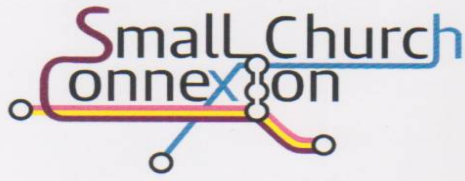


SMALL CHURCHES NEWSLETTER Summer 2025



Welcome to our Summer newsletter.

Global warming has been declaring its reality in our capital city with the recent heatwaves, while encouraging statistics about our young people reading the Bible and showing interest in spiritual matters have warmed our hearts. Some of our small churches are seeing the reality of this. Please let us know if this includes your church or any other encouragement we can share.

Communicating our faith to young people and to older ones, is an on-going challenge. This will be the heart of the Autumn Event and we hope your church will come and share experiences and fellowship as we learn together.

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A short reflection from Lindsay Park, Kingsbury

'Welcome!' said Stephen, 'You're officially a small church'. It's always good

to receive a welcome, though on this occasion membership came with a feeling of mixed blessings. Sure, some have moved home, and others joined the dearly departed but a decreasing church membership does dent confidence. However, there is more going on behind the headline and being small, but being driven by a Missional Mindset is a good way to be:

Active in the community...

Like many small churches the challenge is that we only have a few people who can dedicate sufficient time and talent. For example, we had to pause running of CAP Life Skill courses despite it being an excellent way of connecting with our community that resulted in several baptisms and members. However, we continue to work in the community by providing a Community Kitchen alongside our Brent Foodbank centre. During lunch we have opportunity to discuss our Jesus-centred motivation and there are often a few people who want to explore a little more about Christianity and sometimes pray. That work created links with Brent Health Matters, and we were successful in gaining a grant from them to start a new initiative called Renew Wellbeing which creates a quieter, calm space where it is ok not to be ok. One of the local adult care homes we work with brings a resident or two as well.

Signs of Hope in Church Family...

Through the collaborative work of West Hendon and Kingsbury Baptist, we gladly linked to a youth-work programme to encourage the youth to spend more time

together in an informal Christian environment. This helped them to raise questions and begin to go deeper in exploring faith. As our youth told me about some of those sessions, I offered them a course about baptism and belonging to Church (I used Alex Afriyie's booklet 'Discipleship of a New Believer' and Winston Bygrave's 'Membership Course' booklet to inform our sessions). Most young people responded well and in January of this year we were pleased to baptise 5 young people – what a blessing! More recently we have begun using a Bible Society resource, *Six Beats One Story* in a monthly session over lunch on a Sunday to explore and encourage them (& us) in their life of faith.

Roger Martin

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SCC Autumn Event Communicating our faith in today's world

10am-3pm Saturday 4th October
at The Kings Cross Baptist Church

Registration will be from 10am and tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

From 10.30am our opening worship will be led by team member, Manoj. Then Patrick Kangi from London City Mission will bring the first session on communicating the gospel, followed by a ten minute break.

From 11.45am to 12.30pm Hannah Fleminghill will bring the second session on online communication.

Between 12.30 and 1.30pm, a sandwich lunch will be provided, and there will be time to get to know one another and share together.

Martin and Stephen from the SCC team will lead the afternoon sessions between 1.30 and 2.10pm, followed by a question & answer time and prayer led by Paul.

The charge of £10 can be paid on arrival, but it is very important that bookings are made in advance so that catering can be sufficient.

The King's Cross Baptist Church is a short walk from King's Cross station where various transport links meet.

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Small Church Connexion Prayer Meeting

The next Zoom prayer meeting for London Baptist SCC churches will be held on Thursday 25th September from 7 to 8pm. It will be led by Hilary Taylor.



There was encouraging participation at the first two prayer meetings, and everyone had been able to share a little. As more churches get involved, it will be possible to have small groups in break out rooms so that the meeting remains personal and open.

These meetings are held bi-monthly (missing July and resuming in September). The Zoom invitation for September will be sent out nearer the time. Please join us if you are able. We want to share the good news to encourage one another, and also the concerns, and bring them all to God in prayer.

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Waltham Abbey Small Church Hub

The 6th gathering of the Waltham Abbey Small Church Hub was held on Sunday 6th July, this time hosted by Suffolks BC. We welcomed 32 people from five churches. After tea, cake and conversation, we worshipped followed by a time of bringing encouraging words or pictures from the Lord.

We moved in to 5 groups to tackle questions about how each church reaches out into their local community. We discovered the amazing variety of opportunities offered by our churches for people to explore faith, to be valued and belong. How we use our digital resources to connect with the community, and how we make people feel welcome on their first visit. There was a challenge from the questions about the way we find it hard to share our faith and how this may be overcome.

After sharing our ideas and dreams of how to reach the community, Anne Bishop from Baptist Insurance outline how we could apply for grant funding for evangelism to pay for it! They also offer home insurance too!

We prayed for each of the 10 churches in the hub, (half of which are led by faithful lay people.) The churches offered to share expertise in various areas such as helping to improve websites, admin support and pulpit swaps. The next hub date is booked already for October!

As someone said...excellent questions, very thought provoking and helpful. I enjoyed the discussion between churches. I've been to events before, so nice to see people I recognise (friends!)

If you would like to know more about small church hubs, contact Hilary Taylor (hilarytaylor@tiscali.co.uk)

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Prayer News from Baldwyn's Park BC

One of the ways we come together in small groups for prayer and reflection began during Covid. Like many churches, we discovered the dreaded Zoom! I say dreaded because none of us really knew what it was, or how it worked. As we were doing new things and looking at how to connect with each other, we realised that here was a tool that might work for small groups to pray and reflect together.

Like some others in our church, I'm an early bird and I thought that Zoom might offer us an opportunity where we didn't have to leave home but could start the day together with God and each other. We call it the 6 o'clock because it is at 6am - yes, that's 6am, and we meet on Zoom twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. We share in prayer, a short Bible verse and 10 minutes of quiet reflection before sharing what God is saying to us. The meetings last about 30 mins and have proved to be an amazing time of growth and development for all those who attend. We started way back in lockdown and we still have a group of 3-7 people meeting together regularly. We have followed up with a similar meeting called the 9 o'clock, as it's at 9pm. This meeting is about finishing the day with God and pausing mid-week, as it's on a Weds evening. It's a slightly smaller group but again we have seen so much growth and encouragement, that we know God is at work in both these groups. I would like to encourage thinking outside the box a bit, and embracing opportunities that are given as a way of connecting with God and each other. *Martin Williams* (pastorbaldwynspark@gmail.com)

LB Refugee & Asylum Seekers Ministry Network

A number of churches in LB have been welcoming refugees and asylum seekers for several years but as the number arriving is increasing, many other churches have reached out with love and compassion. Rather than each church trying to work out the best way to respond, a network has been set up for help and support.

We hold regular zoom meetings for an hour 4 times a year with churches who already work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers, with the purpose of sharing stories, best practice and resources across the capital to make our ministry to displaced people more effective. This ministry has increased with the arrivals from Hong Kong as well those from Iran and Ukraine.

If your church is actively reaching out to migrants, asylum seekers or refugees - or you'd like to learn from those who are - please [get in touch with Hilary](#) or Hany - hilarytaylor@tiscali.co.uk or hany.abdelmasih@londonbaptist.org.uk - and join the network! At present we know about 30 churches, there must be many more!

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The next SCC newsletter will be in October. Please let us know what is happening in your church. Also we value your feedback. Please contact me at valeriewinchester@btinternet.com or telephone 07764 817246

Contact Stephen Maclean (SCC team leader) at smallchurches@londonbaptist.org.uk