

# CHRISTIAN WORKER



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Christian Worker team  
expands*



**Three new Christians!**



**Where are they now? -  
Minnie Lagria**



**Working with refugees  
in Calais & Vienna**

## From the editors:

### Contents

Front cover – smaller photos: work among refugees in Calais, work among refugees in Pakistan  
2 – From the editors  
3 – Spotlight on 'CW new team'  
5 – Congratulations!  
6 – Tom King called home  
6 – Directory update  
7 – British Bible School News  
8 – Family News  
9 – Around the world  
12 – Appeals update  
13 – Poem: "What is my value?"  
14 – Notices  
15 – Diary  
16 – The Final Word

The *Christian Worker* is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.  
Editor-in-chief: Trevor Williams



twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk  
(0115) 8376895

Production editor: Jon Galloway



<https://www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk>

Deadline: 21<sup>st</sup> of each month

2016 is finally over and the New Year of 2017 is now here! Another New Year. But will it be the same as the old one? Or will we have learned from the experiences we went through last year?

As we look back over 2016, we can see there was growth in God's Kingdom throughout this country. We published in the *Christian Worker* 47 reports of those who became Christians last year, from seventeen different congregations. I am confident that there were more than this, but this is something to give us reason to rejoice!

During this past year we said goodbye to at least ten that were reported in the pages of this magazine. Many more, I'm sure, went on to their reward. But even with the losses there would seem to be even more increases. That is good news!

There were four marriages reported this past year, although, again, I am sure there were more than this among the congregations. In addition to this we reported births, anniversaries, and even one who made it to 100 years old (although she went onto her reward last month – see the "Gone Home" on page 7).

When the *Christian Worker* began in 1969, its purpose was to increase communication between congregations, both in the form of news and also ideas for taking the good news of Jesus throughout this country. We are pleased that congregations are continuing to send in news of what is going on in their area of the Kingdom. This past year we had reports sent in from 21 different congregations as well as from 11 other countries. We currently have just over eighty congregations listed in the UK, which means that around 25% are actively communicating through the CW. If you have not sent in a report recently, can we ask you to please consider doing so? – if nothing else just to let us know that you are still around and working for the Lord.

We have a New Year ahead of us. Let us plan and pray that this will be a year of growth, both for each of us as Christians, as we learn more from God's word, and for the congregations of which we are a part, as we tell others the good news of Jesus and the hope that we have in him.

*Jon*



## Spotlight: CW team expands

When the *Christian Worker* changed editors a few years ago, the new editors wanted to freshen up the magazine and bring it into the digital age. Some of these changes have worked well, while others have been slow in coming to fruition. Some have liked the changes and others have not been as thrilled (especially with the online format – see at the end of this article). One area which they were both committed to was that the *Christian Worker* should be a team effort, and that this team should include some younger Christians, as well. We are pleased to finally announce some new additions to our team of workers.

First, we would like to thank **Tony Styles** once again for his many years of service as treasurer for the magazine. As a gift of thanks for his years as treasurer, Frank Worgan, on behalf of the editors, gave a specially engraved pen to Tony. The engraving simply said “Tony Styles – a Christian Worker” and was presented to Tony at Corby before worship one Sunday.

**Jenny Sparks** is our new treasurer. She grew up in the Ilkeston congregation, being the daughter of John and Patty Bullock. She gained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stirling

University, enjoying her time there very much. While at Stirling she met Aaron, who



was working in Scotland with the AIM programme. After they were married, she worked at Harding University whilst Aaron was completing his studies. They also worked among congregations in

Michigan and Georgia before returning to Britain in 2010. Jenny and Aaron have two children: Josiah (age 9) and Phoebe (age 4).



Jenny is currently a marketing and development executive for an accounting company. Whilst being a busy lady she enjoys sewing and reading and is heavily involved with the Ilkeston congregation. We are thankful for Jenny taking on this new work on behalf of the Lord's people in the UK.

**Emmanuel Uwujare** is our new webmaster. Originally from Nigeria and immigrating to the UK around six years ago, he and his wife Edith are

now part of the congregation in Leicester. They have one daughter, Elita (age 2). Emmanuel works as a Management Information Analyst for NHS Nottingham.

Emmanuel has been working to develop our new website. He will be



responsible for putting information on the web for us, including keeping an updated calendar and directory of congregations. We are still in the development stage for the website, but you can access the *CW Directory* from there now. Our website is:

[www.churchesofchrist.co.uk](http://www.churchesofchrist.co.uk)

We will be working on further development of the website over the next few months. We appreciate Emmanuel and his efforts thus far to get us back on the web!

**Trevor Williams** continues to be our 'editor-in-chief'. As such, he is responsible for co-

ordinating the articles and news items that go into the *CW* each month. All articles, notices, and news items should be sent to him as our point of contact (his e-mail address is on page 2). He also writes "The Final Word" each month and occasionally contributes a devotional message.

A graduate of the North Ireland Bible School, Trevor worked with many congregations throughout the UK during the years he served congregations as a supported evangelist. Although he is now officially 'retired,' he says that means he is busier than he has ever been! He and Pauline now call Nottingham home, where he spends



time growing fruit and vegetables and baking with his granddaughters. He speaks throughout the UK on most Sundays, helping congregations. When home he worships with the Ilkeston congregation and helps them in every way he can.

**Jon Galloway** continues to serve as 'production editor.' This means that he is responsible for taking the items that Trevor has accumulated and putting them into a magazine format. This does include some editing, rewriting, and writing of some of the items. He writes the "From the Editors" page each month and contributes occasional articles.

Jon is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University and has been working with congregations in the Glasgow area since 1985. He and Arlene make their home in East

Kilbride, where Jon serves as the evangelist. He is also a teacher and governor for the British Bible School and writes "Bible Bytes," a weekly column for *Forthright* magazine ([forthright.net](http://forthright.net)).



We are now offering the *Christian Worker* as a printed, full-colour publication to those in the UK. The cost covers producing it and postage. If you would like more details, please contact Trevor.

*Trevor Williams & Jon Galloway*



# *Congratulations!*

**Loughborough:** We are thrilled to announce that **Mackensie Taylor** decided to give her life to Christ on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November. We are delighted to be able to call her sister. May we be examples to her as she is an example to us. We pray that the Lord will bless her all the more as she begins her journey walking with him.

*Calum Hill*



**Reading:** **Ian Edmonds** has been attending the Reading congregation for about 4 months and was baptised by Anthony Newman on 11<sup>th</sup> December. **Dianne Tavares** was baptised by Edmund George on 17<sup>th</sup> December. She has been visiting about a month. We welcome both of the new Christians in our fellowship and pray that they will grow in the months and years to come.

*Craig Benjamin*



**Loughborough:** **Norman and Brenda Hill** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Family and friends gathered together to celebrate this special event with a surprise party and even the Queen sent a card! Congratulations!

*Facebook*



## Where are they now? – Minnie Lagria

**Minnie Lagria** is another of our outstanding BBS graduates from the Philippines. For several years she worked in medical missions in Namibia, Africa. Whilst there she adopted a little girl called **Ndahafa**. Since February 2015 she has been working with a special resettlement village in the Philippines where she heads various programmes and this is her story.

To start with nineteen hectares of land were purchased with funds from two Churches of Christ-led organisations: the Christian Relief Fund and Helping Hands International. M.A.R.C.H. for Christ, a third organisation, brought order and help (Medical Action, Relief, Counselling, Healing for Christ). These organisations can be viewed on line. The main livelihood of the area is fishing but after storm Yolanda hit the country in 2013 several of the Bantayan islets were declared red danger zones. At this time several British individuals and congregations sent money for new fishing boats which were deeply appreciated. But many had lost their homes, livelihoods and culture and now have a chance to relearn and live in a safe

environment in the village. As community organiser, Minnie works closely with the people. She ensures the children go to school, which was something that was not a normal part of life for them previously.

Added to this she works with families to keep them free of disease, and develops community and sports facilities. Vegetable gardens are now being developed so that food is grown and life is sustained, but the people are fisher-folk and not farmers.

Teenagers especially need to be trained for work in city life and

some have are now involved in the catering or nursing industries. There is a constant need for greater education. For poor families, whose lives have been decimated, money is sparse and there is a constant need for helping them.



Keeping people healthy is a major concern. TB screening takes place, resulting in some having to go to hospital and sadly some have died. These are traumatic experiences in a devastated

community. However not all is gloom – they have developed sports facilities for volleyball and basketball and are coming up with their



own football pitch. They have a children's train track and they love to dance and sing. This develops their self-confidence.

Minnie works with three preachers and the meeting place is packed on Sundays. They are anxious that the good work done is seen as the work of God and carried out for his glory. As a Christian, Minnie is under no illusion that some people are immersed because they are being helped and not because they have dedicated their lives to Jesus. Bible studies are being constantly

held and the congregation's facilities are in constant use. She says, "The work is humongous! Being in mission work is like getting into a fruit blender. You get in and you will be shaken, purged, all energy extracted, and we see what we are truly made of. There is nothing that can describe our work aptly. Nothing."

Please keep Minnie in your prayers and if you would like to write to encourage Minnie her email is [pmathena@gmail.com](mailto:pmathena@gmail.com).

*Trevor Williams*

## Called Home

### Mary Cox

1916-2016

We are saddened to report the death of Mary Cox. Mary had reached the age of 100 yrs on 10<sup>th</sup> July and yet she was present at worship each week – in fact, she was last present on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Mary attended the congregation in Ulverston from the age of seven. She was immersed into Christ when she was 13 years old. She was a Sunday School teacher and enjoyed singing hymns. She served as treasurer, part-time secretary and was the mainstay of fellowship meals.

She was always helping in the community and was a founder-member of the Gill Singers – a choir that was formed in the 1940s. She also enjoyed lace-making, cooking, sewing and upholstery of chairs. Mary was active with meals-on-wheels (she commented that some of the people she was serving were younger than she was!). Mary did her best wherever she was needed.

Her funeral was on the 16<sup>th</sup> December in the Ulverston meeting place, a building she had helped to construct and maintain. There wasn't much planning needed for the funeral as she had left instructions: on the hymns she wanted (four hymns), two Bible readings (Ecclesiastes 1 and Psalm 139), and Bill Thistlethwaite to speak at the service.

There were about 70 people in attendance, of which 25 were her 'family' – her nieces and their children. Some were expecting more, but as one person commented, Mary had probably out-lived most of her friends.



*Bill Thistlethwaite*

## Family News

**Loughborough:** On Monday, 19th December, we were blessed with the opportunity to spend time in fellowship, serving the local community. As a congregation, we are privileged to be actively involved with a local Food Bank that serves residents of Shepshed who struggle daily to provide a meal for themselves and their families.

The congregation filled boxes with gifts (appropriate to the gender and age of users of the food bank) to give them presents to open on Christmas morning. These were for adults down to babies of eleven months. The evening in which we wrapped the parcels was a time of encouragement for all involved – it was a great family effort. In total 72 parcels were put together, providing for everyone who relies weekly on the services of the Shepshed food bank.

We pray that the recipients of the parcels find hope in Christ and want to come to know the gift that he gives freely to those who seek and are

immersed in him. We praise the Lord for the many blessings he showers on us, especially for the gift of his son who died so we can walk in newness of life. May God continue to bless the work of his people throughout his Kingdom.

*Calum Hill*

**Website:** Hi everyone my website is now up and running – and hopefully it can be used as a good Bible resource. There's plenty to nibble on and lots to chew over. Have a good look around and please give me some feedback if you don't mind. I've still to put video on, but apart from that there are sermons to read or listen to and lots of studies to read.

The address is <http://the-scriptures.co.uk>  
If you use Twitter please follow me on

@thescripturesuk. If you really like the site, you can also now download a mobile app, free of charge – simply go to the website, scroll down and below the Twitter symbol you'll see a picture of a Bible. Simply click on that to download to your phone or click on this link:  
<http://app.appsgeyser.com/4172427/The%20Scriptures>.

I'm also trying to get some lessons for women put together – if you know of any sister who has lessons they don't mind sharing, please send them to me via email (in MS Word format) and I'll upload them to the site.

*Mike Glover*





## Around the World

**Malawi:** It was in December when the picture was taken as I came from our National TV Malawi. I had been asked to lead the morning devotion for Saturday and Monday. I received a phone call from the television management asking if I would go and take a lead on the morning prayers. I thank God that out of many preachers I was selected to do this. The message I presented came from Isaiah 41:10-13.



*Lungster Mlotha*

**France:** Our family have just returned from a three-month mission trip with the intention of helping refugees. We spent two months working in Calais and a month with the Christians in Vienna. We are very grateful for the love and support of our brethren in the UK.

During our time in France, we worked in “The Jungle,” an unofficial refugee camp in Calais. Craig worked alongside The Tea Van (who provide free tea, coffee and biscuits), as well as a pop-up seating area to play board games, ukuleles or just chat with the volunteers. The refugees come to know the love of Christ through subtle conversations with volunteers.



Crystal volunteered at the Women and Children’s Centre and The School Bus project in the camp. Both were repurposed double decker buses that provided a safe place for learning and playing. Many of the children were traumatised and this would show up in different ways. It was good that there were places which created a more positive atmosphere and that taught them to deal with their frustration/anger. We saw huge improvements in their behaviour through care and attention, and they once again had a chance to be just children.

When we were planning our mission trip we did not know about the planned demolition of “The Jungle” until we arrived. During the eviction we helped out in the Help Refugees charity warehouse. We then moved on to Vienna.

The congregation in Vienna are about fifteen Christians and mainly German speaking. Over the past year and a half, they have helped in the refugee camp in

Traiskirchen (20 km outside of Vienna) and have seen a tremendous response. They have an English worship service where Nigerian refugees are eager to hear the Good News and excited about owning their own Bible.

If you’d like to read in more detail about our experiences helping refugees, look at our blog on **Mission to Calais**.

*Craig & Crystal Holder*

## Advanced Bible Study Series



Join us in Gemünden, Germany...

**13-19 February 2017**

ABSS I – Monday pm to Friday noon

[Presenters will include Tony Coffey (Dublin)]

ABSS II – Friday pm to Sunday noon

To request complete programme information or book your place, contact ABSS Coordinator:  
Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com)

## Marriage

**... made in heaven?**

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
6pm – 9pm**

*Calling all married and engaged couples! Isn't it time you treated yourselves to a night out on your own? We'd like to invite you to an evening of food and fellowship, with a talk from a guest speaker on the subject of marriage. It's the season of love so make it date!*

**Loughborough Church of Christ meeting place,  
Oxford Street, Loughborough LE11 5DP.  
Contact: Steve Perriman (perriman@tiscali.co.uk)  
Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk)**

This event is FREE (husbands – take note!) but it would be helpful to know numbers for catering purposes.

*Philip Slate, who used to work among the congregations in the UK, has asked if there is someone willing to work in a teaching programme in Zambia. David French is a mature Christian and heads the programme. He is looking for established Christians able to teach scripture at a higher level as well as model a good Christian character. Initially the position would be for between 6-12 months. For more information contact [cpsmissions@gmail.com](mailto:cpsmissions@gmail.com)*



## January

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> – **Bassenthwaite Family Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Theme: “More About Jesus.” Organised by the British Bible School. (Now fully booked!)

## February

4<sup>th</sup> – **Cumbernauld**: Men’s Day.

10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> – **Cumbernauld**: Young Adult/Youth Retreat at Rowardennan Lodge Youth Hostel – “H<sub>2</sub>O”. Cost: £30 for two nights or £35 for three nights. Bookings: [nicole8barr@gmail.com](mailto:nicole8barr@gmail.com).

11<sup>th</sup> – **Loughborough**: “Marriage...made in heaven?” – an evening of food and fellowship for married and engaged couples, 6.00-9.00 pm. Contact: Steve Perriman ([perriman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:perriman@tiscali.co.uk)).

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – **Gemünden, Germany**: ABSS I (Monday evening to Friday noon). Speakers include Tony Coffey (others to be confirmed). For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazzle ([brazle.paul@gmail.com](mailto:brazle.paul@gmail.com) or +32488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> – **Gemünden, Germany**: ABSS II (Friday evening to Sunday noon). For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazzle ([brazle.paul@gmail.com](mailto:brazle.paul@gmail.com) or +32488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – **Scotland East Coast**: Joint Gospel Meetings – Friday at Kirkcaldy and Saturday at Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh), 7.30 pm. Guest speaker: Ian Starrs. Theme: “A Life Worth Living.”

## March

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – **Thallichtenberg, Germany**: European Ladies Retreat – “From Roots to Fruits.” Cost: €120 (payment when you arrive). Venue: Jugendherberge Burg Lichtenberg, Burgstraße 12, 66871 Thallichtenberg, Germany. Sign up by 15<sup>th</sup> December. Additional information: <http://elr.yolasite.com/details.php>.

11<sup>th</sup> – **Great Barr**: Bible Seminar.

25<sup>th</sup> – **Manchester (Stretford)**: Special meeting, lunch at 1.00 pm followed by a speaker at 2.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon ([dr\\_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk)).

## April

8<sup>th</sup> – **Kirkcaldy**: Annual Social, 1.30 pm. Speaker: John Mooney.

21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – **Gemünden, Germany**: European Singles Retreat. Information: <http://www.singlesretreat.net>.

## May

20<sup>th</sup> – **Manchester (Stretford)**: Special meeting, lunch at 1.00 pm, Trevor Williams to speak at 2.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon ([dr\\_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk)).

## June

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Reading**: RiSe (Reading in Song event) – 2 sessions with Anthony Lancaster, William Gooch and Durant, at Lodden Valley Leisure Centre: 3.00 pm singing workshop and 6.30 pm Durant programme. Contact: Craig Benjamin ([csbjlb@gmail.com](mailto:csbjlb@gmail.com)).

## July

8<sup>th</sup> – **Edmonton**: Men’s Workshop. Contact: Charles Banin ([charlesbanino@aol.com](mailto:charlesbanino@aol.com)).

## August

13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – **British Bible Camp**.

24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – **European Christian Workshop** at Lancaster: *Shalom*.

## September

9<sup>th</sup> – **Great Barr**: Annual Fellowship Day.

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – **Gemünden, Germany**: European Singles Retreat. Information: <http://www.singlesretreat.net>.

## October

7<sup>th</sup> – **Manchester (Stretford)**: Special meeting, lunch at 1.00 pm followed by a speaker at 2.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon ([dr\\_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk)).

## November

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – **British Bible School**: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick.

# The Final Word: "Vision"



*"Where there is no vision the people perish." (Proverbs 28:18)*

I do not often use the Authorised Version of scripture, as there are too many mistranslations or non-translated words in it for my liking. However, I do like the phrase quoted above. Other translations use 'revelation' for vision.

Today we use vision quite often in our 21<sup>st</sup> century language; television, vision for eyes, for all of our technology. We also need to have 'church vision'. We have all the instructions and guidelines in scripture that we will ever need, praise God for His goodness. Now let's put it into practise.

Does your congregation have a vision for 2017? Is it the same as 2016? Could it possibly have something new? When putting out some cups at one congregation I was helping, I was told they did not do it the way that I was doing it. My inner man said, "Do it yourself then." My outer man smiled and did it the way they wanted as the last thing I wanted to do was cause offence. Now if we can be so picky over putting cups out for tea how is it that we can let weightier matters of the power of the gospel slide to one side?

I am hoping that many congregations have plans for this year and the next few years. Vision is for those who want to see, but there are none as blind as those who do not want to see. Make your congregation one with vision, looking to see the impossible and making it, by the power of God, into the possible. Let us know your plans and hopes. We can work with each other, support each other and pray for each other.

*Trevor*

## Prayer

*O God, open our eyes to see your will,  
Open our hearts to love the unlovable,  
Open our hands to work for you,  
Open our mouths to tell of your love.*

