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Weekly update from the Association Administrator, Steph Tidy

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

“As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear
him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust. ”

Psalm 103: 13-14

Prayer requests

Prayer requests are now sent out in a separate emailing, every Wednesday afternoon. If you would like your name added to the list for prayer, please email me admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

SEBA Notices

SEBA Ministers' Conference 2021 - online webinars:

Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 February 2021

Details have now been sent out to all SEBA Ministers. If you haven't received your email, please contact Pam Kerley pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk.

The programme can be downloaded [here](#) - along with the Bread of Life [baking recipe for the bloomer loaf](#), for those who want to join in on the Thursday.

Home Mission

Home Mission Grant Applications 2022:

The application packs for the 2022 Home Mission grant applications are now available from Revd Paul Kerley - for any churches wanting to apply, please email him, paul@seba-baptist.org.uk

For any churches have not previously had a Home Mission grant, please [download this guide](#), before requesting all the paperwork - and feel free to call Paul if you have any questions (01580-766020 or 07821-550038).

Paul will be running a 30-minute Q&A session, on Home Mission grants, at the Ministers' Conference webinar (on Zoom), on Wednesday 25 February, at 2pm - if you are interested, please contact Steph for the signing in details admin@seba-baptist.org.uk.

All application paperwork needs to be returned to Paul by 31 May 2021.

Home Mission videos:

Please check out the latest SEBA Home Mission video, from Ali Boddington at Hawkinge Baptist Church - www.seba-baptist.org.uk/hmchurches.htm

Also, check out the latest Baptists Together Home Mission video, about the work on a brand new housing estate, just outside Bicester www.baptist.org.uk/ggd

SEBA's 2021 Church Project of the Year:

An email has been sent out to all Church Ministers, Secretaries and Treasurers, with details of SEBA's 2021 Church Project of the Year, Bread of Life, at Strood. Do check out the videos on our Church Project of the Year webpage <https://www.seba-baptist.org.uk/churchoftheyear.htm>

Click [here](#) for the leaflet

Click [here](#) for the PowerPoint presentation to share in your service/meeting

South Eastern Baptist Association Women's Ministry

"Be Still" - SEB Women's Ministry Reflective Zoom Morning:

Saturday 27 February 2021, 10am-12noon

on Zoom

Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,

"Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39

We are all going through difficult times and the storms in our lives are likely to be causing us anxiety and even fear. The only one who can calm our storms is the Lord Jesus.

You are invited to come and rest in his peaceful presence. Come and join us for a reflective Zoom morning hosted by South Kent Baptist Women's Ministry, a short time to be still and rest with God.

For further information, including the link to join the Zoom meeting, contact Corinne Herrick tel: 01303 812603 email: cch65@hotmail.com

Click here for a [poster](#)

SEB Women's Ministry Newsletter:

The latest newsletter is available to download - please click [here](#) to view it.

SEBA Training

Safeguarding Training:

As a temporary measure (until we are able to return to face-to-face training) the Baptist Union have brought out an Excellence in Safeguarding Update film.

The Safeguarding Update film covers the key points of both Level 2 and Level 3 training and is accompanied by a Resources Pack that you can download as a PDF. It lasts for 90 minutes and there is a break point in the middle.

This film is for everyone. If you have attended one of our training courses before, we

hope that you find the film of help as an update and reminder. If you are new this will get you started in understanding Safeguarding in our Churches.

We ask Churches to pay an administration charge of £5 per person. To access this opportunity please let your church administrator/ treasurer know that you wish to undertake this training and they can then send a cheque addressed to 'South Eastern Baptist Association' to Pam Kerley, 58 Henley Meadows, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6EN or pay by BACS to Reliance Bank, Sort Code: 60-01-73 Account number: 00218212 Ref: 'SGT update'

Please then ask your church to download this form [[click here to download](#)] and when completed email it to pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk. *The form can also be downloaded via the Training page of the SEBA website.* On receipt of your booking fee and the completed form Pam will send you the link for the on line training, resource pack and a feedback form, which we need you to complete after you have watched the training video, and return to Pam so that we can note you have completed the update training, and send you your update certificate.

In addition to the training we will be running optional Question and Answer sessions which will last for 45 minutes and have 6 – 10 participants. This will be done over Zoom. Details of accessing these will be given if you contact Pam to register your interest in this additional Session.

Please do take this opportunity to access the training. The coronavirus pandemic continues to affect us all and we need to ensure that our Churches understand how important Safeguarding is in all the situations we find ourselves in.

Update on First Aid certificates:

Here is the latest from the HSE. They are now suggesting you need to show you are planning for the future - with that in mind, would any churches needing either new, or to renew, First Aid at Work certificates, please contact Pam Kerley (pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk) to register their interest in obtaining the training once it becomes available, as we are looking at provisional dates with our trainer (clearly demonstrating the first criteria - as outlined below - if you are relying on the extension from the HSE):

"FAW or EFAW certificates that expired after 16 March 2020 can remain valid until 31 October 2020 or 6 months from date of expiry, whichever is later. All requalification training for these certificates should be completed by 31 March 2021.

To qualify for the extension, employers must be able to demonstrate that:

1. *they have made every effort to arrange requalification training as soon as possible and can explain in detail why they have not been able to do so. For example, they must show evidence that staff with expired certificates are booked on to EFAW or FAW requalification courses, if requested by an inspector*
2. *they have adequate and appropriate equipment and facilities to give first aid to any employee who is injured or becomes ill at work*
3. *the level of first aid cover provided remains appropriate for their particular work environment"*

Events (in date order)

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.

SEBA's 2021 Ministers' Conference:

*Wednesday 24 February, 1am-12.30pm & 2pm-4.30pm
& Thursday 25 February 2021 9.30am-1.30pm*

Click [here for a programme](#) - for more information, contact pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

'Waiting & Accepting' - a Lent online National Quiet Day:

led by Beth Powney & Mark Fairweather-Tall

Thursday 25 February 2021, 10am-3pm

A much-needed opportunity in these troubled times for anyone in the Baptist family to take time out... to pause and rest in the goodness and sovereignty of God.

In this third online national quiet day since the beginning of the pandemic, Beth Powney and Mark Fairweather-Tall, two of our association team leaders, will lead us. They will use an ancient structure for prayer, often attributed to the 14th century mystic, Julian of Norwich. She (or her later followers) proposed a pattern by which we **AWAIT** God's presence; **ALLOW** God to set the terms of his coming to us; **ACCEPT** both our limitations and the nature of his gift to us; and **ATTEND** to what God then calls us to.

For more information, click

here https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/601291/Waiting_and.aspx

Seminars & sessions over multiple dates

The Reading Room - a place for women in ministry/leadership to discover and talk about books:

13 April 2021, 11am - 'The Braid' by *Laetitia Colombani*

8 June 2021, 11am - 'Invisible Women' by *Caroline Criado Perez*

20 July 2021, 11am - 'Theology Brewed in an African Pot' by *Agbonkhianmeghe E Orbator*

The purpose of the reading room is to build community and learn together. Reading is a beautiful practice and books invite us to explore and to bring into question other worldviews. Our hope is that the reading room will broaden your resource base and creativity in a way that will help you in your own ministry. We recognise that everyone will have their own response to what they read, and we want this to be an activity and community that serves you in your ministry.

Each meeting will last for one hour. For more information, and details on how to join the zoom call, email Jane Day jday@baptist.org.uk

Click [here](#) for a flyer with more information

Big Church Read:

Jeff Lucas will be leading the 2nd National Big Church Read through 'Singing in Babylon'. This timely new book encourages us to thrive when life deals us our second choices. Something we are sure everyone right now can relate to in the current climate. (link below)

The launch of the first-ever Big Lent Read through the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 'Living His Story', starts on 17/2/21. The author Hannah Steele will unpack liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. Hannah will be sharing with us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural gifts. (link below)

On the 18 January, the Big Church Read started on 'Slow Down, Show up and Pray' a new book from Ruth Rice founder of Renew Wellbeing. Ruth is leading us through the books and as she shares about her journey through mental ill health, finding simple habits to renew wellbeing, and how churches can create renew spaces on the high street for the whole community. (link below)

Also the 3rd National Big Church Read will be hosted by Pete Greig through 'How to

Pray' that will be starting Pentecost 2021. (link below)

To find out more about all of these go to <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/singing-in-babylon/>

The 2nd National Big Church Read with Jeff Lucas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGzltwfnG8o>

The Big Lent Read 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jma5wnoa-pA>

The Big Church Read through Slow Down Show Up and Pray
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWq_bVP50B0

The Third National Big Church Read with Pete Greig
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t5aA4RwNPs>

Sight Loss Friendly Church Taster sessions for the New Year:

Torch Trust, the Christian sight loss charity, are holding free 30-minute Taster sessions about becoming a Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC).

- Tuesday 23rd February 7pm
- Wednesday 24th February 2pm
- Thursday 18th March 2pm
- Tuesday 23rd March 2pm

These interactive Zoom sessions offer an opportunity to hear about all the benefits of this free resource, as well as a chance to meet the SLFC team and ask questions. Visit sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk or email slfc@torchtrust.org for more information & to book your place.

Leadership Training & Coaching for people who want to make a lasting impact:

(recommended by Tonbridge BC)

One-day Leadership Courses in:

- Introduction to Team Leadership
- Leading and Managing People
- Introduction to Self-Leadership
- The Foundations of a Successful Team
- Leading a Virtual Team

All the above courses can be delivered to your organisation face-to-face for £500 per day or across an equivalent number of hours over Zoom*

*plus travel expenses for face-to-face training. Max group size of 16.

- Introduction to Leading Teams 24 Feb 9.30-11.30am
- Introduction to Self-Leadership 15-18 Feb 9.30am-12pm
- Leading & Managing People 8-12 March 9.30-11.30am

www.moringaleader.com/book-a-session

Advice, Resources & Information

Information & support from the Baptist Union

BUGB Presidential Elections 2022-23:

The election for the 2022-23 BUGB President is now open. All churches (who are members of BUGB, which is all SEBA churches, bar one) are eligible to vote, as are all their Ministers & all Accredited Baptist Ministers in other roles (see the Voting Eligibility section below).

Please do make use of those votes - below are the [4 nominee videos](#) - take the time to watch them so you can see what their focus would be, if elected. The nominees are:

- **Kath and Andrew Dodd** (joint Ministers at Hawkshead Hill Chapel in the Lake District)
- **Stephen Greasley** (Minister at Gillingham Baptist Church, Kent - in SEBA)
- **Beth Powney** (Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association)
- **Hayley Young** (Regional Minister: Mission Enabler for the South Wales Baptist Association and also the Minister at Rumney Baptist Church in Cardiff)

You can download their candidate information [here](#).

Details on the Role of the President can be viewed [here](#).

Voting closes on 31 March 2021. Details of how to place your vote will have been sent to all Ministers and Church Secretaries.

Voting Eligibility

Churches

All churches in membership are able to vote in the election, and the vote is worth the same number as the number of delegates it is entitled to appoint to the Assembly.

- Votes from churches with between 1 and 100 members count for one vote.
- Votes from churches with between 101 and 199 members count for two votes.
- Votes from churches with 200 or more members count for three votes.

Ministers

Ministers on the BUGB Register of Nationally Accredited Ministers in categories 1, 2, 3 and 4

Additionally, if you have been appointed as the Minister or Assistant Minister of a church in membership with BUGB, even if you are not on the Accredited Register, or are on the Accredited Register in category 5, then you are eligible to vote.

Coronavirus Essential Guidance:

The essential guidance page doesn't have any updates to the usual documents since last week, but was updated with their 'Essential good practice' guidelines:

Whilst both the UK and Welsh Government guidelines have allowed churches to remain open during the current lockdown, at the beginning of January we strongly encouraged churches not to open their buildings for in-person meeting if at all possible.

Our advice is based on the significant numbers of Covid-19 infections and pressure on the NHS. We also want to reflect the desire of churches to stand with the wider community in making every effort to limit the spread of the virus. As we move deeper into February, this advice remains the same.

During February and March we will continue to monitor the government's statements and regulations and will update our advice accordingly.

We would still support churches as they open their buildings to provide vital services to the local community, such as food banks, as has been the case throughout the pandemic.

We know that geographical contexts differ across both England and Wales and we are aware that the decision lies with the local church. Nonetheless we are mindful of the pressure church leaders are under and the greater risk taken by all those involved in hosting open buildings for whom we have a duty of care.

We stand together in the hope we have in Christ and we are praying for all at this difficult time.

Please make sure you check out the page, regularly, for any revisions and updates https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/570475/Coronavirus_essential_advice.aspx

Racial Justice Blog:

Baptists Together has started a Racial Justice Blog, a new space to hear from and reflect on a range of Christian voices on issues of racial justice. The idea for this series of reflections was conceived by our Racial Justice Hub in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the worldwide protests that followed.

New blogs will be published every Thursday throughout Autumn 2020, all future blogs, plus those already produced, can be viewed via https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/350290/Racial_Justice_Blogs.aspx

Jobs & Vacancies

Trustee, Retired Baptist Ministers Housing Organisation (RBMHO):

RBMHO is currently looking to appoint new trustees to support the work of the organisation. Its primary charitable objective is to provide housing for retired ministers and their spouses who are unable to secure such accommodation from their own resources.

A profile of the role of the trustee and details of how to make contact are available on the BUGB website at: www.baptist.org.uk/jobs/

The closing date for expressions of interest is 31 March 2021.

Green Pastures - Partner Liaison South:

Part-Time or Full-Time

£26,000 - £28,000 p.a. pro rata

31 days holiday (23 + 8 public holidays) pro rata

Permanent contract (6 month probation period)

Start as soon as possible

We are seeking enthusiastic and dedicated staff to pioneer new Green Pastures' Partnerships in the South. If you want to see change in our nation for the Kingdom of God through the homeless being housed and their lives being restored, this could be the job for you!

Click [here for a job description & specification](#)

Administrator - Baptist Building CIO:

Baptist Building CIO makes loans and grants to Baptist churches throughout the UK and Ireland for building work. We are looking for a new administrator to take over the role on the impending retirement of the current administrator.

Applicants should be able to work independently from home. You should have sympathy with the objects of BBCIO and an understanding of how Baptist churches operate.

You will need to communicate with specialists such as solicitors, property professionals and accountants.

An understanding of the legal and professional aspects of how churches deal with their properties particularly in areas such as new builds, redevelopment and disposals would be very helpful.

An ability to keep financial records is required.

Remuneration £13,000pa based on 15 hours per week (FTE £30,000pa)

For an application pack please contact the Chairman of BBCIO Andrew Burgess by email at burgess683@btinternet.com

Closing date for applications is 28 February 2021

Registered charity no 1185757

Kent Workplace Mission - Team Support Coordinator:

15 hours per week

£15 an hour

The post is currently based at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church, but open to this being a Kent or SE London home-based role (all meetings are held at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church).

If you are interested in this role, please read the [covering letter](#) and [job description & person specification document](#) - and then complete the [application form](#) (all are also

available to download from the resources page of the SEBA website).

Closing date: 19 February 2021

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.

Baptist Union of Great Britain - Presidential Election 2022/23



Kath and Andrew Dodd (joint Ministers at Hawkshead Hill Chapel in the Lake District)



Stephen Greasley (Minister at Gillingham Baptist Church, Kent)



Beth Powney (Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association)



Hayley Young (Regional Minister: Mission Enabler for the South Wales Baptist Association and also the Minister at Rumney Baptist Church in Cardiff)





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(sent via MailChimp) - not just this sort

