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Weekly update from the Association Administrator, Steph Tidy 01444-233431

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New or updated items are **highlighted in yellow**/or blue



“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayer requests

Prayer requests are now sent out in a separate emailing, every Thursday

evening. If you would like your name added to the list for prayer, please email me admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

Planning for the future:

As restrictions begin to be eased, the Baptist Union have put together some information to help you prepare for the future.

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/344970/Planning_for_the.aspx

Coronavirus guidance: Open churches

The Government has announced that churches will be able to re-open for private prayer from Monday 15 June.

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/580007/Coronavirus_Open_churches.aspx

Scenario planning for an unknown future

Baptist minister Darren Blaney highlights a simple planning tool to enable churches to consider different scenarios and gain useful insights as we emerge from lockdown.

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/578734/Scenario_planning_for.aspx

What will your church look like after lockdown?

Our partner Hope15:13 (an initiative of Pinner Baptist Church) has produced this simple resource based around 14 questions churches can use to facilitate reflection and discussion. https://hope1513.com/community/what-will-our-church-look-like-after-lockdown/?fbclid=IwAR2ME77Lh_NLNrDBvO7Rjce9dZ3qNV-avhvMQjwKxL0Ss1Y6Rd-hpQnLcxg

Churches – time to open the doors safely?

Guidance from Anthony Collins solicitors for church leaders who are thinking about how to reopen their church building safely, once Government restrictions are lifted.

<https://www.anthonycollins.com/newsroom/ebriefings/churches-time-to-open-the-doors-safely/>

Should Church Buildings Ever Open Again?

Andy Glover is a Baptist minister at HBC Chester. He asks, 'Everything has changed in recent weeks... including for the Church. Should it mean change for our buildings too?'

<https://hope1513.com/2020/05/29/should-church-buildings-ever-open-again-by-andy-glover/>

Re-imagining our Future

South Wales Baptist Association Moderator Peter Idris Taylor asks the question: If we were starting from scratch: what would church gatherings look like, how would we use buildings, at what times would we meet, and why?

<https://www.baptist.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=255979>

Distributed Church Webinars

A series of webinars exploring key themes from contextual mission and the lessons they offer to the wider church beyond lockdown. <https://bit.ly/distributedchurchrecordings>

Changing Church

The Evangelical Alliance's new report based on a survey of nearly 900 churches and organisations makes clear that they have changed how they operate while maintaining their core mission and vision. Throughout lockdown and the wider challenges, the church has shown great agility and creativity. <https://www.eauk.org/resources/what-we-offer/reports/changing-church>

Ready for the 'New Normal'

This discussion paper for a pandemic recovery and resumption plan has been produced by the United Reformed Church. <https://urc.org.uk/new-normal.html>

New Reality, same mission: A stimulus to renewed community engagement as we emerge from the pandemic

This companion booklet to 'Ready for the new normal' uses questions in that paper as its starting-point. It offers a process for exploring questions of community presence and engagement and social justice in these challenging times and developing new priorities for mission and ministry. <https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/docs/New-reality-same-Mission.pdf>

Also, as one Church Secretary has reminded me, for those whose churches opening up this week, if your building has been closed for the past few months, you will need to carefully check your water systems (all taps, toilets etc), and flush them through, to ensure all bacteria build up is cleared - this is imperative, to ensure the avoid spread of

legionella (which builds up in dormant water) - all toilets should be flushed several times each, and all taps left running for approximately 5 minutes.

SEBA Notices

Live-Streaming:

Don't forget the Sunday services live-streaming is available via <https://www.seba-baptist.org.uk/sebachurchesstreamingservices.htm>

Prayer Broadcasts:

Join in the Baptist Union's prayer broadcasts, Wednesday & Sunday evenings, at 7pm - click here to find the link to the latest, and also videos of the previous broadcasts

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx

South Eastern Baptist Women's Ministry:

Newsletter:

The latest edition of the SEB Women's Ministry newsletter is now available, please [click here to download a copy](#).

SEBA Training

All training events have been cancelled, until further notice

Events

Please note - with all events advertised below, whilst we are publicising them, the views and comments expressed are not necessarily approved by the Association - unless they have been organised specifically by the Association.

Spurgeon's College - Virtual Open Days:

Following the success of our Virtual Open Day in May, which can be still be viewed on our website, we are pleased to announce a further two Q&A sessions with our teaching staff:

- [Undergraduate Virtual Open Day Q&A session](#) on 17 June 2020 between 5.00-6.00pm . Please email admissions@spurgeons.ac.uk to book an appointment to speak to a member of the teaching staff .
- [Postgraduate Virtual Open Day Q&A session](#) on 24 June 2020 between 5.00-6.00pm . Please email admissions@spurgeons.ac.uk to book an appointment to speak to a member of the teaching staff.

A Day to Stop, Look and Listen (Baptists Together):

Thursday 25 June from 10-3pm

In these extraordinary times, 'A Day to Stop, Look and Listen' is an invitation to do just that in the presence of God. Guided by Regional Ministers Geoff Colmer and Beth Powney, the day will consist of a series of five session with a break for lunch. Each session will begin with a 10- to 15-minute introduction with the rest of the time set aside for you to reflect and pray as you choose. The timing of each session is as follows:

- 10.00am Session 1 - Stop and look at God
- 11.00am Session 2 - Look back on your life with God
- 12.00pm Session 3 - Look and listen for God with all your senses
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 1.30pm Session 4 - Look and listen to God in Scripture
- 2.30pm Session 5 - Look back at the day with God
- 3.00pm Finish

You are welcome to attend the whole day or for just a part, though please aim to arrive at the start of one of the sessions to appreciate that session's guided activity. You will find it helpful to have a Bible and a notebook.

To take part in the day (watch and comment on YouTube) click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01whlqxZIDg&feature=youtu.be>

Helpful links:

Covid-19 Crisis Counselling Support Service (Association of Christian Counsellors):

for those who work within a NHS setting (medical & ancillary staff) impacted by Covid-19 & those bereaved at this time (due to Covid-19 or other reasons)
Visit ACC's Website www.acc-uk.org or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.

Baptist Union webinars:

There are new webinars each week, on Wednesdays. The webinars are usually scheduled for 1pm (please do check, in advance, though). The links for the upcoming webinars, along with the video for the completed webinars can be found at

<https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338869/Webinars.aspx>

Upcoming webinars:

- Evangelism Off the Streets - *17 June*
With Chris Duffett from the Light College and Yinka Oyekan, Baptist Union president-elect.
- The Lifecycle of an Emergency - *24 June*
With Simon Barrington from Forge Leadership Consultancy.
- The Apostle Paul's Lockdown Ministry - *1 July*
With Simon Jones from Spurgeon's College and Andrew Clarke from the Baptist Union of Scotland.
- What would the Celts do? - *8 July*
With Roy Searle and Lesley MacLean from the Northumbria Community.

Previous webinars are also available to view, as a video (there are links on the above mentioned page - or you can click on the titles below, which will take you direct to the video)

- [Supporting those facing domestic abuse](#)
- [Helping the grieving during the pandemic](#)
- [The church gathered and scattered](#)
- [Support for Church Treasurers](#)
- [Mental Health & Social Distancing](#)
- [Addressing the current pressures on Leadership](#)
- [Gathering up the crumbs](#)
- [Contemplative Practices During Lockdown](#)
- [Leadership in a time of crisis](#)
- [Handling sudden or multiple deaths](#)
- [Church Governance](#)
- [Finance and Employment](#)
- [Managing Stress and Anxiety](#)

Advice, Resources & Information

Worshipline:

For churches who are interested in setting up a system (for members who do not have the internet) to allow them to access services via the phone, do check out <https://www.worshipline.co.uk/> it is newly set up - but is already being used by one SEBA church.

Information & support from the Baptist Union

BUC Guideline Leaflet L18: Covid-19 Coronavirus Legal Issues:

(updated 15 June) this has been updated again, today - please check out the update

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/572553/Guideline_Leaflet_L18.aspx

If you have not already done so, please do check out their information pages - any updates to advice will be found there

<https://baptist.org.uk/Groups/337630/Coronavirus.aspx>

The BU regular Sunday and Wednesday, 7pm prayer broadcasts can be viewed here https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx - you will also find the link to the upcoming broadcasts available on this page, on the day of the broadcast.

Jobs & Vacancies

Finance Coordinator - African Pastors Fellowship:

APF is seeking to appoint a part-time Financial Coordinator with effect from 1st August 2020. The vision of APF is to empower Christian leaders and enable effective ministry that delivers community transformation through local African churches.

The successful candidate needs to have a professional qualification in a relevant financial discipline and/or experience of financial management, preferably in the charity sector; a clear sense of vocation to work within a Christian organization, an understanding of the nature of APFs ministry in Africa, the ability to work independently and good IT skills (we use Xero, Google and Office software).

Salary: £18,000 pro rata for 40-hour week

Hours: 8 hours per week (i.e. £3600.00 per annum), hours could be worked flexibly by arrangement.

The post may suit a self-employed bookkeeper and we are open to that possibility.

Place of work: We have an office in Faversham

To apply: Send a copy of your CV together with a covering letter explaining why you are applying for this job and outlining the key skills and experience you would

bring to Revd. David Stedman, ceo@africanpastors.org not later than Friday 26th June. Interviews will place on Friday 3rd July.

Vacancies to represent SEBA across the area:

SEBA have some vacancies on groups that you may be interested in (see list below).

- Two SACRE vacancies - on the panels, who provide input into how Religious Education is taught and collective worship is undertaken in our schools - the vacancies are in LEA areas of [Surrey](#) and [Medway](#) - click on the area for the role description. If you would like more information about the role of a SACRE representative, our current East Sussex SACRE rep, Peter White, is more than happy to have a chat - if you would like his details, please contact Steph Tidy (admin@seba-baptist.org.uk)
- up to two Trustee vacancies for the Kent Workplace Mission - the KWM work in Kent, Medway, Bromley & Bexley supporting people of faith, at work; developing chaplaincy ministries in workplaces and helping local Christian communities to actively engage with their local economic community. For more information, [go to their website](#)

If you are interested in being involved in this way, please email Steph admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

If you would like to add a church-based, or Christian charity vacancy to the weekly emailing, please let me know admin@sebabaptist.org.uk

Please note, we cannot post vacancies for Church Minister positions, as these should go through Revd Stuart Davison, and the Settlement system.



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