

Baptist Union in Scotland Assembly Mind the Gap 2015 Response

Last year the Union considered the place of our churches in Scotland today and how we engage with national issues as we seek to share the attitudes and actions of kingdom living within our nation.

This year's assembly considered the issue of the gap between the significant ministries within our local communities (schools, toddlers groups, residential homes, youth clubs etc.) and how we bring faith to the foreground within the local community or on our own individual frontlines.

It was the reports from Churches that were seeking to bridge the gap that inspired me most.

Paul Unsworth – Kahaila Café

A coffee shop opened by the Kahaila Church in Brick Lane, London, where “community” and “relationships” are built on a daily basis. A place where people can belong. Where people gather on Wednesday evenings to do **“church” in a different way**. A topic which resounded throughout this year's Assembly.

Ian Marshall - Dedridge Baptist Church, Livingston

Ministering to needs of refugees: Nearly New clothes, Toddlers Club, Old computers, Bus Trips, Caravan holidays/Bbq's, Cultural Evenings etc. Relationships and families VIP.

Andrew Rowlinson – St Andrews Baptist Church

Ministry among 300 migrant fruit workers on Caravan Site in Crail. Providing: English lessons, coach trip to bbq. at Tentsmuir etc. Mission – Global Issues with International Folk. Church encouraged by model of engagement. Migrant workers showing appreciation for what is being done for them. Vision for 2016: Requirement for Christian worker to live and work among the migrant workers to give advice, chaplaincy and meet other needs. **Again “Church” in another way.**

James Faddes, Leslie Baptist Church.

“Pay as you feel able” Café. A place where people feel they belong and only pay for refreshments according to what they can give. **Again “Church in a different way”**

Elie Haddard, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary.

Spoke of Christian Muslim relationships and how this affects the way they do discipleship in Lebanon. Identity is a challenge. Druze community wish to keep their identity but show a willingness to follow Jesus. Not a change of theology but a change of practice.

Lucy Berry Poetry

Her poems dispersed throughout the Assembly on various relevant subjects particularly “When God Came to Church” were extremely well done and for me were thought provoking.

