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SWBA NEWS!

South Wales
Baptist Association

February 2024 >>>

An Exciting New Training Opportunity: Youthscape Essentials!

As an Association we are delighted to offer Youthscape Essentials - a 10 week training course to bless, equip and encourage all those giving time to work with our young people. Whether in paid employment or volunteering this could be a great course for you!

Sessions cover: Growing up Gen Z; Adolescent development; Christian discipleship; Empowering young people to participate and so much more.

Each session covers 3 areas of learning; providing insight to get the brain working, practical skills to get the hands in motion and moments of reflection to remind us that we are on this journey too. Head, hand and heart!

Tim Barker and Emma Franks are looking forward to delivering this training on behalf of South Wales Baptist Association. Emma says, "We've been waiting for so long to be



able to offer something of this quality and depth to our youth workers – and now the opportunity is here".

Tim, who was an attendee of Youthscape Essentials and now a trainer says "I think everyone should have this foundational basis of youthwork, from those qualified and employed in youthwork to those who volunteer on an ad hoc basis. Having this training has given me a greater understanding of what our young people are going through, and it's been a reminder to invest in my own development."

Details on how to join the course are on p2

'Online' and 'in person' options

<https://www.youthscape.co.uk/yse>

Welcome!

One of the privileges of my role is that I get to hear so many great stories from across our Baptist family. We would love to share more of these stories with you.



In this newsletter we are focussing on what has been made possible through the generous giving of so many to **Home Mission**. For example, the national licence for the Youthscape training has been jointly bought between the 13 Associations and Specialist teams - from which every church can benefit – has been made possible through Home Mission. Other examples are: the live nativity in Brecon supported through a Home Mission project grant; Bethel BC, Whitchurch, has been awarded a capital grant to improve stage lighting. And, of course, the work that Rob, Karen and I do is only possible because of your giving to Home Mission. We all want to say a huge **'thank you'** as we partner together for the sake of the gospel.

Mark

Supporting Creative Mission...



We were pleased to be able to support Bethel BC, Whitchurch with a 'capital grant' to help fund new stage lighting. In the run up to Christmas a production they wrote called 'Return to Narnia' was seen by almost 1000 children.

A new production is planned for Easter. Jon Vaughan-Davies, minister at the church said: *"we're really excited about the purchase of a new stage lighting rig, which we were able to buy thanks in part to a generous grant from the South Wales Baptist Association."*



ONLINE COURSE:

Starts Wednesday 10th April, 12pm-2pm
(during term-time)

IN PERSON COURSE:

3 Saturdays, dates to be confirmed
(April, Late June/Early July and September)

To register please contact Karen at the office:

office@swba.org.uk

029 2049 1366

07929 752996

Did you know... A key priority of Baptists Together is to seek to support work amongst 'Children, Young People and Families' (CYF) and 'Young Adults'. Each of the 13 Associations have representatives who meet seeking to encourage, equip, and inspire in these areas. Our reps are:

CYF - Tim Barker, Youth Leader & Schools Worker at Bethel, Whitchurch

Young Adults – Ian Paterson, Youth Pastor at Pantygydr BC

More about CYF:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/279871/CYF_Round_Table.aspx

More about Young Adults:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/345947/Young_Adults.aspx



Rob meeting with Tim and Ian to talk about CYF and Young Adults support in SWBA

It is giving to Home Mission that makes it possible to support the work amongst CYF and Young Adults

Thank you for giving to Home Mission

**Amount raised in 2023:
£139,043.84**

**Target for 2024:
£150,000**

Supporting Churches Across South Wales...

At the heart of the work of the Regional Team is our work to support churches and those who serve in them. Growing as disciples and making Jesus known continues to be at the heart of all we seek to do.

What this looks like amongst churches varies enormously. Whether it is preaching on a Sunday, meeting with deacons, sharing in church meetings, leading special days with a focus or something else entirely, we love connecting with churches who are a part of the Association.

If you have an issue you would like support with, or if you would simply value a visit from someone within the Regional Team, please do let us know. We will be delighted to arrange a suitable time.



*Meeting with leaders at
Burry Port near Llanelli*

Home Mission Project Grant supports a live nativity in Brecon



Home Mission Project Grants are designed to help Baptist Churches respond to mission opportunities within their local area. They project should be designed to impact the community they are seeking to serve, ultimately in some way to share the good news of Jesus.

When Emma Franks, minister at Kensington Road BC, Brecon, contacted us to ask whether funding might be available to support a live nativity, it was clear that this was an ideal match. The event was organised in conjunction with other local churches and really impacted the town. People enjoyed hospitality, dressed up, made willow lanterns and stars, and participated in a live nativity. They were able to give out a 1000 gifts of chocolate, together with a book telling the story of the first Christmas.

Recently Emma was interviewed by Jon Vaughan-Davies and tells more of the story. You can watch it on our Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@southwalesbaptist>



OUR VALUES

- Passionate for Mission
- Innovative and Visionary

- Generous and Relational
- Committed to Justice

Safeguarding Provision...



Safeguarding trainers enjoying tea together at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Neath...

Safeguarding Lead, Kath Needham is pictured (3rd from left) alongside our great association safeguarding trainers: Phil, Maggie, Jan, Gareth, Steve and Sally. Kath and Karen Kaneen were meeting to discuss how training is running, share feedback and plan for the future.

Home Mission funding is vital in helping us to provide Kath's expertise.

Prayer Diary...

Each week we want to uphold Association Churches in prayer, asking for God's blessing on them and fruitfulness for the sake of the Kingdom. If any church has more specific prayers requests for their week, we will share them through the E-news.

3 rd March	Emmanuel BC, Rhymney
10 th March	Gaer BC, Newport
17 th March	Grangetown BC, Cardiff
24 th March	Hope Church, Gilwern
31 st March	Llanfair Uniting Church
7 th April	Llanishen BC, Cardiff
14 th April	Magor BC
21 st April	Merchants Hill BC, Pontypool
28 th April	Merthyr Vale BC

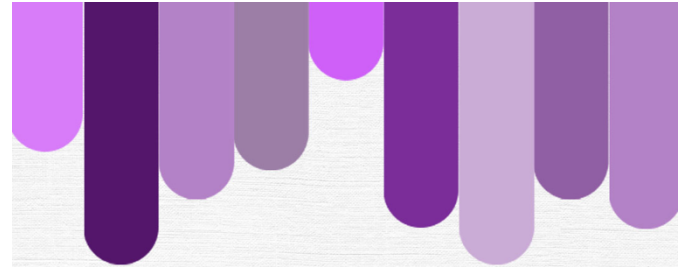
Project Violet...



The Baptist community in Britain are being urged to prepare for the findings of major research on women's experience of ministry.

Project Violet is a three-year participatory research project that is examining the place of women in Baptist ministry. The aim of the project has been to understand more fully the theological, missional, and structural obstacles women ministers face in the Baptist community in England and Wales and identify ways forward.

Seventeen women ministers have undertaken research, and they are meeting in April to agree the findings and requests for change which will be released on 2 May.



SAVE *the* DATE

Project Violet are releasing their findings on the 2nd May. Make a note in your diary now!

DOWNLOAD AND READ THE FINDINGS FROM THE WEBSITE FROM 2ND MAY

General Secretary Lynn Green said, 'Project Violet has already had an impact but now we are looking forward to the release of the findings on 2 May 2024. '

To help the Baptist community prepare five podcast episodes are being released:

<https://projectvioletpodcast.podbean.com/>

In addition, a 15-minute film 'A name to live up to' has been released with an accompanying study guide. The film features an interview with Helen Pankhurst a prominent advocate for women.

www.baptist.org.uk/helenpankhurst

See the Project website www.projectviolet.org.uk

Do you have any stories about what you are doing to encourage other churches? It might be baptisms, outreach, church planting, community action or something else. We would love to hear from you and tell your story.