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Weekly update from the Association Administrator, Steph Tidy 01444-233431 admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

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

“...But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart
rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good
to me.”

Psalm 13:5-6

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

Following the announcement of a lockdown in England from 5 November, the initial guidance from the Government states:

Places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for:

- Funerals
- To broadcast acts of worship
- Individual prayer
- Formal childcare or where part of a school
- Essential voluntary and public services, such as blood donation or food banks
- Other exempted activities such as some support groups

As we enter another phase of the unfolding story please be assured of our prayers. Our folk still need pastoral care and opportunities to worship, so those live-stream and Zoom services remain vital, where it is possible to do them. However, with the above clarity, please do not feel pressurised by any individual or groups to do things that are outside of the guidelines.

The SEBA team are here to assist in any way we can.

Stuart

Revd Stuart Davison
SEBA Regional Minister Team Leader

SEBA Notices

Do you have experience with the charity registration process?:

SEBA are hoping to be able to facilitate some online 'interactive' seminars, so if you or anyone at your church has experience of taking a church through the charity registration process, and would be willing to help participate in those seminars, please could you let Steph know admin@seba-baptist.org.uk

SEBA Zoom event to encourage the development of BUEN (Baptist Union Environmental Network):

Tuesday 17 November, 2pm

Open to anyone in our SEBA churches with a heart to learn more about how caring for God's world is part of the good news we are called to share. Please circulate widely within your church, it would be great to have someone representing every church in SEBA.

We want to encourage folk to share ideas, ask questions, so that together we can develop the resources to help our churches play their part in this kingdom initiative.

To join please contact Steph Tidy for the login details (admin@seba-baptist.org.uk).

BUEN - Spanish for 'good' - aims to inspire and enable the Baptists Together network of churches, associations and colleges to:

- recognise the goodness of God's creation
- share in God's mission to care for it and respond to the climate and environmental crisis in practical ways at local, regional and national levels
- work for justice for creation and people impacted by environmental change.

Online resources

We now have 2 items on the Online Resources page; an online meditation about Anxiety and online resources for an evangelistic pre-Alpha course. If you have something suitable, (it must be your own, original, resources) please send me brief description and a link, which will be reviewed before being added to the website. <https://www.seba-baptist.org.uk/sebachurches-onlineresources.htm>

Live-Streaming:

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

South Eastern Baptist Women's Ministry:

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



The Bread of Life project at Strood - see how you can get involved.

SEBA Training

All training events have been cancelled, until further notice

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

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.

Online events

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer:

(Gentlemen are welcome to!)

Monday 2nd November, 3pm

Hosted by West Malling Baptist Church

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85056489204?pwd=NHE5bVlSSHAyQTRCOWtmK1NNK043dz09>

ID: 850 5648 9204

Passcode: 426431

Ladies and gentlemen please do not be put off by the title – you don't have to be a Baptist to pray! If you are not busy and have the time to join with others around the world in prayer then please zoom in. We will be following the service put together by the Baptist World Alliance: Women.

The World Day of Prayer Service will be led by West Malling Baptist Church.

THE STORY:

Are we women who do the Day of Prayer? Or, are we women of prayer? Day of Prayer began as women in Europe emerged from World War II. Women, who had been on opposite sides of the battle, realized they had work to do in order to tear down walls the divisiveness of war had been erected. Pain and atrocities had led to feelings of anger and these women knew only God could dismantle these emotional barriers and bring reconciliation. These women were women of prayer. They came together, wrapped their arms around each other through prayer, and the walls came tumbling down.

Since that eventful period, the Day of Prayer movement among Baptist women has

grown.

PRAYER MATTERS:

“Thank you for standing together in solidarity with your global Baptist sisters!”

Today we continue to see division in our world. Walls are built through war zones and polarization in theology, politics, cultures, ethnicities, and economic statuses. We, as Baptist Women, continue to call each other to break down walls in love, expressed through prayer. When we come together, we stand with each other at the foot of the cross, holding hands as we look up to our Saviour to bring healing and hope in a troubled and broken world. Day of Prayer is our biggest, most earth-shattering, ground-breaking opportunity to dispel the darkness and love the world and each other on a massive scale.

Our voices are rising up to God with thousands upon thousands of our sisters'. God hears. God answers. Let's continue to come together to shake the world and dispel forces of darkness.

'Planning a Covid Christmas':

Tuesday 3 November, 2pm–4pm

Ken Benjamin (President of Baptists Together 2019-20) is now Director of Church Relationships at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC). With Christmas on the horizon, Ken and the LICC Church Team are hosting a webinar to help church leaders plan for – and make the most of – a very different Christmas season.

This webinar aims to help us break through the swirling operational questions to see the themes, the ideas, and even consider some advantages to a very Covid Christmas.

In particular, it'll look at how a whole-life preaching model can help us respond to what people may be facing this particular Christmas time.

Whether you're looking for little extras to add to your existing plan, or want to prep a whole Advent series, book online at <https://licc.org.uk/events/planning-a-covid-christmas/> for some refreshing ideas, real-world discussion, and story-telling inspiration.

<https://licc.org.uk/events/planning-a-covid-christmas/#book>

Sharing the Gospel in the New Normal (London City Mission):

Free Event for Church Leaders

Wednesday 11 November 2020, 7-8pm

During the pandemic Jesus' words '*We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us... The night is coming, and then no one can work*' resonated as many gospel initiatives run by the Church were put on hold. Thankfully by God's grace we've seen new ways of reaching people take shape across London, and we'd love to share some of these insights with you and your church leadership.

Be inspired and encouraged and have the opportunity to put questions to our panel as they discuss how the Gospel has been shared in these unprecedented times. Book free tickets at www.lcm.org.uk/newnormal or email churches@lcm.org.uk

SEBA Zoom event to encourage the development of BUEN (Baptist Union Environmental Network):

Tuesday 17 November, 2pm

To join please contact Steph Tidy for the login details.

BMS Action Teams – Online Open Days:

Saturday 28 November, 11am – 12.30pm

and Saturday 9 January, 11am – 12.30pm

BMS Actions Teams is a Christian gap year programme for 18-23 years olds providing the opportunity to serve God around the world. It consists of one month's training, six months overseas, and a two-month UK mission tour.

If you know of people who'd potentially be interested in participating in this programme, then we'd love to see them (and their parents/carers) at one of our online Open Days happening on Saturday 28 November and Saturday 9 January 11 am – 12.30 pm.

These will be fun and engaging opportunities to hear more about the gap year programme and to explore if it's something they would like to apply for.

More information about the online Open Days, including how to book, can be found here: [BMS Action Team Open Days](#).

Advice, Resources & Information

Sight Loss Friendly Church (Torch Trust):

Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC) is the exciting initiative to help churches to become accessible for people with sight loss.

They are providing some free 30 minute SLFC Taster sessions on Zoom for churches to find out more about SLFC including all the benefits of this free resource, meet the SLFC team and ask questions.

They currently have sessions planned for 24th November (7pm), 26th November (2pm), 8th December (2pm) and 9th December (2pm). If anyone would like to find out more visit sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk or to book a place email SLFC@torchtrust.org.uk.

Hark! A Nativity Story:

Saltmine Theatre Company (a professional Christian theatre company and charity) is excited to announce a NEW creative missional package for churches this Christmas. This year whilst everything we love and expect might look different the Christian message of Christmas remains unchanged. Now, more than ever, the message of inclusivity at the heart of the Nativity story is an urgent one.

Saltmine Theatre Company feels called to reimagine our show Hark! A Nativity Story an innovative take on the Christmas story including ... for this new season. Hark will be filmed live in a theatre with a big cast, live band and original festive music. It is expected to last about an hour and a half plus an interval and will include new songs and dance routines and provide comic and heart-warming entertainment for all ages.

We believe this is an opportunity to provide churches with an exciting creative element that cannot be cancelled, and which brings joy whilst sharing the familiar Saltmine Christmas heart with added 'wow' factor.

Private access to online streaming of a full filmed performance of Hark! A Nativity Story will be given to each church who donates to Saltmine. Additional children's and audience resources will be available for download online.

How each church delivers this production to their congregation is up to them. Churches could host socially distanced screenings of the show in their building, provide an exclusive link for their church members to watch at home or do a mixture of the two.

We are asking each church to give a minimum donation of £650 (or up to £850 +) for the Hark Christmas Package or a minimum donation of £250 for the Community

Package.

For more information on this production please

visit <https://saltminetrust.org.uk/index.php/harkchristmas>

Email our creative administrator on creative@saltmine.org or call on 01384 454 807

Baptist scholar involved in British Academy research on COVID-19 (Baptist Times 5/10/2020):

Professor Paul Weller has secured British Academy special COVID funding to conduct, together with Dr Sanjee Perera, research on The Organizational, Financial and Human Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Christian Faith-Based Organization Service Sector in Great Britain

British Academy Research Professor Weller is a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Derby, and also a Research Fellow in Religion and Society and Associate Director (UK) of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture at Regent's Park College, a Baptist foundation Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford.

He is conducting this project from one of his other employed bases within the Faith and Peaceful Relations Research Group at Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations. The project is the only one of 56 projects funded (out of 842 applications) by the Academy from its special COVID research fund to focus on religion. Further information on this is available on the project webpage, from which a more detailed PDF is also downloadable.

The project began at the start of August and is scheduled to run until April 2021. You can follow and engage with its Twitter account at @19_fbo. The project's main research instrument is an online survey of Christian FBOs which will take place between October 2020 and January 2021. In March 2021 there will be a project Knowledge Exchange conference to which also FBOs of other than Christian faith will be invited to engage with the project findings also from their perspective.

Professor Weller said, 'It is a privilege to be working on this project, given the important place that Christian faith-based organisations have in the service sector overall, and have especially had in recent times, in both the Christian, inter-faith, and wider community response to COVID-19.'

If readers know of Christian faith-based organisations that might wish to take part in the project survey, and/or may wish to participate in the project's planned Knowledge Exchange conference, or in any case might just have an interest in the project, please contact the project's email address at: fbocovidresearch@coventry.ac.uk

Information & support from the Baptist Union

Following the announcement of a lockdown in England from 5 November, the initial guidance from the Government states:

Places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for:

- Funerals
- To broadcast acts of worship
- Individual prayer
- Formal childcare or where part of a school
- Essential voluntary and public services, such as blood donation or food banks
- Other exempted activities such as some support groups

The detailed guidance [*from the Baptist Union*] will be updated this week.

We know that all the information and risk assessments and advice updates issued in the past few weeks can feel quite overwhelming. We have certainly never walked this way before, but we walk together down new paths, in the grace and strength of our Lord.

We are praying for you as you continue to pick your way through this strange land; we pray for the peace of our Triune God to rest on you and your church community.

Coronavirus Essential Guidance:

Please note, the Coronavirus essential guidance is being updated every Thursday, so do make sure you check out the page, each week https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/570475/Coronavirus_essential_advice.aspx

The following was updated since the last emailing:

- [Extension of furlough scheme from 1 November 2020](#)
- [New Job Support Scheme](#) (updated 1 November 2020)

You can also download sample health & safety posters, to be used in church here https://baptist.org.uk/Articles/587505/Sample_Posters_for.aspx

Please take time to read these documents.

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.

In his introduction our Justice Enabler Wale Hudson-Roberts explains more:

At the heart of this new series of blogs will be a space to listen. Writers from many different perspectives will present their stories. Some will re-visit their own part in creating and maintaining discrimination. Others will recount their experience of being on the receiving end of the very same discrimination. These are all stories that need to be heard.

These blogs will encourage followers of Christ to grapple with fundamental issues of truth: what it is like living as a person of colour in the UK in 2020, and what is like from a white perspective to begin, under The Rule of Christ, to address the distortions created by unchallenged privilege and power.

It is unlikely that these blogs will make easy listening, but this is a matter of justice that is deliberately designed to challenge our intuitive preference for ease. Our hope, in the Racial Justice Hub, is that these blogs and the stories they tell will kindle and sustain new and continuing commitments to justice, both in our churches and in society more widely.

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

The BU regular 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.

Baptist Union advice webinars:

There have been really helpful webinars over the last few months, as we've been dealing with life during a pandemic. The links to the videos of those webinars can be found at <https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338869/Webinars.aspx>

Jobs & Vacancies

Operations Manger - Guildford Baptist Church:

Our Operations Manager Graham Ball will be retiring at the end of the year, and so we are looking to appoint someone to fill this post from 1st January 2021.

The Operations Manager is responsible for the management of most of the non-pastoral aspects of the staff team, including the Millmead Centre building, Hospitality & Lettings, Administration, and some Financial matters, including payroll and HR.

Working hours and salary will be subject to discussion at interview and applicants should be members or willing to become members of Guildford Baptist Church.

Further details, job description, application form etc. are available on request from Graham: graham.ball@guildfordbaptist.org. Applications will close on Monday 9th November, 2020.

Pastoral Care Assistant - St Barnabas Hospices (West Sussex):

Hours: Between 10 - 20 hours per week

Salary: £11.50 - £12.37 p.h. depending on depth and variety of experience in a similar role (F.T.E. £22,430 - £24,140)

St Barnabas Hospices offers specialist palliative care through two hospices: St Barnabas House adult hospice in Worthing and Chestnut Tree House children's hospice near Arundel in Sussex.

We are looking for a theologically and pastorally competent person, who is grounded in their own faith tradition and theologically inclusive, to assist in the provision of spiritual and emotional support to patients who are under the care of the hospice, together with their families and carers.

For more information go to <https://www.stbarnabas-hospice.org.uk/jobs/pastoral-care-assistant/>

Closing date: Monday 2 November

Interviews expected: Tuesday 10 November

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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