



Update: September 2025

Dear Friends

Over the last few weeks, the Team has been taking time to reflect on the words of Jesus found in Matthew's Gospel often known as the Beatitudes.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

These are words that call us to what is true and real at a time when things can feel rather bleak. They challenge us to know that in the face of injustice, we are not helpless, and in a world fraught with division we can choose the path of radical love, where mercy triumphs.

So in humility we offer you this update and its resources. Together may we explore the way of trust, humility and justice. In a world of unrest and sadness we stand together, lamenting together and offering ourselves as peacemakers.

Diane, Hannah, Hilary, 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:



BWA, EBF leaders receive Ukraine honours from President Zelenskyy
Elijah Brown and Alan Donaldson recognised for their support of Ukraine during the nation's time of war



Poole church celebrates opening of community garden
Longfleet Baptist Church marked the completion of a three-year project to create an attractive outdoor space



See the wonder of creation... through the love of the creator
Dave Gregory introduces his new book **Divine Windows - Seeing God Through The Lens Of Science**

News:

Baptists Together Magazine – on its way to you



The latest Baptists Together magazine has been printed and is currently in transit to be landing on your doormats at the end of this week. Filled with stories, articles and news from across our Baptist family. If you are a minister in a church, or a church treasurer, your copy of this edition is being sent via your church secretary - so please ask them for your copy. Or you can subscribe and get your own copy directly.

Beyond the IOPT Statement



Following publishing of the area on our website on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories at the end of July, we have had over 1150 individuals and 70 churches sign to support the statement from the Core Leadership Team. We have also been encouraged to learn that the statement has resonated with other churches and organisations around the world who have then drawn on it and adapted it for their contexts. We will continue to add resources to this area to help support any engagement your church may wish to pursue on this issue. If you haven't yet, please do read the statement, discuss it in your churches, and consider [signing it here](#).

Ecumenical Call to Prayer and Public Witness for Peace in the Holy Land

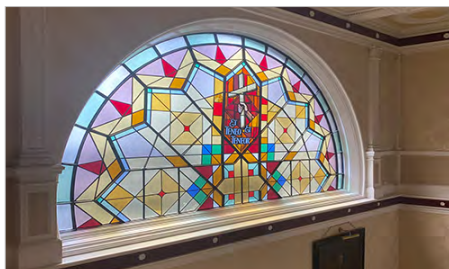


A number of Christian charities and ecumenical bodies (including Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) are calling on churches across Britain to pray for peace in the Holy Land on Sunday 21 September, coinciding with UN World Peace Day and the global call to prayer from the World Council of Churches. Churches may like to consider:

- Holding a minute's silence in their services
- Praying for peace
- Promoting actions such as #FastforGaza, the [Red Line for Gaza weekly action](#), and the [Core Leadership Team Statement](#).

[Click here for more](#) information on the call to pray for peace.

Support for Students following closure of Spurgeon's College



Spurgeon's College announced on 31 July 2025 that the College had entered the insolvency process, resulting in the immediate closure of the College. Our Ministries Team has been working with other partners across Baptists Together to support all Baptists who are part way through or about to start a programme of study and/or ministerial formation for accredited Baptist ministry or Recognised Local Ministry. [Our support page is regularly updated](#) with signposting and information.

Baptist Assembly – Tickets opening soon



We may have only just finished with Baptist Assembly 2025, but tickets for 2026 will be launching in September. With information on programme, venue, exhibiting and more, as well as an early bird ticket reduction, we'd encourage you to make sure your church, community and ministry will be represented at our annual gathering.

Christian Aid Appeal for Afghanistan Earthquake



A 6.1 magnitude earthquake has struck eastern and rural Afghanistan and has killed more than 800 people. Life-saving rescue operations are needed to save the masses trapped under the rubble. Christian Aid is working with their networks to carry out assessments and to identify the extent of the damage and the risk to the most vulnerable, especially women and girls. The remoteness of the areas hit by the quake makes the search and rescue even harder. Click here for [further details about the appeal including how to donate and prayers](#).

(Photo credit is the Directorate of Economy (Nangarhar province) and the image is from Kunar.)

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Updates

JPIT Conference - For Goodness Sake - Saturday 8 November



Tickets are now on sale for the Joint Public Issues Team 2025 conference when Christians longing for justice from around the UK will gather at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. The Right Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton and the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani have been announced as keynote speakers. Find out more about the conference and [get your tickets here](#).

Faith leaders call for decisive action on child poverty



JPIT have shared joint letter from faith leaders to the Prime Minister and Chancellor, calling on them to take bold action on child poverty. They had a total of 38 signatories on the letter, representing the five major faith groups in the UK. Read the [joint letter here](#).

This month's featured resources:

September Prayer Diary



The September Prayer Diary is now available to download from our website. The themes this month are:

- The Season of Creation
- Education Sunday
- Core Leadership Team
- The West of England Baptist Network

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

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.

I Will..... Leave a Lasting Legacy



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.](#)

Parable of the lost sheep - Bible Study for Youth Groups and Church Leadership Teams



Using the reflection made by Savannah Bell at the 2025 Baptist Assembly, these Bible studies and video are offered as a resource for Youth Groups and Church Leadership Teams. Produced by our national Children, Young People and Families Round Table. [Access the Parable of the Lost Sheep bible study as well other useful resources here.](#)

Global Sports Sunday - 21 September



On 21 September believers all around the world will unite in prayer for the world of sport. Global Sports Sunday is a moment for athletes, churches and ministries to pause and invite God to move powerfully in and through sport. This is more than an event - it is a worldwide wave of prayer that reminds every athlete and coach that they are not alone, and you are invited to be a part of it. Click [here to access the prayer guides and videos.](#)

Disability Awareness Sunday - 28 September



Join churches across the UK - and the world – to explore and celebrate disability inclusion. The 2025 Disability Awareness Sunday resource explores 1 Samuel 16:7 ‘God looks at the heart’, and being ‘Made in God’s Image’. Through The Roof have provided resources and handouts to help churches. This year’s resource was written by award-winning Christian author Emily Owen who lost her hearing overnight aged 21. Find out [more and access the resources here](#).

This month’s featured events:

Hong Kong Response Project – Prayer Meeting – Tuesday 9 September



In their last gathering in July, there was a meaningful time praying and discussing the impact of the immigration white paper, ‘Restoring control over the immigration system’. This time, they will continue to pray into this issue—especially in light of the first parliamentary debate. They’ll share updates and pray for those affected by the proposals. Click to [find out more about the prayer meeting](#). JPIT has also produced a [toolkit to support people in raising the issue with their local MP](#).

The Council of Nicaea 1700th Anniversary - 12 – 14 September



Blackburn Cathedral, in partnership with Churches Together in England, is honoured to host an Ecumenical conference to celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The event brings together theologians, ecumenical leaders and local participants to engage in meaningful conversations about unity, respectful disagreement and how faith communities can respond to conflict in the world today. Click here [to book tickets and find out more about the programme](#).

Insurance, Legal Responsibilities and Finance Webinars – Starting Monday 22 September



From September, Baptist Insurance Company with our Support Services Specialist Team are offering a series of Zoom webinars.

- Session One: Understanding Your Church Insurance Policy - 22 September 19:30
- Session Two: Keeping People Safe - 27 October 19:30
- Session Three: Financial support for Churches - 17 November 19:30

[Find out more and to sign up](#).

A Bible English Course for Hong Kong Believers in the UK – Starting Tuesday 16 September



Are you, or do you know a Cantonese speaker from Hong Kong, now living in the UK, and finding it hard to fully connect in an English-speaking church? Do you ever feel like you’re missing out on what God is saying because of the language barrier? The Hong Kong Response Team are running an online English Course open to anyone. 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 about the event.](#)

Fresh Streams Day of Prayer and Fasting - Thursday 25 September



Fresh Streams is inviting Baptist churches, ministers, and individuals across the UK to unite in a dedicated day of prayer and fasting.

On this day, we are encouraged to:

- Pray for mission
- Pray for God's Kingdom to come
- Pray for the Body of Christ

[Find out more here.](#)

Small Church Connexion Webinar - Thursday 25 September



The Small Church Connexion are hosting a webinar on Thursday 25 September 10am on the topic of 'Ensuring church is fit for purpose: a story of transition'. Mike Sherburn (Watchet Baptist Church and on Fuelcast frequently) will be speaking. All churches as welcome but particularly the smaller ones. [Click here to book.](#)

Small Church Reaching your community for Christ - Saturday 4 October



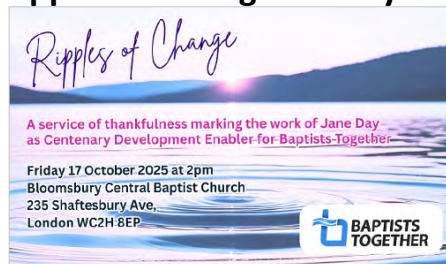
Join the Small Church Connexion as they explore how churches can more effectively connect with their communities through word, meaningful action and online outreach. At King's Cross Baptist Church, Vernon Square, London WC1X 9EW from 10:00- 15:00. A suggested cash donation of £10.00 on the day (including lunch). [Click here to find out more.](#)

Praying Together 2025 Prayer Broadcast – Wednesday 8 October



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

Ripples of Change - Friday 17 October



A service has been organised to mark the role Jane Day served in our Baptist family as Centenary Development Enabler. It will combine thankfulness for the progress made, as well as a time of lament for many of the findings of Project Violet. The service will start at 14:00 and is being held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London. There is no need to register but [click here to find out more](#).

Reconciliation in a Time of Conflict - Saturday 18 October



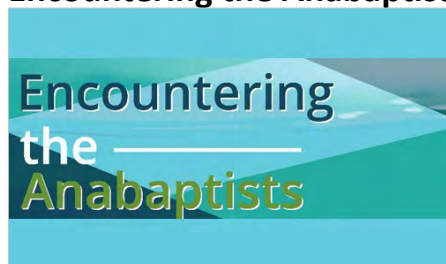
Drawing upon experiences from the Holy Land and Ukraine, what does the Christian ministry of reconciliation look like in a time of conflict? What are the challenges faced by those in the context of war, and what might we learn about being reconcilers in a society increasingly characterised by cultural division and conflict? This event is being held in the John Laing Centre within the precinct of Coventry Cathedral. [Click here for more information and to book your place](#).

The Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture - Monday 27 October



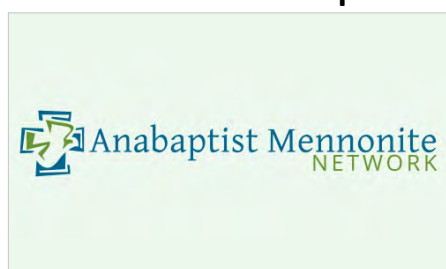
The Sam Sharpe Partners invite you to the 2025 Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture. This year, they welcome Dr Selina Stone, Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at the University of Edinburgh, for an evening of theological reflection, justice-seeking, and liberative learning. Her lecture, titled 'Free Indeed: From 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](#).

Encountering the Anabaptist – Tuesday 4, 11, 18 and 25 November



2025 marks the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. The 'Encountering the Anabaptists' course introduces their history, beliefs, practices and contemporary relevance. It will cost only £20 and will include a copy of The Naked Anabaptist by Stuart Murray. For more information, please contact Stuart at anabaptist@bristol-baptist.ac.uk. Click here [to book a place on the course](#).

The Centre for Anabaptist Studies 2025 Annual Lecture – Wednesday 19 November



This lecture examines the contribution of Anabaptists and Quakers—often described as the Historic Peace Churches—to the wider Christian tradition. Marking 500 years of Anabaptism and 400 years since the birth of George Fox, Stuart K. Masters, teacher, writer, and Quaker scholar with longstanding involvement in international Quaker research and education, will explore their turbulent origins, theological convergences and divergences, patterns of development, and forms of collaboration. He will also consider their weaknesses and distinctive witness in a post-Christendom context. This event will be live-streamed. For further information about this lecture, please contact Stuart Murray Williams at anabaptist@bristol-baptist.ac.uk