



SWBA MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 5-7 MARCH 2012

We're really excited about our new-look Ministers' Conference this year. For the first time in over 20 years we're going to a new venue, and the programme has got a slightly different feel to it too.

VENUE

The Saunton Sands Hotel (EX33 1LQ) is a 4 star hotel located on the North Devon coast between Braunton and Croyde. Please visit www.brend-hotels.co.uk/thesauntonsands to find out more about the hotel and its facilities. All bedrooms will be single occupancy - there will be no need to share (unless you are coming as a married couple!) There is an indoor (and an outdoor) swimming pool, and the hotel has direct access to the surfing beach at Saunton.

COST

Our two-night stay, including all meals shown overleaf, will cost £150 per person. If you would like to attend but the cost is a problem for your church please contact us as we have a small number of subsidised places available to help those who need it. Please don't let the cost be reason why you don't come.

We'd like as many as possible to come and enjoy our lovely new venue and share in the conference with us. We are therefore pleased to be able to offer the Conference this year to anyone within your church who may be serving as part of your team in a pastoral/ministry role. Please do let Chris know if you would like us to send an invitation directly to someone.

In order to make Saunton a viable venue we need as many people as possible to be resident for the whole conference. We would therefore encourage you to take the opportunity to stay and stay if possible, even if you live within travelling distance, as it helps with the costs for everyone. Likewise, we hope that you will join us for the whole conference rather than just coming as a day visitor for part of it, for the same reason. We've done our best to find a fantastic new venue this year, and the hotel have offered us a really great deal. The more people who are able to come the more viable it becomes for the future.

OUR STAY

Bedrooms will be available from 3pm on the Monday. You are welcome to arrive any time on Monday and make use of the facilities, explore the beach or go surfing. All three afternoons, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, are free time for you. Although bedroom occupancy will be from 3pm on Monday to 11am on Wednesday, the hotel is very happy for us to make use of their facilities earlier on Monday or later on Wednesday. So if you want to take the opportunity for some extra time out for retreat, relaxation or surfing, or possibly all three, you are very welcome to do so.

Meals shown on the programme overleaf are included in your conference rate. Light lunches can be ordered and paid for in the bar if you arrive early enough on Monday. Tea, coffee and drinks from the bar can be ordered and paid for at any time.

If you would like to take the opportunity to extend your stay in this beautiful hotel, either before or after the conference, the hotel are able to offer us at a preferential rate of £60pppn for dinner, bed and breakfast. Please contact the hotel directly to arrange this, stating clearly that you will be attending the South West Baptist Association Conference on 5-7 March and would like to extend your stay. The reservations number is 01271 892001. Andrew McCausland will deal with bookings for the conference itself; anything additional to this must be arranged directly with the hotel and paid for separately.



PROGRAMME

Our speaker this year will be Revd Dr Pat Took, former Regional Minister/Team Leader of the London Baptist Association and current President of BUGB. Pat's theme for the Conference is "**Above and Beyond: Reflections on John's Gospel.**" She will be reflecting with us on the testimony of John, that in Jesus Christ God has broken through the limits of all that we know or have experienced. We will consider how the characters in his drama all encounter in Christ the life which is above and beyond; an unbounded life.

There will also be some fun - get ready for the QUIZ NIGHT on Monday evening! On Tuesday evening we'd like to take the opportunity to update you on how far the 'Futures' conversations have progressed nationally, and to seek your views and responses on the relevant issues.

You'll notice that we've generally 'refreshed' the programme a little from our previous format. Early morning prayers are gone, but each morning will begin after breakfast with a session of worship before we move into the teaching content. We're also experimenting with a reflective communion session before coffee on Wednesday morning as a way of doing things differently.

MONDAY 5 MARCH

Arrive any time - free time to explore the hotel and beach, go surfing if you wish. Bedrooms available from 3pm.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1700 - 1800 | Opening session - SWBA Team |
| 1830 | Dinner |
| 2015 | Quiz Night!!! |

TUESDAY 6 MARCH

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0730 - 0900 | Breakfast - no set time, come down whenever you're ready |
| 0915 - 1000 | Worship and prayer |
| 1015 - 1130 | <i>Beyond our Knowledge - John 3 & 4</i> Pat Took |
| 1130 - 1200 | Coffee |
| 1200 - 1300 | <i>Empowering Women into Leadership Roles</i> Jez Brown |
| 1315 | Lunch |
| | Free time |
| 1700 - 1815 | <i>Beyond our Hope - John 11 & 20</i> Pat Took |
| 1830 | Dinner |
| 2015 | <i>Futures</i> - a discussion / consultation on issues currently being considered nationally regarding the future for BUGB. We would welcome hearing from the constituency on this. |

WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 0730 - 0945 | Breakfast - no set time, come down whenever you're ready |
| 1000 - 1045 | Reflective Communion |
| 1045 - 1115 | Coffee |
| 1115 - 1230 | <i>Beyond our Capacity - John 21</i> Pat Took |
| 1230 - 1300 | Q & A, closing remarks, closing worship |
| 1300 | Lunch and depart, or enjoy an afternoon of free time before setting off home. |

