



## Update: February 2025

Dear Friends

As we walk together in the strength of God's Spirit, we want to bless you, help you and equip you. We know life can be busy and therefore this update aims to bring links to resources, events and stories in one place, for ease of access. We pray that you will find this useful and there is something here that encourages you, something that inspires you and something that leads you to fresh insights.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul talks about partnership in the Gospel.

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5*

We thank God for you and continue to pray for you.

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:



**Fresh Streams Conference 2025:  
a first-timer's reflection -  
'It gave me a fresh perspective  
and energy for the work ahead'**



**Croyde Baptist Church cooks  
up recipe for sharing the word  
- Devon Baptists hit on a great  
recipe for community outreach**



**New films and course share the  
story of our radical roots - from  
the Baptist Historical Society and  
Church from Scratch**

## News:



### Election for President 2026-27

Details of the four people who have been nominated to be President of the Baptist Union 2026-27 have been sent to every church and minister. We would like as many as possible to be involved with the process of discernment, so please [share the profiles with your Church Meeting](#). Voting this year will primarily be online and will be open until 31 March.



### Baptist Assembly - 16-17 May

This year's Baptist Assembly will explore what we can learn about local mission using global insight. This national gathering is taking a lead on mission, evangelism and discipleship, offering a **mission conference** where inspiration, discernment, storytelling, resourcing and sharing good practice takes place. BMS World Mission will be taking a lead role as we hear from the global majority. This will provide teaching and resourcing for mission which can make a difference in our local communities. Click here to [find out more about what's being planned](#).



### Politics in the Pulpit

JPIT's lectionary-based weekly podcast is a great resource for ministers, preachers and worship leaders, where participants discuss how the justice issues present in the Bible spur us to be good news in the world today. Each week, welcomes a different guest, discussing the dimensions of justice present in the Bible readings explored by many churches the following Sunday, and reflecting on how they connect with current affairs and our calling to be justice seekers. The current podcast host, Clare Williams is an Associate Speaker and Tutor at The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. Her work focuses upon questions of race, justice, culture, and what the Christian message has to offer these big concepts. [Click here to access the podcast](#).

## This month's featured resources:



### February Prayer Diary

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

- BMS World Mission
- Racial Justice Sunday
- The Eastern Baptist Association
- The Ministries Team

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



### Praying Together 2025

As part of our continued commitment to prayer in the year ahead - for our mission, for God's coming Kingdom in our communities, that the whole Body of Christ will live and witness to Jesus every day, and expressing our lament as we pray into the Project Violet research findings - we have some prayer resources available on our website. These include a weekly prayer reflection from members of our Core Leadership Team and others. Click here [for information about these prayer prompts](#).



## Racial Justice Sunday - Coat of Many Colours

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday - on 9 February. The theme from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland this year has the title 'Coat of Many Colours', reflecting the increasing diversity that exists in the churches in Britain and Ireland. Both the Old Testament, or the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament are replete with references to diversity, in this world and the Kingdom to come. Click here [for information and resources in English and Welsh](#).



## Project Violet Lament - a liturgy for churches

**Project Violet's** request for change 57 is that Council calls the Baptists Together movement into a **period of lament** for all that the research has discovered. Council welcomes the offering of prayers, liturgy, poetry, song and art and other creative approaches to help us express our lament in this period. Click here for a **Liturgy of Lament** which has been written to support and enable this in our churches.



## Paths of Peace Training Course: handling conflict well

What can you do when relationships become strained? Do you want to help but are concerned about how, anxious not to make things worse? The Blackley Centre is delighted to be offering again the Paths of Peace Training Course beginning on 14 March. Baptist minister and mediation trainer Joanna Williams introduces the five-session course she will be hosting for anyone interested in transforming conflicts in a church setting – and beyond. [Click here for more details](#).



## Transform 69

The latest edition of Transform, with information to help all church leaders keep up-to-date with the latest ministry, HR, safeguarding, legal, financial, taxation and environmental matters was sent to all our churches last month. **Transform 69** is also available to download from our website - along with the archive of previous editions at: [www.baptist.org.uk/transform](http://www.baptist.org.uk/transform)

## This month's featured events:



## Race, religion, rhetoric and far right extremism - Saturday 8 February

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is holding this one-day conference in London that will see churches and civil society organisations explore solutions to challenge hate and violence. It will explore how the negative rhetoric and narratives linked to 'race' and religion, have fueled far-right related activities over the last decade and a half (especially the riots in August 2024), and threaten the cohesiveness of communities on these shores. It will discuss how we arrived at this situation and explore what solutions the Church and civil society organisations can offer to challenge this proclivity. Click here [for details of the speakers, and to book your place](#).



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

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.](#)



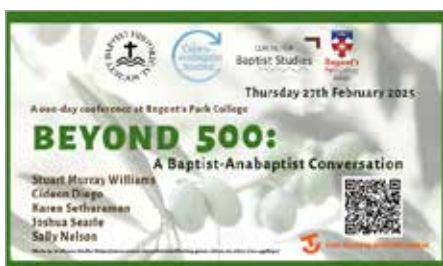
## Slow wisdom: launch of resources for Baptists - Tuesday 18 February

Too often churches end up arguing about teacups rather than discerning the mission of God together at the Church Meeting. *Slow Wisdom* is a fresh take on how Baptists can discern well together in the local church. The *Slow Wisdom* video and training resource is based on the book of the same name by Baptist minister the Revd Dr Ruth Moriarty, based on her academic research, and will be launched at the Centre for Baptist Studies at Regent's Park College, Oxford. [Click here for details.](#)



## The White Bonhoeffer Book Launch - Wed 26 February

The Centre for Black Theology, Oxford is hosting the launch of Tim Judson's book, which offers a 'pilgrimage' through Bonhoeffer's main theological and ethical themes, as well as his key works, with a particular gaze on the subject of race. It explores the themes of race and Whiteness by letting others guide the way, others who offer insights from a Global Majority perspective regarding what it means to be human, and how to live alongside others in a continually violent and disparate world. If you wish to attend the evening, contact Irim Sawar - [office@newroad.org.uk](mailto:office@newroad.org.uk)



## Beyond 500 - Thursday 27 February

This day conference at Regent's Park College, Oxford is being co-sponsored by the Centre for Anabaptist Studies, the Centre for Baptist Studies and the Baptist Historical Society on the theme: 'Beyond 500: A Baptist-Anabaptist Conversation' to mark the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. The speakers are: Stuart Murray Williams, Gideon Diego, Karen Sethuraman, Joshua Searle and Sally Nelson. [Click here to book your place.](#)



## What did the Anabaptists ever do for us? - Wednesday 12 March

In another event to mark the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, Ruth Gouldbourne will deliver a lecture at Scottish Baptist College, Paisley on the distinctive contribution of the Anabaptists - covering themes such as toleration, women's freedom, and pacifism. For more information, email [scottishbaptistcollege@uws.ac.uk](mailto:scottishbaptistcollege@uws.ac.uk)



## AI & Ethical Use in Churches & Faith-Based Organisations - Thursday 13 March

This hybrid seminar (in London, or online) from the Free Churches Group will address how AI can transform faith-based work, from organising services and social action to optimising resources and improving outcomes for vulnerable and marginalised groups. The Keynote Speakers will be the Revd Professor David Wilkinson – ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science) and Sara Speicher – World Association for Christian Communication (WACC). [Click here for more information and registration](#) (places are limited).



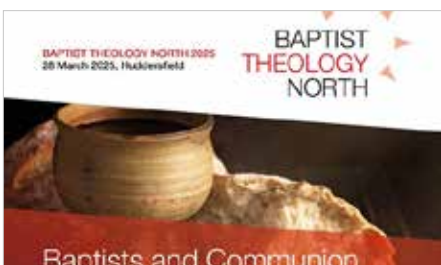
## Firestarters Conversations - Saturday 15 March

Firestarters conversations are opportunities to hear the stories of growing churches, attend interactive seminars on factors influencing church growth, and reflect and discuss your own church and its future growth. This year the conversations will focus on microchurch and scattered models of church. This event will be held at West Clayton Baptist Church in West Yorkshire. [Click here for more information and booking.](#)



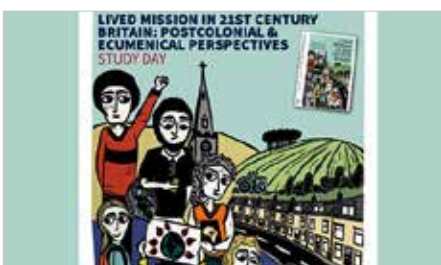
## Praying Together 2025 Prayer Broadcast - Tuesday 25 March

The next live, online national prayer gathering will be taking place between 19:30-20:00. [Click here to join in this time of prayer.](#) Please share this and encourage others to pray too.



## Baptist Theology North - Friday 28 March

There will be a focus on Baptists and communion at this year's Baptist Theology North, taking place in Huddersfield. The day will feature keynote addresses, younger emerging scholars and short paper options, with a focus on conversation as much as information. The keynote addresses exploring Baptists and communion are from Chris Ellis, Linda Hopkins, Sarah Ducker and Ben Jones. At lunch participants will share a reformation-style communion liturgy led by Keith Jones. [Click here for more information.](#)



## Lived Mission in 21st Century Britain: A study day - Wednesday 9 April

Join authors and editors in Manchester for a study day looking at some of the key chapters in the new book *Lived Mission in 21st Century Britain* and be involved in stimulating discussions about what a new missiology in Britain may look like. Full price tickets are £58.00 which includes a hot lunch and refreshments through the day (25% discount available for students, emerging scholars and unwaged people). [Click here for details and booking.](#)



### **Baptist Assembly - Friday 16 - Saturday 17 May**

We hope you and your church will join us for our mission conference as part of this year's Baptist Assembly, where we will:

- Discern together how global insight can have local impact and make a difference in our local communities
- Come together to listen and commit ourselves to God's call to mission for us as a Movement in these days
- Share communion, study the Bible together, celebrate all that God has been doing through the past year and discern his call to us going forward
- Celebrate the lives of those who have died this year and those ministers and mission personnel being commissioned.

For full details about the weekend, [see the Assembly website](#), and book your place.



### **David Goodbourn Lecture 2025 - Tuesday 20 May**

*Just knowing:* How do we create knowledge that does justice to marginalised voices, enabling them to speak, but in a way that protects their dignity and mobilises action from those with the power to make changes? This lecture will explore Project Violet and is being given by Project Violet co-leaders Jane Day and Helen Cameron. Click here [to find out more and register](#) for the online lecture.



### **Messy Church Conference - Friday 20 - Sunday 22 June**

'All together' is a conference like no other! Join the Messy Church team for a weekend of inspiring keynote speakers, informative workshops, Messy Church sessions and fun together with the global Messy Church family. The conference will be exploring how we welcome people of all ages, abilities and from all backgrounds to Messy Church. Click here [for further information and booking](#).