



## Update: November 2024

Dear Friends

### Remembering

This time of year brings us many opportunities to remember – remembering those who have gone before us, remembering and giving thanks for those who gave their lives for us in times of conflict.

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1: 2-6*

Know that you are held in our prayers with thankfulness for all you are doing as you serve the communities in which God has called you. We hope there will be information in this email which will inspire and help you as you serve him.

Diane, Hilary, Jane, Londy, Mary, Mat, Mike, Paul, Sharon, Steve and Wale  
*Faith and Society Team*

**Whilst we've carefully chosen these resources and events because we hope they will be useful to you and your church family, we are not directly responsible for the content from other groups and organisations.**

*Feel free to forward this email to others in your church, or encourage them to sign up to receive our regular emails by completing the form at the bottom of every page of [our website](#).*

## This month's featured stories:



**Baptist Union Council - read a Report of the Council meeting 23-24 October at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick**



**Sharing the Christian story with your local schools - 30 years' experience with Easter Cracked and Christmas Unwrapped**



**'Here the love of Christ shall end divisions' - Alison Evans reflects on the 50th anniversary of a Local Ecumenical Partnership**

## News:



### Presidential Nominations 2026-27

We are now inviting nominations for the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2026-27. All ministers, church secretaries and treasurers should have received an email from us on Friday 27 September outlining what the role entails, and how to nominate a person for this national role. The deadline for receipt of all nominations is 31 December, and the election discernment process will be held in the first months of 2025. [Click here for details](#)



### Project Violet

Project Violet, the three and a half year long research project investigating women's experience of ministry, has concluded with commitments to act on the project's findings from all parts of the Baptist community. Responses have been made to all 57 of the Requests for Change published in the Findings in May 2024. This includes commitments from across Baptist life which were compiled and presented to Baptist Union Council last month. Council members subsequently voted to affirm them. [Click here for more information.](#)



### Dear Prime Minister...

As part of the Let's End Poverty initiative from JPIT, a collection of letters written by 15 people at the sharp end of poverty was delivered to Keir Starmer to mark his hundredth day in office. A new government brings the opportunity for new ideas and new voices to drive the change that people experiencing poverty desperately need. The voices in these letters must be central to that change. Please pray that it will lead to positive next steps. [Click here for more details and to read the letters.](#)



### Constituency Action Network

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is encouraging all churches to let their MP know that they care, and are praying for them. If you have a story to share to encourage other churches to support their local MP, please get in touch with your reflections by emailing [hello@jpit.org](mailto:hello@jpit.org) JPIT is also creating a network of congregations that are committed to developing a meaningful relationship with their MP. [Click here to find out more](#), including a recording of the recent Constituency Action Network launch webinar.

## This month's featured resources:



### November Prayer Diary

The [November Prayer Diary](#) is now available to download from our website. The particular themes this month are:

- Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer hosted by BWA Women
- Remembrance Sunday and Interfaith Week
- Safeguarding Sunday
- The Heart of England Baptist Association

Please print out a copy for those unable to access it.



### Whitley Lecture 2024

Tim Judson's timely and powerful reflection on Whiteness is a deeply personal and carefully argued appeal that combines theological insights with biblical reflection. Through exploring the trauma Jesus experienced as he anticipated the cross he opens up neglected themes in the gospels' account of Jesus' agony in the garden of Gethsemane, illuminating questions of justice and identity. If you missed the Lecture you can [watch the recording, along with the post-Lecture panel discussion](#).



### Love My Neighbour - Winter Loneliness Campaign

The Christian charity, Faith in Later Life, has launched its life-saving and life-giving *Love My Neighbour* campaign for the second year running. This winter initiative calls on Christians and churches across the UK to support their older neighbours, with the aim of reducing loneliness and the excess winter deaths that can result from it. Building on the success of last year's campaign, Faith in Later Life is once again encouraging intentional acts of kindness, prayer, and practical support for our older neighbours. Click here [to find out more about Love My Neighbour](#).



### Interfaith Week Resources

This year Inter Faith Week will run from 10 to 17 November, and is an opportunity for people of all faiths and beliefs and inter-faith groups to engage in activities that bring people of different religions and beliefs together, whether to build understanding or improve conditions in their area of influence. [Click here for resources](#).



### Lifeworlds *Little Book of Advent*

Lifeworlds has released a brand-new Bible resource to equip and inspire individuals, groups, and churches to engage with the season of Advent. Rooted in verses from Scripture, *Little Book of Advent* is a 56-page booklet that explores different aspects of Advent, reflecting on the season's meaning, building anticipation to the birth of Jesus, and looking forward to the future fullness of God's reign. Like all Lifeworlds resources, *Little Book of Advent* is freely available, but donations are both appreciated and encouraged. To be ready for Advent, early ordering is advised. Click here to [get your copy of Little Book of Advent](#) and find out more.



### Shine your light Christmas 2024

Imagine 100,000 Christians on the streets at Christmas singing carols and sharing the Gospel everywhere! Shine Your Light is a nationwide Christmas collaboration of many Christian denominations, taking place over the weekend of 13-15 December. Last year, hundreds of flashmob style carol events, open air Christingle services and nativity events from the small to the large - including some in Castles, country parks and housing estates - took place. This year, the vision is to see how the united Church can put Christ back into Christmas so that the whole nation can hear the bold proclamation of Good News and why we sing 'Joy to the World!' Click here [for more information, resources and registration](#).





### For your Christmas outreach

A special Christmas issue of Good News evangelistic newspaper is available and at only 20p per copy (plus p&p) it's a great value giveaway at carol services, Christmas events and outreaches. Filled with testimonies of both celebrities and 'ordinary' Christians, churches and evangelists across the country use Good News every month. For a free sample of the current edition or to order, email [goodnewsoffice7@gmail.com](mailto:goodnewsoffice7@gmail.com). You can read the Christmas issue online before ordering at [www.goodnews-paper.org.uk](http://www.goodnews-paper.org.uk)



### Christmas with The Chosen

The Chosen has created some free resources for communities in the UK to run a one-of-a-kind celebration: *Christmas with The Chosen*. Built around the short film *The Shepherd*, which tells the story of the Nativity, the resource offers an opportunity for local additions of live music or worship. It can be added to a Christmas service or put on as an entirely separate event free of charge. Click here [to find out more about the resources and sign up](#).



### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18-25 January. Materials for the 2025 theme 'Do you believe this?' have been prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy, and help us to reflect on Jesus' provocative question to Martha in John 11:17-27. The pamphlet will be available in English, Welsh/English, Irish and Scots Gaelic. [Click here to order or download resources from CTBI](#).



### 10 Minutes on the Budget - JPIT podcast

"The Let's End Poverty campaign had called for a Budget that prioritised the poorest. This was not it." This podcast episode with JPIT Policy Advisor Paul Morrison is focused on the government budget. It is paired with a blog post from Paul, outlining more the budget from the perspective of poverty. Click here [to listen to the episode](#), and click here [to hear more from Paul on the autumn budget](#).



### The Future of Arms: New Church Resources Now Available

As conversations around national security and the arms trade intensify, it's essential for churches to engage with these pressing issues from a foundation of peace and justice. JPIT has released a suite of new resources that equip churches and individuals to reflect on the future of arms and the vital role we can play in advocating for disarmament and peacebuilding. Explore blogs, prayer guides, and reflection opportunities that encourage thoughtful dialogue and inspire action within your community. Click here [to find out more here](#).



### COP29

As the global community convenes for COP29, JPIT is dedicated to promoting climate justice through engaging discussions and resources. They will be publishing blogs that explore key issues, their impact on vulnerable communities, and the transformative role of faith in the climate justice movement. Stay updated with their real-time social media posts highlighting significant developments and opportunities for prayer and reflection. [Join this journey of faith and action!](#)

## This month's featured events:



### Dissent in a digital age - Thursday 7 November

The Centre for Baptist Studies is hosting this day-conference on Digital Theology at Regent's Park College. They have eight excellent speakers lined up and it promises to be a fascinating day exploring topics as diverse as 'Human Says No', 'Theology of Play', 'AI and the Church', 'Worldviews of Dissent' and much more. Registration is free (and includes lunch). [Click here to sign up](#) or [visit the College website for more details](#).



### Encountering the Anabaptists - Thursday 7, 14, 21 and 28 November

In 2025, many people will be marking the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement and asking what contemporary significance its vision and practices have for followers of Jesus today. This short course is an opportunity in the weeks leading up to 2025 to learn something about the history and distinctive convictions and practices of this radical movement. The course fee of £20 includes a free copy of *The Naked Anabaptist* or, if participants already have this book, of *The New Anabaptists* (published in January 2024).

[Click here to sign up](#).



### Interrogating Injustices - Wednesday 13 November

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles is one of the standout, world leading historians on the history of the Caribbean, particularly the transatlantic African Maafa or the trade in enslaved Africans. His work has helped to lead the contemporary call for Reparations for the legacies of slavery. The Centre for Baptist Studies, the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, Regent's Park College, New Road Baptist Church and the Race and Resistance seminar, TORCH, in the University of Oxford invite you to attend an afternoon seminar and an evening book launch to celebrate a recent book *Interrogating Injustices* that has been published in honour of Professor Beckles. Admission free, the afternoon event has a few places left but the evening event (which may be of more general interest) has plenty of places remaining as it is in a larger venue.

[Click here for details and links to register](#).



### 5Q Taster Event - Thursday 14 November

If you're a minister who is passionate about equipping disciples and leading a healthy church actively engaged in the mission of God, helping us to draw on the full potential of the fivefold ministries from Ephesians 4, then do come along online to this FREE 5Q Taster Event to find out more. Get a taste of the content, an outline of what's involved and hear some testimonials from previous cohorts. The next cohort launches in February, led by Simon and Ceri Harris (Baptist 5Q Lead Facilitators) and involves an hour long huddle every couple of weeks from February-December 2025. [Click here to register for the webinar](#).



### Supporting Bereaved People in Later Life - Thursday 14 Nov

Faith in Later Life is offering this online event to help church champions and church leaders consider how best to support older people who are bereaved. Katy Tutt from AtaLoss, and The Bereavement Journey, will be speaking about how bereavement support can ease that loneliness and help people to come to a place of hope. Anyone is welcome to sign up to join either the 13:30 or 19:30 session. [Click here for details and to register.](#)



### Hong Kong Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 20 November

Prayer is one of the ways to support Hong Kongers and local pastors and leaders in ministry. The Baptists Together Hong Kong Response Project will be holding the next online Prayer meeting at 19:00 to 'Pray for local pastors' who serve and help Hong Kongers. The Project has also invited Nick Hudson, minister of Wokingham Baptist Church, to share about his heart for Hong Kongers during the evening. You are invited to be inspired and pray together. [Click here to register.](#)



### Make Lunch with TLG - Thursday 21 November

With one third of children in the UK growing up in poverty and many families struggling with loneliness, isolation, and mental health challenges, [TLG Make Lunch](#) provides a tool enabling churches to offer practical help and build relationships. TLG equips churches to run Make Lunch clubs, offering children and families hot, nutritious food alongside fun activities and supportive friendships. If you'd like to find out more about the impact it is having, and how your church could get involved, join this free online event - [click here to register.](#)



### Project Violet International Symposium - 15-16 January 2025

The Centre for Baptist Studies in conjunction with Baptists Together are organising this online Symposium, to which we are inviting academically-engaged Baptist women from around the world to discuss the findings of Project Violet and the actions arising from this extensive investigation into women's experiences of ministry. There will be three 2-hour sessions each day; 08:00-10:00, 14:00-16:00 and 19:00-21:00. We don't want cost to be a barrier to attending so please contact the conference organiser if cost is a concern as we have some bursaries available. Building on the experience of Project Violet we are making this a woman-only space in order to encourage women's participation. [Click here for further details and the link to register.](#)



### Theology Live - 25 January 2025

This day conference at Bloomsbury Baptist Church is for Baptists to explore theology together, with specialist input and time for discussion. There are many Baptists engaged in theological and biblical research, and this day-event brings them together to share their thinking, fostering a community of research amongst British Baptists. The day will comprise a series of short papers, reflecting the diversity of current Baptist theological engagement, with opportunities to interact with speakers. [Click here to find out more and book your place.](#)





## Young People and Far Right Extremism - 15 February 2025

The Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence has recently published a book, following a 24-hour consultation, titled *The Church, the Far Right, and the Claim to Christianity* with editors Helen Paynter and Maria Power. The Centre is now organising this event at Bloomsbury Baptist Church (London) to reflect on the influence of far right extremists on young people, the church's response, and what we can do moving forward. It is an event for church leaders, youth leaders, and anyone interested in how far right extremism and young people interact. [Click here for details and to book your place.](#)