

## Journey of faith

IN 2003 Fernhill Heath Baptist Church appointed a minister in training on 50 per cent Home Mission support. By 2013, the church was on 0 per cent Home Mission, with a full-time minister. Behind these statistics lies a journey of faith.

The village of Fernhill Heath is situated on the edge of Worcester and has a population of about 2,500 people. Like many small churches it has a big heart to share the light of Christ in the community and beyond. Growth in terms of faith and numbers has not been spectacular, but gradual.

During an early Home Mission visit to the church, the question was posed, "What do you do regarding mission?" The answer was "We don't do mission, we are mission!"

So whether in one of the church activities such as 'Open the Book' school assemblies, or Wednesday Morning Ladies (keep fit) group, or Thursday Diners (lunch club), or Snack and Chat (monthly café), or the Green Team initiatives, or the GMC (Grumpy Men's Club), or whether in our personal encounters as Christians, the vision in Christ's name is to be instruments of grace and channels of blessing. In other words, to be church.

This also means we take our partnership in the gospel very seriously with those around the world.. without Home Mission support, this journey of faith may never have happened!

For more Home Mission stories visit [www.baptist.org.uk/hmstories](http://www.baptist.org.uk/hmstories)

## Prayer points

A COLLECTION of weekly prayers are uploaded each month on the Baptists Together website in the prayer and worship resources section [www.baptist.org.uk/prayer](http://www.baptist.org.uk/prayer)

Here are this week's:

*As the new school term begins, pray for all those for whom this time of year signifies a new start – a new class, a new school, a new college, a new job. Pray for Schools is encouraging local churches to send children, young*

*people, and anyone working in schools Back to School with God, at the start of this academic year. [www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org)*

We also invite all churches to pray with the **Baptist Steering Group** when it meets next week (10-11 September).

Among a number of items on its agenda, the group will be looking at the findings of the survey on ministerial formation, and seeking God's wisdom for the future.

### JOBS

**Part-time Regional Minister, South Eastern Baptist Association**

For more details visit: [www.baptist.org.uk/jobs](http://www.baptist.org.uk/jobs)

### DEATH

**JOHNSON - Tom** - Founding member of Rising Brook Baptist Church with late wife Gladys. Died peacefully 17 August. Funeral at Stafford Crematorium at 12.30pm on Friday 5 September. Celebration of Tom's life at 2.15pm at Rising Brook Baptist Church followed by tea.

### IN MEMORIAM

**TYDEMAN - Marjorie** - In lovely memory of our dearest Mum and Gran who died 7th September, 1989.

Always in our thoughts, love from all her family. 'Great was her faithfulness'.

### BAPTISMS

**Bromley Common Baptist Church, Bromley:** Amy Clements, Scott Tully, Sarah Crisp ..... 3  
**Chatsworth Baptist Church, West Norwood:** Lovena Graham, Sharon Laing, Paul McPherson, Akinlolu Ogunyide ..... 4  
**Devonport Community Baptist Church, Plymouth:** Alex Murphy, Brogan Bowden, Debbie Olstrom and Kirk Grenney ..... 4  
**Kidlington Baptist Church, Oxfordshire:** Tiam Parinejad ..... 1  
**Maesyrdale Baptist Church, Llanbadarn Fynydd:** James Berry, Emily Berry, and Lydia Berry ..... 3  
**Oakes Baptist Church, Huddersfield:** Emma O'Connor ..... 1

Send notifications of baptisms, ministerial changes, deaths and testimonies to [phobson@baptist.org.uk](mailto:phobson@baptist.org.uk)

# THE BAPTIST TIMES weekly NEWS ROUND-UP

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## Shining a light

CHURCHES will be increasingly encouraged to take a stand against gender based violence (GBV), thanks to a groundbreaking new initiative from BMS World Mission.

Dignity aims to shine a light on the issues underlying GBV both here in the UK and overseas.

Baptist Christians, mission personnel and BMS partners will be encouraged to think about how these issues affect them, what they can do to help other understand, and how they can take a stand themselves.

BMS has developed a suite of resources for the Dignity initiative, which will officially launch this autumn and run for 18 months.

These include a DVD for ministers and churches to help leaders engage with scriptural wisdom on gender based violence.

This aims to equip individuals and congregations to understand the range of abuse encountered in communities worldwide.

It features ministerial reflections from Anne Wilkinson-Hayes, Head of Mission Enabling at the Baptist Union of Victoria, Australia; a theological overview of the issue from Dr Stephen Holmes (University of St

**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE  
IT'S GLOBAL**

**35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.\***

**DIGNITY**  
bmsworldmission.org/dignity

\* Either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence  
(Source: WHO)

Andrews); compelling videos from BMS mission personnel; and small group resources.

Dignity will also be an umbrella for a wide range of mission initiatives, funding applications and advocacy co-ordinated by BMS.

BMS will be regularly sharing stories unpacking how GBV is affecting women and girls in the countries where it operates, and has already launched a BMS Dignity blog to share general news and developments in this area.

Throughout the summer

it has shared several striking images via its social media channels to introduce the Dignity programme.

BMS General Director David Kerrigan said, 'I believe this is really important, and it gets to the heart of the kind of justice agenda which we'll be part of in the years to come.'

**For more on the Dignity campaign, and to pre-order the DVD visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/dignity](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/dignity) Visit the BMS Dignity blog, <http://dignity-gbv.tumblr.com>**

# Home for Good becomes an independent charity

HOME for Good - a church-based campaign to promote adoption and fostering - has become a charity in its own right.

The initiative originally launched a year and a half ago as a partnership between the Evangelical Alliance, Care for the Family and The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service in response to the needs of thousands of vulnerable children. Each day 50 children are taken into care; around 6,000 children await adoption, and more than 9,000 are in need of fostering. Home for Good believes the church can be mobilised to make a difference.

As the initiative has grown, it became an independent charity on 1 September.

General director of the Evangelical Alliance, Steve Clifford, said it goes with the prayers and blessings of the entire Alliance family.

'The impact of the Home for Good campaign over the last two years has been extraordinary. The combined efforts of Care



Interested in taking part in Adoption Sunday on 2 November? Visit [bit.ly/1ttkrWK](http://bit.ly/1ttkrWK)

for the Family, Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and the Evangelical Alliance, led by Krish Kandiah, a foster carer and adoptive parent himself, has seen the issue of adoption and fostering explode into the consciousness of evangelical Christians all over the country.'

Krish, who is also leaving his post as the Alliance's executive director of churches in mission to join the London School of Theology, said, 'It has been a privilege to lead the Home for Good campaign.

'We believe the church is uniquely placed to help find thousands of children the homes they need; indeed it is a vital part of every Christian's calling to play their part in caring for the vulnerable.'

On 2 November this year, Home for Good will host its second annual National Adoption Sunday in churches in the UK. Two hundred churches took part in the first ever national Adoption Sunday.

In Southampton alone 70 church-goers applied to be foster carers.

# 'Season of Prayer' for the NBA

THE Northern Baptist Association is calling all its churches to join in prayer throughout September.

The 'season of prayer' aims to help those in the Association 'seek God together, bring our needs and concerns to him in intercession, and to deepen our support for one another,' said NBA Regional Minister Paul Revill.

The centrepiece of the month will be a walking pilgrimage to all the Association's 52 churches, taking place over three weekends.

The walking team will pray in each church location, and as they walk between their churches.

Churches have also been encouraged to try praying in a new way, such as a holding a 24 hour prayer event, getting onto

a high place where they can see their region and praying for the community there, booking an unusual venue or going to a place where they feel God is at work.

'Try to get as much prayer going between and across our churches throughout the month of September,' said Paul. 'Let's deepen our experience of God and see him working more powerfully amongst us.'

# Supporters mark "out of the ordinary" trust fund anniversary

SUPPORTERS of a trust fund set up following the death of a Baptist youth leader have marked its 30th anniversary.

The Jonathan Graham Trust Fund was established in celebration of Jonsie Graham, who accidentally drowned at a European Baptist Federation youth camp in Hamburg, Germany in July 1984.

Since then it has donated more than £60,000 to young people involved in Christian projects, supporting young people in BMS Action Teams, Soapbox and Oasis, as well as a variety of individual projects.

Jonathan was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Southsea, and the Thursday fellowship there enjoyed a cream tea and cake to celebrate the anniversary.

The occasion was also an opportunity to thank Elizabeth Reid (pictured front row, centre), who is retiring as the fund's honorary treasurer. Her husband, the late Kenneth Reid MBE and then church treasurer, set up the fund as a response to the tragedy and the financial generosity of



the young people at the youth camp where Jonsie died.

Jonsie's father David Graham said, 'It does not seem possible that 30 years have elapsed since *The Baptist Times* announced on its front page the accidental drowning of Jonathan Graham.

'The Thursday Fellowship and congregation at Immanuel have made a major contribution to the fund, generously maintaining their support since its inception.'

The fund still distributes around £1,500 a year to many different projects undertaken by young people. David explained it encourages them "to do out of

the ordinary as they bring their energies, talents and concerns to needs in Britain and across the world in the name of Christ.'

'Knowing what is being achieved, we are proud to be associated with their responses to the challenges and vision they have been given,' he added.

**Do you know of someone who would benefit from the Jonathan Graham Trust Fund?**

Contact David Graham at [grahamvittoria52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grahamvittoria52@hotmail.co.uk) or 023 9281 7976

## From the www. [baptisttimes.co.uk](http://baptisttimes.co.uk)

Recent stories and comment pieces on *The Baptist Times* website

>Some Unusual Advice to the Media: In the manner of the Screwtape Letters, J.John

imagines how the devil would use the media to undermine the Christian faith

[bit.ly/WajBiG](http://bit.ly/WajBiG)

> Hundreds of Reading Festival-goers experience the hospitality of a Baptist church

[bit.ly/1sZnTnY](http://bit.ly/1sZnTnY)

> Travelling Light: Greenbelt 2014: A very different venue,

but still the same desire to challenge, question, and enlighten (and great photos)

[bit.ly/1rMk5uf](http://bit.ly/1rMk5uf)

> How will you vote next year? And other questions related to politics - Baptists invited to be part of an Evangelical Alliance survey

[bit.ly/1qnYZQI](http://bit.ly/1qnYZQI)