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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

“How good is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend:
His love is as great as his power
And knows neither measure nor end.

For Christ is the First and the Last;
His Spirit will guide us safe home:
We will praise him for all that is past
And trust him for all that's to come. ”

Joseph Hart

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 24 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.

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

Available now:

Safeguarding Question and Answer Sessions

If you have completed the online Excellence in Safeguarding Training (below) and have any questions that you would like answered this is an opportunity to ask them.

I am running 45 minute sessions on Zoom to talk through any questions you may have. There will be 9 participants each session.

These are the first dates and times:

- Tuesday 16th March at 2pm
- Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30pm

To book a place please email pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk with your preferred date and time.

The link to the session will then be forwarded to you.

More dates will follow.

Wendy Mann
SEBA Safeguarding Officer

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.

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

Gospel Pathways – Hope for Those in Financial Distress:

London City Mission online event for church leaders Thursday 25 March 7-7:45pm

This is the challenge we will be discussing at Hope for Those in Financial Distress. The free online live webinar will be a chance to put questions to our panel of missionaries and a Training Director, sharing the good news of Jesus and seeing God at work in an urban mission context. We'll discuss the opportunity for churches to minister into people's lives in the midst of a global pandemic, and we'll look ahead to how this might shape congregations and make our churches better equipped to reach our communities with the good news. Be inspired and encouraged and have the opportunity to put your questions to our panel as they discuss how they have seen the gospel shared.

Book free tickets at www.lcm.org.uk/hope or email churches@lcm.org.uk

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Dullaway at London City Mission mark.dullaway@lcm.org.uk

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 Orbaton

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=CWg_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
- Leading & Managing People 8-12 March 9.30-11.30am

www.moringaleader.com/book-a-session

Advice, Resources & Information

Caring for Creation – a York Course for Lent 2021 on the greatest challenge facing the human race: the threat to the environment, and climate change

Faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening, and still believe there is much that we can do - individually and together with God to guide and strengthen us.

A 5-part discussion course on:

- The Environment
- Global Warming and Climate Change
- The Age of Humans
- Coming out of Denial and Facing Crisis
- Faith, Hope and Love

For more information check out <https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/product/caring-for-creation/>

Riding Lights Theatre Company is pleased to announce Breaking Day – a lockdown Passion Play by Les Ellison:

As day begins to break on Good Friday, the occupying Governor's tenuous grip on authority is slipping. It's festival time in Jerusalem but his wife is plagued with disturbing dreams. Amid the demands of the Sanhedrin and the murderous cries of the mob, the lines between personal and political in Pilate's house start to blur. The teacher at the centre of it all remains silent.

With stark intimacy, *Breaking Day* casts a surprising light on the death of Jesus from inside the Governor's household, immersing us in the decisions that led to crucifixion. Filmed remotely in an innovative lockdown style, *Breaking Day* is a virtual passion play for Easter 2021, available to churches from 15 March. Available to pre-order now.

Please see our website <https://ridinglights.org/breaking-day-for-churches/> for more information on how your community can benefit from *Breaking Day* in your online or in person events.

If you have any questions please email Bethan on touring@rltc.org or call 01904 655 317 - the voicemails are being checked every few days, so we will get back to you.

Leprosy Mission - new online resources:

Hello! I'm Chris Stratta, your Regional Manager from The Leprosy Mission. I would love to share some resources with you for virtual worship that focus on our exciting new project in Mozambique, The Unconditional Appeal, spearheaded by Dame Darcey Bussell. The project focuses on building community hubs to take education and training about leprosy out to rural communities in Mozambique, showing the unconditional love of our God. I am so pleased to share that until 24 April, every gift will be doubled by the UK Government meaning that your gifts will have twice the impact!

The resources I can offer range from a 5 minute film of Mozambique introduced by Darcey (that can be downloaded here https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s8PbpeKP3RRjqvQH5LkB--0rW_1AZfuV/view?usp=sharing) to a 30 minute virtual service for a Leprosy Sunday including a sermon, readings and prayers (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pqe2qOFMogRYY2gqAWPIHm3JV0jy2TWK/view?usp=sharing>). Please do get in touch with me on 07940 720826 if you would like bespoke resources for your church or if you'd like to discuss a Leprosy Mission speaker joining you on Zoom. You can find out more about the project at www.unconditionalappeal.org.uk.

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.

Please do make use of those votes - click on this link to see the individual videos, plus their interview videos with Revd Diane Watts (Faith & Society Team Leader) https://baptist.org.uk/Groups/357620/Interviews_with_Presidency.aspx . You can also 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.

Coronavirus Essential Guidance:

There have been no updates, since 4 February - although with the emerging announcements from government, please do regularly check the essential guidance page, 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):

RHBMO 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

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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