

# DARING GREATLY

as a church



# 40

Days  
of  
**DARING  
GREATLY**

# 2016

April 6th—May 15th



CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Doing something brave as a church is at the heart of this initiative. Jesus invited Peter to step out from the safety and familiarity of his boat on to turbulent waters and we believe he asks us in our churches to do something similar. Our hope is that many of us will take at least a single step onto those 'waters' during these 40 days, and that we may be surprised at what we find. Here is a pick'n'mix collection of ideas from which you might like to draw and of course the internet is full of many more.

**Dare to examine your comfort zone.** Think about the things that constrain you. Where did these boundaries come from? What might it look like if you were open to enlarging your boundaries? Where might God be calling you to adventure with him beyond your comfort zone?

**Dare to pray about this** —why not revisit prayer triplets, maybe for the 40 days, to intentionally pray about your church's mission.

**Dare to plan to do a short service OUTDOORS** somewhere. e.g. in the local park or precinct—this can be a very enlightening and enlivening thing to do.

**Dare to do have a work day to make your community a better place** to live in — paint something, clean something up, clear up rubbish, help the elderly... Learn from the young people of HOPE MK.

**Dare to visit a different faith community** and seek to 'listen' to them about how they see their faith .... and see you.

**Dare to Shut your church one Sunday morning** — no really! Go into the nearest town centre together and experience what goes on there. Gather at an appointed time to reflect and pray together .

**Dare to try out a 'Fresh Expression' of church** : Google what Fresh Expressions there are near you & arrange to pay them a visit. Seeing what others are doing is a really helpful way of expanding our vision.

**Dare to create an outdoor Labyrinth / spiritual garden** with guided notes or 'stations' along the way — something here about making connections between the natural world and the creator. For many people THE place where they experience the divine is in nature. How can we work with that?

**Dare to challenge your Young People** to do something brave, imaginative, creative during this 40 days. Ask them to make a VIDEO of it. They may well surprise!

**Dare to focus on children for 40 days** — why not explore ways of doing church that puts children at the centre not the edge of things such as Messy Church. Pay a visit to a church that does this & see what it looks like.

**Dare to plan towards your town / village fete** or carnival. Consider doing so much more than a few leaflets on a stall. What imaginative thing could you do? Do the refreshments? The art tent? Put your church on the map by engaging generously with the community.

**Dare to put on a play**, a dance, a open mic/ cabaret evening or just fun and games. Hire a sports centre, provide a finger buffet . Interview someone — maybe a sportsman or woman about their faith.

**Dare to investigate local media opportunities.** Does your local paper have a Christian comment column? If it does offer to contribute to it. If not, write to the editor and suggest it. Are there openings in local radio?

**Dare to organise retirement preparation classes** as more and more people are taking early retirement. Bring in Christians from the medical, social, caring and financial professions to help run the course.

**Dare to run a 'death café'**, bringing in professionals to talk about the whole area of death preparation that is so rarely spoken about.

**Dare to Do Pentecost**, really do it. Wind, fire, water ... there's a lot there. Festival it up. Party time.

**Dare to do a POP UP event / Flash Mob** — choir, art, music, café, even silent prayer... see You Tube for ideas.

## One Thing!

*"Put into practice one new, appropriate, sustainable idea that will shine light, bring joy, show justice and exude care"*

*Carol Murray*

Special thanks to Jenni Entrican & Chris Duffett ([www.chrisduffett.com](http://www.chrisduffett.com)) for their contribution to this leaflet. More ideas & info will appear on the web site [www.centralba.org.uk/40days](http://www.centralba.org.uk/40days) + please join the FB group to contribute your ideas: [www.facebook.com/groups/40DaysDG](https://www.facebook.com/groups/40DaysDG)

Wouldn't it be great if...

every church in the CBA did ONE BRAVE THING over this 40 day period, stepping out beyond where they feel safe?

# DARING GREATLY

**40 days presents an opportunity to go deeper with God.** The truth is that we can do all the 'mission' in the world but if we have no current experience of God we will be found out by a culture that has highly attuned hypocrisy antennae. It is with our personal connection with God that we must start.

**Dare to keep a Journal.** Write about what you discover during these 40 days ~ and beyond. What are your hopes? Where are your passions? What are your dreams? Use the journal, not only as a way to record your thoughts and ideas, speak to God through it, and allow him to speak back to you.

In Spirituality  
going deeper  
with God

**Dare to reassess.** Set aside space ... Ask yourself on what do I spend most of my time and energy? To what extent am I reactive/proactive? Are there things from my past that unduly influence me today? Are there things I should stop doing/ start doing?

**Dare to set aside some time for yourself.** Ponder on what it might mean for you to love yourself as God loves you. Make some plans and adjustments to your life. Put a definite date (or dates!) in your diary to spend time on something you would enjoy. Ask yourself what things am I truly responsible for?

**Dare to Explore different ways to spend time with God.** Take a walk in the country, by the sea. Allow your mind to rest. Book in a Retreat or Quiet Day. Look for some books

- Finding Sanctuary by Abbot Christopher Jamison
- The Artist's Rule by Christine Valters Paintner
- Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton
- We make the Road by Walking by Brian McLaren.

**Dare to try a different spiritual practice** – for example contemplation, or fasting...or walking a labyrinth – walk it very slowly, learn to pray slow. This gives you something 'spiritual' to talk about, so determine to tell someone about it. It can open up spiritual conversations.

## personally

**Dare to paint or draw:** Paint or draw a simple picture for a person in your community who needs encouraging. Ask the Lord what to include in the picture and practice

**Dare to share the flower power:** Choose a house in your road to deliver or leave a bunch of flowers with an encouraging note.

**Dare to walk:** If you don't usually walk to school or work take time today to walk at least 30 minutes and pray for those around you a simple prayer asking Jesus to ask the Father to send the Spirit upon those you see.

**Dare for a miracle:** ask the Lord to show you who is hurting today and offer to pray for them, either there and then or to 'keep that person in your prayers.'

**Dare to do something about Migration, asylum seekers and refugees.** Find out what is happening in your area. Discover if there are ways in which you can help, for example, join one of the befriending schemes. Have a look at the Baptist Union and European Baptist Federation websites on this issue to better inform you.

In Kindness  
Showing the  
compassion of  
God

**Daring doughnuts!** Buy a pack of doughnuts to give away: you could leave them in the staff room or pass on to people at the car wash, or the charity fundraisers on your high-street.

**Dare to ask 'Are you alright?':** Who is it that really needs a listening ear today, at work or in your community. Look out for who needs you to gently ask 'are you alright?'

**Dare to buy:** Make a point of buying a Big Issue from someone who is homeless.

**Dare to tell ONE PERSON** during this 40 days something of your faith story. If you don't know where to begin have a look at [www.faithpictures.org](http://www.faithpictures.org) which is a short course designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about their faith.

**Dare to dance (metaphor!) with others.** Change oppositional conversations (I'm right, you are wrong) into genuine moments of engagement and listening.

**Dare to learn a new skill** with a new group of people. Get stuck in. Get passionate about it. Discover what that passion feels like again and set yourself to rediscovering that same passion for your faith. THEN you will be able to talk about it.

**Dare to have a conversation with someone of another faith about their faith ....** Maybe even visit their place of worship.

**Dare to post:** If you don't usually post good news stories on Facebook, choose one from [www.yesHEis.com](http://www.yesHEis.com) or [www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com) and share it with your friends.

**Dare to think about who you know?** Think about the people around you that you don't know well, or even, at all .... like work colleagues, neighbours. How might you get to know them? Think creatively, think courageously. What do you enjoy doing? .... what do they enjoy doing?

invite them to join you ... ask if you can get involved with their activities.

**Dare to invite your Minister** into your work situation to 'have a look at what you do'. See what conversations result!

**Dare to Find the 'person of peace'** in your town, city, village, situation and arrange to have a coffee with them. Thank them, gift them, bless them .

**Dare to Garden Together** with neighbours & friends, then repeat in each others gardens (plus food!)

**Dare to ask the question** "tell me about something you are really passionate about?" Experience this 'evangelism' and learn from it.

In Witness  
Bearing the  
light of  
God