



SBC News

June / July 2021

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Times of Change

*“What a difference a day made,
Twenty-four little hours.
Brought the sun and the flowers,
Where there used to be rain.”*

That is a song that plays through my mind as I reflect on these challenging times of change. I'm sure we can be forgiven for wondering how much longer will we be in the dark and times of uncertainty! Yet here we are, the days are longer, brighter and although still wetter than the previous year, we can sense the warmer weather is here amongst the heavy showers.

We may be able to see a little more clearly as we see some of the restrictions are easing up, however we still proceed with caution and rightly so. We're not out of the woods yet!

Speaking of changes, I was greatly encouraged by the BMS presentation from the 5 year vision to transform 1 million lives at the Baptist Union (BU) assembly. The BU, in partnership with BMS and Baptist churches across the globe, have prayed and worked hard to see change in peoples lives.

Dr Kang-San Tan, the BU General Director, revealed that over 1.3 million lives were transformed through this project. No one could have imagined that they would achieve it, many doubted, yet God remained faithful and brought this vision and dedicated work to fruition. Praise God!

We also see changes in our own community. We opened for in-person worship at Easter as we celebrated the greatest day in history. We are also hearing of people drawing closer to God, people praying, reading scripture and sharing testimonies of how God is ever present in their lives.

We have all faced new challenges and changes recently, but we give God all the glory for His mighty hand upon on us all.

The leadership team are also working through many challenges and changes, creating or updating the various policies that are required, thinking ahead for when more changes come our way.

The leadership team also continue to work together through the EDIFI course, a new initiative for equipping Christian leaders for learning mission and ministry. This will not only

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benefit us but the church and community as well.

It doesn't stop there though. There are some amazing opportunities on the horizon for us as we continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those we meet. In doing so we come to know God more, grow in Christ and will be overflowing in life.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4: 7-9:

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not

abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed”.

Paul goes onto say,

“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God”.

What have we stored up in lockdown that is now ready to be released? Let us continue to dig in and work together as we seek God's mission for His community. AMEN.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A promotional banner for Baptist Assembly Online 2021. The banner has a light blue and purple gradient background. In the top left corner, there is a logo for "baptist assembly online" with "baptist assembly" in white on a black background and "online" in white on a black background. The main text in the center reads "With Shane Claiborne as speaker" in a sans-serif font. Below this is "BAPTIST ASSEMBLY ONLINE 2021" in large, bold, black capital letters. To the right of this text are three horizontal banners: a green one with "equip", a blue one with "inspire", and an orange one with "connect". At the bottom, it says "Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 May" in a smaller sans-serif font.

Due to the pandemic, this year the annual Baptist Assembly was held online. On May 16th our church, along with hundreds of others, were able to gather together virtually for a special Sunday service. Our church family gathered in our church building, and also from their own homes to join in this special event.

Shane Claiborne was the guest speaker for the event. Shane 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.

Shane's talks focussed on:

- 'What is God's perfect dream where you live?'
- 'Lean into the suffering of the world.'

During the Assembly there were some great seminars and discussions with our fellow Baptist family covering topics such as:

- 'We can't breathe until you can' - exploring the topic of white privilege from a white person's point of view.
- 'Walking with Jesus through a changing climate' - exploring the issues of the climate and environmental crisis.

There was also a presentation from BMS World Vision (Baptist Missionary Society). This celebrated the amazing achievement of BMS' vision - 1.3 million lives transformed over the last 5 years. There were times of doubt as to whether this could be achieved, but the teams remained faithful and strong in God's vision and mission, seeing fruits beyond their hope, dreams and prayers. What an amazing God! The presentation also launched their exciting plans for work amongst the most marginalised and least evangelised people as they respond to the changing needs of the world with sensitivity and insight.



If you missed a session of the Assembly, or would like to watch it again, they are all recorded and can be watched here:

www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/362338/Assembly_Recordings.aspx



This year celebrates 40 years of the One Event, previously known as Grapevine. The One Event is a Christian festival for the whole family and takes place at the Lincolnshire showground. A number of our church family usually attend the event each year which would normally take place over the August bank holiday weekend.

This year, due to the pandemic, the organisers have decided to hold a one day celebration instead and this will take place on Saturday 28th August from 10am to 10pm. Spaces will be limited and therefore tickets have to be pre booked. It costs £20 per adult, or £60 for a family. Tickets are still available so if you would like to go, please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

They will also be streaming the whole event online for those unable to attend in person.

The day will consist of events and activities for all ages, and will include live worship, speakers, children's activities, and an outdoor exhibition featuring a number of Christian organisations and charities.

For more information, visit the One Event page on Facebook or their website: one-event.org.uk

What's On



Our **Sunday services** take place each week at 10:30am in our church building. Please remember to book a place by calling 07536 992946 as numbers will be limited due to social distancing measures that are currently in place.

We will also continue to livestream the services via our YouTube Channel. The first and third Sunday of each month will include communion.

All our previous live streamed services are available to watch again on our YouTube channel. The audio from the Sunday Service is also available on our website under Bible Talks, and through our Podcast.

June		July	
6 th	David Skeet (Communion)	4 th	David Skeet (Communion)
13 th	Guest Speaker	11 th	Rob Joyce
20 th	David Skeet (Communion)	18 th	David Skeet (Communion)
27 th	Rob Joyce	25 th	Rob Joyce

Our **Church Members' Business meeting** will take place on Sunday 27th June at 12:00 noon after the morning service. It will be held in the church building with the option to join via Zoom.

If you wish to speak to the leadership team, or if you have any items of news or prayer requests that you would like the church to know about, then please contact:

07536 992946



The **Prayer Meeting** takes place via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00am.

- 5th and 19th June
- 3rd and 17th July



The **Midweek Communion Service** takes place via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

- 2nd June
- 7th July



A time of **Prayer & Meditation** takes place fortnightly on a Monday via Zoom at 9:30am.

- 14th and 28th June
- 12th and 26th July



The Ladies meeting will meet in church fortnightly on a Monday at 1:30pm.

- 7th and 21st June
- 5th and 19th July



On Sunday 6th June at 8pm there will be an exciting free virtual Sunday service. Following the success of Carols with Compassion, the charity has teamed up again with TBN and Integrity Music, to produce an hour long service which will be streamed on Compassion UK's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

The service will feature music from a host of famous names including Philippa Hanna, Noel Robinson, Graham Kendrick, Lurine Cato MBE, Steph Macleod, Elle Limebear and Lucy Grimble.

There will also be the opportunity to hear stories of Compassion's work from around the world. There will be testimonies from the Philippines and Honduras, as well as a message from Compassion's charity leader working with vulnerable children and young people.

For more information, visit the website: www.compassionuk.org/news/compassion-sunday

