

The LORD will give you strength and blesses you with peace. Psalm 29 vs 11

Advanced Notice

National Assembly 2026

Saturday 9th May

The Hope Centre,
Bernard Road,
Sheffield,
S2 5BQ

Hosted by the North East Area

Information has been sent out to churches and is now on the website

Children and Youth Assembly

Booking forms are now on the Website



Dates for your diary March



- 1- St David's Day
- 6 - World Day of Prayer
- 8 - International Womens Day
- 15 - Mothering Sunday
- 17 - St Patricks Day
- 29 - Palm Sunday

CF Meetings and Events

- 11 - Alumni Event
- 21 - Church Support Committee meeting
- 23 - Christian Aid Prayer Meeting
- 25 - ITTB Meeting
- Sundays 9pm - International Zoom Gatherings

April 23 CIPT Open Day in Nottingham

April 24 - 25 Council Meeting in Manchester

May 8 - 10 National Assembly in Sheffield

Warm Spaces



Does your church offer a warm space?

These are community-led, free, and welcoming environments, often set up in response to the cost-of-living crisis and rising energy costs.

They are designed to provide a warm, safe, and friendly place for people to gather during the winter months, offering a way to combat social isolation and reduce the need for high heating costs at home.

Check with your local authority as to whether there is still funding available in your area.

Contact support@congregational.org.uk if you need help with setting one up.



Learning and Development

Thinking about applying to join the Foundation Degree in Practical Theology course in September?

Due to increased numbers of students currently studying with us, we are having to limit the number of places available on the course this year.

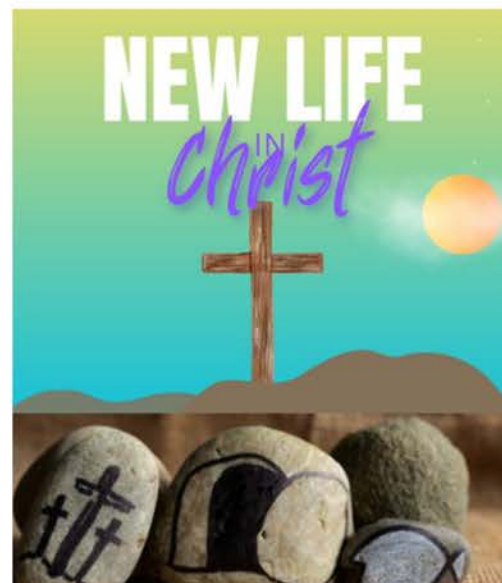
If you are thinking of joining us, please get your application in early to guarantee your place.

Not sure yet?

Then come along to our Open Day on April 23rd where you will have an opportunity to find out all about the course, see the facilities and meet some of the students and tutors.

Applications for this year's intake **MUST** be made by 31st May 2026.

Contact training@congregational.org.uk for further information or take a look at the Learning and Development section of the CF website where you will find our prospectus.



Time to dig out the Easter Poster you were sent last year, add your own church details and times of services, then put outside on your notice board

Here is a reminder of what it looks like.

Worship with us this Easter



**News from North Nibley, Gloucestershire,
South West Midlands Area**

We had our pancakes and ploughman's event on Tuesday and raised £351 for Christian Aid Malawi project.

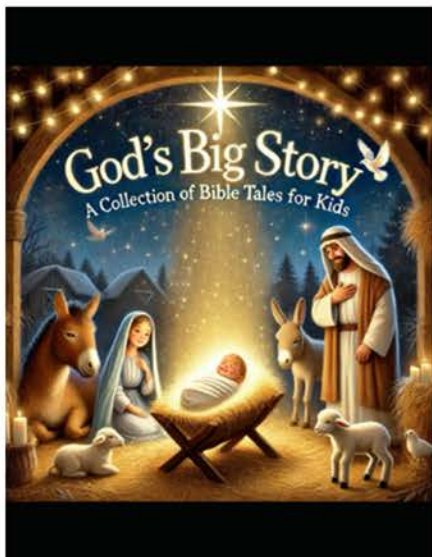


**Hilary Biggin,
Newcastle-under-Lyme Church**

would like to introduce this lovely book to you which has been written by Vanessa Sadick a Christian and first-time author.

Her mum worships at the church from time to time when she is in the area.

It's currently £8.40 per copy on Amazon



**Calendar Challenge
March**

"Reach out to those who have been baptised in your church and send them an Easter card with an invitation to your Easter events".

See separate sheet for ideas

Mark 1 : 9-11 NIV

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



Alumni Association event 11th March

All Alumni members have already been sent their invitations to this event.

A group of our young people are heading out to Brazil later this year.

Please remember them, the leaders and team in your prayers as final preparations are put together.



**Brierley Green Congregational Church,
Buxworth, Derbyshire,
East Midlands Area**

This year marks 200 years of the Day and Sunday school starting at Brierley Green. We have some special events and are wanting to hear any memories and include any photos in our commemoration.

Contact brierleygreenchurch@gmail.com

Sunday 19th April - Anniversary Service at 3pm
Saturday 20th - June Coffee morning
Sunday 4th October - Old Fashioned Sing at 3pm

Easter

Anna Lachowski has put together a wonderful Easter activity for you to have a go at - Easter Nest Cakes

Although it says 'Kids cook' it would be great fun for people of all ages to have a go at.



**Barry Osbourne
Congratulations and Happy 80th Birthday**

Pictured below receiving recognition and thanks from Rural Missions for all his work and support over the years.



We would love to share news and events from your church to the wider Congregational family.
send to support@congregational.org.uk

Affetside Congregational Church

Ceilidh Saturday 16th May 2026

6.30pm

For more information and tickets
Contact carol.morris11@icloud.com

Our Monthly Property Series

Congregational churches are independently governed, with local members carrying the responsibility of caring for buildings, land, and other assets entrusted to them. From chapels and halls to houses and open land, church property plays a vital role in worship, mission, and community life.

In this monthly series, **Congregational Property A-Z**.

We'll explore property topics from A to Z, offering practical guidance shaped by the realities of congregational governance.

Whether your church owns a listed building, a hall, land or multiple properties, these aim to help trustees and members understand their responsibilities and make informed decisions.

We warmly invite readers to suggest topics or questions they would like covered in future editions, ensuring this series reflects the real challenges and opportunities faced by congregational churches today.

Please contact our Trust and Property Manager with your suggestions – kate.bass@congregational.org.uk



B is for Boundaries (and Land Ownership)

Churches often assume that the land they use has clear and well-defined boundaries. In practice, boundary and land ownership issues are very common in congregational property, particularly where buildings and land have been held for many years or transferred between different trusts or bodies.

Boundaries define the legal extent of the land a church owns. They may include buildings, paths, access routes, parking areas, gardens, burial grounds, or strips of land that have been used by the church for generations. Problems arise where boundaries are poorly recorded, unclear, or assumed rather than confirmed.

Although many church properties are now registered at HM Land Registry, the title plan often shows general boundaries, not precise lines. Over time, fences, walls, hedges, and informal arrangements with neighbours may no longer reflect the legal position.

Why boundaries matter

Unclear boundaries can cause difficulties when a church needs to:

- Sell or lease property
- Carry out development or building works
- Make insurance claims
- Apply for grants or funding
- Resolve disputes with neighbouring landowners

Boundary uncertainty can delay transactions, increase legal costs, and in some cases reduce the value or usability of church property.



Common boundary issues in church property

Churches may encounter issues such as:

- Land used by the church but not included in the legal title
- Neighbours encroaching over time with fences, parking, or gardens
- Shared access paths or rights of way with no written agreement
- Historic burial land or open space with unclear ownership
- Missing or incomplete title deeds

Your responsibility as Trustees

Trustees have a duty to understand and safeguard the charity's assets, including land.

Boundary Checklist for Churches

- ✓ Check whether the property is registered with HM Land Registry
- ✓ Review the title plan alongside what exists on the ground
- ✓ Identify any land the church uses but may not legally own
- ✓ Record known issues or informal arrangements in Trustee minutes
- ✓ Address boundary questions early, before disputes or transactions arise

Trustees' Top Tips

1. Do not assume fences or walls mark the true legal boundary
2. Historic use does not always mean legal ownership
3. Boundary issues are easier to resolve early than during a sale
4. Keep records of long-standing arrangements and concerns
5. Seek professional advice if boundaries are unclear or disputed

This article is intended as a general guide to raise awareness of boundary and land ownership issues in congregational church property. Addressing boundary matters early can help protect church assets and avoid unnecessary difficulty in the future.

For property and buildings questions or advice contact
Kate Bass
Trust and Property Manager at
kate.bass@congregational.org.uk

