



## Annual Gathering and AGM

### What is in your hand?

Saturday 25th April, 2026

10am - 1pm at Whitley Bay Baptist Church, NE26 1DX

A gathering of churches, ministers, pioneers and missional communities from across the NBA for worship & fellowship and to share together in what is happening around the NBA.

10.00: Welcome

10.10: Worship (Revd Joel Mercer)

10.25: What is in your hand? (Revd Chris Friend)

11.00: NBA News & Update: What is in our hands?

11.35: Refreshments

12.00: **AGM**

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM

3. Annual Reports including Finance 2025

4. Council Update including Appointments (Trustees)  
(please see attached sheet for information)

Re-elections

1. Paul Knight  
Roy Searle  
Mairi McBain

2. Annual Appointments recommended by Council:  
a. Treasurer: Gavin Monument  
b. Independent Examiner: Bethan Waterhouse  
c. Home Mission Rep: Roy Searle  
d. BMS Rep: Paul Knight

12.30: Communion (Revd Mairi McBain)

1.00: Close

Prayer/close

## Information on elections to Council

### Re-election

**Rev Paul Knight**

**Member Church: Heaton Baptist, Newcastle upon Tyne**

Originally from Lancashire, Paul has been married to Alison since 1978, the same year he entered Spurgeon's College. He left with a BA in theology in 1982. He has been in Pastoral Ministry since then, retiring in 2020. He has served Baptist Churches in Ipswich, Erith, Swindon, and Towcester. Since 2020, he has been a member of Heaton Baptist Church. He and his wife have three adult children and seven grandchildren.



He was converted at 17 years of age in a local Baptist Church and began being involved with youth, World Evangelisation Crusade, and the Good News Crusade. He has always had a heart for creative ways of doing mission in a local context, which has included working with Costa Coffee, Renewal Wellbeing Cafe, Jesus Saves Formula Ford motor racing, Trussell Trust Foodbank, and with new housing developments.

He has served as a Senior Minister in a dual-site Church with other accredited ministers, community, and youth workers. He believes ministry is best served in a plural, egalitarian, collaborative team that is accountable, humble, accessible, open to the average person, recognised, and coordinated properly.

In the past, he has been a BU Mentor, and since moving to the North East, he has served as a Moderator, become a volunteer in a local foodbank, and had the privilege of preaching in some NBA churches.

### Re-election

**Rev Roy Searle**

**Member Church: Alnwick Baptist, Northumberland**

Roy is our longest serving minister within the NBA. Born in the North East, he has served in the region throughout the whole of this ministry. Pioneering as Portrack's first minister, he then served as Senior Pastor at Enon, Sunderland, where he oversaw the Oasis Frontline teams base for the North East. He is one of the founders of the now global, Northumbria Community, [www.northumbriacommunity.org](http://www.northumbriacommunity.org).



Roy has served the NBA as its Moderator, been a member of the both the BU Ministry and Mission Executives. He served until recently as one of our National Pioneer Ambassadors, where he worked with individuals, missional initiatives, churches, associations and the wider Baptists Together movement. He is a former President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. He helped to establish the

Free Church Missional Leadership course and the opportunity for people to train for Baptist ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham, where he was the colleges first Baptist Hub tutor. He has served as an associate tutor of Spurgeons College, London and Northern Baptist College, Manchester.

His ministry now sees him writing, mentoring younger pioneers and missional leaders, offering spiritual direction and accompaniment, advising churches, charities and leadership teams in navigating the challenges and opportunities of a changing world. His book *Forming Communities of Hope in the Great Unravelling - Leadership in a Changing World*, which he wrote with his friend, the Canadian missiologist Alan Roxburgh was published last year and is selling well and contributing to many conversations on issues facing the church and society in these turbulent times. Off the back of the book's publication other leaders in North America, Australia and Europe, Roy has, with others, formed The Commons, <https://www.thecommonscooperative.com> Still a Companion in the Northumbria Community, he is also, with four Baptist friends, part of the Northumbrian Collective, [www.northumbrian.org](http://www.northumbrian.org) which encourages people to Listen Well, Think Deeply and Live Authentically. The Collective team will be leading our NBA ministers conference this year. He is also on the board of Renovaré <https://renovare.org.uk> and is an Advisor and consultant with Rural Ministries.

Roy is a keen culture watcher and commentator / blogger on contemporary issues. He possesses a deep faith, is passionate about the North East and is well known throughout the NBA, the wider denomination and beyond. Innovative and creative, Roy is a natural ambassador for the NBA and for Home Mission as he envisions, enables and encourages people, including many leaders to think wider and realise their potential. He is a bridge builder and great connector of people. A leader, who likes to see people and organisations flourish and be a means of a blessing to the communities in which they live and serve.

Roy and his wife Shirley live in Newcastle and he enjoy spending time with his family and friends, playing tennis, pickleball, 5-a-side football, curling, golf, walking and where opportunity allows, sailing. A Geordie by birth, he has somehow ended up as a devoted Middlesbrough football supporter!

## **Re-election**

**Rev Mairi McBain**

**Member Church: Headland Baptist, Hartlepool**

Mairi is a member of Headland Baptist Church and has now been a Community Pastor in Hartlepool for three years where she continues to find people warm, friendly and welcoming. A big change in 2026 is that she has combined her community ministry in Hartlepool with a part-time role as an NHS Healthcare Chaplain. Also new is that she is a Trustee and volunteer for a wonderful Hartlepool charity called Changing Futures Northeast, alongside her husband Graham.



Mairi has been an NBA Trustee for the past three years and has served as Moderator for most of that time. She sees this as an opportunity to 'give back', having been part of Baptist Association life, and benefitted from it, for many years.

Time has flown by, and three years on she is happy to be nominated, and if discerned by the Assembly, to serve a further term as Trustee.

Mairi has over 25 years of third-sector HR experience which means that she appreciates the importance of people – our main asset! Her gifts enable a calm, considered approach and an ability to think and discern strategically. She loves working collaboratively as part of a team.

Mairi and Graham very much enjoy living in this beautiful part of the country, exploring the cycle paths, the nearby beaches and having discovered running, Mairi has joined Graham as part of a running club in Hartlepool.

### **Annual appointments recommended by Council.**

#### **Treasurer: Gavin Monument**

Member Church: Billingham Baptist Church

Gavin has attended Billingham Baptist Church since the age of 7, growing up through Sunday School and coming to faith at the age of 17. He was baptized at the age of 20 and became a church member. He was elected as a deacon in 2001, and then as church treasurer in 2003. He served on the Leadership Team until 2015 when he stood down from both roles due to work commitments. Despite this he has continued to support the church by producing the gift aid claims and the annual accounts for the church due to the absence of a treasurer. In 2021 Gavin was elected back into the role of treasurer.



In 2004, and completely by accident, Gavin was nominated by the church to stand to serve on NBA Council. He decided to use the mistake as a fleece to see if he could serve God in this way. I was elected to Council in 2004 and served until 2010 when work commitments became too much (being at the heart of a major waste management contract negotiation at the time). In addition to serving on Council Gavin also served on the Resources Group, and chaired that meeting for his final two years. He's also served on the Home Mission grants committee and staffing group. At various points Gavin has acted as a Home Mission visitor and has enjoyed his time getting to know Blackhill, Durham City and Wallsend Baptist churches. In 2020 he was asked by NBA Council to step in following the resignation of the previous treasurer, and was elected to the role at the AGM in 2021.

In his work life Gavin qualified as an accountant in 2002 and has predominantly served in the public sector, holding a number of roles, including Assistant Head of Finance at South Tyneside Council. In 2016 he was asked to join the Department for Education as a contractor in their Operational Finance division who are responsible for the collection of financial data from academy trusts and use that to produce the Department's annual report and accounts. With 3,000 separate accounts to consolidate, it is believed to be the largest accounts consolidation exercise in the world. Gavin joined the team permanently in Sept 2017. And interestingly, academy

trusts are charitable companies, as is the NBA, meaning Gavin has extensive transferable skills and knowledge from work to support the NBA.

**Home Mission Representative: Rev Roy Searle**

**BMS World Mission Rep: Rev Paul Knight**

### **Notes on Voting**

1. Each member church shall have the right to appoint one representative to General Meetings of the Association and additional representatives in accordance with the following schedule:
  - 51 to 100 members -1
  - 101 to 150 members -2
  - 151 to 200 members -3
  - 201 to 250 members -4
  - 251 to 300 members -5 and so on
2. Each minister/pastor in post at a member church shall also be a representative.
3. Each representative shall have one vote.
4. The representative or representatives of a member church shall be entitled together to exercise the same powers on behalf of the member church as the member church could exercise.