

MONDAY 1 MARCH

- 09.00** Gathering, welcome, notices
- 09.15** Craig Gardiner - *Restless or Restful in a Pandemic*
- 10.30** **BREAK**
- 11.00** Simon Jay - *Gathering Around Jesus*
- 12.15** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13.30** Tim Fergusson - Introducing CMD
- 14.10** Around the Association - sharing stories
- 14.30** **BREAK**
- 15.00** Hannah Fleming Hill - *Building Community Online*
- 16.00** Video from BMS - 15 mins approx

TUESDAY 2 MARCH

- 09.00** Gathering, welcome, notices
- 09.15** Helen Paynter - *Postures of Grief*
- 10.30** **BREAK**
- 11.00** Craig Gardiner - *Resistance is the Secret of our Joy*
- 12.15** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13.30** Meet in clusters
- 14.15** Around the Association—sharing stories
- 14.45** **BREAK**
- 15.15** Communion including breakout rooms to pray
- 16.00** **END**



1-2 March 2021 online

We've been so busy doing things in this past extraordinary year that we may have struggled to make time to stop and reflect. This year's Ministers' Conference will give us time ... time to reflect on the challenges that churches and Christian communities are wrestling with.

Each speaker will bring their own perspective as they challenge us to reflect theologically on a range of themes stemming from the times we're living through. There will also be the opportunity for some Q&A time with our speakers.

In addition to our main sessions, a selection of sessions on other themes is offered.

- Sharing stories and encouragements from around our region
- Building Community Online - with Hannah Fleming-Hill, Association Digital Missioner
- Introducing CMD - with Tim Fergusson from BUGB Ministries Team
- Meeting in local clusters - you can use this session however your group wants to
- An act of communion together, with breakout rooms for prayer. You'll need something bread-like to break and something wine-like to drink for this session!

This leaflet gives full details of the programme with an introduction to the sessions and brief biographical details of the speakers.

Craig Gardiner *Restless or Restful?*

In the past year many Christians have felt the pressure of rethinking how to do church, ministry and mission in times of a global pandemic. How is pastoral care, gathered worship and community engagement undertaken in the face of spacial distancing and closed buildings? Much of the attention has been rightly focused on our *doing*, and on our use of *place* and *space*. In these sessions however, we will shift the emphasis onto *being* and *time*. Using scripture, poetry, music and art to think about Christ as the Lord of Time, we will explore the richness of the Sabbath, reflecting on how it helps us resist the seemingly relentless demands upon our daily energies and aids our reimagining of how to love the Lord our God, and our neighbours as ourselves. In these two sessions we hope to rediscover the joy of our *being* as the source of our *doing*.

Simon Jay *Gathering Around Jesus*

We find ourselves in an extraordinarily tough time. At the Haven Community Centre we have seen a hundred fold in the increase of people coming in to ask for help and support. Food poverty has risen, people's mental health is being eroded in the face of loneliness, isolation and depression. And yet in the midst of such hardship we have been surprised by the undeniable presence and provision of God.

As we reflect on God's ever-increasing activity in our marginalised communities what questions may this pose for our expression of church? Outside the concrete walls of our church buildings are we seeing new forms of worship, radical discipleship and 'communion tables', where the most unexpected people come together to gather around Jesus? These are just a couple of the questions we will ponder together.

Tim Fergusson *Introducing Continuing Ministerial Development*

Lest anyone has missed the launch of the Baptists Together framework for CMD, I will briefly explain the key points and how we hope ministers will engage with CMD through 2021. Most of our time together will be for you to ask questions or make suggestions about how we best support one another in our development and well-being.

Hannah Fleming Hill *Building Community Online*

Accelerated by the pandemic digital comms is fast changing our culture, habits, relationships and learning. That gives us a fantastic opportunity to share the gospel in new ways. I am impatient to see the church use digital as a tool to go beyond the once-a-week Sunday service; to build online communities where we can reach out to all and make disciples. Jesus didn't wait until Sunday to share the message. He met people where they were!

Helen Paynter *Postures of Grief*

Focusing theologically on pain, suffering and times of difficulty, this session will take us into scripture and explore some of the biblical wisdom for times of suffering through the lens of the physical postures: standing, sitting, lying.



Revd Dr Craig Gardiner

Craig is Tutor in Christian Doctrine at South Wales Baptist College and a member of the Iona Community. He previously pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Cardiff and before that practised in law. Craig has an ongoing interest in the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the interaction of doctrine, spirituality, worship and ethics.



Revd Simon Jay

Simon is a NAM leading the Urban Expression Team in Welsh House Farm, Birmingham: an incarnational Christian community working with local residents of all ages, and a pioneering expression of church that gathers around meal tables, BBQs, fire pits and food. Simon and his wife Rachel have fostered children for 17 years and have a particular interest in foster and adoptive families. In response to Black Lives Matter, Simon is part of a new initiative to set up a multi-cultural theology hub with Bristol Baptist College.



Revd Tim Fergusson—BUGB Ministries Team

Tim's role is to encourage the development of ministers across BUGB, primarily through the development and implementation of a framework of continuing ministerial development, or CMD. He also helps to shape some of the processes overseen by the Ministries team for ministerial accreditation and settlement. Tim also liaises with the Chaplaincy Forum.



Hannah Fleming-Hill

Hannah is Digital Missioner for the Association where her role is to develop our digital strategy. Her first passion is to equip Christians to use digital to reach out to people who are not yet of faith; to build communities where people of faith and none can interact. In the short time Hannah has been with the Association she has presented a range of 'how to' digital mission online webinars as well as working with individual churches.



Revd Dr Helen Paynter

Helen is Tutor in Biblical Studies and Coordinator in Theological Education at Bristol Baptist College and a good friend to our Association. She was a nephrologist (kidney doctor) before following God's call into ministry, and pastored two churches in Bristol before joining the college full-time. Helen has a PhD in Old Testament, with her particular interests being in the narrative portions of the Old Testament. Helen gave the 2018 Whitley Lecture, entitled '*Dead and Buried? Attending to the voices of the victim in the Old Testament and today*', and has written a number of publications on themes around suffering, violence and victims in Old Testament narratives and what this has to say to us today.