



# CENTRAL/*Talk*

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Summer 2010

The newsletter of the Central Baptist Association

I have to admit that, until the World Cup began, I had never heard of the Vuvuzela the long plastic trumpet that has added a distinctive soundtrack to the proceedings in South Africa which makes the football stadiums sound like they are inhabited by great swarms of bees!

As our CBA Assembly took place on the day of England's first match in the World Cup it struck me that it could be the CBA's instrument of choice. (Apologies to Geoff Colmer and all proper musicians !)

Why the Vuvezula? Well a number of reasons come to mind!



Vuvezulas all play the same note! As member churches of the CBA we are all doing the same thing, we are all playing the same note - all proclaiming the love of God to those around us, inside and outside our churches. We worship One God, One Lord, One Spirit!

Vuvezulas come in different colours! Whilst the note they produce may be the same, when in a crowd the Vuvezelas create a sea of colour and vibrancy. As churches in the CBA whilst united in our mission, we are also diverse, in style, in history and in context. The result is a vibrant and diverse group of God's people going about His business that is exciting and beautiful.

Vuvezulas are blown with enthusiasm and excitement, to encourage the players on to score the winning goal! Part of our task as CBA Churches is to share with one another our excitement for the gospel, to encourage one another as we walk together in ministry and mission by sharing together. Our new grant system will enable more churches to turn their enthusiasm into exciting realities.

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Vuvezulas cannot be ignored! When blown singly they are pretty noisy, but *en masse* they are very powerful and cannot be ignored! The whole world hears them! That is the power and strength of the Church of Christ as it comes together, it is a force that cannot be ignored. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the church should and does change lives and be at work in all aspects of our communities across the Central Association, making the love of Jesus clearly heard.

Finally, Vuvezulas are the instrument of the people. As Baptists we value highly the theology of the Priesthood of all believers and every member ministry. So, CBA is committed to supporting every member in every church to be an effective and committed disciple of Jesus through our Training Grants and Training Events.- so that we can all blow our V with enthusiasm and energy individually and together!

**Graham Clarke Moderator**



## Worship @ Facebook

Andrew Gale, a chaplain at the Secure Training Centre in Oakhill, Milton Keynes has set up a virtual church using the social networking site Facebook.

With an "attendance" of almost 100 since starting in April, the majority of followers do not usually attend services but they do log on to Andrew's weekly posting of a worship song, Bible reading, short thought and prayer.

Andrew is careful to point out that this is no substitute for face-to-face ministry nor

for worshipping together in person, but he notes that the Facebook page is having the effect of reaching people.

Andrew is aware that there are lots of new technologies that Christians can use appropriately to share the gospel. This is one that offers a new way of community.

## What has Home Mission got to do with me.....

In autumn 2007, two ministers-in-training joined small Herts Baptist churches

Now in the summer of 2010 Dan Foster (Spurgeons) and Jason Gain (Regents Park) have completed their three years of training and await ordination.

The three years in between have seen them work alongside their churches at Howlands in Welwyn Garden City and Chipperfield near Watford, drawing on their experience, skills and training to provide support, teaching, challenge and encouragement to congregations that have begun to grow

The exciting thing now is that these two ministers are staying in their placement churches, bringing continuity and a sustained ministry. Both have decided to work part-time in their churches and pursue other means of employment.

These ministries are made possible by grants from Baptist Home Mission supporting the churches. And Home Mission is made possible because Baptist churches give to the fund.

Thank you for your continuing support of Home Mission. Please pray for Dan and Jason as they settle down in their churches to new patterns of ministry.

And thank God for the mission to which he calls each one of us as followers of Jesus Christ.

## STUCK IN THE BOX?



The sun shone on the 160 or so folk gathered at Loughton Baptist church on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> for the annual CBA Assembly

Assembly is about churches getting together and people meeting up to worship, listen, chat, pray and listen to what has happened in CBA in the last year. All of this and more happened....

There were several stalls with useful information and resources for sale.

In the morning, Colin Pye and a music group led worship as we settled down, talked to our neighbours, welcomed ministers new to the Association and gave thanks for the life of Melfyn Powell who had died.

In interview, Geoff Colmer talked to Sam Owoo, minister at Hivings Free in Bucks and also to representatives from two Beds churches that were received into membership during the Assembly - LIDLINGTON LEP and NORTHALL.

The AGM business included receiving accounts, ratifying Council members, receiving reports from the Regional Ministers and hearing Graham Clarke, the Moderator, illustrate progress on the Council strategy by pulling a seemingly endless stream of objects out of his backpack – everything bar a rabbit.....

Our morning speaker was the Revd David Kerrigan, General Director of BMS World Mission, who made us think about the boxes that define us or confine us are and challenged us to look ...for the sake of mission.

The sun shone so people spread out around the church and grounds to mingle, eat lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

In the afternoon, there were two seminars on “Loving your Local Neighbour” where Helen Wordsworth hosted a magazine style session and “Loving your Local School”, a taster session from David Skinner of Houghton Regis who is leading a day seminar on the same subject in the autumn.

At the end of the day, there was a short a time of worship and we went on our ways, grateful to people of the church at Loughton for their hospitality.

### Movements in ministry

#### **Out of Association**

**Peter Swaffield** to Lead chaplain, Eltham College

**Brian Trudgian** to Diss Methodist Circuit

#### **Within Association**

**Stephen Ashby**, Oakridge High Wycombe to Berkhamsted

**Michael Campbell** to lay pastor Stondon

**David Gregory**, Loughton to senior minister, Croxley Green

**Ray Thomas**, Potters Bar to out of pastorate Herts

**Peter Pearmain** was reported in the last issue as leaving Northampton. In fact he continues to live in Brixworth.

#### **Into the Association**

**Mark and Claire Ord**, BMS World Mission to Burton Latimer joint ministry

## ***GREEN DAY at AMPHILL***

Amphill Baptist held an Eco Festival on 20th June - a new venture for the church. Live music from musicians within the congregation gave a great atmosphere and the sun shone as people heard brief talks from speakers from Tear Fund, A Rocha, Water Aid and World Vision. We learned about WRAP, Climate Change Bedford, the Energy Saving Trust and local conservation societies.

There was surprise at the idea of the free swap shop where clothes, toys and books could be taken away with no money changing hands but this soon caught on.

Other highlights were soup, bacon rolls and cream teas - all food sourced locally - children's face painting, stories and crafts, a recycled fashion show and a photography competition.



The day ended with a service on the theme of 'Authentic Hope'. Video 'vox pops' taken through the day shared the hopes of those who had come along - young and old alike hoped that the event would encourage all to tread lightly in the world and build a better future.

Associate Pastor Martin Cockerill spoke and encouraged all to see that God's kingdom economy of love challenges this world's rule - that He gives us an eternal hope for a new creation!

Organiser Paul Spencer noted, "We had more than 200 people. Feedback on the day was all positive with people

commenting on the great welcome, what a good idea it was, and how good it was to have such a whole family event."

## **From Park Street to Parkside via Thorn**

In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century Baptists from Houghton Regis attended Park Street Baptist, Luton. When it was decided that a "Houghton" site was needed, land owned by Thomas Bunker at Thorn near its village green seemed ideal. A meeting house was erected in 1738 and used for worship for half a century. This Thorn church was administered by a group of "associate pastors" under the wing of Park Street (now Luton Central Baptist).

In 1751 Thorn became autonomous, its first minister being Thomas Bunker (thought to be son of the Thomas Bunker who provided the land). Numbers outgrew the church and so in the 1800s it moved to two converted cottages in Houghton High Street. These cottages were then extended using the actual bricks from the Thorn chapel. This is why there is no building standing at Thorn.

The High Street site was further extended in 1864 with a building which continued in use until the 1970s. In a council development programme this site was taken and the current church (on Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis) built as 'equivalent reinstatement'.

HRBC continues the tradition of an annual service at the Thorn site and looked forward to joining with Baptist friends for a service on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Thorn is on the threshold of change. The 18th century hamlet had shrunk to a few isolated farms. Now it is the intended site of a new housing development with the opportunity for the Thorn plot of land to become the centre of a new community.  
**Keith Wlis (Elder, Houghton Regis Baptist)**

It was opportune that the evening after Stephen Ashby (ex minister of Oakridge Road BC) was inducted into a new ministry in Berkhamsted, that the Bucks Forum were meeting in his old church in High Wycombe for what was another of their regular celebration evenings.

These forum events tend to happen twice a year, and probably attract up to a couple of hundred hardy folk. These celebrations are occasions that have continued through from the old Bucks Association days, and form a really useful way of keeping in touch, and enable a 'feeling' that as individual churches we are still part of something larger. To some, the CBA can seem a little remote, and this helps fill the void!

Thus it was that on Pentecost Sunday we gathered for what I think was an inspiring evening. Regional Minister, Colin Pye, led the service, while an excellent band from Aston Clinton provided the musical accompaniment to very sensitive sung worship.



Colin Pye

interviewed Dave Rollins who works for Aylesbury Youth for Christ and is a member at Aston Clinton. It was thrilling to hear of all YFC are doing in Aylesbury with unchurched young people and the real progress they are making, and Dave was asking for our support for a particular project.

It was equally encouraging to hear of the work Sam Owoo is doing in Hivings Park, which is a Home Mission supported church on a deprived estate in Chesham.

He was about to run a Social Action Day on the Pond Park estate on the Saturday of the last bank holiday in May. The response from the community even before the event sounded very positive, so we trust the event itself went well.

Sam then preached with gusto and passion an inspiring and warmly received word, based upon the Pentecost passage in Acts. I suspect that if folk had come expecting a nice, comfortable Buckinghamshire evening then they would have left having experienced anything but!

Thanks go to Oakridge Road for hosting an excellent evening, and we pray for them as they begin the task of looking for a new minister.

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## Visit to the Holy Land

13 - 21st May 2011

Next year Rev David & Jacqueline Ronco are leading a **Baptist Times** sponsored tour to coincide with the centenary of Baptist witness in Israel/Palestine.

The nine day trip includes 5 days in Nazareth and 4 days in Jerusalem. Whilst in Nazareth there will be chance to explore the lovely sights in Galilee and also share in the special centenary celebrations of the Association of Baptist Churches. The second half of the tour will be based in Jerusalem and there will be opportunity to visit Bethlehem and meet Christians living in the West Bank.

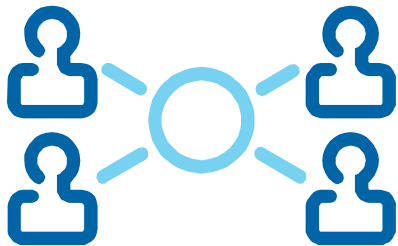
This is a great opportunity to see some special Biblical sites as well as meet the "living stones" and see what the Lord is doing through his church in this divided land.

All-inclusive cost of flights, accommodation, travel in Israel and entrance fees is £1270.

If you are interested please contact David & Jacqueline for a brochure and details on 01992 420742 or [dronco@gmail.com](mailto:dronco@gmail.com)

## Connecting Youth

For Kettering & District Fellowship of Baptist churches [KDF], I have been encouraged to organise an event for this summer. In the past we have had very good events attended by mainly adults so I decided to arrange an event for the young folks as I believe they are the future (and present) of our churches.



So, I am arranging a Youth Mission Week in August using Music and Sport as the medium, as I feel this is what youngsters of today are focussed on. Not wanting to 'Push' church straight at them I am using a local youth centre and the Kettering Town Football club as the venues.

These have kindly offered the services of volunteers - all CRB checked - and there is sufficient insurance at the premises, so all aspects are covered. The youth centre already has links with partnerships I want to work with - Police, Connexions, Street Pastors, Banks and the footie ground are willing to give the youngsters a reduced entrance to a game.

At the end of the week we finish with a social evening of music at the footie ground's Tinhat lounge showing the young people they can have a good time without alcohol and aggression.

I want to follow this with a monthly meeting culminating in an invitation to a Christmas service at my home church. The hope is to bring some of them to enquiries into continuing their journey towards our Lord.

**Dilys Mills (Mission/Events Co-ordinator, KDF)**

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

Here is a selection of training events in CBA held recently or for the not-too-distant future

***Morning workshop at Newport Pagnell on Safeguarding***

***Seminar in Bucks on issues relating to mental health***

***"Witness and Dialogue" a day focussed on our approach to people of other faiths***

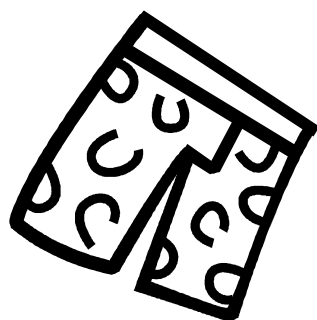
***Treasurers Day on July 10<sup>th</sup> with Malcolm Broad MBE (BUGB Treasurer) at Christ Church, Stantonbury (details from Stephen Copson)***

***Evangelism Explosion training day Mt.Pleasant, Northampton (details Bridget Ringrose 01604 492731)***

***Love your Local School at Houghton Regis on September 25<sup>th</sup> - watch out for more information***

Remember that if your church has a training event and would like to invite people from other churches, then get in touch with Colin Pye or a Regional Minister to advertise it on the website.

CBA has a fund for training grants for church members. These are available for events, seminars or courses that will enhance the ministry and mission of local churches. For more information and an application form, contact Chris Winter-Goodwin, CBA Treasurer, on 01582 881743 or [cwintergoodwin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cwintergoodwin@yahoo.co.uk).



## SUMMER SHORTS

### SAFEGUARDING

The Coalition Government has called in for review the Independent Safeguarding Authority, with its requirement for people working with children & young people and vulnerable adults to register with ISA. A clarification will be issued in due course.

In the meantime new CRB forms should be used by churches seeking to get clearance for new workers or renew existing clearances.

The new edition of **Safe to Grow**, due out in the summer of 2010, has been put on hold until further notice.

### THE GATHERING

Reaching the Margins: helping black and white Baptists to reach marginalised communities including the white working class

October 16, 2010-06-20  
Woodgrange Baptist church, Romford Road, Foret Gate London E7 8AA.

Cost £15. Contact Stephen Copson for a booking form

### WALK THRU THE BIBLE

Take a new look at the Old Testament on Sat 2nd October at Sandy Baptist church. For details, contact Beth Powney on 01767 680 737

### Gathering around the Table: Children and Communion

This new publication from Baptist Union considers our understanding of the child in church and Communion? This series of six studies challenges us to explore what it means to be a community inclusive of the youngest amongst us. £3.00



THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

### You are invited to attend a Free Church Service in The Lady Chapel

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 11am**

Preacher: The Reverend Meryl Court, Minister of Trinity URC, St Albans and Bricket Wood URC.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 11am**

Preacher: Major David Squibb, Commanding Officer, St Albans Salvation Army Corps. .

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 11am**

Preacher: The Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans Cathedral.

At noon, everyone is invited to join a Fellowship Lunch in the Refectory

Next Newsletter is in November 2010 and copy should be with Stephen Copson by October 15th

## Ash Clouds, Recession, and Job Threats – and the London Luton Airport Chaplain

In April 2010, the unthinkable happened! European aviation was grounded by a volcanic ash cloud. For six days, almost no air traffic movements took place at the airport. There was real concern amongst airport and airline staff as to job security by day 5. The Chaplaincy Team and I were able to listen to stories of being put on unpaid leave or told to take holiday. Airlines lost business, and income declined – yet again - following high fuel prices in 2008 and then the recession.

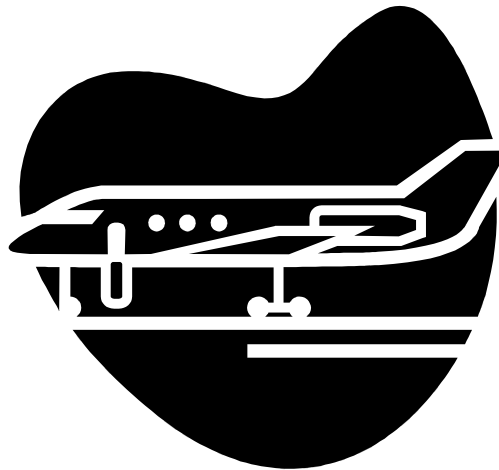
Once National Air Traffic Services (NATS) reopened the airspace, the Airport Company directors asked me if I would organise 24 hour Chaplaincy cover in case it was needed for arriving rescue flights. A tough assignment with a volunteer Team, but we were not needed at night as it turned out.

There are now 9 volunteer Chaplains working with me at the Airport (drawn from various Christian denominations), who offer coverage on different days of the week and at varying times of day. We also have a Jewish Associate Chaplain, who is a very personable and outgoing Rabbi. He's a great advantage to the Chaplaincy ministry since he understands the work, and is already a Police Chaplain. He is ministering to passengers and staff on our two daily flights to Tel Aviv, Israel – one with El Al, the Israeli national airline, and one with easyJet.

These flights to Israel have also made possible (and increasingly popular) Christian Holy Land pilgrimages, and quite a number of these have departed from London Luton over the last year since El Al arrived at the Airport. As a

Chaplaincy, we attend the reporting, check-in, and boarding processes, offer our support (and the use of the landside Chapel and the new Airside Prayer Room), and pray with the departing pilgrims if asked. It's a great ministry to offer when people are flying off to such a wonderful Christian experience as a visit to the Holy Land.

Following a request from the Chaplaincy, a redundant staff smoking room was recently converted for the purpose of a prayer and worship facility for departing passengers and airside-based staff. Rebuilt and redecorated, it came into its new use in January 2010, with an official opening by the Bishop of Bedford in May.



Please remember in prayer the whole ministry of the Chaplaincy Team under Baptist Minister Michael Banfield, in the following areas:

- Workplace visiting of, and support to, staff at all levels in all airport businesses
- Support to passengers in a wide variety of individual needs
- Care of the Airport Chapel and the Airside Prayer Room
- Work for Chaplaincy Emergency Response in the case of a major airport or aircraft accident

May all be able to see the importance of this ecumenical Chaplaincy ministry, supported by both the Central Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain through Home Mission, as a vital part of the mission of the Church, and as an agent of the Kingdom of God where people work and travel. It is a real 'going out' ministry for the Lord.

*Revd Michael Banfield, Senior Chaplain*