

Southern Counties Baptist Association

Annual Review 2020



scba
inspire connect resource
southern counties baptist association

*“Growing healthy churches in
relationship for God’s mission”*

The Southern Counties Baptist Association (SCBA) is a family of over 160 Baptist Churches and Pioneer Mission Projects, spread mainly throughout Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Guernsey, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, covering thirteen counties in total. Each church is independent and self-governing, that work together with each other in unity in the context of the SCBA, encouraging and resourcing each other.

The SCBA aims to:

- Build strong relationships
- Grow healthy churches
- Resource effective mission
- Enable lifelong discipleship

The SCBA is one of 13 Regional Associations which, together with local churches and colleges, makes up the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB).

Charity Details

Charity Name: Southern Counties Baptist Association

Charity Registration No.: 1091066

Company Registration No.: 4279837

Registered Office and
Operational Address: Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot,
Oxfordshire, OX11 8XD

Trustees:

Revd Anne Carter	Moderator of Trustees
Revd Nigel Cox	Association Treasurer (to Nov 2020)
Mr Andrew Johnson	Association Treasurer (from Nov 2020)
Mrs Ann Andrews	
Revd Stephen Barber	(from Nov 2020)
Mr John Bragg	
Mr Peter Brookes	(from Nov 2020)
Revd Dr Anthony Clarke	Regent's Park College Representative
Mrs Melvina Fawcett	(to Nov 2020)
Revd Simon Ford	
Revd Martin Hardwidge	
Mrs Anne Lane	(to Nov 2020)
Revd Dr Colin Norris	Regional Minister Team Leader

Regional Ministry Team:

Revd Dr Colin Norris	Regional Minister Team Leader
Revd Clare Hooper	CYF Missional Developer
Revd Jonathan Hunt	Regional Minister
Revd David Llewellyn	Regional Minister

Staff Team:

Mrs Amy Allen	Administration Manager
Mrs Joy Cheang	Safeguarding Adviser (from Oct 2020)
Ms Andrea King	Safeguarding Officer (to Sept 2020)
Miss Alysen Merrill	Administration Support

The Aims of SCBA

Short-term:

- Co-operate with churches directly and through working groups by passing appropriate resolutions to enable building development projects, including the provision of grants and loans, including Sustainable Energy Funding. Many of these projects are directly aimed at making church buildings more accessible and available to the local community.
- Assist churches and ministers that are seeking new ministries through the National Settlement process.
- Assist Individuals in exploring a call to any Baptist ministry by signposting various routes to recognised Baptist ministry, interviewing candidates, supporting ministerial candidates and providing Baptist Union approved training for lay leaders.
- Encourage dialogue within churches and between churches and their local community.
- Encourage the SCBA Grants Committee as it continues to seek creative ways of supporting churches in their mission using Baptist Home Mission, Pioneering and other Association funds.
- Receive and consider reports from the SCBA Strategy Groups and the Regional Ministers, enabling the charitable company to maintain effective governance

Long-term:

- Make Safeguarding training available on a rolling programme, encouraging and enabling members of our churches to receive training at a reduce cost or free, and ensuring that ministers have completed Level 2 & 3 training.
- Ensure, through its Staff, Finance & Administration Group, responsible and effective stewardship of the resources of the charitable company.
- Encourage churches to support Baptist Home Mission and BMS World Mission through prayer, direct partnership with mission personnel and financial gifts, so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can continue to be shared in the UK and abroad.
- Support the staff employed by the charitable company through the provision of appropriate training and support, and provision of clear and effective staffing and other policies.
- Seek appropriate and timely legal advice on issues having a potentially wide-ranging effect with a view to mitigating risk.

The Objective of SCBA

The advancement of the Christian Faith especially by means of and in accordance with the principles of the Baptist denomination, as set out for the time being, in the Declaration of Principle of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

SCBA Strategy Groups

Southern Counties Baptist Association seeks to carry out the aims and objectives of the association through the support of the following strategy groups:



SCBA Events in 2020

SCBA had a full year of events with over 400 Ministers and Leaders linking up with our Association via these events:

SCBA Ministers' & Leaders' Conference

In February, nearly 120 Ministers' & Leaders' attended our three-day conference held at DoubleTree by Hilton in Cheltenham. Revd Glenn Marshall, co-principal of Northern Baptist College, was the keynote speaker.

The conference also included additional sessions for 28 Chaplains/Sector Ministers and 14 Children, Youth & Families Workers, both exploring their roles in their communities.



Youthscape

SCBA Leaders' Day

As the global pandemic struck the SCBA Leaders' Day was moved to an online event.

The team were delighted that Rachel Gardner, Director of Partnerships at Youthscape, was able to be our guest speaker at our Leaders' Day in July to talk on "Where have all the young people gone?". We were joined by over 90 Ministers and Leaders at the encouraging morning.

SCBA Leaders' Day & Annual General Meeting

Our guest speaker for our November Leader's day was Revd Alex Harris, Minister of the Beacon Church and part of the team at Firestarters, who led over 130 Ministers and Leaders on the theme of: "Growing Churches, Helping Grow Churches". The day also included the SBCA Annual General Meeting.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event was held online.



FIRESTARTERS

Growing churches, helping grow churches

SCBA Leadership Development in 2019

SCBA have progressed in a programme of development for our ministers and leaders.

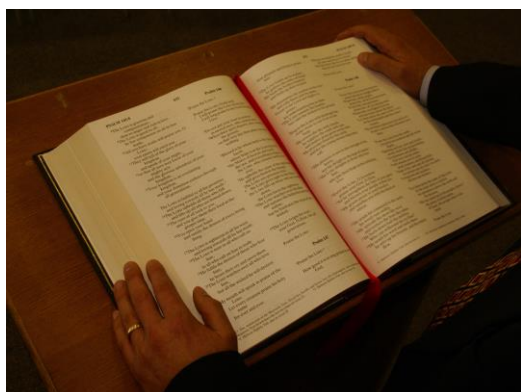
Footsteps

Nearly 30 students attended Footsteps 1 and 2, meeting once a month on Saturdays.

Footsteps is run in partnership with Regent's Park College, Oxford, and is designed for anyone who wants a deeper understanding of their faith and to develop skills useful for their particular ministry.

The course also includes a Children, Youth & Families stream whose purpose is to inspire, connect and resource those working with children, young people and families in their church and community.

The course was postponed in March 2020 because of the pandemic, and was resumed in 2021.



Ministerial Recognition

The process of discerning God's call upon a person's life is not a straightforward one. As Baptists we believe no one can determine for themselves that God has called them to a particular form of ministry; the sense of calling must be tested and affirmed by others. We call this process 'Ministerial Recognition'.

The Ministerial Recognition Group is formed as part of the South West Partnership and is now carried out at residential conferences with the four Associations.

Ministerial Accreditation

The Regional Ministers oversee the development of ministers during their first three years of ministry.

Three ministers became fully Accredited Ministers and were recognised at the Baptist Assembly, with eleven Newly Accredited Ministers gathering for two reflection sessions in February and September



Supporting Mission in 2019

SCBA financially supports mission through churches, chaplaincies and special ministries through Home Mission Grants, as well as supporting Pioneers in new ways of 'doing church'.

Home Mission Projects

Anderson Baptist Church Reading

- Partnership with a Nepalese Fellowship.
- Connecting with the community.
- "To be community which shares Christ, makes disciples and reflects God's glory."



Colwell Baptist Church, Isle of Wight

- Running a twice weekly Foodbank Café and a monthly lunch for elderly locals who would otherwise eat alone.
- Taking on the challenge of reaching out to those who do not know Him.

Datchet Baptist Church, Slough

- A real heart for mission.
- United in spirit and a sense of hope for the future of the church.
- A very strong sense of family.



Freemantle Baptist Church, Southampton

- Working alongside the families in the community.
- Running various groups for the community.
- "Sharing the love of God with our community."

Shinfield Baptist Church, Reading

- Believing in living out their Christian faith as effectively as possible, making an impact with those who do not know the good news about Jesus Christ.





The Meeting Place, Westbourne

- Working at a 'Grass Roots' level.
- Seeking to build community and provide a space for children and families to 'be'.
- Building relationships with parents and carers of the children attending the Toddler Group.

Witney New Life Church

- A community in formation.
- Establishing a Christian community in West Witney.
- "Worship with us: your local church, just around the corner."



Chaplaincies Supported by Home Mission



Bournemouth University Free Church Chaplaincy

- Pastoral support and one-to-one encounters.
- A 'Global Café' for international students.
- "Offering a safe space for people to offload their worries."

Southampton University Free Church Chaplaincy

- Supporting over 25,000 students & 6,000 staff.
- Offering an 'Open House' during term time.
- "Offering a listening ear to anyone who needs it."



Special Ministries Supported by Home Mission



Graven Hill Project, Bicester

- A Special Ministry Grant to fund a Pioneer on a new 'self-build' housing estate.
- Pioneer called and financially supported by Orchard Baptist Church, Bicester.
- Working together with other denominations in Bicester to serve the new housing estates.

PACE in Guernsey



- Creating Opportunities for children to explore the Christian faith.
- Supporting teachers by leading assemblies, lessons, lunch clubs and Prayer Spaces.
- “Connecting schools & churches, communicating Christian belief & values; creating space to explore faith.”

REInspired, Reading

- Developing creative partnerships between churches & schools.
- Delivering Religious Education sessions from the local RE syllabus.
- “Bringing Religious education to life.”



Pioneers Supported by SCBA



Missional Listener, Dorset

- Revd Ben Lucas living in Charlton Downs with his wife, Ez, and four children.
- Felt a very strong calling to go and make disciples of people.
- Called to plant missional communities in Dorset.

Pioneering in Hamworthy, Poole

- Revd John Good living in Poole with his wife, Mim, and two sons.
- Pioneering on a growing housing development of 1,200 homes.
- Set up a Watersports Library for people living in Poole & Bournemouth who would love to get out in the water.



Missional Listener, Stow on the Wold

- Pioneer Joy Dimond living in Stow on the Wold.
- Listening to people’s stories, appointed as a school governor with the local primary school.
- Finding ways to join with God in and around the community.

Pioneer in Larkhill, Salisbury Plain

- Revd Katie Crothers, with her husband, Robert, and two children, supporting families from the local army base.
- Building strong, ecumenical links with the local Anglican church and the army padres.





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The full Annual Report, which incorporates financial statements, is available at:

www.scba.org.uk/governance

Southern Counties Baptist Association
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Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8XD