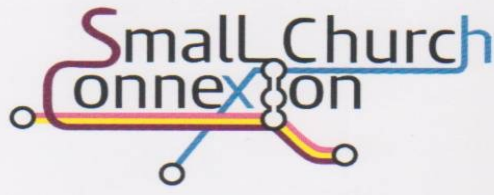


SMALL CHURCHES NEWSLETTER Spring 2026



Welcome to our Spring newsletter.

Having been given the grand title of Newsletter Editor in the summer of 2012, I have had the privilege of compiling the SCC newsletters since then. I have now decided that it is time to hand over to a new Editor and am very pleased to announce that Rev Keith John has offered to take on this task.

I will miss assembling the information that our small churches supply, but have been asked to stay on in the SCC team and so will enjoy keeping in touch with what is happening. For this final newsletter I am grateful to all those who have contributed and pray that every reader will be encouraged in the wonderful work being done across London. Please be inspired, and please send your items for the next newsletter to Keith.

--ooOoo--



An induction and a dedication

Harlington Baptist Church enjoyed a double blessing on Sunday 26th February with the induction of their new minister in training, Gabriel Esposito, and the dedication of his 9 month old son, Timothy. Regional Minister, Rev Hany Abdelmasi, conducted the induction, and guest preacher, Rev Warren McNeil, led the dedication. The photograph shows Gabriel holding his baby son with his wife, Jennifer, with both the officiating ministers and four church deacons.

Church secretary, Vitalia, writes: *"It was a blessed day with many special guests. Pastor Marcoa Brando and his wife Deborah from the Brazilian Church Peniel from Reading, and other pastors and spouses from other churches were also present.*

This is the first minister we have since 2019, so it's been a long wait for us. Our church is quite small as we have 23 members, but they are very committed and work hard to keep the church active in the community. We have a bright future ahead of us now and are very happy with God's provision. We thank the London Baptist and all the churches who have been supporting us through these years."

Football Camp 2026



Cricklewood Baptist in partnership with Ambassadors Football has run a camp for young people for the last 7 years and always in the Summer. This year it is not possible due to several reasons, so I was not going to have one. The church however said we should and to have it in the Easter holidays which we did!

Not only was the weather fantastic during the week, we had the most volunteers ever from local churches, Ambassadors Football, missionaries from Pakistan that were visiting and also London City Mission.

The camp started off with low numbers but soon picked up and during the four days 50 different youth attended with 80% from a non church background.

Each day consisted of lots of training, football matches and also a break with a Bible story on Abraham, a coach interview and a memory verse.

At the end of the camp each person received medals with the Scripture memory verse on, a certificate and a football to keep.

It was encouraging to have one family who contacted Ambassadors Football thanking them for the week and asking for details of other camps. Do pray for all those who attended and for those who took Bibles.

Is this something your church could do? Why not contact Ambassadors Football.
www.gb.ambassadorsfootball.org

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"Jesus said, ... 'let's take a break and get a little rest.'" Mark 6:31 The Message

The Spring Retreat has moved to the early Summer, with a new date:

Saturday 18th July

10am to 3pm

Westbourne Park Baptist Church

Please reserve the date and also confirm with Stephen Maclean (smallchurches@londonbaptist.org.uk) that you are coming so we can send the details.

A contribution of £10 is requested to cover expenses. Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and during the day. Please bring your own lunch. And please book early to help our arrangements. We look forward to seeing you.

Worshipping together at the hub

It was a real joy to welcome 51 people at the hub at Oakwood BC on 12th April! We enjoyed the amazing hospitality before Rev Amanda James led our worship. 6 hub small churches were joined by the worship team and friends from Enfield BC.

Amanda gave each person a paper chain strip and we had to find someone we didn't know and link our chain with theirs. A good way to get everyone mingling. We put all the small chains together to form one long one and Amanda draped it over the cross, as a sign of our unity in Christ at the hub. We prayed together in small groups for all the 9 hub churches, before hearing the scripture read from Luke 24 v13-35. We had an inspiring message on 'Seeing God' from Rev Joe Egan from High Street BC, Tring then we were sent out to two stirring songs of commission and trust in Jesus.

This hub has a WhatsApp leader's group for communication, both spiritual and practical, between hub events. **The NEXT hub is on Sunday 28th June**
To enquire about hosting a hub in your area, email



End of an Era!



The Baptist Association in London has seen many changes since 2012 – Regional Teams & ministers have come and gone. The logo of the Association has changed (at least twice) and the LBA is now known as London Baptists (LB).



The Small Church Connexion (started in 2003) has been there to support churches through it all. A marvellous way to connect the third of LB churches who are small, is the newsletter with news, reviews, ideas, and information produced 4 times a year. Valerie joined the SCC team in 2012 and now feels it is the right time to step down and hand the baton on. We are very grateful for her faithful service to Jesus in this way. Valerie will remain part of the Small Churches team and the mantle will be taken over by Keith John.

Hilary Taylor and Stephen Maclean

Governance Conference Saturday 25th April 2026
Haven Green Baptist Church, W5 2UP
Cost £10 per person, buy 2 get 1 free

Overwhelmed by rules and regulations? Want to know what really is best practice? **This Conference is for you.** Aimed at trustees, deacons, admins and operations managers, buildings managers, treasurers, secretaries and ministers.... led by the London Baptist Property Board

looking at key aspects of trusteeship and property management. Haven Green Baptist Church is five minutes walk from Ealing Broadway Station.

To book your place (please book church groups together) email London Baptists

<communications@londonbaptist.org.uk> Hilary

Table talk at South London Tabernacle Baptist

This year we made a change to our Holy Week tradition of meeting on Maundy Thursday and Good



Friday as well as Easter Sunday. Instead we met on the Wednesday evening 1st April for a 'bring and share meal' followed by reading and reflecting together on Mark 14v1-11. This is the account of events leading up to Jesus' death when an unnamed woman broke a jar of very expensive perfume and anointed Jesus' head.

The date of our meeting (April fools) was strangely appropriate as we saw how the costly devotion of the woman anticipated the extravagant and reckless grace of God as Jesus was broken on the cross for us. We were moved and greatly encouraged by our time together. Conversation flowed naturally as we relaxed, enjoyed each other's offerings and offered up prayer.

Putting our meeting earlier in the week left us free to attend events organised by other local churches including a joint Good Friday witness in Peckham Square. This simple way into Holy Week was refreshing and left us with energy to truly enjoy and celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

Paul Collett



"Really Useful book for leading worship without a worship team" by Sam & Sara Hargreaves

This unique resource is packed with usable, adaptable ideas for gathered worship that requires minimal preparation, technology or expertise. It contains 83 full-colour A4 pages, spiral bound for easy use. You'll feel confident and free to help your group engage with God. The resources cover a range of styles and can stand alone, or be strung together into a whole service journey.

Order from: <https://engageworship.org/store/product/really-useful-book-for-leading-worship-without-a-worship-team>

The next SCC newsletter will be in July. Please let us know what is happening in your church.

Also we value your feedback.

Please contact Keith John on keith@kjohn.co.uk

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