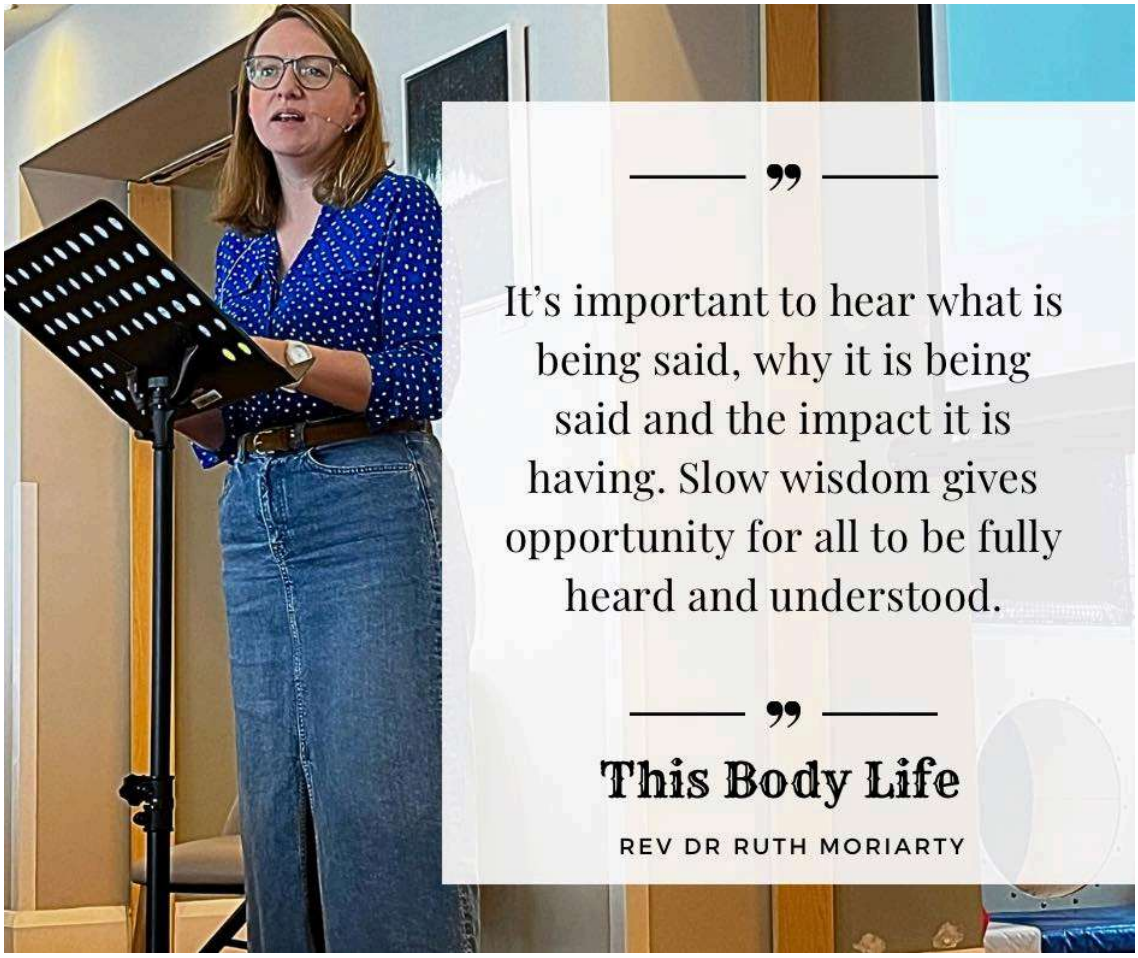
Share Tweet Forward

Welcome to our February 2025 Newsletter!

We had a great time at the ministers gathering in Newquay with Rev Dr Ruth Moriarty leading us through slow wisdom, the pathways and Exeter hub open day attracted many people interested in further study and development, a new women's event called Stepping Up has been launched,

Please do pass this on to members of your church so they can keep in touch with what's happening locally and nationally.

MINISTRY GATHERING 2025!


”
It’s important to hear what is being said, why it is being said and the impact it is having. Slow wisdom gives opportunity for all to be fully heard and understood.
”
This Body Life
REV DR RUTH MORIARTY

swba
MINISTRY
MISSION
LEARNING COMMUNITY
RESOURCE HUB
WWW.SWBAPTISTS.ORG.UK

It was a brilliant time away with ministers, leaders and pioneers from across the SWBA. We were led by the fantastic Ruth Moriarty, sharing on 'This Body Life' and slow wisdom. You can check out her website here and also download the presentations here

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brand new event for women launches today! After a challenging and inspiring session here at the gathering we are pleased to be involved in this brilliant evening in May.

13TH MAY 2025 | £25 | 6:30PM - 9:30PM | EXETER

Bookings open now!!! https://southwestbaptistassociation.churchsuite.com/...

'Invited to Belong:2U'. An Urban Saints event. Includes a full-colour A4 workbook, access to video learning, and an interactive online group training session.

6 WEEK COURSE | ONLINE | £10 / £25

SWBA members will receive a 20% discount off these prices by using the promo code ‘SWBA’.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../all-inclusive-invited-to...

TESTAMENT - PARABLES RETOLD

A brilliant new production re-imagining the book of Acts in Modern times. From the studios who brought you 'The Chosen', this series promises to be hugely impactful!

Click on the video to find out more, and to book a visit to your church click here

Safeguarding

2025 Dates Now Available.

Check out the website for all training dates.

Safeguarding – South West Baptist Association (swbaptists.org.uk)

FAMILY NEWS

Nigel Manges
Team Leader for Ministry

2025 has had a busy start in the SWBA . We had a welcomed break for our ministers and church leaders as 90+ gathered for our annual retreat in Newquay. It was good to meet up, pray and reflect with each other.

For many of the churches it is a time of new beginnings and/or exploration of what next for the church.

New Ministries

We are delighted to hear that:

- Pinhoe Road Exeter have called Mig Partridge (previously in Creech) to be their Associate minister
- Totnes has called and inducted Emily Twigg as their minister (previously Upton Vale)
- Wincanton has called Ruth Barber and she is being inducted 22nd March,
- Newton St Petrock have called and are inducting Paul Bate on the 22nd March

Please pray for these friend as they start a new chapter in their lives and that of the churches.

Saying goodbye

We were saddened that a much loved minister of Paignton BC went to be with the Lord earlier than expected. Stephen Coles ministry was honoured in a thanksgiving service at Paignton Baptist with both the church and hall being

filled to capacity. Please continue to pray for Leslie as she adjusts to a new life without Stephen.

There are others who have had to conclude ministry earlier than expected because of ill health:

Mike Martin in Exmouth,
Aly Fulford in Ilfracombe,
Nick Fawcett from his writing ministry.

May we remember them in our prayers that they will receive healing and God will still be able to use them.

We are also going saying goodbye to Sonya and Ian Setchall who are leaving Stoke St Gregory in April . Sonya had accepted a call to Tamworth Baptist Church.

Please pray also for those churches that are in (or soon will be) pastoral vacancy and seeking God's guidance for the future:

- Chard BC
- Bridgwater BC
- Exmouth BC
- Honiton BC
- Morice BC
- Okehampton BC
- Paignton BC
- Sainthill BC
- Salisbury rd BC Plymouth
- Stoke St Gregory

Other news

Congratulations to Ross and Alice Maynard on the birth of their son Arlo – May they get some nights of sleep!

We are also excited by what God is doing on our patch and how churches are being encouraged by new faces and baptisms. One church have 14 people enquiring about membership! Please send us pictures of baptisms so we can encourage others.

Kathy Browne

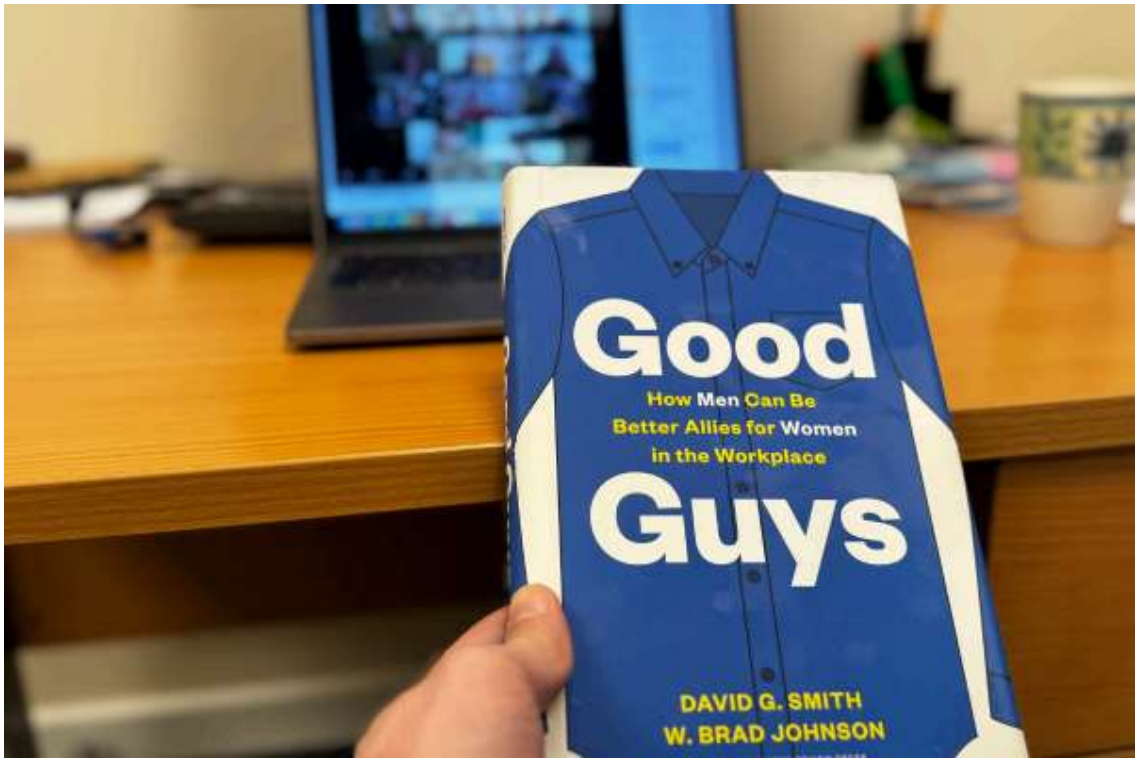
At the Ministers Gathering we said a huge thank you to Kathy Browne who will be retiring in April this year. Kathy has been a huge part of facilitating the SWBA team across the years and she will be missed!

MISSION

Carl Smethurst
Team Leader for Mission

Wonderful to be with the good folks of Torrington BC this morning. So encouraging to hear how God is blessing them… two baptisms scheduled for later this month - praise God!

#SWBAfamily #Godatwork #newlife



Carl has been part of the planning team behind a national Baptists Together online Book Group who have been reading ‘Good Guys’, a book about how men can be better allies of women. This is one of the ‘requests for action’ that came from the recent Project Violet research. We’ll be running a Book Group on this subject in the SWBA later this year… details to come.

CHILDREN | YOUTH | FAMILIES

Glenda Chadwick-Down
Children Youth and Family Mission enabler

SWYM Community for Youth

A brilliant launch with a 2 day retreat of the new @swymming Community for Youth, Children & Families workers. A privilege for the SWBA to be part of it!

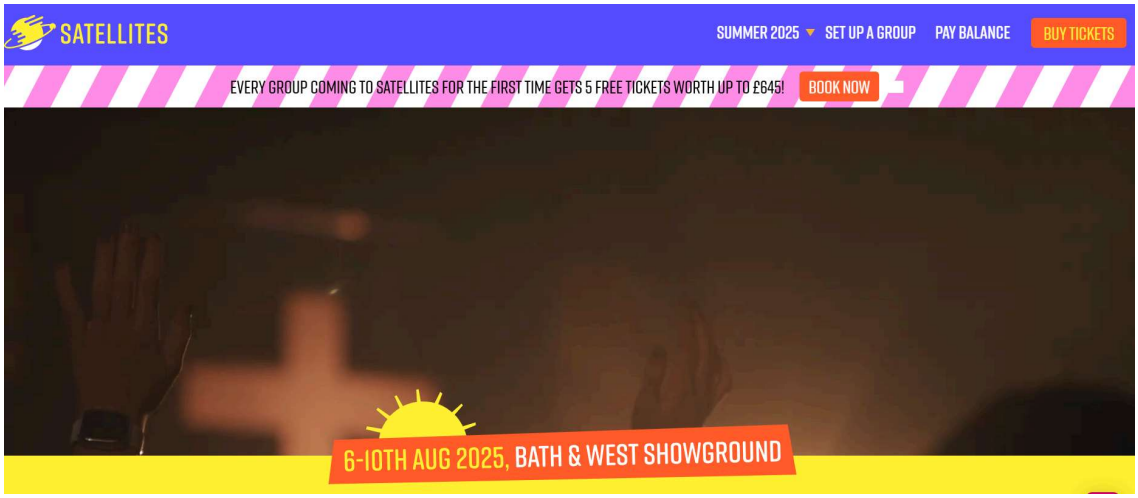
NATIONAL CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Brilliant time at the National Children & Family Ministry Conference.
A great resource for all Children's leaders… definitely one to put in your diaries for next year!
https://www.handinhandconference.com

NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY WEEKEND

A brilliant time at the National Youth Ministry Weekend.
CYF Ministry really is the Adventure of a Lifetime!#
Discounted tickets available for 2025 now!
Speak to Glenda if you'd like to know any more…
https://www.youthscape.co.uk/nymw/home

SATELLITES 2025!!

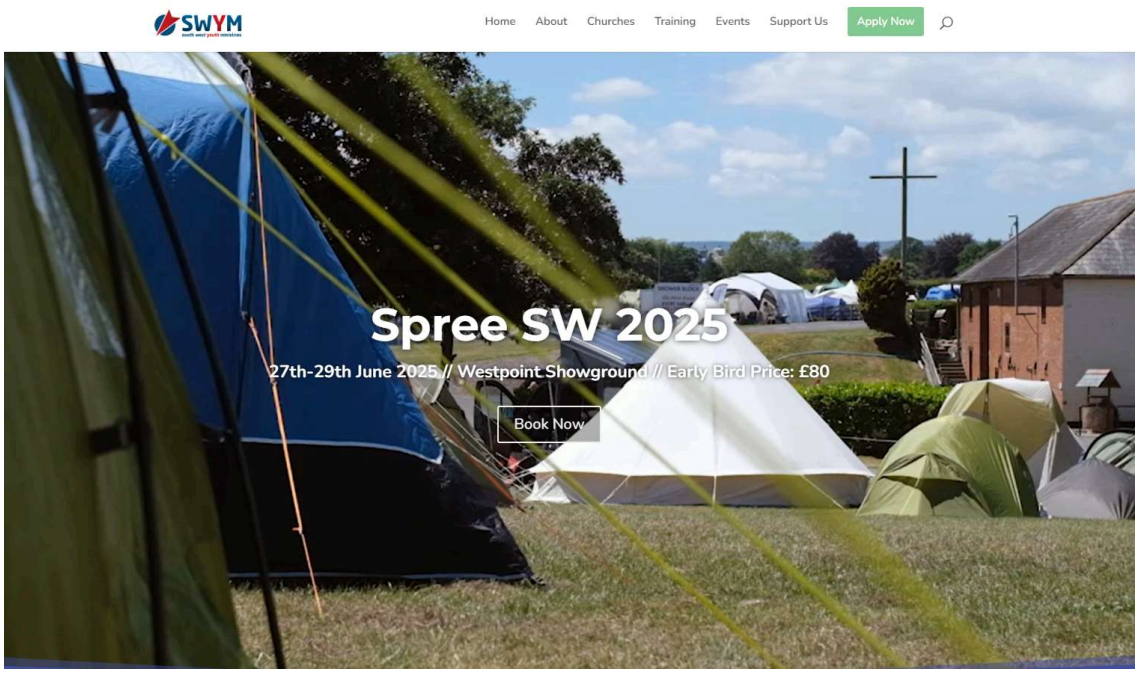


Satellites is a summer event for young people, brought to you by the team at Youthscape. It's a five-day gathering, designed to inspire teenagers to live with God at the centre of their lives for the other 360 days of the year.

FOR NEW YOUTH GROUPS THE FIRST 5 TICKETS ARE FREE!!!!

Sign up now

SPREE SW 2025



Spree South West is the ultimate summer weekend festival for young people aged 8 to 17 that's all about fun, community and transformation. With multiple venues for all ages, Spree SW is an awesome weekend for young people to build strong friendships and explore the Christian faith together. Plus there's tonnes of free activities onsite to form new and lasting memories for everyone!

Sign up now

Learning Hub

James Henley
Learning Hub Coordinator

PATHWAYS

We are already half way through Year 1 for the first RLM and Leadership pathway students! The course has been brilliant so far and students are really enjoying the journey through the modules.

We are currently open for applications for September 2025 - get in touch with me if you want to know more james@swbaptists.org.uk

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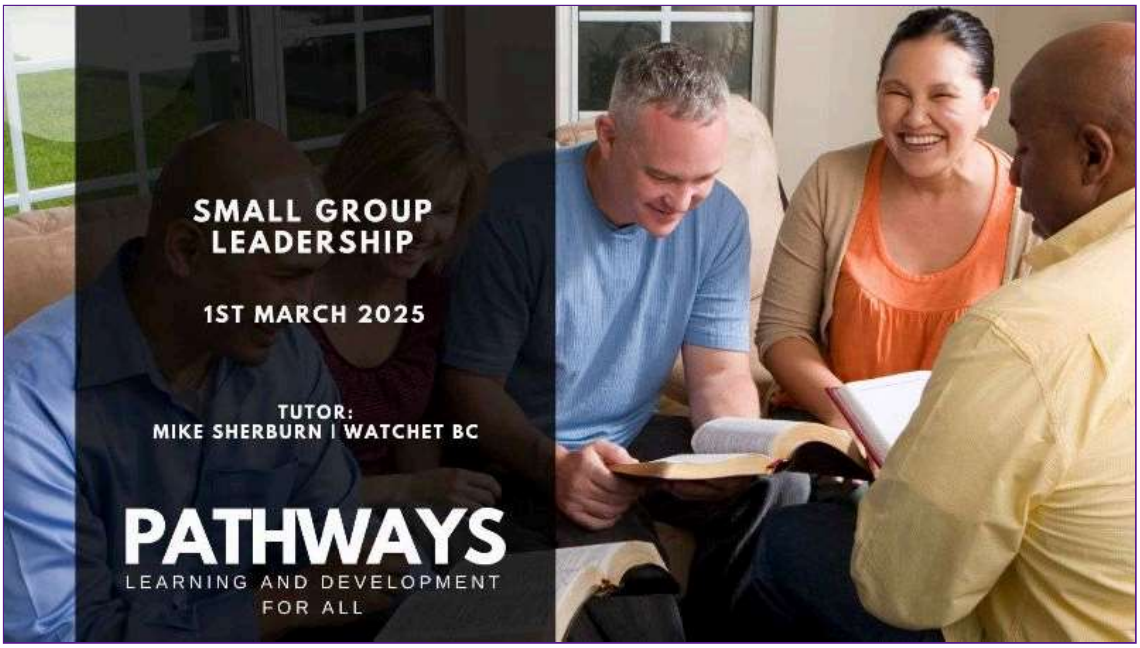
It was an absolute joy to have Helen Paynter from Bristol Baptist College with us today for the first teaching day of the Pathways 'Intro to the Old Testament' module.

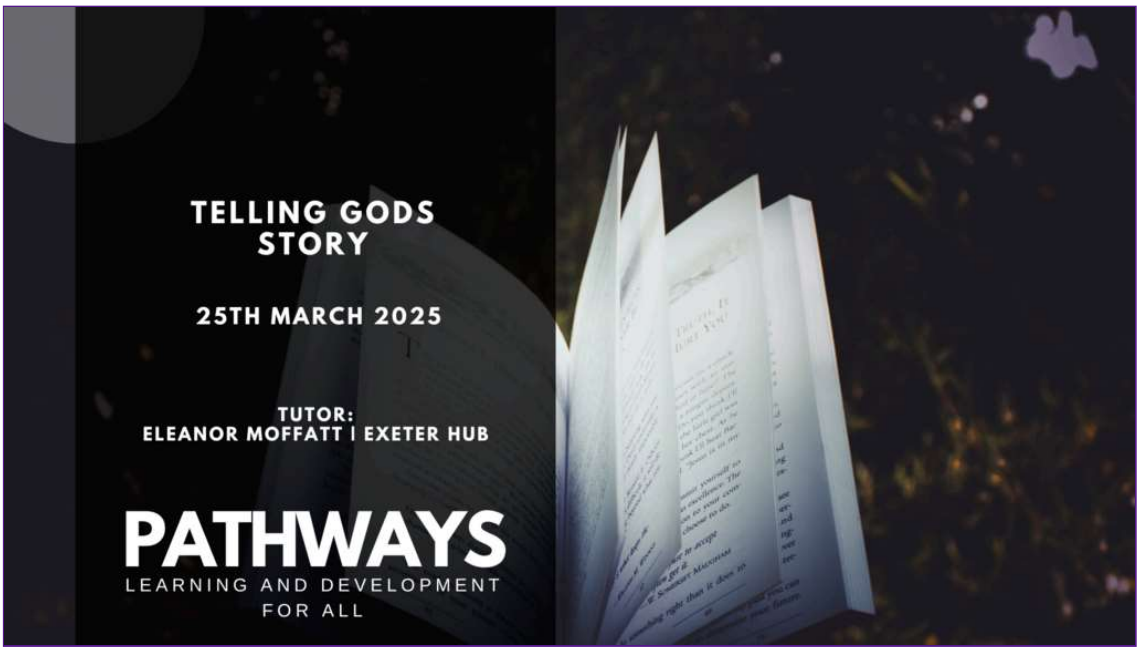
Eleanor Moffatt kicking off our Pathways/Exeter Hub taster day for people exploring how God might be calling them to ministry in their churches and communities. Please

pray for everyone here as we seek God's will together!

Upcoming Modules

Remember that anyone can attend individual modules without signing up to be a RLM or on the full leadership pathway. Check out the upcoming modules below. You can book on to any of them by going to www.swbaptists.org.uk/pathways





We have a number of people who have begun the leadership pathway or RLM training in September - our first cohort of the new Pathways programme.

Anyone is welcome to register for any of the individual modules as part of our **occasional learning** pathway.

For more information go to [Pathways – South West Baptist Association (swbaptists.org.uk)]

NEWS & EVENTS ACROSS THE SWBA

Churches in Transition

After his own church overhauled its Sundays, Baptist minister Mike Sherburn set about discovering others that have sensed the call to change

It resulted in a sabbatical project where he spoke to churches from little (25+ congregation) to very big (400+) who have made the transition from a traditional model to something different

The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Churches in transition

Croyde cooks up recipe for sharing the word

Baptists on Devon's picturesque north coast have hit on a great recipe for community outreach, thanks to a Baptist Insurance grant

Find out more [The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Churches in transition]

Join Christians around the UK praying for justice.
It's time to press in and pray for justice and freedom around the world.
Throughout 2025, churches across the UK and Ireland are hosting events with 24-7 Prayer and IJM, bringing together hundreds of Christians to press into God's heart for justice.

Join us, at Creech Baptist Church, Taunton, TA3 5QQ on 20th February @7.30pm.

For more information check out www.ijmuk.org or email office@creechbc.co.uk

BRISTOL BAPTIST COLLEGE

Bristol Baptist College - New Staff!!!

Bristol Baptist College are delighted to announce two new members of staff, Chris Norden and Rhiannon Hamblin.

Find out more here https://buff.ly/3Axj3x7

KEEP CONNECTED

Please share your stories from your church with us to celebrate in the next e-news or on our social media. Send to charlie@swbaptists.org.uk

You can keep up to date with all that is going on at SWBA through our social media pages or on our website.

If you need to get in touch with the team, details can be found below.
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