



Update: November 2025

Dear Friends

This update comes to you as the clocks turn back and the evenings draw in. For some this is a more difficult season, whilst for others hunkering down with an extra cosy blanket and perhaps a warm fire is a delight. There is a passage in the book of Ecclesiastes that is often quoted as we try to understand different and sometimes difficult seasons of life. It's a passage we turn to when we ask the question 'why?' Why did this happen? Why can't I do more? Why did this have to be?

Ecclesiastes 3 talks of different seasons of life, and it's not an easy read. It acknowledges there are seasons we live through, some of which threaten to overwhelm us. There are moments in life when we can be floored by the pain of the season. We might ask 'why?' when the day is dim and cloudy. And yet, there may be other times when we are able to feel the sun on our backs, lift our hearts in worship, holding others up as they navigate the painful moments.

The update we offer you this month has stories of the season to encourage and help you. A story of a church enjoying the blessing of working across their community, and there is the wonderful story of a previous BU President, Fred George, working tirelessly through his life to bring Christ's Good News across all seasons of life. You will find resources and events aiming to support you and your church through whatever season you are in today and we hope all these bring great blessing to you. And we hope that you will come along to Baptist Assembly next May to share your stories of the seasons through which you have walked.

Whatever the season may look like for you and in the midst of the questions you have, may you experience the mystery of God. May you encounter God's love as you are held and as we walk together.

Diane, Hannah, Hilary, Londy, 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:



A report from Baptist Union Council, October 2025



Celebrating Tyndale 500: churches in Lymm organise 10 day programme around scripture reading



'Relentless in challenging racial injustice' - obituary for former President the Revd Fred George

News:

Baptist Assembly – 15- 17 May 2026



Have you got your tickets for Baptist Assembly 2026 yet? The early bird special offer is on until the end of November with an adult ticket reduced to £125. But why not gather others from your church and take advantage of our group offer – buy four tickets and get the fifth free. Baptist Assembly isn't just for ministers or church leaders, it's for anyone who is a part of our Baptist family. Come to meet others from across our national family, hear stories and share so that we can be united in mission. Visit [The Baptist Assembly area of our website](#) to keep up to date with what's going on at Assembly 2026 and to get your ticket to join in.

Presidency Nominations 2027-28 Now Open



There is still the opportunity to nominate the person who will serve as Baptist Union President in 2027-28. All ministers, church secretaries and treasurers should have received an email from us on 26 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 2026..

Prayers for Jamaica and Caribbean



Following the devastation of Hurricane Melissa across Jamaica and the Caribbean, we continue to hold our sisters and brothers affected by the destruction of the storm in our hearts and in our prayers. We share with you the prayer requests of the Baptist World Alliance.

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) Updates

JPIT Conference - For Goodness Sake - Saturday 8 November



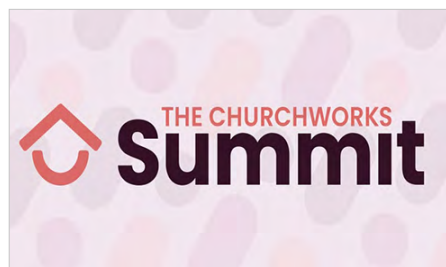
Your last reminder to sign up for the Joint Public Issues Team 2025 conference happening this weekend at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. The Right Revd Sally Foster-Fulton and the Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani have been announced as keynote speakers. Find out more about the conference and get your tickets here.

Please act to alleviate child poverty in the UK



Recent child poverty statistics indicate that the UK faces the highest number of children in poverty since comparative records began. 4.5 million children are currently growing up without access to the essentials of life. This autumn, as the government finalises its long-delayed child poverty strategy, please sign this letter to the chancellor, asking her to end the two-child rule and invest in children. Should you wish to give a little more time to this than simply signing a letter, JPIT have a number of other suggested [actions you might like to consider](#).

ChurchWorks Summit



The Baptist Union is represented on the ChurchWorks Commission whose vision is to bring together the Church and the Government to support the vulnerable in our communities. Tickets are now on sale for their annual summit on Friday 27 February 2026, in Central London. Looking primarily at issues linked to the mental health crisis, poverty, and supporting vulnerable children, the summit also hopes to equip local churches to work with public services, including Local Authorities and the NHS. [Find out more here](#).

This month's Baptist Resources:

October Prayer Diary



The November Prayer Diary is now available to download from our website.

The themes this month are:

- Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer 75th anniversary
- Remembrance Sunday
- Safeguarding Sunday
- East Midlands Baptist Association
- Joint Public Issues Team

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

New Level 1 in Safeguarding Film



Our latest Level 1 Excellence in Safeguarding Film is now available for all Baptist Churches free of charge! This short film is designed to be shown annually in one of your services or at a church members' meeting. The film is available to [download through our website](#).

I Will..... Leave a Lasting Legacy



The Baptist Union of Great Britain and BMS World Mission have launched I Will..., a new resource to help churches reflect on leaving a lasting Kingdom legacy. Designed for flexibility, it offers worship materials ranging from small group sessions to full Sunday services, suitable for a single focus or a whole series. The resource also highlights opportunities to support mission in the UK and overseas, including leaving a gift through a free online or telephone Will-writing service. [Click here for details.](#)

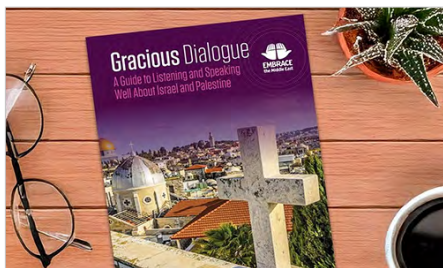
Wider Resources:

Invitation to Participate in Global Survey on Children & Youth Ministry



We have been asked to support [InCommon ministries](#) in their aim to gather information from 32 different countries about the strengths, needs, and gaps in children's and youth ministry around the world. This 2025 research initiative is dedicated to assessing where churches stand globally, seeking to advance children and youth ministry worldwide. [Take the survey here.](#)

Embrace the Middle East – Gracious Dialogues



Embrace the Middle East has launched Gracious Dialogue: A Guide to Listening and Speaking Well About Israel and Palestine, a four-week course by the Revd Su McClellan. Designed for churches and small groups, it combines biblical reflection, historical context, and empathy exercises to foster understanding and grace-filled conversation around this complex and sensitive topic. [Find out more here.](#)

For other resources to help you and your church reflect upon the situation in the Middle East, visit [our resource page here.](#)

Help for your Christmas outreach



Share the meaning of Christmas with your community through Good News newspaper. It contains testimonies of changed lives and a Christmas message by evangelist J John. Good News gets people thinking about faith. [Click here find out more.](#)

Children's comic, Kids Alive!



Kids Alive! is a fun, faith-based weekly magazine for children aged 7–12. Published by The Salvation Army, it's packed with Bible cartoons, puzzles, jokes, competitions, colouring activities, and features on current events, films, and TV programmes. While produced by The Salvation Army, the content is suitable for all churches and is widely used in Sunday schools, after-school clubs, and outreach events. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Special Highlighted Events:

Praying Together 2025 Prayer Broadcast – Wednesday 26 November



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.

Encountering God's Story through scripture and one another - 15-17 June 2026



Encountering God's Story, through scripture and one another - A retreat for children, young people, and family workers. Ministry is a joy, but the reality is that the work we carry can take its toll. We invite children, young people, and family workers from across Baptists Together as we gather to celebrate, seek God, and dwell together in His presence. Find out [more about the retreat here.](#)

This Month's Upcoming Events:

Freedom of Belief in Action Webinar - 6 November



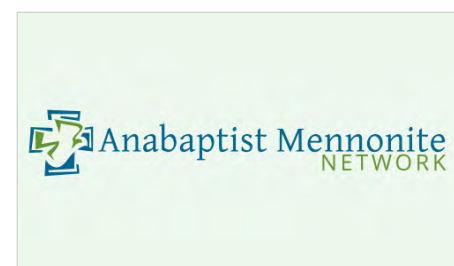
IBTS are hosting a webinar on 6 November to introduce a 12 week course that will start in January 2026. This session will give you an overview of course introduce IBTS's approach to equipping participants with the tools to advocate for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in their own contexts. You'll meet the facilitators, learn about the structure and themes of the course, and have a chance to ask your questions directly.

Insurance, Legal Responsibilities and Finance Webinars – Monday 17 November



For the last of their autumn webinar Baptist Insurance Company with our Support Services Specialist Team, session three will be exploring 'Financial support for Churches' - 17 November at 19:30
[Find out more and to sign up.](#)

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



The 2025 lecture explores 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 and Quaker scholar with longstanding involvement in international Quaker research and education, will explore their origins, theological convergences and divergences, patterns of development, and forms of collaboration. This event will take place at 17:00 and will be live-streamed. For further information about this lecture, contact Stuart Murray Williams at anabaptist@bristol-baptist.ac.uk

Everyone Everywhere 18-30s Chat – Monday 24 November



Everyone Everywhere Chats are a series of interactive Zoom calls for 18-30s and the first will take place on 24 November. This will be a space to learn from others on a similar journey, ask questions and be inspired in mission. They'll hear from Savannah Bell about her journey and work as a Baptist pioneer minister. Click [here to book your place](#).

Shine Your Light



Get ready for Christmas - 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.

Click [here to find out more about the initiative](#).

Discerning the Mind of Christ – 9 January 2026



An online conference exploring how we discern the mind of Christ takes place in January. Discerning the Mind of Christ - Slow Wisdom in the Local and Wider Church is a joint online conference with the Centre for Baptist Studies, Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies, and Georgetown College. Held on two consecutive Fridays, 9 and 16 January 2026, between 14:00 and 16:00 UTC. [Find out more here](#).

Fresh Streams Leadership Conference – 12 – 14 January 2026



Awaken 2026, the annual Fresh Streams Leadership Conference, takes place from 12–14 January 2026 at Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre, Staffordshire. Centred on the theme Awaken, the event invites leaders to encounter God afresh, renew vision, and find courage for ministry today. With worship, teaching, seminars, and space for reflection and connection, the conference offers a vital opportunity for spiritual renewal and unity across the Church. [Book your place here](#).

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18 – 25 January 2026



Materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) 2026 have been offered by the churches of Armenia on the theme of 'One Body, One Spirit'. The materials draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. [Resources are available to order or download from CTBI here](#).

The Intercultural Church and City Transformation (ICCT) Gathering - 5 - 6 February 2026



Join leaders from across the UK in Manchester on 5–6 February 2026, for the Intercultural Church and City Transformation (ICCT) Gathering. Centred on Imago Dei – Made in the Image of God, the event features dynamic speakers, intercultural worship, and four learning tracks, equipping churches and communities to live out unity, justice, and transformation in diverse contexts. To find out more [click here](#).

Baptist Worship Old and New: The Legacy of Stephen Winward – 5 March 2026



A day conference at Regent's Park College jointly organised by the Centre for Baptist Studies and the Baptist Historical Society takes place on Thursday 5 March 2026. [More details can be found here](#).

