



September 2017

NEWS

FOOTSTEPS:

- **SATURDAY SESSIONS** The new session of Footsteps training course begins on Saturday September 16th in Milton Keynes. It is not too late to book. Please see the Association website for details and application form. Association training grants are available to those participating in the course.
- **PATHWAY COURSE: DEVELOPING PREACHING SKILLS:** course at Croxley Green on Wednesdays at 8pm from September 27th. See website for details and how to book.
- **PATHWAY DAY: NOVEMBER 18th.** John Weaver speaks on "Forces of faith: approaching science with confidence". See Association website for details and booking form.

FOOTSTEPS PATHWAY COURSES *Training in Local Church Life and Mission*
CBA in partnership with Regent's Park College

Developing Preaching Skills

a seven week course
at Croxley Green Baptist Church,
225 Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, WD3 3LH

- ◆ for those experienced in preaching and those just beginning
- ◆ looking at the principles of preaching God's Word
- ◆ developing skills and confidence for effective preaching

Wednesday 8pm for 8.10pm till 9.45pm
27th September
4th and 18th October
1st, 8th, 15th and 29th November

LED BY REVD ANDREW OPENSHAW,
MINISTER OF NEW MILL BAPTIST CHURCH, TRING

£50 for the course (£40 if unwaged)
Book church group of 4 (£200) - 5th place free

For more details and application forms go to the Central Baptist Association website, or contact Church Facilitator, Croxley Green Baptist Church, office@croxleybaptist.co.uk, 01923 710780 or Anne Lane, Tutor in Community Learning, RPC, Oxford, anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2017

FORCES OF FAITH! APPROACHING SCIENCE WITH CONFIDENCE

REV. JOHN WEAVER, FORMER PRINCIPAL OF SOUTH WALES BAPTIST COLLEGE,
CHAIR OF THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE, CONNECTING ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY

Exploring conversations to discover faith's positive answers to the questions raised by science

- In what ways can the Bible and Science speak with each other?
- What does the Christian faith have to contribute to today's 'hot topics' such as renewable energy, fracking and genetic engineering
- Can science offer us an understanding of suffering in an imperfect world?

OPEN TO EVERYONE living out their faith in local churches and communities
£33 [see booking form for concessions] Bring your lunch, drinks provided
The Church of Christ the King, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HG
9.30 am for 10.00 am till 4.15 pm

Further details and application form on CBA website or from Anne Lane, Tutor in Community Learning, Regent's Park College, anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk, 01276 785068 or 07986 323909

a FOOTSTEPS initiative

SAFEGUARDING:

- **VERIFYING:** Please note that Baptist Union accredited ministers or lay pastors should not have DBS clearance processed by their church. Please contact one of the Regional Ministers to arrange this. The DDC list of categories will not allow churches to complete an application for ministers. Please ensure that your church's verifier/s do not mix up the categories.

- **TRAINING:** The level 2 training course at Southcourt Aylesbury on September 9th is now full. There are still places on the level 3 training course at Newport Pagnell on September 30th. Please contact Stephen Copson to reserve places.

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION: The latest Annual Report presented at the AGM in June 2017 is on the Association website.

BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME: There are still places available at the information morning being presented by a representative of the Baptist Union Employers Group. This happens on Saturday September 9th from 9.30am at Christ Church, Stantonbury in Milton Keynes. Please get in touch with Stephen Copson if you intend to come.

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE – not too late for Ministers to book in



For more information and to check on available spaces please contact Susan Garvin at SmtSdg@aol.com

PEOPLE

- **Laura Gimeno** has become a final year In-Pastorate minister-in-training at Great Ashby, Stevenage.
- **Jackie Buie** and **Stephen Walker-Williams** have completed their College-based courses and continue in the ministry team at Goldhill.
- In September **Jonny Fillis** joins the ministry team at St Dagnall Street, St Albans and **Andrew Clark** at Hertford.
- At Christchurch Welwyn Garden City, **Beckah Boreham** will start as Youth Ministry Leader in October.
- **Richard Allwood** retires from Princes Risborough in September and **Martin Shorey** moved from Ramridge Luton to Horley Baptist church at the end of August.
- The **Association Safeguarding group** is keen to identify people with the requisite skills and experience to present Safeguarding sessions using Baptist Union material. If you are interested, have a word with Stephen Copson stephen.c@centralba.org.uk or 01462 442548

RESOURCES

FINANCE & GRANTS: Application forms for the various grant categories are available on the Central Baptist Association website. The next deadline for applications to be considered is September 22nd.

HOME MISSION GIVING: Thank you for your continued support for Baptist Home Mission which makes ministry possible in churches, chaplaincies, Associations and Baptist Union. The total that CBA churches have given in 2017 amounts to £148.466. The equivalent figure for 2016 was £142.794. Keep giving, keep praying!

GRANTS FOR BOOKS: Help your community explore the Christian faith – grants for Christian books for any library, “in fact anywhere they can be borrowed and enjoyed”. Next deadline for application is mid October 2017. See www.speakingvolumes.org.uk

READING FOR MINISTRY (from Paul Beasley-Murray): Almost six months ago all the regional team leaders kindly sent out a letter from me inviting the ministers in their care to take part in a survey of the reading habits of Baptist ministers. The analysis took me more time than I anticipated. Indeed, it was only at the end of last week that I was able to finalise my almost 20,000 word report which is now lodged on my website (www.paulbeasleymurray.com/reading). In due course a shorter article of just under 7000 words will appear in the *Baptist Quarterly* detailing the most significant findings. Now, with the work finished, I thought it would be right to send out a letter, thanking ministers for taking part in the survey, giving them a flavour of some of the results, and telling them where they can find more analysis and reflection, if they so desire. I have also taken the liberty of informing them about a special deal which has come about directly as a result of the survey.

CHRISTIAN AID: Some of you will have seen Andy Godfrey standing by a stall at the Association Assembly. He writes: “As the Regional Coordinator for Christian Aid in Bedfordshire I wanted to write to bring you up to date with things at C.A. and to highlight a few needs and campaigns that we are running and supporting. I am also looking for opportunities to preach and take meetings in the County. As the local rep I would love to come and visit your church – your youth group, your Men’s or Woman’s meetings – your coffee mornings or a Sunday Service to talk about our work and how you can get involved.”
Rev Andy Godfrey, Christian Aid Regional Coordinator for Bedfordshire, Tel: 07910624618
Email: AGodfrey@christian-aid.org.

EVENTS

SMALL CHURCH DAY Saturday Nov 11th

SMALL CHURCH DAY 2017

Colin Pye will be leading the day
with Carol Murray
- a conversation around mission questions
faced by smaller churches

Saturday Nov 11th

Venue: Caddington Baptist Church. LU1 4AF
9.30am (for 10am start) - 3.30pm
Cost £5 - please bring your own lunch

let's talk
MISSION

further information from colinmpye@gmail.com

AS SHARED BY THE BAPTIST UNION:

MOVEMENT DAY UK: This is a historic two day gathering of church leaders as well as leaders and practitioners (emerging and established) from many areas of society who share a heart for the transformation of their towns and cities. Baptist Minister Roger Sutton and his wife Lesley are at the heart of putting this together.

These people have a common vision - they share a passion to see their places transformed in every area of culture and that such transformation is characterised by spiritual, cultural and social change. They recognise that people and our places matter to God. They know there is a need to work together and have a joined-up approach for the sake of their places. They realise that each of us has a part to play in sharing, bearing and bringing the kingdom of God to our places.

There is a need for intentional and significant conversations around crucial subjects. What would happen if we worked more strategically together? How could our towns and cities be in 20-30 years' time? How do we imagine and work towards transformation? What is the role of the gospel and the church in this? They are working hard on getting as many people to come along as possible and have asked for our support. Bookings can be made here: <http://movementday.uk> .

BELIEF COURSE: St Albans Study Centre Course is running "An Introduction to Christian Doctrine" which is being held in conjunction with BELIEF at St Andrews Church in Bedford on Tuesday evenings from 19th September 2017.

Places are limited so please go to the website www.stalbanscathedral.org or phone 01767 890290 to book as soon as possible.

MARRIED COUPLES – GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT! Book on a Baptist Marriage Encounter weekend: 13rd – 15th October at Thatcher’s Hotel, East Horsley in Surrey. Weekends begin at 7pm on Friday with a buffet meal and end 4pm Sunday afternoon. No-one is denied a weekend because of cost. There is a booking fee. Find out more – visit www.beofme.org.uk or telephone us on 01275 839358. Every Blessing. Steve & Glynis O’Shea