CMD Programme 2026

Wednesday 2 September	**Preparing and Taking Weddings** Preparing for a wedding involves far more than planning a beautiful ceremony. This upcoming marriage seminar will equip ministers and church leaders with practical guidance for helping couples prepare for both their wedding day and their lifelong commitment to one another. We will explore everything from pre-marital preparation and planning the ceremony to rehearsals, vows, legal requirements, paperwork, and other practical matters. The seminar will also consider the vital role of follow-up and pastoral support in the early years of marriage. **Glenn Innes, Baptist Union of Scotland**	Time: 10:00-12:30 Venue: Stirling Baptist Church, 67 Murray Place, Stirling FK8 1AU Cost: £15.00 Booking link: https://baptistunionofscotland.brushfire.com/baptistunionofscotland-cmdprogramme2026
Wednesday 2 September	**Funerals and Bereavement Care** In this seminar we will explore the five stages of grief, to give us a richer pastoral perspective in bereavement care, from hospital visits to gravesides and beyond. We will also consider a framework for funerals, reflecting on some of the common theological challenges, as well as practical realities, of ministering at the end of life. This seminar is designed to equip you to be a prayerful presence for all those who mourn. **Simon Dennis, Sheddocksley Baptist Church**	Time: 13:30-16:00 Venue: Stirling Baptist Church, 67 Murray Place, Stirling FK8 1AU Cost: £15.00 Booking link: https://baptistunionofscotland.brushfire.com/baptistunionofscotland-cmdprogramme2026
Monday & Tuesday evenings 21 & 22 September	**Safeguarding Leads & Ministers** This online training is specifically for Ministers and Safeguarding Leads, and is required for ministers to maintain their accreditation. This course is for people who hold lead responsibility for safeguarding children and adults within their church. The aim of this course is to equip them with an enhanced awareness of safeguarding, over and above that of other staff or volunteers for which they are the point of contact. The course builds upon the learning gained from attending basic courses in safeguarding, and delegates will be required to have completed basic safeguarding training whether with Thirtyone:eight or elsewhere. The training is scheduled over two consecutive evenings. Both sessions must be attended.	Time: 19:00-21:30pm You must attend both sessions to complete the training. Cost: £40 (non-refundable) Booking link: https://baptistunionofscotland.brushfire.com/baptistunionofscotland-cmdprogramme2026 *Places are limited.*

	Thirtyone:eight (thirtyoneeight.org)	
Tuesday 6 October	**When the Tide Turns** Something is shifting across our nation. There is a fresh openness, a renewed spiritual hunger – and as church leaders, we must be ready. This session explores the journey of becoming a more outward-facing church in a movement of opportunity. Drawing on biblical insight, current research, and lived experience, it will both challenge and equip you to lead your church into its next season of growth. **Leon Evans & Rich Vernon (Further Faster Network)**	Time: 10am-12noon Venue: Online Cost: £10.00. Booking link: https://baptistunionofscotland.brushfire.com/baptistunionofscotland-cmdprogramme2026
Thursday 8th October	**Everyday ADVENTure** Advent leads us all to a wonderful celebration on Christmas Day. But it also points beyond Jesus' birth, offering an **advent**ure every day. For the third year running The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) are offering this webinar to Scottish Baptists to help plan for the Advent Christmas season - there will be sermon outlines, videos, artwork and graphics and a 25-day devotional all around the theme of ADVENTure. **Led by Ken Benjamin & the LICC team**	Time: 13:00-14:30 Venue: Online Cost: £10.00. Booking link: https://baptistunionofscotland.brushfire.com/baptistunionofscotland-cmdprogramme2026