



**23 August, 2017**

**News:**

**New event explores church role in cultural transformation**

**A two-day event this autumn will bring together Christians to discuss the future of our towns and cities**

Movement Day UK will explore the role the whole church can play in their spiritual, cultural and social transformation.

'We are facing some significant challenges as a nation over the next few years,' said Baptist minister the Revd Roger Sutton, organiser of Movement Day UK.

'What future do we want for our children and the places we live in? How can we heal the divisions? How can we support the most vulnerable and reach our potential as a nation?'

Roger, a former church leader and co-chair of the Trafford borough strategic partnership in Manchester, explained that Movement Day UK is not so much a 'big tent' as a 'large lounge' where Christians from churches and those working in business, arts, health, politics, local government, media, education and more from across cities and towns can engage in new conversations as they imagine a better future for our towns and cities.

Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney, the police lead on children and young people, Sadiq Khan Mayor of London and Marvin Rees Mayor of Bristol have been invited alongside Chief Superintendent David Smart, head of Prevent, to help lead the conversation.

**Unique partnership to encourage Deaf Church**

**Baptist minister the Revd Susan Myatt has been appointed as the new Deaf Chaplain for Lichfield Diocese**

Deaf Church brings deaf and hearing Christians together through services that use British Sign Language (BSL) as the main means of communicating. It has spread to various congregations across the Diocese of Lichfield – an area with a population of

over two million which includes Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, the Black Country and most of Shropshire – in recent years.

Now, Baptist minister the Revd Susan Myatt has been appointed as the new Deaf Chaplain for Lichfield Diocese. She will lead and coordinate monthly Deaf Church services at St Michael and All Angels in Penkridge and oversee pastoral care for deaf people across the Diocese.

Susan, who was born profoundly deaf, has established a Deaf Café at Rising Brook Baptist Church in Stafford where she is a minister. She works with Baptist churches nationally on deaf issues and is a trustee of Deaf Anglicans Together.

She said, 'I love to find unity across the whole church and it is important to me that both deaf and hearing Christians are able to worship, pray and enjoy their faith together, using British Sign language as our main language.'

'I am passionate that deaf people are empowered and encouraged to worship God in their own language and to explore their faith using creative and visual ways in prayer, bible study, drama and crafts. I also feel called to help the hearing Christian community join in with this so that deaf and hearing together can express their faith and worship. I hope that all this will lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus.'

Susan, who is set to be commissioned at a special service next month, will work alongside local Anglican priests who use BSL and will support her with the celebration of the eucharist. She carries on the crucial work of previous chaplain the Revd Dr Leonie Wheeler who established and developed Deaf Church in the diocese, aided by Dr Gill Meller.

Commenting on the new partnership between the diocese and the Heart of England Baptist Association, the Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, said, 'I am really pleased that we have appointed Susan to develop our ministry to bring deaf and hearing Christians together across the Diocese.'

'Working across Christian denominations in this way is a practical outworking of the Gospel by showing that there is greater strength in unity as we serve together.'

The Revd Adrian Argile, Regional Minister and Team Leader from the Heart of England Baptist Association added, 'I am delighted that we can partner together to see Susan released to serve the congregation at Penkridge. This partnership expresses our commitment to work together in sharing the love of Jesus and we pray that it will strengthen relationships and bring much fruit for the Kingdom of God.'

### **A chaplain... in an accountancy firm**

**In January 2017 I began working one morning a week as an industrial chaplain for a chartered accountancy firm in Newton Abbot where I minister, writes Joe Haward**

That's right, an accountancy firm.

Barretts Chartered Accountants have employed an industrial chaplain for four years, recognising the need to provide pastoral care and support to staff and clients. Harry Gillick took on the role in 2012 when he retired as a Free Church minister, sensing God's call into this new role. Already a friend of the Directors of Barrett's, it was a perfect fit, with Harry's pastoral gifts and strong relationship with the firm.

In 2016 Harry felt God calling him to fully retire. His wife Yvonne was living with the early stages of dementia, and Harry wanted to be able to devote his time to looking after her. Unfortunately Yvonne died in January, yet Harry spoke of his peace, confident in Jesus' promises to make all things new.

I am new to the role here, seeking to allow space and time for this chaplaincy to develop and evolve according to my own gifts, and the relationships I am building here. I believe in depth relating matters, and I see this chaplaincy role centred upon that, allowing space and time for authentic, trustful relationships with staff to develop and grow.

One of the things I have begun is a meditation session for staff on the morning I am in the office. Gathering in one of the meeting rooms, I provide a time of guided meditation, with techniques for people to learn and use in everyday life and work, that enables them to de-stress, and reconnect with themselves. It is also an opportunity for those gathered to pray and re/connect with God, with space for silent prayer and reflection. The nature of this time means that people can use the meditation and silence in whatever way best reflects their own life and spiritual journey.

Why would an accountancy firm employ a chaplain in the first place? The reality is that financial problems do come, and pastoral care can be sorely needed, yet people do not know which way to turn, who to talk to, or even feel able to talk to anyone about it. My hope is that I can provide that listening ear to clients if, and when, they need it, a source of pastoral support in times of difficulty.

Barretts 'believe that high ethical standards not only should be, but can be maintained in business, even in this day and age.' This reflects their desire to employ a chaplain.

The Quality Assurance Department (QAD) noted that Barretts, as far as they were aware, are the only accountancy firm in the UK which employs a chaplain, and were impressed with their forward thinking. This makes the role unique, and open to real development, not only within the firm itself, but more broadly to the wider community, perhaps providing a model that other businesses could adopt and use.

Director Ian Barrett views the role in this way:

*"The development of this role goes back a number of years when a client who had just been diagnosed with cancer came to see me before he went home and told his wife. He was very concerned about her financial situation if he died in the near future. From this we started a weekly prayer meeting for all staff who wished to be involved where we could pray for specific needs for our clients and general prayers for the wellbeing of our clients' health, homes, relationships and businesses.*

*"When Harry retired from full time ministry we extended this care in a more tangible way by being able to have someone available to meet with clients and staff as and when needs arose or were identified. When Harry retired from this position with us we all felt that we needed to be able to continue this ministry and approached Joe. I have known Joe since he was appointed to Newton Abbot and we are all delighted that he has taken on this role with us and that we are able to continue to offer and develop chaplaincy services to our staff and clients."*

I am thrilled to have joined the team at Barretts, and am looking forward to continue serving them, building relationships, and developing the chaplaincy work here among them.

**The Revd Joe Haward is founder of This Hope, a pioneering ministry in Newton Abbot, South Devon. He is the author of *The Ghost of Perfection: Searching for Humanity*, published in 2017.**

**Christian disability charity calls for more church advocates  
Christian disability charity Through the Roof, signed up its 100th "Roofbreaker",  
and is calling for other volunteers to become "Roofbreakers" in their own church**

A Roofbreaker is someone who helps to ensure that disabled people can belong and participate in the life of the church; and assists their church to fully involve disabled people and their families. Through the Roof hopes eventually to have a Roofbreaker in 1,000 churches.

Lisa has just become Through the Roof's 100th Roofbreaker. When asked why she signed up for this role, she said, 'I signed up because my husband has a condition called Charcot Marie Tooth and uses a wheelchair. Our youngest daughter has also inherited the condition and has mild learning difficulties too.

'Over the years we've had experience of some of the challenges people with disabilities face in churches and also at large Christian events, as well as in day to day

life. We also have friends with various conditions within their families ranging from autism to arthritis.

'I am currently training for ordination and one of my interests is in making church fully accessible to all and allowing everyone to develop their God-given gifts. For a start, I'd like to make theological colleges accessible.'

When someone signs up to be a Roofbreaker in their church, Through the Roof sends them a free starter kit and thereafter a monthly email full of information, ideas and inspiration. They are linked to a network of other Roofbreakers in their own area with whom they can meet from time to time for fellowship, prayer and to share ideas.

To find out more about becoming a Roofbreaker and what it entails go to <http://www.throughtheroof.org/a-new-year-a-new-season-for-disability-ministry/>.

### **Backing for trafficked victim support bill**

**A Christian charity has called on peers to support a bill that gives greater support to victims of human trafficking when Parliament returns in September**

The call from Christian Action Education and Research (CARE) coincided with the UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons (30 July).

A new Private Members Bill has been proposed by Christian Peer Lord McColl of Dulwich to guarantee victims will be given support for 12 months.

Currently those who are referred for help are only given limited support while the authorities decided if there is enough evidence to conclude they have been a victim. Once they receive that decision the support ends. This leaves many people facing homelessness, destitution and at risk of further exploitation.

In April, the House of Common's Work and Pensions Committee strongly criticised the Modern Slavery Act for failing to provide victims with a pathway to recovery. It called on the Government to give all victims support and the right to remain in the UK for 12 months so that they can begin a meaningful rehabilitation.

The Bill will be debated when Parliament returns in September, and CARE's Senior Policy Officer for Human Trafficking, Louise Gleich, hopes it will receive support.

She said, 'The Modern Slavery Act 2015 was a great leap forward but there is more work to be done to improve the situation of victims.'

'It cannot be right that someone receives a letter from the authorities recognising they are a victim, but then not be entitled to any form of support. We can and must do more to offer victims protection, somewhere safe to live and a helping hand as they recover from their ordeal and begin to rebuild their lives.

'Lord McColl's Bill will make sure victims receive this essential support and we hope that peers will give it their backing.

'At CARE we long to see victims of human trafficking being able to integrate into society and to go on to lead fulfilling lives, but this can only happen if we make it easy for victims to get the support and help that they need.'

Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes – including for sex, forced labour, domestic servitude, and criminal activity and even sometimes for organ harvesting.

The latest global estimate suggests that 45.8 million people are being exploited in modern day forms of slavery in 167 countries across the world.

Recent statistics from the National Crime Agency show the number of people found in situations of possible exploitation is increasing. However, CARE stated that the 3805 people referred to the authorities in 2016 is still far fewer than the estimated 10,000 - 13,000 people trapped in the "horrific cycle of modern day slavery" in the UK.

### **Baptisms**

57 West, Southend: Mick Foster

Barnsley Baptist Church, Yorkshire: 3

Cann Hall & Harrow Green Baptist Church, Leytonstone: John Martin (aged 85)

Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield: Atena, Samira, Mohammed, Peyman, Abtin, Majid, Johanshah, Mostafa, Harry Addis, Hannah, Shahram, Kiumars, Hamed, Hamed, Mahdi, Reza, Amaneh, Davood, Saeed, Mohammad

Dereham Baptist Church, Norfolk: Rosalind Reynolds, Rui Tomaz, Sofia Hernandez, Gabriel Martins, Jorge Pascoal, Pedro Coelho

Kendal Road Baptist Church, Gloucester: Jill Chitty

Lawrence Saunders Road Baptist Church, Coventry: Susan Ward

Moriah Baptist Church, Risca: Jessica Williams

Oldham Baptist Church, Lancashire: Elisabeta Kola

### **Baptism stories**

The fellowship at Barnsley Baptist Church was blessed recently with three baptisms, writes the Revd Ken Jefferson. One of the candidates spoke of 58 years of atheistic convictions being set aside when the good news of the gospel broke into her life when she was expecting nothing of the kind.

**Death**

EDWARDS, The Revd Alan Hugh Edwards: 1929-2017

The Revd Alan Hugh Edwards was promoted to be with his Lord on 31 July 2017. He had been waiting for this day for quite a while and, although he will be sadly missed by many, we can also give thanks for a full and fruitful life. Previously minister at Newcastle under Lyme Baptist Church, Yardley Baptist Church (Birmingham), Broadwater Baptist Church (Worthing), Park Road Baptist (Peterborough) and Lyme Regis Baptist Church. 'Retired' to Billericay in 1994.

There will be a service of thanksgiving for Alan to be held at 1pm on 14th September at Billericay Baptist Church. [Click here for longer obituary.](#)

**Golden Anniversary**

BEASLEY-MURRAY: GRIFFITHS

Paul and Caroline 26th August 1967, Chester Street Baptist Church ('The Old Meeting'), Wrexham. Present Address: The Old Manse, 3 Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY. 'For all the love that from our earliest days has gladdened life and guarded all our ways – Hallelujah!'.