

CMD Ideas January 2017

Thanks this time for recommendations from colleagues including Andrew Rollinson, Alistair Purss and Kenneth Ross.

Books

Deep And Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love To Attend

Andy Stanley (Zondervan 2016)

Insights from the senior leader of North Point Community Church, Atlanta. It's not the Scottish context but there are many transferable principles.

The Preaching Life: Living out your Vocation

Barbara Brown Taylor (Canterbury Press 2013)

A challenging book that invites us to sharpen our focus on our calling in a world that is largely preoccupied or indifferent.

Liberating The Gospel (Translating The Message of Jesus in a Globalised World)

David Smith (DLT 2016)

Mission and hermeneutics are at the heart of this book that sets out to read the New Testament with first century eyes and 21st century questions.

Homosexuality, The Bible And The Church

Preston Sprinkle – ed (Zondervan 2016)

Four scholars with a high view of scripture (including our colleague Stephen Holmes), debate the issue, seeking to bring insights from historical and systematic theology as well as biblical exegesis. Each essay is followed by a response from the other three authors then a rejoinder.

Counselling Training

A number of colleagues have enquired about opportunities to train in counselling. An introductory four-day course is being run over 4 days in Edinburgh during March and April by [Vital Connexions](#). Regular training is also run by Crossreach; watch [this space](#) for announcement of 2017 courses.

Spiritual Development

Pastoral Refreshment Conference

A 'three day spiritual mini-break' for church leaders, run by Keswick Ministries. Dates in February at Holthorpe Hall (Leicestershire) and Kendal. More information on the [Living Leadership](#) pages.

Drawn Into The Mystery Of Jesus Through The Gospel Of John

Jean Vanier (DLT)

A rich devotional commentary on the Fourth Gospel, arising from the spiritual experience of the founder of L'Arche Communities with and for people with disabilities. Ideal for daily devotions.

Websites

9Marks

The [9Marks website](#) has some interesting talks and articles about building healthy churches and facing practical and pastoral issues. Some of the messages from their First Five Years Conference are also available [here](#).

Baptist Union of Scotland

Don't forget our own [Scottish Baptist website](#) has important news, resources and reviews, including a reminder of [Safeguarding Essentials](#) by Alan Donaldson, and the recently updated [Ministry Handbook](#).

Also previous editions of the CMD Ideas Sheet are available [here](#).

Pastoral Supervision

Pastoral Supervision is currently an area we have great potential to develop as Baptist ministers. Many colleagues find themselves working with people who have deep and complex problems without any structured support for themselves as pastors. This can easily lead to unhealthy responses, undue anxiety or forgetting to observe important boundaries.

Colleagues in other caring professions, including most chaplains, receive regular support of this kind. One key aim of Pastoral Supervision is to help us recognise and respond well to the impact our experiences of pastoral care are having *on us* and thus enable us to serve others with greater sensitivity and wisdom.

I believe it will be greatly beneficial for a number of experienced ministers to train in Pastoral Supervision in the coming years and make a little of their time available to serve colleagues as Supervisors.

I will be attending the forthcoming training course run by Michael Paterson from The Institute of Pastoral Supervision and Reflective Practice. I'd be delighted if some other ministers would join me in this. The course takes place one day a month in Edinburgh (beginning 10 March). It is possible to join for just the two introductory sessions or continue throughout the year to certificate or diploma level. The cost is £70 per session.

Full details can be found [here](#).

Blog

Jim Purves has recently been blogging about the moral basis of our approach to current questions of sexuality and gender. He identifies six foundational considerations for baptistic disciples of Jesus seeking to navigate our way through these complex issues.

You can [read his blog here](#) (beginning with the post on 26 November) or find it under Ministry on the [Scottish Baptist website](#).

Training Courses and Conferences

Grasping the Nettle: The Soul of Science and The Heart of Religion

16-17 March, Bishopbriggs

How science and theology, together, reveal more about who and what we are, alongside practical approaches for engaging others in the conversation. Impressive list of contributors and full details [here](#).

Aberdeen Academy of Theology

Saturday morning sessions in Feb, March and April with Prof Ivor Davidson. Also day conference, 'Luther For The Church – 500 Years On', on 20 May. Summer School 21-25 August on the theme 'Called to Community: Living together faithfully in an age of division and despair.' Full details [here](#).

Growing Bridge-Builders: Changing How We Handle Conflict

This is a new resource from CPAS that enables local churches to run an in-depth course on dealing with conflict well. It covers areas such as our theology and attitudes, communicating well, negotiating, and recognising the emotional process. The encyclopaedic resource materials are available from [CPAS](#).

This could be run in your local church by you or others. Alternately our Union's *Peaceful Transformations Team* are able to deliver this course in local churches. If you would like to explore this please contact [Dr Ken Russell](#) who will be happy to discuss this with you.

If you would like to attend a course on your own, [Bridge Builders](#) are the recognised UK experts in church-based conflict resolution and they run a range of courses.

