



**23 November 2016**

**News:**

**Tributes to leading Baptist historian**

**Tributes have been paid to Baptist historian and former Principal of Regent's Park College, the Revd Dr Barrington (Barrie) White, who has died, aged 82**

Barrie led Regent's from 1972 to 1989, a period of 'great development and expansion', according to the College. He has also been described as the 'leading Baptist historian of his generation', particularly for his work on Baptists in the 17th century.

The English Baptists of the Seventeenth Century remains one of the 'definitive books on the subject', yet Barrie was 'no aloof scholar', said current Regent's Principal the Revd Dr Rob Ellis:

*The Revd Dr Barrie White became Principal at Regent's Park in 1972 after nine years as lecturer in Church History: he had previously been minister at Andover Baptist Church. He will be remembered in the College as a Principal who encouraged his students to aspire to be scholar-pastors, and modelled just this combination in his own person. A wise and witty man, he was one of the leading scholars in his field of early Baptist history, writing what remains one of the definitive books on the subject. But he was no aloof scholar - at heart he remained a pastor, gently encouraging students and colleagues, and without any ostentation showing signs of prayerfulness, empathy and compassion. While appearing reserved, Barrie was also humane and approachable. His students came to appreciate him deeply.*

*He would sometimes describe himself as a 'simple bible believer.' Such a claim, surrounded by those studying theology, is always likely to raise an eyebrow, or at least produce a clarifying enquiry. But for Barrie it was a straightforward statement of the centrality of Jesus in his life and of his own self-understanding as a disciple of Jesus. His wit could be as penetrating as it was hilarious, and he deployed it in conversation, teaching, and preaching to good effect - his remarks often being repeated to those who had missed them, and by those at whom they were directed!*

*Under his leadership the College both expanded its mission as a place of learning across many academic disciplines, and grew its numbers of ministerial students. He appointed the College's first specialist tutors in ministerial practice, and built accommodation for ministerial students' families on site - meeting a need which was urgent in its day. He was involved in the early days of Mainstream ('Baptists for life and growth'), speaking at its first conference in 1980, and showing his concern for the state of, and renewal in, our churches. His illness struck first around this time, and became increasingly debilitating through the 1980s. He set aside the principalship in the hope of concentrating on research and teaching, but his developing illness prevented him achieving all that he, and his colleagues and friends, had hoped he might. We were deprived too soon of his scholarship and leadership. He was still a regular visitor to college through the turn of the millennium - always a welcome friend and good company. We will miss him.*

Elsewhere, the Revd Dr Keith Jones, President of the Baptist Historical Society, spoke of Barrie's 'lasting legacy'.

*Barrie White leaves a lasting legacy in the realm of English church history with his important work on Puritan Separatists in the 16th century and particularly Baptists in the 17th century, contributing a volume to the Baptist Historical Society published series on Baptist life and witness over four centuries.*

*We all benefitted from his leadership within the Baptist Historical Society as a General Editor of the English Baptist history series and as a distinguished President from 1981 until the early 1990s; as a Vice President in the 1970s and again after he ceased to be President.*

There have been a number of online tributes. The Revd Andy Goodliff, minister of Belle Vue Baptist Church in Southend, said he remains one of the most important non-conformist and Baptist historians.

In addition to *The English Baptists of the 17th Century* Andy highlighted Barrie's doctoral work, *The English Separatist Tradition: From the Marian Martyrs to the Pilgrim Fathers* (Oxford, 1971), and his role as editor of three volumes of *Association Records of the Particular Baptists*. He also published a number of extracts of his writing.

'There would have surely been other book-length pieces if dementia had not taken its toll on his mind from the early 1990s onwards,' he continued.

On his *Windingquest* blog, the Revd John Rackley said that while Barrie will be remembered for being an 'outstanding church historian', his own memories are that of a prophet.

John referenced Barrie's address 'Opening the Doors to God' at the first Mainstream Conference in 1980. There was nothing remarkable in what he said – apart from the timing, John said: he 'anticipated the worship wars' which 'dominated many a Baptist church's life in the 80s and 90s; noted the absence of intercession in many Sunday services, and spoke about 'healthy' churches 'long before this would become the call-sign of our current generation of leaders.'

'If the task of an historian is to provide commentary on past events,' John wrote, 'the same gift of insight can be applied to the present and that is what Barrie did.'

**A thanksgiving service for his life will be held at New Road Baptist Church, Oxford, at 12 noon on 28 November 2016.**

**Gifts in memory of Barrie will go to Regent's Park College or to Vale House, the care home in which he died. Please send to: Regent's Park College: Julie Reynolds, Director of Development and Alumni Relations: [julie.reynolds@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julie.reynolds@regents.ox.ac.uk) or Vale House: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BarrieRWhite>**

### **'Protect the most vulnerable'**

**The Joint Public Issues Team called for assurances from the Government that families hit by the benefits freeze will be protected from the expected rise in inflation ahead of the Autumn Statement**

With most working age benefits being frozen in cash terms for the next four years, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church say that the poorest families are exposed to full force of rising inflation.

In a statement they said the freeze will cut the level of the support available to more than four million families containing at least 7.5 million children. They have called for chancellor Phillip Hammond to not allow higher than expected inflation to further erode the value of benefits.

Rachel Lampard, Vice President of the Methodist Conference, said, 'The benefits freeze is putting the poorest in the way of economic harm. In January, when Parliament voted to freeze benefits, inflation was low, stable and predicted to remain low. Today the economic outlook is very different.

'Rising inflation will mean 7.5 million children will be hit by cuts harder and faster than was ever intended. It is time this huge cut was brought under control.'

The Bank of England predicts that the prices of basic goods such as food will be the first to rise as result of the fall in the value of the pound.

The Revd Dr Richard Frazer, Convener of the Church & Society Council of the Church of Scotland said, 'Keeping a family fed takes up more and more of low income family budgets.

'Many parents are already going without to ensure their children are fed. The cost of food is rising and more and more do not have enough to eat. A decent welfare system must ensure that is not the case. Benefits need to keep pace with the rise of food costs.'

The Revd Stephen Keyworth, Faith and Society Team Leader of the Baptist Union of Great Britain said, 'There are already record numbers of people seeking emergency help from foodbanks and church run night shelters are seeing increasing demand.

'If the benefit system is to do its job of supporting families through difficult times there must be a link between the price of food and shelter and the value of benefits.

'The alternative is more hunger and more ill health. We must not let people's God-given potential to be allowed to go to waste because of poverty.'

### **Neville Callam to retire**

### **Neville Callam – the first Black general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) – has given notice of his intention to retire on December 31, 2017**

The Revd Dr Callam, a Jamaican, made history when he was elected to the position in July 2007 during the BWA Annual Gathering in Accra, Ghana, as the first Black person to hold the position. Since its founding in 1905, all previous general secretaries of the international umbrella organisation for Baptists were American or European.

A statement from the BWA has highlighted the impact of his tenure.

He took over just when the Great Recession occurred. Working with the Budget and Finance Committee, Dr Callam shepherded the body through the financial crisis and global economic meltdown, with minimal dislocations and impact on the operations of the BWA and its staff.

In addition, after the Implementation Task Force completed its work in 2008, there were major constitutional and operational changes within the BWA, many with potentially disruptive implications on the future of the organisation that the general secretary had to navigate.

Under Dr Callam's leadership, much work was done to streamline the administration of the BWA office, the statement continued. He worked with staff to employ relevant technology to improve BWA functions while minimising cost, and put in place a conference management system to secure greater economic sustainability.

The divisions on Evangelism and Education and Study and Research were merged into the newly formed Division on Mission, Evangelism and Theological Reflection (METR).

The Division on Freedom and Justice (F&J) was established in 2008 after years of discussion of the need for such a unit in the BWA. One consequence of the Great Recession was the 2016 merger of both METR and F&J into the Division on Mission, Evangelism and Justice when pledged donor funds failed to materialise to support a separate F&J division.

BWA membership has grown since Dr Callam came into office, moving from 214 to 235 member organisations in 122 countries and territories, bringing new countries and territories such as Vietnam, Grenada, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, into the BWA fold. Some new groups from East and Central Africa found their beginnings in refugee camps in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan.

Bread of Life, an evangelism training initiative, a successor to the Jesus Christ, Living Water program, played a significant role in forging Baptist cooperation among various Baptist groups in countries, including Brazil and Haiti. Dr Callam worked tirelessly to help settle disputes among Baptists and bring about reconciliation in places such as Kenya and Liberia.

A Covenant on Intra-Baptist Relations was adopted to provide a framework for BWA response to the diversity of language, culture, opinions and perspectives in meetings and in the various operations of the international body. The document considers the great diversity that exists among Baptists, particularly within the BWA. It assists member organisations to understand that all equally belong in, and are needed by, the BWA and provides a framework for respectful trans-cultural relationships.

In his retirement notice letter, Dr Callam said his commitment in serving the BWA was to "draw attention to the church's mission as the mission of God," locating the ministries of relief and development, the defense of freedom and justice and a commitment to the unity of the church within that vision. He ceaselessly insisted "on the theological foundation for these values."

"You are one of those gifts from God for the church," BWA President Paul Msiza said in response to Dr Callam's announcement. "I have been touched and encouraged by your deep faith and commitment to God and to the mission of the church. Your hard work and sacrificial service describe your deep commitment and love for the BWA."

"My first response was one of sadness. It felt I was losing something very significant and precious," declared John Upton, former president and current chair of the Human Resources Committee. "I have been deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Neville, not only while serving as president of the BWA, but in every other capacity. His deep commitment to the BWA and his tireless service to it will long be appreciated."

Noting his scholarship and commitment to theological rigor and integrity, he said Dr Callam "modeled unsurpassed excellence of service" and that "his leadership has challenged the BWA to become increasingly an authentic global Baptist community."

Dr Callam acknowledged God's guiding presence and the support of his wife, Dulcie. "Serving in this position, God has never failed me and, through all the opportunities and challenges, I have benefited from the unwavering faithfulness of my wife who has helped me selflessly."

As per policy, the general secretary should give a minimum notice of 12 months. A search committee is expected to commence work to choose Dr Callam's successor. Parish nursing continues to grow  
Thirteen more nurses prepare to work with their churches, extra training courses have been organised and a Grove booklet produced

### **Parish nursing continues to grow**

#### **Thirteen more nurses prepare to work with their churches, extra training courses and a Grove booklet has been produced**

The ministry of Parish nursing, developing in the UK since 2003, is continuing to grow steadily. With 13 new nurses on board, 91 UK churches currently have a Parish nursing service for their congregation and community. Thirty-two of these are Baptist or Local Ecumenical Partnership LEP Baptist congregations, 29 are Anglican, and the rest are Methodist, Church of Scotland, Independent, Pentecostal, URC, or Catholic.

Over the last few months the enquiries have been coming in at the rate of more than four per week. This is partly due to some excellent articles in the nursing press, along with word of mouth testimonies about the valuable work that Parish nurses are doing. This increased interest means an extra training course has been planned for next year, taking place in Peterborough from 6-9 February. The other courses planned are at IMC Birmingham, in May and October, and there may also be one in Scotland in August.

Parish nurses may work with people and carers of all ages, all faiths or none, in different stages of health. They may educate for health with the independent well person; they may support recovery from acute phases of illness, or surgery; they

may monitor and advise those with longer term conditions; and they may help those who are nearing the end of life.

In all of these aspects they include a focus on spiritual care and that may include appropriate prayer if the client so desires. There are now even some parish nurse/midwives who are focusing on breastfeeding and emotional support for new and isolated mums.

The latest outcomes being reported by clients are most encouraging. In the most recent questionnaires, around 40 per cent of clients reported they had received spiritual encouragement or support, 40 per cent reported improved physical health, 50 per cent reported reduced anxiety, and 35 per cent reported increased social activity.

Further developments include a Grove booklet, Nursing and the Mission of the Church, which summarises a rationale for health ministry and explains how churches may engage in this outreach along with some comments from both parish nurses and service users.

In addition the first European conference on Parish nursing is to be held in Germany later this month, with representatives from the Ukraine, Finland, the Netherlands and Germany as well as the UK.

**Parish Nursing Ministries UK is the infrastructure body that provides the training and resources for the nurses, advice for the churches, and ensures professional standards are maintained.**

**Dr Ros Moore, a Methodist who was until recently Chief Nurse for Scotland, now leads the work. Baptist minister Helen Wordsworth works alongside her with a focus on promotional work with the churches and international links.**

**If any church or nurse would like to explore this further, they should email [admin@parishnursing.org.uk](mailto:admin@parishnursing.org.uk) for a free enquiries pack**

**First UK Pentecostal symposium  
Hundreds are set to mark Pentecostal presence in Britain in the first ever national Pentecostal symposium and celebration**

Twenty national organisations representing an estimated 250,000 Pentecostal and Charismatic followers in the UK will hold their first ever national symposium and Celebration at Kensington Temple in west London on Saturday, 26 November 2016.

The unique event in British Pentecostal history will mix music, singing and preaching with academic interrogation of key areas such as Pentecostal history and diversity; and Pentecostal relationship with ecumenism, social, economic and political relations. Artists include London Community Gospel Choir, Motivation by Music, Noel Robinson, and New Covenant Choir.

Speaking ahead of the event, Bishop Dr Joe Aldred, Churches Together in England's Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations Secretary said, 'These are exciting times for the church in Britain as Pentecostals show that decline is not inevitable, even in a post-Christendom world.

'However, to stay ahead we must use heart and head, God-given emotion and intellect, to explore how we improve Christian mission in the world; deepening our understanding of the legitimate differences we have; embracing the dynamism the Holy Spirit brings'.

Pentecostalism is the fastest growing Christian expression worldwide, currently 280 million, several times larger than the 85-million strong Anglican Communion; and is offsetting decreases in traditional mainline denominations in Britain (Brierley).

For many, the public face of Pentecostalism in Britain is black, seen as an offshoot of Caribbean Windrush and later African migration since the 1950s – but British Pentecostalist roots go further back.

The Revd Dr David Cornick, CTE General Secretary explained, 'Pentecostalism's roots lie deep in the holiness traditions of the 19th century, and their presence in Britain dates back to a series of revivals which rippled through these isles in the early years of the 20th century. One of the remarkable features of 20th century Christianity was the growth of the Pentecostal churches and the emergence of the charismatic movement.

'We are delighted that the churches of these traditions are coming together to celebrate the gifts God has given them and to share their insights with their Christians friends from other traditions'

In recent years, a quiet revolution has been taking place involving Pentecostals and their newer Charismatic religious cousins as they transcend cultural, ethnic and denominational boundaries to engage with each other, and in Christian mission together in local communities and national life. Spearheading this development has been the National Pentecostal Leaders Forum operating under the aegis of Churches Together in England through a Pentecostal Presidency.

The current CTE Pentecostal President, Bishop Eric Brown, said, 'We live in a world and a country where human difference is difficult to manage and so it has been heart-warming to be a part of a project that shows that with the right spirit our God-given diversity can be a strength, not a weakness'.



The Pentecostal Symposium and Celebration event will culminate with recognition of four individuals for outstanding contributions to Pentecostalism in Britain; a resolution to work together better as Pentecostals and with the wider church and community; and a Eucharist of reconciliation and commitment to Christian unity in diversity.

## **Baptisms**

Alvechurch Baptist Church, Worcestershire: Mary Lim

Blaby Baptist Church, Blaby, Leicestershire: Kate Thurlow

Dewsbury Baptist Church, Yorkshire: Pat Stogdale

East Barnet Baptist Church, London: Amanda Yu and Jocelyn Karikari Mensah

Moriah Baptist Church, Risca, Newport: Sian Colbourne and Alan Royle

Rayners Lane Baptist Church, Middlesex: Louise Ogundere, Steven Muiyuro, Catherine Muiyuro, Fenoj Leslie

Zion Baptist Church in Forge-Side, Blaenavon, Gwent: Christine Walters and Angela Dash

## **Baptism stories:**

On Sunday 6 November we had a joyous occasion of the baptism of Pat Stogdale. She was baptised on her birthday and she was received into membership at **Dewsbury Baptist Church**. We had a buffet lunch after the service and friends and family were warmly welcomed to a lovely uplifting time. We warmly welcomed Pat into our worshipping community.

Mary Lim was baptised at **Alvechurch Baptist Church** on 20 November by minister Rev Fiona Lee. Mary's husband and daughter and many other family members and friends were present for the occasion. Later in the service, Mary was accepted into Membership at the church.

Sian Colbourne and Alan Royle were baptised by our Pastor the Revd Marc Owen (**Moriah Baptist Church**) last Sunday morning 13 November. We are all so thrilled about this.

We were greatly encouraged on the 16 October 2016 morning service at **East Barnet Baptist Church**, where Amanda Yu and Jocelyn Karikari Mensah were baptised. We were really blessed as the two shared their touching testimonies on how God touched and changed their lives.

## **Death**

**PARKINSON (nee Fleming) Catherine Nora: 1919-2016**

Nora Parkinson passed away peacefully at Southport Hospital on 2 November 2016 aged 97 years. The daughter of Peter Fleming, a Baptist Minister in Edinburgh. In 1942 Nora married Rev Kenneth Parkinson who was then a chaplain in the RAF and in 1947 they were called to minister at Christ Church Baptist, Welwyn Garden City, where they remained until 1963.

Nora continued to live and work in Welwyn Garden City following her husband's death in 1965. She remained a deacon of Christ Church until 1980, was chairman of the WGC Council of Christian Congregations 1980-81, member of Herts Baptist Association general committee at various times between 1955 and 1992. Nora was well known in Baptist and Ecumenical circles as well as the wider community. Her memory was phenomenal and she had a knack of finding a point of connection to everyone she met.

Nora remained in Welwyn Garden City until moving to live with her daughter & son-in-law in Lancashire a year ago. She sadly lost her eldest son Ian in August, but is survived by her son David and her daughter Kathleen, 6 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. A family funeral is being held on 24 November in Lancashire. The plan is to hold a memorial service in WGC next year.

**WHITE, The Revd Dr Barrington Raymond: 1934-2016**

Barrie White, Principal of Regent's Park College, Oxford 1972-1989, Church history tutor at Regent's 1963-1972, and Minister of Andover Baptist Church 1959-63, died on 12 November 2016, aged 82.

He was a significant figure in the Baptist Union, including the early years of Mainstream, and was deeply trusted and respected in progressive Baptist circles in North America. Throughout his time at Regent's, and particularly as Principal, the community of the college, the nurturing and encouragement of its members and its connections to the wider community of the Baptist denomination was at the heart of his vision and his joy.

A thanksgiving service for Barrie's life will be held at New Road Baptist Church, Oxford, at 12 noon on 28 November 2016.

For full obituaries visit: [www.baptist.org.uk/obituaries](http://www.baptist.org.uk/obituaries)