

CHRISTIAN WORKER



A most urgent need
(p.3)

Three new
Christians! (p.5)



May McCallum turns
100 years old (p.5)

Appeal update (p.8)



From the editors:

Contents

Front cover – main photo:

Cumbernauld Men's Day; small photos: new Christian Stephen Allridge at Cumbernauld; Northampton Youth Weekend; 'Acapella Jam' in Bristol; Olivia Aarons in China.

2 – From the editors

3 – Spotlight: 'A most urgent need'

5 – Congratulations!

6 – British Bible School notes

7 – Fay Hughes called home

8 – Haiti appeal update

9 – Family news

11 – Around the world

12 – Notices

14 – Diary

16 – The Final Word

The *Christian Worker* is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.



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March has been a busy month, as you will see from the contents of this month's *Christian Worker*. And, looking at the 'Diary', April and the months following are going to continue this trend. Support events that you can! You will benefit so much from spending time with other Christians in praise of our Father. (Don't forget to send us a report of your event – with photos! – so we can all rejoice in what is going on throughout God's Kingdom.)

We are aware that there are a few people each month who, for some reason, do not receive the e-mail with the download link for the magazine (there were three or four last month). We are not sure why this happens. We use an e-mail distribution service called 'MailChimp'. Generally it is very good. But, like all things, it sometimes lets us down. If you do not receive your e-mail by the second day of each month, please contact me so that I can get a copy to you and try to track down what has gone wrong (jdgalloway@mac.com).

We appreciate the comments that last month's 'Spotlight' article on Bible study websites has generated. Several have sent in further suggestions of good places to go for Bible information on the World Wide Web. We will plan on doing a second article on more websites in the next few months. So, if you have a website you find useful, please let us know so we can include it in our next article. We want this magazine to be an exchange of ideas and information that can help us all as we grow to be more like Jesus and reach this country with the good news.

As we get older, it seems there are more farewells to make to those we know and love who have made the journey to eternity. For those who live with the "one hope" of Jesus, it isn't so much as a 'farewell' as it is a 'see you later' (or even 'see you soon!'). Many assembled in Kirkcaldy on 27th February to remember the life of Fay Hughes, who was such a good influence on so many. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her husband Robert, who struggles with Parkinson's Disease, as well as her sons and their families. *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."* *"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them!"* (Revelation 14:13 ESV)

Jon

Spotlight: A most urgent need

I received an e-mail from Crossways Publishers earlier this week. One of the articles caught my eye: “J. I. Packer on One of the Most Urgent Needs in the Church Today.” Having appreciated his writing, I was curious and clicked on the link.

The blog article was promoting a new book that J.I. Packer has written and is due to be released later this month – *The New City Catechism: 52 Questions and Answers for Our Hearts and Minds*. (The article can be read here: <https://www.crossway.org/blog/2017/03/j-i-packer-on-one-of-the-most-urgent-needs-in-the-church-today/>).

Although the term ‘catechism’ isn’t one we might use, the word comes from a Greek word which means “instruction by mouth.” The *New Oxford Dictionary* defines it this way: “a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for religious instruction.”

Having been involved in teaching and writing for half a century (he turns 90 this year), Professor Packer is concerned that those proclaiming they are Christians do not know the basics of the ‘Christian faith’. In his last book he wrote:

“Congregations in every age must see themselves as learning communities in which gospel truth has to be taught, defended, and vindicated against corruptions of it and alternatives to it.

Being alert to all aspects of the difference between true and false teaching, and of behaviour that expresses the truth as distinct from obscuring it, is vital to the church’s health.” (*Finishing Our Course With Joy*, Crossways 2014).

While many Christians feed themselves on devotional articles – which are useful – they often do not spend time studying the basics of their faith. Without grounding in truth, Mr Packer wrote, “Well-intentioned minds and hearts will repeatedly go off track.”

Most Christians would be very sympathetic to what J.I. Packer is seeing. There is a

great need to emphasise the study, learning and application of the written word in the lives of all Christians. While this was emphasised in the past, the same eagerness is often missing today.



This has resulted in young Christians who might have been taught *what* they should believe but do not know *why* this is important. Does a person have to be immersed to be a Christian? Why does someone need to be immersed in water? Why do we meet on Sunday? Why do we conduct worship the way we do? Why do we emphasise male spiritual leadership? (And the list could go on...)

It is important that Christian leaders have as a goal Christians who not only know what they believe but also understand why they believe it. As Mr Packer put it: “Its intended

end product is Christians who know their faith, can explain it to enquirers and sustain it against skeptics, and can put it to work in evangelism, church fellowship, and the many forms of service to God and man for which circumstances call.”

As Christians grow, they should not only know and believe what the Bible says, but they should be able to put that knowledge and belief into action in their lives.

We see this throughout the scriptures. God emphasised to the Israelites the need to know and to teach:

*“Hear, O Israel:
The LORD our
God, the LORD is
one. You shall
love the LORD
your God with all
your heart and
with all your soul
and with all your
might. And these
words that I
command you
today shall be on
your heart. You shall teach them diligently
to your children, and shall talk of them
when you sit in your house, and when you
walk by the way, and when you lie down,
and when you rise. You shall bind them as
a sign on your hand, and they shall be as
frontlets between your eyes. You shall write
them on the doorposts of your house and
on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV)*

Jesus’ followers were first called ‘disciples’ – they were learners, pupils of Jesus. They were to take what they had learned and teach *“faithful men, who will be able to teach others also”* (2 Timothy 2:2). It is important that we grow to the point that

we can be teachers: *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food”* (Hebrews 5:12).

We need to make teaching and learning a part of our lives as Christians. Let me make two suggestions.

Organise a study weekend (or attend one nearby). The British Bible School currently offers study opportunities in the spring and autumn and are looking for more congregations who are willing to host a study event. Over the course of two

weekends one BBS module can be taught (often this concentrates on one particular section of scripture). Contact Patrick Boyns (<http://>



britishbibleschool.com/about/get-in-touch) and he would be happy to arrange this.

Make ‘in-house training’ part of the congregation’s life. Again, the British Bible School can help in this. An ideal day’s training to get this started would be looking at “Back to basics.” Visit their webpage for more information (<http://britishbibleschool.com/training/training-options>).

May all Christians be known for knowing and living God’s word.

Jon Galloway

Congratulations!

Livingston: We are delighted to share that, after attending worship at Livingston throughout 2016, **Ian Ballantyne** accepted Jesus as his saviour and was baptised on Saturday, 26th November. We welcome Ian into the fellowship of the Lord.



Wilma & Ian Ballantyne



May MacCallum celebrated her 100th birthday on 10th January. May has been a great encouragement to the congregation in Livingston and a wonderful example to everyone. She has served the Lord for the past 81 years, becoming a Christian at the age of 19.

Mark Montgomery

Cumbernauld: We rejoice with the angels following the decisions of **Stephen Alldridge** and **Jim Burnett** to put on Christ in baptism. Jim's disability meant we had to ask for the help of the local sports centre who were very helpful. Please keep our new brothers in your prayers.

Graham McDonald



*Stephen Alldridge
(with Adam Barr)*

Thinking about Hebrews

There is a certain irony that a book shrouded in so much ambiguity with regards to its authorship, destination, and literary style should begin with a declaration on divine revelation. That the 'Supremacy of Christ' is the overriding theme of the document is of little doubt, and from the very beginning the writer lays his cards on the table, so to speak, and presents the Son as the ultimate revelation of God.

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." (Hebrews 1:1-2)

As the Scriptures were given by God to reveal himself to those whom he has created in his image, so the living Word reveals him most completely, for he "is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature." As Philip of Bethsaida was kindly reminded by Jesus, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

Coming to the book known simply as *Hebrews* so many years after its launch and in such different circumstances from those for whom it was first written, it might be difficult to see its relevance for us. To understand it well we need also to understand much of that which was written even longer ago and in even more diverse

circumstances. We need to have at least a reasonable working knowledge of what we might call the Hebrew – or Old Testament – Scriptures. Context becomes crucial – but should not that always be true?

To see Jesus as being greater than angels, Moses or any of the other inherently Jewish examples chosen by 'the writer' may mean relatively little to our 'Gentile' minds – that is, until we come to understand just how great and glorious these things really were.

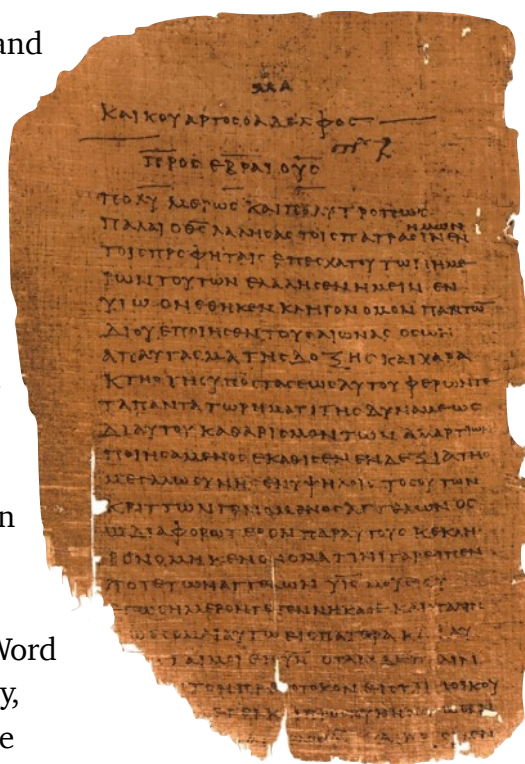
We will want to witness the sight of legions of angels; see the face of Moses radiate with God's glory; experience the awe and smell the aroma of Jewish cultic worship. Then we will want to remember that all these things were temporary – merely a shadow of all that was to come.

Today we might be encouraged to think of all that is great, or glorious, or phenomenal, or even supposedly 'awesome' and know this: Jesus is far more so – so much

that we'd be fools to turn back and pursue anything or anyone else but him.

And remember – if we have seen Jesus, we have seen the Father.

To him be all honour and glory and praise.



The opening page of Hebrews from the Chester Beatty Papyri (p.46)

Patrick Boyms

britishbibleschool.com

Fay Hughes (Kirkcaldy)

We chronicle the death of our beloved sister, Fay Hughes, who passed away on 18th February 2017, aged seventy-eight.

It was standing room only in our large meeting house, as close family, relatives, friends, neighbours, brothers and sisters in the Lord, all gathered to pay their respects to a highly-esteemed servant of the Master and a popular member of the local community. The funeral was conducted by Ian Davidson (from the Motherwell congregation). He was assisted by John Kneller (from the Tranent congregation).

Fay was born into the Carson family in Newtongrange and it was there she was baptised into Christ at the age of fourteen. So began a life of faithful and unstinting service to the Lord.

Newtongrange was also the venue of her marriage to Robert Hughes in 1963. Fay and Robert finally settled in Kirkcaldy and it was here that she undertook a number of jobs in the secretarial line. It was here, too, that the happy couple became well-known throughout the country as stalwarts within our congregation. They were like an 'Aquila and Priscilla' team for the Master. Saints throughout the country grew to admire, respect and love them both. Their hospitality, warmth, kindness and sheer hard work will never be forgotten.



She was described as having the earnestness of a Hannah; the courage of an Esther; the devotion of a Priscilla; the goodness of a Dorcas; the persistence of a Rhoda; the kindness of a Ruth; the industriousness of a Phoebe; the sincerity of a Lydia; the faithfulness of an Anna; and the love of a Mary.

She was laid to rest in Hayfield Cemetery.

Part of the eulogy featured a short poem, which included the lines:

*She touched the lives of all of us
And so we're led to say:
"It was a pleasure knowing you –
Our dearest, darling, Fay".*

*For all the duties you performed
For us along the way;
We give our heartfelt, warmest thanks,
We'll not forget you, Fay.*

*Through all the ups and downs of life,
From storms to peaceful bay;
You sailed the course that God had planned,
A great example – Fay.*

Our sincere condolences are extended to her husband Robert; sons Neil (Gillian) and Allan (Karen); and the rest of the close family. They will all miss her and so will the family of God.

Truly, as far as Fay is concerned, earth's loss is heaven's gain.

Allan Hughes

Appeal updates

Haiti: Readers may recall the news in October of the devastation caused in the Caribbean by Hurricane Matthew. In particular, Haiti was especially damaged. The city of Jeremie lost 80% of its buildings and nearly 500 persons were reported to have been killed by winds of up to 120 mph.

We were anxious to do something to help, and were directed to Helping Hands International – a charitable organisation based in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, who have long been involved in work with churches of Christ in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

British Christians responded by raising a total of **£7025** for this purpose.

‘Helping Hands’ responded thankfully, saying: “The funds will be used to help

with our Hurricane Matthew relief efforts in and around the town of Jeremie. HHI is involved in repairing and rebuilding homes as well as livelihood restoration. We are working through local congregations

to be sure that the most needy receive the help they need. We could not meet people’s needs in Jesus’ name without the support

of Christians like you. Your donation will assist HHI in reaching many hurting people and ultimately give them a positive reflection of our Lord and Saviour. Please

convey our greetings and appreciation to everyone.”

Geoff Daniell



Cumbernauld: The congregation hosted its 8th annual men's day on 4th February. Our theme this year was "The Voice." We were encouraged as Ian Davidson (Motherwell), Alex Gear (West Mains), David Murray (Aberdeen), and Mark Wilson (Hyvots Bank) taught lessons from Genesis about what happens when God speaks. Brothers came from across Scotland to be with us, from as far as Peterhead and the Isle of Bute. Our ladies did a splendid job catering the day. Next year, our men's day will be Saturday, 3rd February. Plan on being with us!



Graham McDonald

Northampton: During the first week of March the congregation in Northampton hosted a group of eight students from Nashville led by David Coggin. This was an encouraging time and a boost to our regular events. Our building is used by the Alzheimer's Society as a Day Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays. The group assisted with the daily activities and ended the day with a time of singing hymns along with a few requests for



'country' songs. The volunteers and family members were very impressed with the love shown by the group. They sang in a residential home, where a Christian from the congregation resides, and spent time visiting the residents. As a result we have been asked to go back as often as we can.

The usual Tuesday home Bible study moved to the church building, due to the higher numbers, and the group led the evening with songs, a devotional thought and discussion. It was good to have the extra people at our regular Coffee Morning.

In between these activities they spent time cleaning and painting two of our classrooms, making it a much nicer environment for the children.

During their last weekend with us we hosted our Youth Weekend: "Faith On Trial." David Coggin presented two lessons on why we can believe God exists and that Jesus rose from the dead. The group used drama and helped with the activities along with our own youth.

There was an arrest at the youth weekend. One of the Christians here is a policeman and, after 'arresting' Jake Adams on the suspicion of being a Christian, Stuart

gave a hard-hitting talk on the dangers of taking drugs. Mark Anstiss brought it all together on Sunday morning with a lesson on making right choices.

We are grateful for all who were involved with the group and youth weekend – it was a very encouraging time.



Mark Hill

Bristol: Like most congregations of God's people, the Christians in Bedminster, Bristol, love to sing in praise of our Father. So it was that we decided to hold a singing day on Saturday, 4th March, in which we could give free rein to our collective desire to praise God in song.

It was billed as 'ACAPPELLA JAM' – the 'JAM' indicating the theme for the day: Jesus And Me! We sang through the life of Christ,

exploring his incarnation ("they will call His name IMMANUEL"), life and ministry ("you are the CHRIST"), and his gracious salvation on the cross and ultimate translation into glory ("surely this was the SON of GOD"). We enjoyed singing hymns of all types – ancient, modern, and newly written!

Those who came were free to come and go during the day, as necessary. We are grateful to everyone who attended, and for their enthusiasm. Let us enter His courts with praise!

Geoff Daniell & Jason Snethen

Teachers available: I am the director of a world-wide programme that sends teachers anywhere in the world. This is under the leadership of the elders of the Bear Valley congregation in Denver, Colorado.

This programme sends a teacher (or team) to a congregation where they are invited. The length of time can be from a few days to a few months. We currently have teachers in Tooting and Brandon.

The host congregation selects the subject (or subjects) to be taught and the dates

and length of stay. We provide all training materials and transportation costs to your location. We ask the host congregation to provide local transportation, housing, and meals (usually by one of the local families).



If we can be of help, please contact me. Further information can be found on our website: www.1militaryoutreach1.com.

Dick Brant (thinksouls1@gmail.com)

Camp Maplewell: We are in need of male staff to help at camp 23rd-28th July. This is a great opportunity to serve Jesus. If you are interested or can help, please contact me at 07435 091041.

Simon Hardy

Australia: *InterSections* is a quarterly journal produced by Christians in Australia. The editor is Benny Tabalujan. It is an online publication and can be found at this website: <http://www.klesis.com.au> or you can subscribe to their pdf by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and e-mail to info@klesis.com.au. Have a look and be encouraged by what is going on 'downunder.'

Trevor & Jon

China: As a new qualified teacher and some experience working with EAL (English as an Additional Language) children, I responded to an advertisement of an opportunity to go to China and teach English to primary school pupils. Everything fell into place and I was on the way to spend three months in China, where I couldn't speak or understand the language, thousands of miles from my family.

The school is in Taihu, about one hour west of Shanghai. I have now been here for almost three weeks and I am gaining a lot from the experience. The homesickness catches up with me every now and again but the people are so welcoming and accommodating. The children are great characters and are very keen to learn English. The food has been delicious and I am gradually becoming more accustomed to using chopsticks, but I have received quite a bit of laughter with some of my attempts.



[Click here for InterSections Magazine - February 2017](#)



[Teaching children](#)

Pam Paul

Children should learn principally from their parents by observing their way of living and through instruction both formal and informal. The church's efforts are intended by God to be a reinforcement of the home teaching. [More...](#)

The school was founded ten years ago on traditional Chinese values. What has surprised me was to learn that all the students board from grade 1. Even the youngest children are very independent. They learn to camp outside, wash their own

clothes and prepare their own meals. They are responsible for keeping their rooms and classrooms tidy and they show respect to the adults around them. Even the younger children, who struggle with their English, make an effort to be polite and always greet me with a 'good morning' or 'hello'. The school often celebrates their founder, Master Nam, and his teachings. They have a building dedicated to him and a shrine to Buddha where children and staff can pay their respects. They talk about

his traditional values and respect for Chinese history. Master Nam encouraged everyone to use their knowledge to make the world a better place and how to use the examples of those in the past as inspiration.

Olivia Harons (originally from Bedminster, Bristol)

HEBREWS

Northampton
Christian Fellowship Centre
Shadowfax Drive

One of the most significant books in the New Testament in helping us understand the work of Christ in the context of the calling of Israel. Here we take a thorough look at the arguments presented for the supremacy of Christ – as vital today as when first written.

Friday, 31st March 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 1st April 9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday, 28th April 7.30 to 9.45pm
Saturday, 29th April 9.00am to 5.00pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, John Griffiths and Steve Whitehead
www.britishbibleschool.com



Morley and Sheffield Ladies Day 2017

Building Our Faith!

Date: 20th of May
Time: 10.00 am-3.30 pm

The Morley and Sheffield congregations are hosting a ladies' day. We will be considering how we Christian women can build our faith in a way that is pleasing to God. It will be an encouraging day with singing, crafts and discussion. We hope you are able to join us!

If you would like to come please either message Sharon O'Donovan or Bethany O'Donovan on Facebook or email bethany_odonovan@aol.com

Venue: Morley church building, Zoar Street, Morley, Leeds LS27 8JD

Adult weekend

(organised by Morley congregation)

theme: "Spirit"

(focussing on individual spiritual growth as well as how to support each other)

7th-9th April

venue: Mankinholes YHA, Todmorden, West Lancashire

contact: Kelsey O'Donovan

Glowing_flame@live.com

(07846) 467213

(there is a Facebook page – contact Kelsey for details)



Harding Chorale in Edinburgh

The repertoire will include hymns, choral arrangements and classics. The Edinburgh concerts will be hosted by Hyvots Bank congregation.

Wednesday 24th May –

St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile, Edinburgh:
lunchtime concert at 12.15pm
<https://binged.it/2ox3Sco>

St Andrews & St Georges, George Street, Edinburgh: evening concert at 7.30pm
<https://binged.it/2nKLWxV>

Thursday 25th May

Faith Mission Bible College, Drum Street, Edinburgh:
evening concert at 7.30pm
<https://binged.it/2nKOJXR>

A warm welcome is extended to join with us at these opportunities to enjoy some wonderful uplifting music, to invite family and friends along, and with time to fellowship with each other.

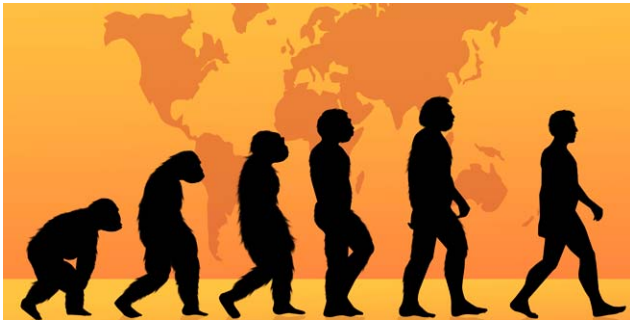
For further details please contact Helen Kerr
hkerr412@yahoo.co.uk



CHURCH OF CHRIST, TOOTING

ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

27-29 MAY 2017



Science vs. Evolution



For further information, please contact:

Eddie Fisher: 07949 165 796

Daniel Anoff: 07818 567 966

Andrews Oppong-Adjei: 07951 098 153

Email: tootingcoc@live.co.uk

FIELD OF REFUGE WOMEN'S RENEWAL 2017



Date: 29 September 2017 for two nights

Arrival: Registration at 14:00

Cost: £95.00 per person (shared room with ensuite). Single occupancy is available at a higher rate. Cost includes accommodation and all meals. £35 deposit is required to secure your place.

Email: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com

Contact: 07450 296 427 (Yvonne Cass)

Stockwell Ladies' Fellowship Day

10th June 2017

10.30 am to 4.30 pm

*Guest Speaker: Weezie Burger will
speak on Ephesians 5:16
"Evangelism Make it Count"*

*Venue: St Michael's Church Hall,
Stockwell Park Road, London SW9 0DA*

Contact: Bernie Wells (07904 303347)

Walking with God

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Monday, 6th to Friday, 10th November 2017

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District

All inclusive cost: £150 per student

For full details visit our website: britishbibleschool.com

*"Personal faith and discipleship are
important aspects of our lives ...
students will be encouraged to
explore the concept of walking
with God, helped to assess
their spiritual
development and be
offered practical help
for the journey."*



April

1st – Bristol: Ladies' Day, theme: "Come, Seek and Go", 10.00-4.00 pm. To register phone: Heidi (07789 998042).

7th-8th – Liverpool: Film evenings at their church building. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

8th – Kirkcaldy: Annual Social, 1.30 pm. Speaker: John Mooney.

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

22nd – Edmonton (London): Marriage Enrichment Programme. For details contact: John Asiamah (07908 725427) or Ben Asare (07474 735760).

28th-29th – Northampton: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: "Hebrews" (part 2) presented by Patrick Boyns, Steve Whitehead and John Griffiths. Friday: 7.30-9.45 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-5.30 pm.

29th – Liverpool: Men's Fellowship Day: "Here Am I, Send Me", 10.00 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

May

6th – East Kilbride: Outreach meeting; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Speaker: Patrick Sullivan. Contact: Jon Galloway (ek.klesia@icloud.com).

12th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: "Jesus, the Forgiver" (1-Consequences of sin, 2-Solution to sin); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

20th – Morley & Sheffield: Ladies' Day – "Building Our Faith!", 10.00 am-3.30 pm, venue: Zoar Street, Morley, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS27 8JD. Contact: Bethany O'Donovan (bethany_odonovan@aol.com).

20th – Manchester (Stretford): Special meeting, lunch at 1.00 pm followed by Trevor Williams at 2.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

20th – Liverpool: Evening of Songs. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

22nd – Stapleford (Nottingham): Concert with Harding University Chorale; venue: St. Helen's Parish Church, Frederick Street, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8FN. Contact: Bob Eckman (0115 9399541).

24th-25th – Hyvots Bank (Edinburgh): Concerts with Harding University Chorale; Wednesday: Lunchtime concert at St Giles cathedral on the Royal Mile, 12.15 to 1.00 pm (<https://binged.it/2LXMD6x>); Evening concert at St Andrews & St Georges church building on George Street, Edinburgh, 7.30 pm (<https://binged.it/2mA6NQD>); Thursday: Evening concert at Faith Mission Bible College, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, 7.30 pm (<https://binged.it/2LXOHvm>).

27th – Sheffield: Seminar – "Growing into Maturity as Christians." Contact: 07508 033534, 07982 906618 and 07809 719855 for more information.

27th-29th – Tooting: Annual Lectureship – "Science vs Evolution," at Bruce Hall, Brudenell Road, Tooting, London SW17 8DF; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.45 pm, Sunday: 10.00 am-4.00 pm, Monday: 10.00 am-3.00 pm; speaker: Dr Jeff Miller (Apologetics Press). Contact: Eddie Fisher (07949 165796), Daniel Anoff (07818 567966), Andrews Oppong-Adjei (07951 098153), or tootingcoc@live.co.uk.

June

3rd – Reading: RISE (Reading in Song event) – Praise and Harmony Workshop with Anthony Lancaster, William Gooch and Durant, at Lodden Valley Leisure Centre: 3.00-5.00 pm. Also at 6.30 pm a singing programme by Durant. Contact: Craig Benjamin (csbjlb@gmail.com).

10th – Stockwell: Ladies' Fellowship Day: "Evangelism – Make it Count", 10.30 am-4.30 pm, at St. Michael's Church Hall, Stockwell Park Road, SW9 0DA; speaker: Weezie Burger. Contact: Bernie Wells (07904 303347 or bern.wells@hotmail.co.uk).

17th – Liverpool: All Day Fellowship: "Go Ye Means Go Me", 10.00 am-4.00 pm, speaker: Jason Snethen. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

24th – Northampton: Men's Day. Theme: "All with one accord" (ways of promoting unity and togetherness as Christians). Speakers: John Griffiths and Patrick Boyns. Contact: Mark Hill (northamptonchurchofchrist@gmail.com).

July

7th-9th July – Liverpool: Youth Weekend. Contact Mike Glover (07879 444267 or mike97@talktalk.net) or Lawrence Okorafor (07456 483374 or lawrence.okorafor@yahoo.com).

8th – Edmonton: Men's Workshop. Contact: Charles Banin (charlesbanino@aol.com).

15th-22nd – Camp Heatherbell: "AU CH:50". Cost: £135. Contact: Adam Barr (15 Roseburn Court, Whitelees, Cumbernauld G67 3PS).

23rd-28th – Camp Maplewell: "Faith Builders" (age 7-13). Contact: Simon Hardy (07435 091041 or simonthehitman@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

23rd-28th – Camp Tayside: Contact: Paddy Sullivan.

30th-4th August – Camp Maplewell: "Fruition" (age 13+). Contact Guy Sandison (07791 101397 or guysandison@hotmail.co.uk) or Mark Hill (07434 956692).

August

5th – Leicester: Ladies Day.

7th-9th – Sheffield: Vacation Bible Study for children. Contact 07454 884119 and 07508 033534 for more information.

12th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: "Jesus, the Messiah" (1–Prophesied, 2–Fulfilled); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

13th-18th – British Bible Camp.

24th-26th – European Christian Workshop at Lancaster: *Shalom*.

September

9th – Great Barr: Annual Fellowship Day.

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

23rd – Peterhead: Annual Social Day.

29th-1st October – Field of Refuge: Women's renewal at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine. Cost: £95.00. Information: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com or Yvonne Cass (07450 296427).

October

7th – Manchester (Stretford): Special meeting, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Pilomon (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk).

27th-29th – Livingston: Youth Weekend.

27th-29th – Sheffield: Gospel meetings – "Is the Gospel Really Good News?" Contact: 07982 906618 or 07508 033534 for further information.

November

4th – Leicester: Fellowship Day, 10.00 am-4.00 pm; speakers: Truit Adair, Gary Walker, Tim Burrow. Contact Paul Hill (paulh41@hotmail.co.uk).

6th-10th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: "Walking with God" presented by Patrick Boyns and Ian Starrs. Cost for the week (room and board): £150. To register, go to britishbibleschool.com.

11th – Eastwood: Quarterly Outreach meeting: "Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King" (1–Prophet, 2– Priest & King); light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

January 2018

19th-21st – Bassenthwaite Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor (Lake District). Organised by the British Bible School.

February

3rd – Cumbernauld: Men's Day.

19th-25th – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series. ABSS I Monday-Friday, ABSS II Friday-Sunday. For further information or to book your place, contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com or +32 488 481 082). (Follow group on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697781630273815/>)

The Final Word: "Westminster"



If no one knew where the Houses of Parliament were in London, they certainly do now. Our newspapers have been filled with the horror of the heartbreak that happened on the bridge and at Parliament. The story of this evil will be told over and over again for many years to come. Death came in moments. In a split second thousands of people's lives were changed, not only those who were hurt but all those who loved and knew them and all who hurt because of them.

Evil had its day and it will happen again. In so many places it has already left the tears of heartbreak to dry but never to be forgotten.

Sadly evil has to be remembered. The evil of extremists in cities across Europe are currently in our minds but, when we step back into history, the horror of war is etched along the roads of the richest nations on Earth. The stench of death does not fade easily. On war memorials are etched the names of those who died on many battlefields. The remnants of mass destruction can still be seen. Horror only breeds more horror and the world is mocked as it seems hope is crushed.

This year I have been leading a series of lessons leading up to Easter during the time period generally known as Lent. Week after week we have looked at Paul's letter to the Ephesians and if the words have had an effect on no one else they have affected me. Never before have I seen the imagery of sacrifice quite so clearly as in this writing and the constant cry "in Christ" has shouted in my ears. All blessings are in Jesus, he is the foundation, the head, the width, the sustainer, the enricher, the fulfilment, the completion of all things. Now, as we draw near to the close of the series, we have to look afresh on the ultimate evil, the death of The Lamb of God. At times like Christmas we consider God amongst us, the creator being part of creation, but at Easter we see him as the sacrifice of the world. At his birth the angels burst out of Heaven to rejoice; at his death the sun hides in shame. But then, in the midst of evil and malice, the quietness of the grave surrounds Jesus only to be broken by the cry "He is risen!" Good came out of evil. Life came through death. A miracle greater than the birth of Jesus happened at his resurrection. When he was born he was born for himself, when he was resurrected he was brought to life for all mankind. In Christ alone our hope is found. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

We cry, we mourn, we grieve for the hurt among mankind but we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus.

Trevor

Prayer

H.G.Stafford suffered the loss of his son and then financial disaster in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Afterwards the ship his wife and four daughters were on was struck by another vessel resulting in 226 lives being lost, including his four daughters. It was then that he wrote the following hymn.

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know, it is well, it is well with my soul.*