

expressions

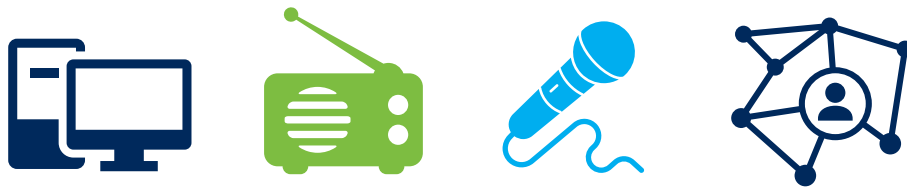
The twice-yearly newsletter from the Baptist Insurance Company

News

Church

Grants

Home



Congratulations! Step forward, our ingenious winners!

Our Tales of Technology competition attracted a huge number of brilliant entries – and now it's time to announce the winners.

Before we do that, though, we'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who took part.

We asked readers to send in a short story illustrating how they were using tech to support worship and improve interaction with their wider communities. The response was amazing, and it showed Baptist churches truly are at the cutting edge when it comes to using the Internet and associated programs and equipment to spread the word.

It all made choosing the National and Regional Winners a really difficult job. Inside, you'll find the details of the Regional Winners.

But who was the overall National Winner?

Step forward and a big congratulations, **Derby Urban Church** – a growing city centre congregation in one of the UK's most deprived areas. Like many others during lockdown,

Derby Urban Church turned to the net to broadcast services. But many of its members and attenders either couldn't afford the Internet or a mobile phone, or lacked the skills to use them.

Their ingenious solution was to provide those people digital picture frames, complete with USB sticks loaded with services, worship songs, and photos.

Each carried several hours of material, and every few weeks they would visit everyone and swap the old stick for a new one with fresh content.

It was a simple but effective use of tech to achieve an important goal – and, along with their outreach work in the community, it wins **Derby Urban Church** our National Winner's donation of £1,500.

It was a close-run thing, though – and to find out about the Regional Winners (who each receive a £500 donation) please turn to page three. Congratulations to all our winners.

Fundraising support for every church

Did you know that we offer a wealth of free online guidance to help you fundraise successfully? Our Fundraising Hub can help with guidance on a range of topics:

- **Wondering how to get started with digital fundraising?**
Our blog post answering frequently asked questions can help you begin to explore the amazing possibilities digital fundraising can offer your church.
- **Are you a rural church?**
We've produced a toolkit specifically to support small rural churches with fundraising.
- **Looking to improve your grant application success rate?**
Use our checklist to identify some key elements to consider before making an application.
- **Have you been asked by a funder to measure your impact?**
Our articles on impact measurement can help you understand this key term and how it can help your fundraising.
- **Are you struggling to find funds for everyday costs?**
Raising money for everyday items can be difficult. Our Hub contains a blog with top tips from fundraising experts to help you secure funding for everyday costs.

For all this and more, visit our Fundraising Hub at www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/fundraising



God saw that it was good



The display – called ‘God Saw That It Was Good’ – is the work of the Baptist Union Environment Network (BUEN), and was unveiled in May at the Baptist Assembly in Bournemouth.

Now it’s ‘on tour’ visiting churches, conferences, and community events over the next year.

The Rev Dr Dave Gregory, convener of BUEN, Baptist missionary in science and the environment, and a former Met Office climate modeller, said, ‘We want to inspire people to value nature more, and to walk more lightly in the world. Words can get that message across, but when God wanted to show Job the wonders of creation, he did just that.

‘We felt that physically showing people that beauty, via a photographic display, accompanied with spiritual and scientific information, might be a good way to approach this crucial task.’

The striking images – part-funded by the Baptist Insurance’s Grants Committee as part of its strong commitment to protecting the environment – are available with accompanying audio reflections exploring the divine creativity of the world at www.bit.ly/baptistunionuk

The first shows a dramatic sea foaming against a rocky shore, while the second has heavenly sunbeams shining through a cloudy sky. In the third, a beautiful kingfisher breaks the surface of a river; the final shows ancient trees grasping upward.

‘The display is really impactful,’ said Dave. ‘The support of Baptist Insurance and others was fantastic, and we hope that it will encourage Baptists and other Christians to play their part in tackling the wider climate change challenge.’



Risk Management Team

Helping customers meet their mission

There was a time when Baptist Insurance **Principal Risk Management Surveyor Kevin Thomas** harboured dreams of playing football for Leicester City, alongside his teenaged junior team colleague – one Gary Lineker.

But it wasn’t to be, and as Gary moved on in the sporting world, Kevin took a different road.

It’s a move he has never regretted: in 37 years with us, Kevin is proud to have visited many iconic

heritage buildings to provide risk management advice, valuations, and guidance to help protect them.

‘I’ve spent most of my working life visiting churches,’ said Kevin, a married father and grandfather, who’s based in Dorset. ‘It’s a privilege I never take for granted.’

He’s part of our Risk Management Technical Team, a dedicated group – all expert professionals in specialist areas such as valuation, health and safety, security and fire protection – who are available to advise customers as and when required.

‘Our Risk Advice Line is managed by our risk management surveyor teams,’ said Kevin. ‘They have personal relationships with key groups and people in areas like law enforcement, fire prevention, and health and safety which helps us to best identify the emerging trends and how best to help our customers.

‘Additionally, our website provides a wealth of advice and information. For us, the crucial thing is that we support our customers so that they can focus on their mission.’

For more information on risk management, please see www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/risk-management



Baptist Assembly 2022

This year, we were privileged to be in the company of many of our customers at the great annual event that is the Baptist Assembly at the Bournemouth International Centre.

It was a fantastic gathering of the Baptist Community to worship and share in the work we all do. We were excited to have sponsored the crazy golf and we hope you enjoyed a round on us.



The 2023 dates have been published: put **6–7 May 2023** in your diary and we will see you in Telford.

You can see pictures from this year’s assembly on the Baptists Together website at www.baptist.org.uk

Congratulations to our Regional Winners!

Derby Urban Church from the East Midlands was our National Winner – but as you can see, they were pushed hard by some amazing entries from all over the UK.

These Tales of Technology presented great examples of overcoming barriers, learning new skills, reaching out to the community, touching the lives of others outside the congregation and making church services easier to access. There were several situations where choosing the winner was exceptionally close. The judges have asked that a special mention goes to **Cherry Hinton Baptist Church** in Cambridge and **Emmanuel Baptist Church** in Bootle. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations once again to all the winners.

To read their tales and gain inspiration, please visit www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/churchcomp

Central

New Life Baptist Church, Birmingham



Church leaders dug deep and spent considerable time, money, and effort to turn their static YouTube channel into something more dynamic. They installed four new cameras and a video-mixing console, and created a more modern 'show' which is now broadcast around the world.

Heart of England

Pershore Baptist Church



Starting with a mobile phone, technology has boosted the church's congregation, and helped people to feel connected. 'Lots of people emailed us to say they loved what we were doing and it was good to see our faces.'

London

Orpington Baptist Church



'We're absolutely delighted and excited' to be one of the winners and have earmarked the donation for new cameras. Now they can share weddings, funerals, and services with their multi-cultural community in even better quality and detail.

South East

Aylesham Baptist Church, Canterbury



Aylesham has embraced a variety of technology including WhatsApp to welcome Ukrainian refugees, QR codes to spread festive fun in children's lives, Zoom for vulnerable members and other tech to improve services for the visually impaired.

Scotland

Hillhead Baptist Church, Glasgow



Despite not having a building, or any history of online worship, Hillhead Baptist Church embraced Zoom, enabling them to remain connected and build their congregation – and it took them just six days to set up!

East

London Road Baptist Church, Lowestoft



Technology has enabled an ancient heating system that was 'wasting heat' to be replaced by a new, efficient system that can be controlled remotely and has zones, cutting bills and carbon emissions at the same time.

Southern Counties

Ashley Baptist Church, New Milton



'Lots of people with no connection to Ashley Baptist Church came across our daily devotions on Facebook or YouTube and got in touch to say they'd been helped greatly, that they felt God had spoken to them that day.'

West of England

Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Swindon



Taking a 'hybrid' approach to tech has helped Gorse Hill reach a far wider and younger audience and to become more efficient. From Microsoft 365 to TikTok to physical CDs, they've found a piece of tech for everyone.

Yorkshire

Clayton Baptist Church Bradford



Delivering online assemblies has helped build relationships with three local schools. The sessions are 'educational, interactive, and high-energy about the true messages behind Easter and Christmas, designed especially for youngsters'.

South West

Open House Community Church, Bristol



A 21st century church – Open House has gone from 0 to 60 in one year, thanks to technology. 'Tech can also help with organisation. 'ChurchSuite' allows you to manage everything from rotas to church bookings to giving, all in one electronic space.'

North West

Scarisbrick New Road Baptist Church, Southport



An evolving use of technology has led to outdoor broadcasts, offering the church as a filming location and much more. 'It has helped to build that sense of community as well as introduce children to the church.'

Wales

Bethany Baptist Church, Caldicot



Free and low-cost software and equipment sourced online and via eBay made a little go a long way for Bethany BC, allowing them to continue and expand their 'Open the Book' schools programme.

Stay safe this winter

As the shorter days draw near, now is the time to put in place activities to reduce risks and hazards. These are some of the things to look out for this winter.



physical or verbal attacks can have serious physical and traumatic effects for those involved where they do occur.

With evenings drawing in, it is a good idea to check the arrangements you have in place even if there have been no such incidents. You can find out more at www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/personalsafety

Reducing flood damage

What does the flood risk look like in your area? Understanding the long-term level of flood risk at your church can help in determining the actions that you need to take to reduce any potential damage that flooding could cause. From new fittings to contingency planning – there is plenty you can do.

You can also be confident in your cover with Baptist Insurance which includes flood cover as standard. We also have a host of resources on our website to help with flood risk assessments, actions you can take to limit flood damage as well as what to do when a flood is imminent.

Visit www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/church-flood-advice to find out more.



Risk Advice Line

Get in touch with our risk experts and surveyors on our Risk Management Advice Line; 9am-5pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays). Call us on **0345 600 7531** or email risk.advice@baptist-ins.com

Slips and trips

Slips and trips are the most common causes of injury in and outside churches. Most slips occur in wet or contaminated conditions, frequently due to weather conditions or spillages. Commonly, trips are caused by worn paths, steps or floor coverings (e.g. carpets, rugs) and where electricity cables trail across the floor.

You are probably already taking precautions to protect those who use your church from slips and trips. In many instances, straightforward precautions can make a real difference. For example, making sure spillages are cleaned up promptly or there are no trailing electrical cables across floors.

You can start to check the adequacy of your precautions by downloading our guide or using our top tips at www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/slipsandtrips

Working alone

Those who work or volunteer for a church are often required to complete tasks alone. This can present additional hazards; for example, using access equipment (such as a portable ladder) or lifting heavy objects could be too much for one person on their own. Here, it is important to check that the tasks can be done safely.

Depending on your circumstances, another important consideration is the risk of assault and/or aggression. While these incidents are thankfully rare,



Pin me up!

The handy **Risk Calendar** included with this newsletter has tips on what to look out for month by month; adding to your church maintenance plans.

Baptist Insurance grant enables outreach in Sheffield

We are passionate about supporting people and organisations who really make a difference by enriching the lives of others. One way we do this is through our grant giving and we would like to share a story with you of one of our successful applicants.



The Well is a Baptist Church in the heart of Sheffield, where 60,000 students live alongside young professionals, families and businesses. Between 2016-18, the Baptist Insurance Company jointly funded The Well's Young Adult and Student ministry, along with the YBA and the church itself.

While many churches struggle to engage the 18-30 age group, The Well focuses on supporting young adults transitioning through this period of life. It commits dedicated leaders and missional communities to support young adults to become disciples who raise other disciples amidst the challenges of contemporary life.

Real, authentic relationships are the foundation, based on a loving family model.

Reverend Nick Allan, Minister of The Well, said: 'Many students are living away from home for the first time and, while they may only be in Sheffield for a few years, we welcome them to journey with us and other young people as a family.'

Our communities are the glue that keeps people together in a fast-growing church.

The Well operates as a busy social venue with a contemporary café space. Live music is a strong part of its worship, social and outreach programmes, and identity as a church. Its Young Adult and Student ministry has been crucial to the co-ordination and training of The Well's student communities and leaders. It has enabled a Minister in Training to support pastoral oversight of new joiners and those who become baptised. As a result of the programme, The Well has seen scores of young adults join the church each year since it was established in 2015.

'We are delighted to support churches like The Well with their outreach activities,' said Anne Bishop, Chair of the Baptist Insurance Company Grants Committee. 'It is especially heart-warming to see comprehensive discipleship being established in the lives of these young adults, which will stand them in good stead for years to come.'

Visit our website

For more information about Baptist Insurance grants or to apply for funding for your own project and see our other case studies, please visit our website www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/grants



Protecting people from serious injury

Using stepladders and ladders is familiar to all of us, but can pose a risk of serious injury if used incorrectly. Thankfully, falls from them are not common in places of worship. But where they do happen, injuries can be severe and, in some cases, permanently disabling.

Of course, that isn't a reason not to use them – but it is a reason to carry out any tasks at height safely, and to call out trained and qualified professionals if in any doubt.

Falls can also occur from raised, open edges that are not adequately protected by handrails or other features. Sometimes, they can occur during roof work or where temporary work platforms are used (e.g. mobile access towers).

There is much that can be done to minimise the risk of falls from height – planning a job correctly, using and maintaining equipment properly, taking weather conditions into account. Read more on our website where you can also access our handy Health and Safety toolkits on Working at height and Safe use of ladders. Visit www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/workingatheight for all this and more.



Making a claim

If you ever need to make a claim, our team are on hand to provide advice and support. You can register a new claim 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call **0345 070 2223**

or email us at baptistclaims@baptist-ins.com

 **96%**
claims satisfaction¹

¹ Baptist Insurance claims satisfaction survey 2021 – 48 responses from customers who had their claims settled.

What do increasing building costs mean for your church?



An increased demand for building materials during the pandemic, combined with the

lengthy delays associated with production of materials, including from overseas, has led to demand outstripping supplies and a subsequent increase in costs.

Now, more than ever, it is important to set and maintain sums insured at the correct level if you are to avoid the risk of underinsurance.

Read more on this at www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/inflation-impact-churches



Keep up to date

Our website is full of up-to-date guidance and support for you and your church. Visit www.baptist-insurance.co.uk

Have you signed up to receive our monthly e-news?

It has relevant short stories to support you through the year. It is easy to read and you can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time. Choose to receive this update at www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/signup

Are your contact details up to date?

If the policyholder for your church has changed, please let us know and we will also need to hear from the new policyholder too. Quote your policy number to help us to direct your enquiry to the right team to support you. Simply call us on **0345 070 2223** or email enquiries@baptist-ins.com

Home insurance with a feel-good factor

As well as protecting your church, Baptist Insurance offers comprehensive protection for your home and possessions.

Protecting your home and helping your community

Our insurance includes many useful extras automatically in your policy, so you can relax knowing you are covered. From legal expenses and home emergency protection to lost keys, they all come as standard. What's more, take out a new home insurance policy before 31 December 2022 and we will donate £100¹ to a Baptist church of your choice.



Building Insurance

- Up to £750,000 cover including your home, garages, sheds, greenhouses, accidental damage to windows, underground pipes and cables, bathroom and sanitary fittings.
- £5,000 of cover for the cost of locating the source of a leak of oil or water at your home.
- £1,000 for loss or theft of keys or accidental damage to door or window locks.
- £2,000,000 against your legal liability as a property owner.
- Up to £5,000 cover extended to include possessions of children temporarily living in student accommodation in any one period of insurance.
- Loss or damage to possessions of your immediate family who are living in a nursing or care home. Up to £1,000 for any one claim and £5,000 in total for all claims in any one period of insurance.

Contents Insurance

- Up to £75,000 cover.
- Automatic 20% increase in contents sum insured for celebrations such as weddings and Christmas.
- Up to £3,500 for accidental loss or damage to valuables and personal belongings that you take away from your home. This does not include wear and tear and mechanical breakdown.

Home Emergency Cover

Included at no extra cost, our Home Emergency Cover gives you access to a rapid response team of fully qualified and approved contractors, and as an added bonus, there is no excess to pay if you use it.

For more information on our home insurance or for a quote, please call the team on **0345 070 2223** or visit www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/home-insurance

¹Terms and conditions apply, full details available on our website: www.baptist-insurance.co.uk/home-insurance/bic-100