cost of the day is £5. Please email geoffreycolmer@gmail.com so that we are aware of numbers attending.

REFLECTIONS OF LIFE AND FAITH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING: Sunday 21st October, 3pm at London Colney Baptist Church. Free Entry. More details from londoncolneybc@gmail.com