



CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

walking together in ministry & mission

Email Update

Summer 2020

NEWS

WELCOME BACK: to the monthly pattern of email updates. Many thanks to Colin Pye for his informative and engaging pandemic postings over the past weeks. We hope they have been helpful.

The first thing we register is our sadness and shock over the hospitalisation for Geoff Colmer recently, and for his treatment for myeloma. We offer our prayers to Geoff and Cazz, and the rest of the family and wish them peace and every blessing as Geoff copes with the after-effects of treatment.

ASSEMBLY & AGM: In the lockdown, the Association experimented with an Assembly on YouTube and an AGM by Zoom. The Interim Moderator, Alan Kerry, oversaw proceedings. Both occasions went well, with a reasonable turnout, but inevitably lacked the human contact and conversation. The pre-recorded session (and its various elements for download) can be found via the Association YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhX3Imig0xEZrriEHQzZ_5aus9QCrG8B5

In the session, Karen Hopkins was greatly thanked for her time as the Association Treasurer. Over the summer she relocates to Cornwall to run an owl sanctuary, so when the times permit, you know where to drop in if passing

The new Treasurer is Mr Roy Farrant, a member of Christ Church, Kings Langley. We welcome Roy and hope that he will soon be familiar with the nooks and crannies of the Association, and also get to know the people involved in the churches.

Roy's contact details are 14 Le Corte Close, Kings Langley Herts WD4 9PS tel 07942 641160 and email roy.farrant@centralba.org.uk

Grace Community Church, Potters Bar, was welcomed into membership and it was noted that Forefront (Northampton) had withdrawn from membership, Eastcote had closed and Chorleywood would also soon close.

It was a pleasure to receive video-greetings from the Moderator, Carol Murray, and we were delighted to see her continuing recovery.

DIRECTORY: Regrettably the Directory carried two errors on page 1. Roy Farrant's address is 14 not 4 Le Corte Close and the telephone number for Sarah Crane should be deleted (another can be found on page 44). A copy of the (corrected) Directory can be requested from Stephen Copson at £3.50 per copy inc p&p.

RE-ENTRY.... Some churches have chosen to begin to meet again. Your church may well be discussing the possibilities of using the building for worship services, or listening to the rules if you use another facility. Many people (but not all) have yearned to get back as part of the desire for

“normal”. Please remember that each set of trustees (deacons/elders) is responsible for ensuring they follow the rules set out by HMG into their context if the decision is made to meet again in the church building.

A risk assessment and actions that flow from it is paramount. The Baptist Union website has more information. Other local churches may have their own advice from their denomination, and crucially will stand in a different relationship to the parent body than a Baptist church does to the Baptist Union. So, there may be differences in approach but the important thing is that Baptist churches must keep the health and welfare of all as the highest consideration for anyone using the premises, so that they should not be unduly exposed to risk of catching or transmitting the virus. So, don't look at what the church down the road is doing and copy it. Take time to be sure that you think this carefully through for yourselves.

PEOPLE

BETH FLEMING: We were saddened by the death of Beth Fleming, wife of David Fleming, the minister of Limbury Baptist church in Luton. We offer our prayers to David and his family, in particular as he takes up a new pastorate at Rugby in the summer.

It is a strange time, with arrivals largely unable to be marked and departures leaving without the usual farewells. However, we note:

- **Phillip Deller** was inducted to Speen
 - **Jonny Fillis** will move from Dagnall St St Albans to Haddenham-cum-Dinton in the summer
 - **James Findlow** came from Rayners Lane to Mill End Rickmansworth
 - **Joseph Forson** has settled post-Regent's Park College to The Olive Tree, Luton (Blenheim Crescent BC)
 - **Ruth Tiso** (Central Luton) was accepted on the accredited list of Baptist ministers
 - **Brian White** moved to Wollaston (with a video-induction led by Geoff Colmer)
 - **Steve Wood** begins as senior pastor at Newport Pagnell, where he has been a minister-in-training.
-
- **Patrick Barker** moves from Park Road Rushden to Tiverton;
 - **David Fleming** leaves for Rugby Baptist church
 - **Arderne Gillies** leaves Chorleywood for retirement
 - **Paul Knight** left Tove Valley for retirement
 - **Fiona Penny** stepped aside from pastoral ministry to focus on her and Matt's newly adopted children
 - **Philip Winn** moved from Milton Keynes for retirement.

PREACHING: **Rev. Pauline West**, retired Baptist minister, now in membership at the Abbey Centre is available for preaching engagements. Her contract details are telephone 01604 760194
Email: paulinewest0140@talktalk.net

RESOURCES

SAFEGUARDING AND TRAUMA: In these times of uncertainty and unprecedented changes in COVID-19 lockdown and in recognition of the impact of loss of life and racial injustice, following the tragic death of George Floyd, we are more conscious than ever of the impact of trauma on both our society and our church communities.

This resource offers a simple exploration of trauma informed practice. It is intended as a support for those in ministry and pastoral care, including DPSs and Safeguarding Trustees, to build our shared understanding of how trauma affects the people that we serve and our own church communities. This training was recently offered to all regional safeguarding leads within Baptists Together and we were keen together to share some of this learning with our churches. It will also be offered out to all accredited Baptist ministers as part of their safeguarding training for this year.

Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/RVjTbTKdn1c>

This resource is not intended to train colleagues in churches to deliver trauma informed support. Instead it will help to identify where someone might need additional support and signpost to additional help externally, if that's required.

HOME MISSION: To the end of June, the giving from Central Baptist Association churches to Home Mission totalled £143,102 compared with £121,282 for 2019. We are so grateful to you for your continued generosity in these challenging times for churches, and uncertainty about finances.

If you send cheques for Home Mission to the Association Treasurer, please make sure in future that you send them to Roy Farrant, contact details as above. If you would like to explore the possibility of paying directly to the CBA bank account, also please have a word with Roy.

FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE: Allchurches Trust has launched today, [Hope Beyond](#), a new grants programme that is aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to meet changing need within their communities as the longer term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer. In developing the Hope Beyond programme, Allchurches Trust carried out an online consultation to better understand what their beneficiaries felt the key needs of people of all ages in their communities would be as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some 840 responses were received, including replies from more than 600 churches.

There's more information about the results of the research, and the Hope Beyond programme itself, in their pack – contact Stephen Copson for a copy. This toolkit includes a short article, social media graphics/suggested posts and signposts to other materials to support you with promotion of the new grants programme and the research findings. I've also attached a headline report of the church survey results for ease.

The fund will be promoted on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) over the coming days if you want to keep up. Also, they have just released new research about how churches have been connecting with children and young people during lockdown. Find out more [here](#).

CBA GRANTS: The next deadline for **grant and loan applications** is Friday September 25th 2020. Application forms are available from the Treasurer, Roy Farrant. Email: centralba.treasurer@gmail.com

EVENTS

CBA MINISTERS' CONFERENCE: A reminder about the Association Ministers' Conference: October 12-14 at High Leigh. Speakers are to be Ken Benjamin and Ruth Moriarty. Look forward to seeing you.