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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

“Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

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

SEBA Notices

Staff holiday:

Please note:

- Revd Paul and Pam Kerley are on annual leave from today until 29 December.

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>

South Eastern Baptist Women's Ministry:

Their Christmas letter is available to download, from the SEBA website <https://docs-eu.livesiteadmin.com/1d1909c2-379f-4c73-943d-9de6d740f152/sebwm-christmas-letter-2020.pdf>

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 email pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk your name and your church and your own email address. On receipt of your booking fee and your name and email address 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

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.

Wintershall - Nativity Winter Walk:

18-21 December 2020

Experience the real Christmas story, as you walk through the beautiful grounds of the Wintershall Estate. Join Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, meet the Shepherds watching their sheep, spot the Angel as you climb the hill and help the Wise Men find the star. This is a truly unique and magical experience for families.

With pre-booked timeslots, and following Covid 19 guidelines, immerse yourselves in the Nativity, while staying safe. The walk should take 1 ½ hours for a mile long walk through fields and woods across the hills at Wintershall. There is free parking and hot drinks and refreshments will be available. Tickets are £35 per family group of up to 6 people.

Click [here](#) for a flyer

Shine a Light:

Monday 21 December 2020

On the darkest day in the calendar (December 21st) we are hoping and praying that as many people around the UK as possible will display a light in their window. Continue to light it until Christmas Day. This is part of CPO's #ShareTheLight campaign this Christmas.

To celebrate and thank those who have been lights to our nation this year, and support those who have suffered: physically, emotionally, mentally, financially, spiritually.

You can sign up to this and they will send you a message Monday 21st December to remind you to 'Shine a Light'.

<https://www.sharethelight.co.uk/register>

BMS Action Teams – Online Open Day:

and Saturday 9 January, 11am – 12.30pm

BMS Action 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 our online Open Day happening on Saturday 9 January 11 am – 12.30 pm.

This will be a 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](#).

Spurgeon's College Live Virtual Open Day:

Saturday 23 January 2021, 10am-12 noon

Ministerial/leadership training courses, Pastoral supervision course, Counselling courses, Lay training courses are just a few of the courses Spurgeon's College will be offering from September 2021.

Join us from the comfort of your home on Saturday 23rd January

There will be online presentations as well as academic and professional staff to answer your questions.

Please register via our website <https://www.spurgeons.ac.uk/open-events/>.

Emotional Rollercoaster training:

Wednesday 10 February 2021, 10am-1pm

The online training offers therapeutic responses, approaches and activities to explore emotional health - it is especially relevant for supporting children who may be experiencing emotional distress, particularly during this difficult time of lockdown and COVID-19. During our time together will be looking at the following:

- What is emotional health?
- How can we handle big emotions?
- What does effective Emotional First Aid look like?
- How can we learn to reduce stress for ourselves and others?

TLG has over 21 years' experience equipping churches to understand and walk alongside children and families who are struggling with their emotional and mental wellbeing. We have taken this knowledge and turned it into our comprehensive 'The Emotional Rollercoaster' resource to equip your Church to support children in your community during this difficult season.

To book yourself on the training, click here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-emotional-rollercoaster-south-eastern-ba-private-event-tickets-130001936291>

Advice, Resources & Information

Kent Workplace Mission:

Their latest newsletter is available to download ([please click here](#)) - also, Jacky, their Team Support Coordinator is taking early retirement in May next year - they will be advertising the role mid-January, but if you are interested (or know anyone who is) and would like more information about the role, please email Jacky on admin@kentworkplacemission.org

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 (CTBI):

WPCU in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "*Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit*", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to

prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the printed version of the resources will not be available to order.

- For more information visit: [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021](#)
- To download resources visit: [Resources for the Week of Prayer 2021](#)

Equipped to Minister:

Equipped to Minister is a training course for members of local churches which aims to equip them to preach, to pastor and to serve in local churches. The course follows a curriculum agreed by all Baptist Colleges in the UK and the Baptist Union. It is therefore acceptable to the Baptist Union, when accompanied by satisfactory Association ministerial recognition outcomes, as a pathway of training for those seeking Union recognition as preachers or lay pastors.

This course is currently being delivered digitally by a team of experienced trainers who provide both digital and written material. The course is flexible. Participants can choose to attend individual modules, the modules they are interested in or the whole course. Students book in for a module at a time and therefore can take a break from the course if necessary and return later to attend the modules they have yet to complete.

Course dates are available to [download here](#)

Details about the course and how to apply are available on the Spurgeon's College website - <https://www.spurgeons.ac.uk/equipped-to-minister-course/> or email admissions@spurgeons.ac.uk

The Joint Public Issues Team - hardship at Christmas:

This Christmas, millions of families are being weighed down by debt because of Covid-19. We need the government to take urgent and conclusive action to address this crisis.

If you're a local church leader, add your name to an open letter to the Chancellor, to raise this issue and ask the UK Government to take action in order to protect millions of families at risk of being swept into homelessness and hardship this Christmas.

Read the letter and add your name: <https://churchpoverty.e-activist.com/page/71725/petition/1>

Videos to share:

Rosalie Kimbangi, Secretary at Portslade Baptist Church, volunteers with the

Brighton & Hove City Mission on their Rest Homes Team. With the current restrictions the Team are unable to go into the homes for their monthly services, so the Team Leaders have put together several short (15 minute) services, available on YouTube, that can be played on Smart TVs (which most of the homes have in their lounges).

The services are suitable for those living on their own as well as those in care homes, or for you to share with older relatives and friends (until you are able to visit with them again).

They are happy for this to be shared with the wider church community - the Rest Homes Team videos can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpyVM52cZaFqFT7IJrbKntVDicF1IAfZP>

Love in a Box: Make a difference to a vulnerable young person this Christmas:

We all want to feel loved at Christmas. This year, more than ever, you can make a difference to a young person. As the biggest youth homelessness charity in the South East, every night YMCA DownsLink Group provide a safe home to 763 vulnerable young people.

After such a tough year, they want to make sure every young person in 24-hour supported accommodation receives a personal present, so they feel the love and care many of us, with supportive families, take for granted.

Just one small gift from you will make a world of difference to a vulnerable young person in your community.

To buy a gift that makes a difference visit: www.ymcadlg.org/loveinabox-xmas-2020/ Or, to donate £5 text GIFTLOVE to 70450

(Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text GIFTLOVENOINFO to 70450)

Information & support from the Baptist Union

Coronavirus Essential Guidance:

Please note, the Coronavirus essential guidance has just been updated. Please do make sure you check out the page, regularly, for any revisions and updates https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/570475/Coronavirus_essential_advice.aspx

The following has been updated:

- [Guideline Leaflet L18: Covid-19 Coronavirus Legal Issues](#) (updated 11 December)
- [Guidance on church worship](#) (updated 10 December)

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

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.

Jobs & Vacancies

Children & Families Worker - Victoria Baptist Church, Eastbourne:

Victoria Baptist Church in Eastbourne is looking to appoint a Children and Families Worker to coordinate children's activities within the church. This will include planning and resourcing an engaging Sunday School curriculum. The successful candidate will also demonstrate the ability to organise, support and train volunteers, to maintain appropriate relationships with families of children who attend church activities, and to build on existing relationships with local schools. As part of our Family Ministries team, they will be expected to work closely with our Youth Worker.

The role will be 30 hours per week, the majority to be worked in normal office hours with some evening and weekend work on a regular basis.

If you are interested, please contact the VBC office (colin@victoriabaptist.org.uk) for further information and an application form. Applications need to be received by the end of the day on Thursday December 31st; but enquiries need to be made by Thursday December 24th.

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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