

Spurgeon's welcomes Standing

TASKED with inspiring a new generation of leaders 'to take risks and to be adventurous for God', the Revd Dr Roger Standing was inducted as the new Principal of Spurgeon's College this week (Tuesday).



Spurgeon's College is the largest of the Baptist theological colleges and Roger had preferred the event to take place on a day when the College community was gathered from around the country. The result was a packed chapel and an overflow into the largest lecture room as he became just the 12th person inducted to the post in the College's 157 year history. In addition to staff and students, there were representatives of churches and the wider life of our Baptist Union, as well as Roger's family and friends.

Leading the service, the Revd Dr David Coffey OBE, the chairman of the College Council, read from Revelation 5. He brought greetings from Roger's predecessor the Revd Dr Nigel Wright, now the Principal Emeritus of the College, and said that following Roger's appointment we were now seeking his anointment by the Holy Spirit. As this was also the opening of year service, he particularly welcomed the many new students.

Part of the service included the

commissioning of the College's newly formed Leadership Team. In addition to Roger, this features Dr Peter Morden as Vice Principal, Dotha Blackwood, Linda Campbell, Chris King and Dr Pieter Lalleman. Dr Joshua Searle was also welcomed as the new tutor in Theology and Public Thought.

The Revd Lynn Green, the new General Secretary of our Baptist Union of Great Britain delivered the sermon. Based on 1 Timothy 4, her theme was 'Be an example'.

She said that with his team, Roger will shape and nurture the next generation of Christian leaders. In speech, in love, in life and in purity he is called to be their example.

Lynn quoted Mother Teresa of Kolkata, who famously said, 'God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to

be faithful.'

The act of induction was led by the Revd Geoff Andrews, the Regional Minister Team Leader of the London Baptist Association.

He also involved Roger's wife, Marion, by asking her to pledge support for Roger's ministry in the context of her own demanding role as head of a local primary school. Geoff commented on the strategic position of the College for all the London churches, not just the Baptists, and he urged Roger to train and then release the next generation of leaders from among the BME churches.

Lynn Green commented that Roger's character and integrity will be decisive for the success of the College. 'True authority comes from character,' she explained. 'In challenging times Roger needs to inspire the new generation of leaders to take risks and to be adventurous for God.'

Roger described leading the College as a 'humbling privilege'. 'Spurgeon's has been a brilliant place to be over the last six years,' he said. 'There are great challenges ahead for the church in the UK over the next generation. It is a humbling privilege to lead the College as it plays its part in shaping the rising generation who will need to meet those challenges.'

EBF support for Middle East Christians

BAPTISTS have been encouraged towards a renewed focus on countries where Christians are a persecuted minority or in situations where violence and war are a constant threat to human life.

Last week's European Baptist Federation Council saw much attention given to support by prayer and action for the Middle East, and especially Syria, and a number of resolutions were passed to reflect this.

One asked its member bodies to consider 'meaningful, practical and constructive' partnerships with Christians in such dangerous places, including a request for continued prayer for present situations, particularly in Syria, Egypt and the Middle East 'where great human suffering presents opportunities for emerging networks and relationships which share



justice, centred around the same Psalm.

The resolutions were taken as Baptists from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria updated the council on the situation in the Middle East and the work and ministry of Baptists in meeting the challenges in the region.

They included Syrian Baptist pastor Mazen H, who shuttles between that country and Lebanon, bringing relief supplies to roughly 1,600 Syrian families displaced by the war.

New partnerships in the Middle East will now be actively encouraged, said EBF general secretary the Revd Tony Peck.

'We plan to follow up the Resolution we passed to actively encourage new partnerships with our Middle Eastern brothers and sisters, as well as a concern to identify and nurture younger leaders among them.'

resources'.

The resolution also asked Baptist Unions to identify individuals who may advocate the human rights of minorities, especially vulnerable Christian communities in the region.

It was passed alongside a resolution on human rights and

Church readjusts as eras come to an end

TWO big changes are afoot at Broadway Baptist Church in Douglas, the Isle of Man – The Well Café is closing after many years of serving customers, and Youth Pastor of 12 years Bill Platt is moving on.

The Well Café, one of several community initiatives running in Broadway's Alpha Centre, will serve its last meals on Saturday 5 October. The Well has been a part of the Douglas café and bookshop scene for 25 years. However, as the cost of running a café continued to rise the church decided to close it to enable it to invest in new community initiatives.

Another milestone for Broadway is the departure of



full-time Youth Pastor, Bill Platt. Bill arrived at Broadway more than 12 years ago as part of the church's commitment to invest in young people.

During his time Bill has pioneered many successful youth programmes, including The Machine youth club, The Upper Room under-18s concert venue, Duke of Edinburgh,

and several age-specific youth groups.

Bill built relationships of respect and trust with many young people and will be deeply missed, the church said in a statement. Bill Leishman, the minister of Broadway Baptist Church, explained, 'Bill Platt has been inspirational – he has invested himself in encouraging and developing so many young people.'

He added that the closure of The Well and the loss of Bill will be 'big adjustments', but 'the heart of Broadway Baptist Church, however, remains unchanged and is summed up in its mission statement – a community living to make Jesus known'.

Tributes to a much-loved minister

A church was packed to overflowing as members, friends and family celebrated the life of its popular former minister.

More than 1,000 people attended the funeral of the Revd John Hayward on Tuesday, 1 October at Moriah Baptist Church, Risca, with several hundred overflowing into neighbouring Tredegar Park where the service was relayed through speakers.

John died on 17 September after suffering neck and head injuries while doing some gardening at his home. He was 66.

He had served Moriah as its pastor 36 years until his retirement in 2012, but remained in the congregation. Indeed, the church had invited John to serve as associate pastor alongside successor the Revd Marc Owen.

During his time as minister the church became very community focused, with John helping to set up a number of groups (toddlers group, pre-school, men's breakfast), as well as being a street pastor.

Among those taking part in the funeral were John's children Claire and Steven and his friend



John Hayward.
Picture: South Wales Argus

of 43 years, the Revd Roger Hart. A wealth of stories were shared about John's devotion to his family and his dedication to his work as a pastor.

In his address, Marc summarised John's impact on the church and wider community. Such was this impact a number of shops closed during the funeral.

His commitment to pastoral care and mentorship of newly ordained ministers were warmly referenced.

Amidst the grief and shock experienced by many in recent weeks, Marc encouraged the congregation to consider that John had departed this life in

order to be welcomed home in eternity.

The final words of the sermon boomed in the church and through the town centre: "Well done my good and faithful servant."

This was followed by a round of applause for John's life and contribution to church, community and the wider Baptist family.

His wife Ann, 67, told the *South Wales Argus*, 'He was very well known in the community. He was loving, caring and selfless. His life was serving God till the day he had the accident doing his work that he loved.'

for his services

<http://bit.ly/GzQ9ed>

> Why do we allow some of our least resourced churches to struggle in some of the most deprived areas?
<http://bit.ly/18t12ep>

> X-ray of a revolution - taking

a look at the biblical story of Gideon, and how his example can inspire Christians today.
<http://bit.ly/18OTeC3>

> People love to talk (especially Christians), but what profound revelations are we missing because we refuse to shut up?
<http://bit.ly/1g3JVS1>

From the www. baptisttimes.co.uk

Recent stories and comment pieces on *The Baptist Times* website

> Family breakdown is on the rise, says a Christian mediator seeing an increased demand

Ethical investment

THE ethics of church investment hit the national news headlines this summer.

Baptists, through the Joint Public Issues Team, are invited to come and explore these issues in more depth with a panel of expert speakers on 17 October at the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) 2013 open debate. **Church Investment: Witness or whitewash?**

Panel speakers:

Dr James Corah, CCLA Investment Management

Rev David Haslam, Methodist Tax Justice Network; shareholder activist

Sunniva Taylor, Operation Noah

Chair: Bishop Michael Doe, ECCR

Find out how you and your church can get involved in exploring what faith has to do with finance and the challenges of effective stewardship and good use of money.

Thursday 17 October 2013, 4.30-6.30 pm.

Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

All welcome. Entrance free. Wheelchair access.

RSVP: helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk; tel. 07503 931172

National Ethical Investment Week takes place 13-19 October. ECCR have produced two resources: an Ethical Investment Worship Resources booklet and A Money Doing Good infographic.

Visit <http://www.eccr.org.uk/>

Urgent action needed

THERE is a need for urgent global action to avert global warning – that's the view of a number of international development charities following the publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

The IPCC report stated that scientists are now 95 per cent certain that human activity is driving climate change, up from 90 per cent in its last report six years ago.

It stated that global warming is "unequivocal", and that a pause in warming over the past 15 years is too short to reflect long-term trends.

Its findings are a 'stark warning' of the need for urgent global action to avert devastating global warming, says Christian Aid - and the UK needs to lead the way.

Dr Alison Doig, Christian Aid's Senior Climate Change Advisor, said, 'Scientific evidence confirms that manmade climate change is a reality and that without urgent

action globally, the impacts will get worse. The time for debate is over, it is time to act.

'As a developed, industrialised country the UK has to lead the way by ending our dependence on fossil fuels, and investing in clean, renewable sources of energy which we are fortunate enough to be blessed with in the UK.'

Paul Cook, Advocacy Director, Tearfund said the report reinforces 'what we already know about climate change'.

He added, 'Our recent survey shows that 91 per cent of the British public are concerned about the impacts of climate change on future generations. The time for governments around the world to act is now if we are to bless rather than curse our children and grandchildren.'

'We need bold steps to reduce emissions urgently and greater support for poor communities in developing countries that have contributed the least to climate change but are suffering the most from its effects.'

JOBS

New jobs posted on www.baptist.org.uk

External Communications Officer, The Faraday Institute

Ecumenical Facilitator and Social Justice/Inter Faith Development Officer, Churches Together in Lancashire (Two half-time posts)

Regional Minister, Eastern Baptist Association

For more on these posts visit www.baptist.org.uk/jobs

BAPTISMS

Alvechurch Baptist Church, Worcestershire: Anthony Asbury and Keith Bassett..... 2
Highams Park Baptist Church Church, Greater London: Gemma Player . 1

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to editor@baptisttimes.co.uk