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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**

“Who is like unto Thee O LORD among the gods?  
Who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness,  
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?  
Who is like unto Thee?”

Judy Horner-Montemayor

### 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](mailto:admin@seba-baptist.org.uk)

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## SEBA Notices

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](mailto: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).

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

## 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 23rd March at 7.30pm
- Ministers only - Tuesday 30th March at 10am \*New Date\*
- Tuesday 20th April at 10.30am \*New Date\*

To book a place please email [pam.admin@seba-baptist.org.uk](mailto: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*

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**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](mailto: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.*

**National Day of Reflection & Prayer:**

*Tuesday 23 March 2021*

Across the country, churches are invited to be prayerful one year on from the start of the first lockdown. There will be a minute's silence at 12 noon followed by a ringing of church bells and later a doorstep vigil at 8pm.

The National Day of Reflection looks to reflect on our collective loss, support those who have been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future.

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### **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](http://www.lcm.org.uk/hope) or email [churches@lcm.org.uk](mailto:churches@lcm.org.uk)

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Dullaway at London City Mission [mark.dullaway@lcm.org.uk](mailto:mark.dullaway@lcm.org.uk)

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### **Reset The Debt Day of Prayer & Action:**

On Friday 26th March, we're joining together in prayer for just and compassionate solutions to the household debt crisis brought on by Covid-19.

We're also joining in action, to call on our government to support families weighed down by debt because of Covid-19. Could you take a moment to join us? Put it in your diary now and join us to pray and act for change.

What to expect:

*Pray throughout the day:* Practical and thoughtful prayer prompts throughout the day.

*Pray Together:* Join us at 12:45-1:15 for a live prayer broadcast with Church leaders and MPs, as we hold those weighed down by debt in prayer. More details to follow on <https://resetthedebt.uk/prayandact/>

*Take Action:* Speak up for change with our quick but powerful actions. Sign the

petition, share with friends and start a conversation. <https://e-activist.com/page/77548/petition/1>

For more information and stories, check out <https://resetthedebt.uk/>

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### **Online Easter Retreat:**

*29 March-4 April 2021*

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is offering an online retreat this Easter.

The story of Easter has the potential to significantly transform our lives, yet all too easily this mystery at the heart of Christian faith is missed, especially in these momentous times we are living in. Take time with us to stop and ponder the significance of the last week in the life of Jesus.

Each day at 10am there will be a time of worship, reflection and sharing led by a CCHC Chaplain. The retreat is by donation and runs 29th March to 4th April (book for the whole 7 days or individual days within the week).

For more information and to book, please visit our website [www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

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### **Wintershall's Passion of Jesus:**

*Good Friday 2 April 2021 - 12 noon and 3 pm - Passion of Jesus Play recorded in 2019 in Trafalgar Square*

watch through their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay>

The livestream lasts for 90 minutes. The livestream will be posted on YouTube afterwards for those who missed it. Wintershall are committed to returning to Trafalgar Square on Good Friday 2022 and will perform the Passion of Jesus play together with other towns and cities across the UK as part of their One Good Friday project.

If you require further information please contact them [admin@wintershall.org.uk](mailto:admin@wintershall.org.uk)

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### **Spurgeon's College Live Virtual Open Day:**

*1-1 Sessions on 14 April, 4.30–5.30pm*

We warmly invite you to visit our website, [www.spurgeons.ac.uk](http://www.spurgeons.ac.uk) to listen to our Virtual Open Day course presentations.

[Courses Available](#)

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes, including the BA in Theology, MA in Christian Thought and Practice, MTh in Advanced Christian Studies, Biblical and Theological Studies, Master of Ministry and MA in Digital Theology.  
Counselling Courses (level 2, 3, 4), The Professional Certificate in Pastoral Supervision and Equipped to Minister

Please email [admissions@spurgeons.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@spurgeons.ac.uk) to book an appointment for a 1-1 session with a member of our academic and professional staff to find out more.

## Seminars & sessions over multiple dates

### **Learning from Peter, Paul & Mary – Rural Ministries:**

*Monday 12 April-Wednesday 14 April 2021 10.15am-2.30pm daily*

*Online*

Delivered online via Zoom we will explore the topics of leadership after failure, being attentive to the Holy Spirit in leadership, and the kind of heart Jesus is looking for in his leaders. Each day begins with some input of the character of the day, then through conversation together we will seek to draw out the applications for today, in particular those relevant for the context we find ourselves in. With opportunities to reflect, pray together, and network, this conference is ideal for leaders, either lay or ordained, who are serving in a rural context.

12th April: Lessons from Peter

13th April: Lessons from Paul

14th April: Lessons from Mary

Each day will be led by a member of the Rural Ministries team: Alistair Birkett (Director: Scotland & Northern England), Alison Griffiths (Director: Wales & South West), Simon Mattholie (Chief Executive)

#### Daily programme:

Beginning at 10:15, each day will be a mixture of input, reflection, dialogue & prayer, finishing at 12:00. The team will then be available in the afternoon for further conversations, advice, ministry & prayer .

Attendance is free but a daily donation of £10 towards our work would be appreciated.

To register your place go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/learning-from-peter-paul-mary-tickets-141948244019>

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**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](mailto:jday@baptist.org.uk)

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

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**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 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](http://sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk) or email [slfc@torchtrust.org](mailto:slfc@torchtrust.org) for more information & to book your place.

**Praise report from Northern Israel**

In the last few months, we sent information about a unique opportunity to partner with us by helping revitalize the church in Rama, a strategic location in the north of Israel. This church was planted in 1962, but the congregation has not been able to use the church property for over 15 years, because the children of the previous pastor (now deceased) refused to vacate it. The church has been meeting in a rented hall since then.

We are now excited to share that the property in Rama is now clear to be used for ministry again!

*Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
Our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”  
(Psalms 126:2)*



The tenants left the place in bad shape, and it needs to be renovated. We have shown love to them and we pray God will bless them as they begin their life in a new place.

We are grateful for our partners at BCI (the local ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention) for their amazing perseverance to make this happen. We are thankful for churches and individuals who gave generously to support this effort. More funds are still needed to replenish the funds ABC used from its limited reserves to pay the previous tenants, as agreed by all parties involved.



Rama Baptist Church and other ABC churches already began the cleanup process with joy, in preparation for going back to worship the Lord in the place again. We are grateful first and foremost to God who allowed us to see this day!

Personally, I had tears of joy when we first arrived at the location as I have worked for almost two decades to see this day! It was indeed a historical day in the life of Baptists in Israel.

We can now say with Nehemiah: "*The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we, His servants will arise and build*" (Nehemiah 2:20)

Thank you for being part of making history, which is His story.

In Him,

Bader Mansour

Development Officer

Association of Baptist Churches in Israel

PO Box 419 Nazareth 16100 - Israel

Email: [info@baptist.org.il](mailto:info@baptist.org.il)

## Advice, Resources & Information

### **Easter Resources:**

We have been made aware that Go Chatter have over 75 Easter video resources - so if you're looking for something for your services (online or offline), you may find something there. <https://gochattervideos.com/>

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### **Operation Agri - Go for Growth in Uganda:**

The appeal pack of dvd/memory stick plus other resources can be ordered from [www.operationagri.org.uk](http://www.operationagri.org.uk) or email [admin@operationagri.org.uk](mailto:admin@operationagri.org.uk)

There is also a link to download videos.

We invite churches especially to support Operation Agri's 60th anniversary year.

[www.operationagri.org.uk](http://www.operationagri.org.uk)

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### **Electronic Organ available:**

A member at Ewhurst Baptist Church has moved into a nursing home and would like the electronic organ to go to a good home, where it can be used in worship (in the future). It would need to be collected (and perhaps a small donation would be appropriate to the family). If you are interested, please contact Church Secretary,

Marian Copus, in the first instance - by text, on 07523-768810



## Information & support from the Baptist Union

### **Baptist Assembly online 2021 - registration now open:**

*Shane Claiborne to be keynote speaker at Baptist Assembly 2021 online.*

Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author. Shane worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. He heads up Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living 'as if Jesus meant the things he said'. Shane is a champion for grace which has led him to jail advocating for the homeless, and to places like Iraq and Afghanistan to stand against war. Now grace fuels his passion to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence. Register now at [www.baptistassembly.org.uk](http://www.baptistassembly.org.uk) and view this message from Shane here <https://youtu.be/KJj8vZcpCdc>

To host on social channels you can download the video from <https://www.mediafire.com/file/r17pnvo0ljnopuj/ShaneClaiborneIntro.mp4/file>

### **BUGB Presidential Elections 2022-23:**

Voting closes on 31 March 2021. Details of how to place your vote will have been sent to all Ministers and Church Secretaries (if you cannot find your voting information, please contact Hilary Treavis at the Baptist Union [htreavis@baptist.org.uk](mailto:htreavis@baptist.org.uk))

### Coronavirus Essential Guidance:

There have been recent updates to the guidance, so please check out the following:

- [Advice for ministers – pastoral visiting](#) (updated 18 March)
- [Coronavirus advice: Children's, youth and families ministry](#) (updated 18 March)
- [Guideline Leaflet L18: Covid-19 Coronavirus Legal Issues](#) (updated 18 March)

Please do regularly check the essential guidance page, for any revisions and updates [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/570475/Coronavirus\\_essential\\_advice.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/570475/Coronavirus_essential_advice.aspx)



### Climate Sunday

The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before 5 September 2021. At this service, congregations are encouraged to make a commitment to greater action to address climate change in their own place of worship and community and to use their voice to tell politicians we want a cleaner, greener, fairer future at the heart of plans agreed during COP26 (the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference).

A selection of service materials and themed resources are available for all denominations and traditions. Our vision is to leave a lasting legacy of thousands of UK churches better equipped to address this critical issue as part of their normal

discipleship and mission; and to make a very significant contribution to civil society efforts to secure adequate national and international action at the start of this most critical decade.

Has your church decided when you'll host your Climate Sunday yet? This year, churches across the UK are coming together in worship, to commit and speak up for climate justice.

Watch the Joint Public Issues Team explain what Climate Sunday is about by clicking on the video! You can download the video to share in your church service here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BAODZvoXtA>

For more information, and resources, check out <https://www.climatesunday.org/>

## Jobs & Vacancies

### **Church Administrator - Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham:**

We are currently looking to recruit a Church Administrator to be responsible for ensuring that day to day administration of the church and the church office runs smoothly and efficiently and to manage and co-ordinate the team of volunteers who man reception for core hours and provide a warm welcome to all visitors.

There is the opportunity to expand this role into areas of church communication, should the candidate have the appropriate skills.

This is a key role in enabling the church to operate effectively and will be an important part of our team helping us to deliver our vision.

It is a part-time role of up to 24 hours over a minimum of 3 days per week as part of a job share and with an annual salary of £14,041 (for 24 hours).

For full details of the roles and for an application form please e-mail David Sheldon ([david.sheldon@brbc-horsham.org.uk](mailto:david.sheldon@brbc-horsham.org.uk)).

Applications must be received by 12pm on April 16th and interviews will be held on April 19th

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### **Worship Leader - Ashtead Baptist Church:**

Ashtead Baptist Church is looking for an enthusiastic musician, with a passion for worship, to come and inspire and teach our present worship group that comprises

members of various ages. This will not be a paid position, but we would be prepared to pay travelling expenses, in the initial stages. Ideally the required person should live close to Ashted ,and we would hope that this position could grow to be permanent with the candidate becoming a member of the fellowship.

Please email Paul Gyoury [gyouryp@gmail.com](mailto:gyouryp@gmail.com) to discuss this further.

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**Children & Families Worker - Victoria BC, 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 [helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk) for further information and an application form.

Applications need to be received by the end of the day on Friday April 9th.

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**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/](http://www.baptist.org.uk/jobs/)

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

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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