



Update: July 2025

Dear Friends

As we put together this month's update, we are very aware of the constant noise we experience daily living in a world that struggles. Some of the noise is shared by many, immersed as we are in the daily news feed, whilst for others the noise is known only to a few and may never reach local or national news outlets.

Part of our calling as Church in this noisy world is to offer the alternative harmony of God's kingdom. We point towards the voice of Christ who reassures us we are known and loved, and nothing is forgotten in God's sight (Luke 12:6). We share the melody of Christ that offers peace beyond our understanding, (John 14:27). And we join with the explosive singing of the angels heralding the coming of the Saviour into the world. A Saviour born into a place that does not know peace and at a time when fear and violence walk together (Luke 2:13).

We pray that as you receive some of the resources in this update, you will hear the gentle breath of the Spirit of God moving among us. We pray that what we share here will help in a small way as together we strive for His kingdom and seek to bring a little of God's justice to a world full of noise and dissonance.

Diane, Hannah, 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:



'Well, God has brought us here'
The small congregation at New Baptist Church, Burton on Trent, wondered if it should close... Ann Foster shares an encouraging journey of prayer and waiting.



Is your church "dementia friendly"?
Bristol Dementia Action Alliance founder Tony Hall offers this reflection to help churches consider how they can support those living with dementia.



'A wake-up call for courage and community'
Andy Glover reports from the Fresh Streams Vision Summit 2025.

News:

Baptist Assembly 2026 - Save the Date



Have you got Baptist Assembly 2026 in your diary yet? Next year we will be taking Assembly back to the Harrogate Convention Centre from 15 - 17 May 2026. We are busy working behind the scenes getting ready for it, so watch this space – bookings will be opening in September!

The National Churches Trust Survey



The National Churches Trust survey aims to help policymakers, the media and the public understand the extent of the challenges churches face. If you work or volunteer at a church, your response will help build a clearer picture of the work you do. The more churches that participate, the more impactful it will be. The survey has been extended to close on Sunday 13 July and [can be found here](#).

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Updates:

A Response to Government Decisions



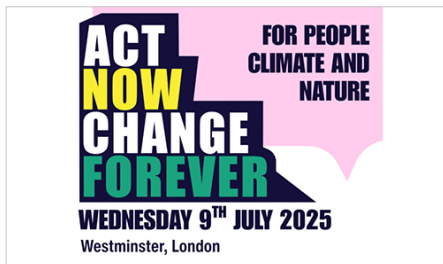
Our Public Issues Enabler, Steve has written a reflection on the recent decisions made in the House of Commons regarding assisted dying and abortion. Read Steve's response [by clicking here](#).

Blog - Tactical nuclear weapons won't provide security



See this recent blog post from JPIT reflecting on the UK government's announcement of its intention to undertake a new nuclear mission. You can read the blog post [by clicking here](#).

Climate Coalition Mass Lobby – 9 July



The Climate Coalition is organising a mass lobby at Westminster on the 9 July where JPIT will have a stall. If you join the lobby, visit their stall in the faith area at the QEII.

Find out more about the lobby [by clicking here](#).

JPIT Conference - For Goodness Sake - Saturday 8 November



Save the date for the Joint Public Issues Team 2025 conference when Christians longing for justice from around the UK will gather together at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. Plan to come along to be inspired, to meet friends old and new, and to empower and equip each other to work for justice and peace in our local churches and communities. More information to follow soon.

This month's featured resources:

July Prayer Diary



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

- Baptist World Alliance World Congress
- Central Baptist Association
- Standing Together Sunday (addressing violence affecting young people)
- The summer break

Please [print out a copy](#) for those unable to access it.

Youthscape Essentials - 3 spaces remaining



Youthscape Essentials is an innovative course that increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today. Whether you're running a community project, a church youth group, or occasionally helping out on a Sunday morning, it's about putting God at the centre of your youth ministry. This 10-week online course (10 September - 19 November) facilitated by our CYF Round Table is being offered free to all ministers and CYF workers nationally.

[Click here for details](#)

Messy Momentum Launch



Messy Momentum focuses on enabling and supporting Messy Churches across the country to grow their engagement with young people. Aimed at young people aged 9+ years old, who have grown up through Messy Church, encouraging together with their parents and carers, to grow in their Christian faith and deepen their relationship with God. You will find out what this could look like for your Messy Church and what is available to support your team. Click [here to find further information on the meetings that will be run over various dates in July](#).

Shine Your Light



Shine Your Light is a united initiative of denominations, prayer networks and streams (including Baptists Together), with a vision of taking carol services, nativity and other Christmas events from within church buildings out into shopping centres, village greens and community centres. This year it will take place from 12-14 December.

Flowing Faith from One Generation to the Next Essentials



The Baptist Union of Great Britain with BMS World Mission have now launched a new church resource to help those considering an ongoing blessing to support God's mission both in the UK and overseas. 'I Will..' aims to provide church leaders a way to help congregations reflect on their ongoing Kingdom legacy. This will be through a range of worship resources from small group material to a Sunday service. The material is flexible and could be used for a one-off Sunday focus through to an entire series looking at Kingdom legacy. They include an opportunity to leave a gift to both organisations through a free online or over the phone Will writing service. [Click here for details.](#)

Disability Awareness Sunday - 28 September



For 2025, Disability Awareness Sunday explores the theme: 'Made in God's image'. Join hundreds of churches across the UK - and the world – to explore and celebrate disability inclusion. Through The Roof have provided resources and handouts to help churches. Click [here to find out more details](#)

This month's featured events:

Hong Kong Prayer Meeting – 9 July



Join the Hong Kong Response Coordinators as they gather to pray for Hong Kongers. Each gathering they have different topic themes where they listen to God, support each other in prayer and walk together with prayer and praise. This time, they will be praying for the people affected by a white paper entitled 'Restoring control over the immigration system'. Click [here to find out more.](#)

Both/And Church: Micro Meets Congregation – Tuesday 16 September



St Hild Centre for Baptist Ministry is hosting a free online symposium asking the question - *Could the church be revitalised by linking the missional effectiveness and leadership development strengths of micro-churches and 'disciple-making movements' with the stability and resources of traditional church structures?* Join this half-day online symposium as participants explore these emerging hybrid 'best of both' models and identify practical approaches for enhancing community outreach and spiritual formation. Organisers encourage contributions on the day from practitioners in various situations. Click [here to find out more](#).

The Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture - Monday 27 October



The Sam Sharpe Partners invite you to the 2025 Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture. This year, we welcome Dr Selina Stone, Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at the University of Edinburgh, for an inspiring evening of theological reflection, justice-seeking, and liberative learning. Her lecture, titled "Free Indeed: From Theological Mis-Education to Teaching for Liberation," will explore how theology can either bind or break us—and how we might reclaim theological education as a tool of spiritual and social transformation. Click [here to find out more](#).