



## SWBA MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 5-7 MARCH 2012

### Information for Retired Ministers

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](http://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**

The two-night stay, including all meals shown overleaf, will cost £105 for retired ministers. This is a subsidised rate (66% of the £150 rate for active ministers) with the subsidy being effectively covered by our churches as the hotel makes no differentiation in its charge to us per person. We are unsure whether this subsidy will be able to continue in future years given the financial pressures on many churches at this time - it will be reviewed before setting the rates for our 2013 Conference.

For the first time we are able to open the Conference to spouses of retired ministers. There were always constraints of space at Sidholme but these do not apply at our new venue. Spouses of retired ministers will be charged at the full rate of £150.

#### **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 or explore the beach. 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.

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.

Please see page 2 for the Conference programme.



## **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      ***Beyond our Knowledge - John 3 & 4***      Pat Took  
1130 - 1200      Coffee  
1200 - 1300      ***Empowering Women into Leadership Roles***      Jez Brown  
1315              Lunch  
                     Free time  
1700 - 1815      ***Beyond our Hope - John 11 & 20***      Pat Took  
1830              Dinner  
2015              ***Futures*** - 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      ***Beyond our Capacity - John 21***      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.

