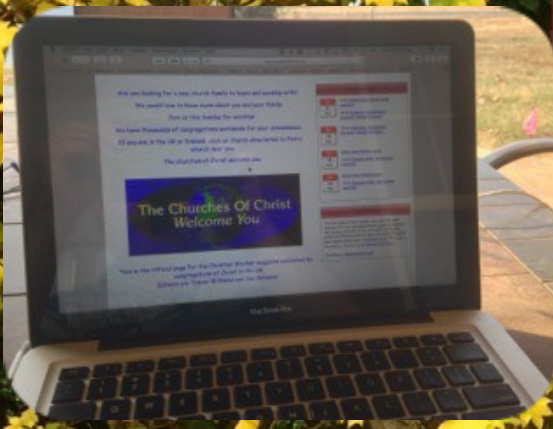


CHRISTIAN WORKER



CW website in development

Four new Christians!



Prayer request for Alastair Ferrie

BBS Study Opportunities



From the editors:

Contents

Front cover – main photo: Autumn leaves in Wembley; smaller photos: new CW website, Ladies' Day at Northampton, Alastair & Linda Ferrie, Mark Hill teaching for BBS

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



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Production editor: Jon Galloway
<https://www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk>
Deadline: 21st of each month

I am in the USA as I put together this month's *Christian Worker*. It is wonderful that we have the technology to be thousands of miles away and still be able to communicate and contribute to what is going on back home in the UK.

This is one of my favourite times of the year, as the temperatures cool down and the leaves begin to show the beautiful colours of autumn (hence the cover photo which I took last year when I was teaching for the BBS in Wembley). Each season has its own beauty and we thank God for both the beauty and variety we see.

This month we have two features involving people. The first is the tribute to Isobel Vick. Ian Starrs and Niall Scobbie performed a wonderful service for the Vick family when they spoke at her service of remembrance in Falkirk. She was truly a wonderful Christian woman and a good friend to many of us. She is already being missed!

We thought it right to include a prayer request for Alastair Ferrie. Alastair has served congregations in the Glasgow area and Dundee for almost forty years. We were saddened when we learned he had cancer a few years ago and now that cancer has returned. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Disasters continue to happen throughout the world, with many people being affected including our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have three appeals this month, concerning the typhoon which recently hit the Philippines, the hurricane which hit Haiti, and the continuing refugee crisis in Greece. Please consider each of these and help as you can.

Continue to send in your news items as events conclude and be sure to include photographs. These help us all to see the success of the event that you had.

As we near the end of the year there are fewer events going on. Consider sending in a year-end update for your congregation, especially if you haven't submitted anything this year. We are interested in how the congregations throughout the UK are growing and what you are doing to reach others with the good news of Jesus.

Jon

Spotlight: Can you help?

This month we will highlight a number of ways that you can help us and Christians in other areas as well as some things that we are doing through the *Christian Worker*. If you can help in any way, please contact Trevor.

European congregations

We have been asked to formulate an up-to-date directory of European congregations. The best way to do this is for *Christian Worker* readers who live in other countries to be a contact for their own country (i.e. Spain, France, Belgium, etc). Let us know if you can help. Could you contact other congregations in your area and if you know Christians in other congregations encourage them to let us have their information. We need the address of meeting places and an e-mail address of at least one congregation contact.

Christian Worker by post

Each month we produce a few professionally printed copies of the *Christian Worker* which are sent out to those who do not have access to the Internet. These are beautifully produced. Over the past few

months we have had a few people say they find reading the *Christian Worker* on a computer screen difficult. We are now in a position to offer the CW sent through the post. The cost of this is £20.00 for 12 copies. If this is something that would help you, please contact us.

75 year and counting

We are trying to find as many individuals in the congregations throughout the UK who have been Christians for more than 75 years. Please check in your congregation for those who gave their lives to Christ in baptism at least 75 years ago. So far we know of three.



Greece

Funds are needed to help our brothers and sisters in Athens provide food and help for refugees who have filled this ancient city. Funds can be sent directly to the Christians

there. Right now we are working to help those who can send individual gifts through Gift Aid, which makes the gift worth more. Gift Aid can

only be used by

UK tax payers and is worth considering because it can vastly increase the initial



monetary gift. Let us know if you would like to help.

If you can help us with any of these, please contact Trevor on (0115) 8376895 or twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.

Christian Worker website

We are in the process of getting a new website for the *Christian Worker* up and going. There is still quite a bit of work to do as we get the various pages set up. It will not only have the Directory but also back issues of the magazine, a list of upcoming events, and other features. We are looking to get this launched by next month. Look out for more details in December's CW.



Trevor & Jon

Directory Update

SHEPSHED (Leicestershire)

Christians: 7

Meeting place: Shepshed Community Centre, 47A Charnwood Road, Shepshed, Loughborough LE12 9QE

Send post to: info@shepshedchurchofchrist.co.uk

Sunday meetings: Worship 11.00 am, Bible classes 12.00 pm

Midweek: Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study (1st & 3rd Tuesdays – contact for details)
Wednesday Bible Classes 7.00 pm (contact for details of venue)

Contact:

Stephen Woodcock (w. Debbie) 📞 (07477) 424905

💻 info@shepshedchurchofchrist.co.uk

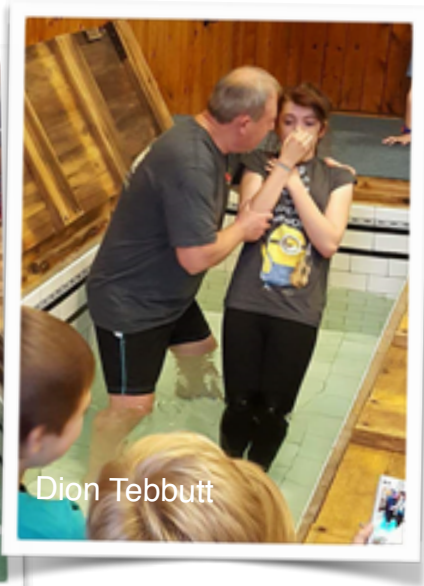
Congratulations!

The Christians meeting at **Oxford Street, Loughborough** are pleased to share the fantastic news that **Hannah Sutton** and **Dion Tebbutt** have given their lives to Christ. Hannah was baptised on 26th September and Dion on 2nd October. We welcome our sisters into the family and thank God for adding them to Jesus' body. We pray that God will bless them both as they begin their new lives in Christ.

Jason Hill



Hannah Sutton



Dion Tebbutt

The **Aylesbury (Buckingham Park)** congregation is thrilled to announce the baptism of **James Whitehead** on Sunday, 9th October at the

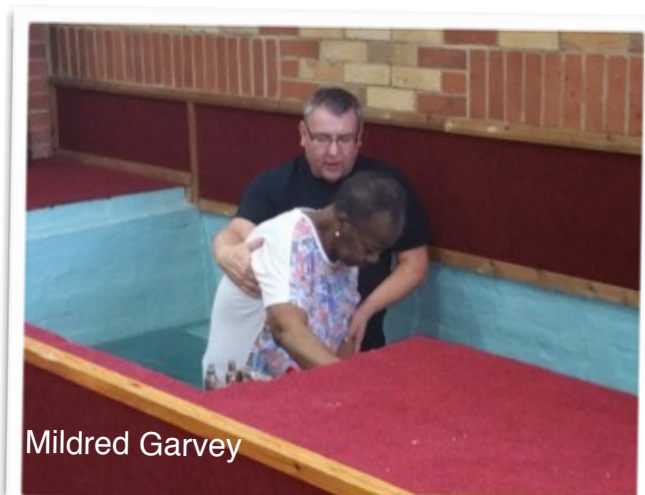
Northampton building. He has been faithfully raised by his Christian parents, Alistair and Grace, and we love him. He has learned to love the Lord over the years and, though only ten days short of his twelfth birthday, was determined to show his love and obedience to the wishes of the Saviour and do as that love demands of us all. He was baptised by his Dad and now steps forward on the path of a lifetime's service, which we pray will be long and fruitful.

Our grateful thanks go to the saints at Northampton for the use of their facilities.

Graham Fisher

Northampton: Having previously sent notices in of young people being immersed here, we rejoiced on Sunday afternoon, 9th October, when **Mildred Garvey** was baptised. 'Aunty' is 82 which proves you are never too old to turn to Christ. We are so happy for the family as not so long ago we reported that two of her great nephews were immersed. She is a lovely lady and we welcome Mildred into Christ's family.

Mark Hill



Mildred Garvey

Isobel Vick

Isobel Wilson Gardiner was born on 30th November 1955, the daughter of George and Jean Gardiner. The eldest of four daughters, Isobel grew up in a household which loved the Lord. She was baptised at the age of 14 at the Hyvots Bank congregation in Edinburgh and she played an active part in the life and work of the Lord's people in central Scotland from a young age.



She and her family were members of the Sighthill congregation in Edinburgh. In the summer of 1975 a young American, Mitch Vick, came to help the congregation for the summer. Mitch's stay in Scotland was extended and he and Isobel began dating in the autumn of 1975. By the following year they were engaged and in August 1977 they were married. Three children, Robin, Hannah, and Laura, followed and in due course three grandchildren, Erin Dougherty and Millie and Murray Vick. Isobel loved her husband, children, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and grandchildren with a love and commitment which permeated everything else she accomplished.

Isobel played a vital part in Mitch's work in Edinburgh from 1975 to 1990 and in helping launch a new work in Stirling from 1990. Taking part in Bible studies, visits, literature distribution, teaching ladies' classes and children's classes, and being a friend and spiritual mentor to the women in churches throughout Scotland became second nature to her, and her main complaint was that she never had enough time for all she saw needing

done. In 2010, just as she was first diagnosed with breast cancer, she immersed herself in providing help for the mission team which arrived to work in Falkirk and included her son Robin and his family.

Besides fulfilling the demanding role of an evangelist's wife and playing an active role in the life of the Sighthill, Stirling, and Falkirk congregations, Isobel also pursued a career as a radiographer at Stirling Royal Infirmary and latterly Forth Valley Royal Infirmary. She 'retired' from radiography in 2013 but continued to work occasional shifts until ill health forced her to stop entirely in 2015. Much of her work in later years was in training and mentoring new radiographers, a work at which she excelled.

Since being diagnosed with cancer Isobel often encouraged others who were also battling cancer. As she began chemotherapy treatment last year when the cancer was found to have returned, she continued to visit with and encourage others she met, including the hospital staff.

Most of all, she loved the Lord. As it became apparent that she would be called home soon she found ways to share her faith with fellow cancer sufferers, hospital staff, her brothers and sisters in Christ, and, of course, her family.

The Lord gently called for her on Sunday morning, 25th September. She leaves a legacy of shining service and faith in the Lord whom she loved with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Mitch Vick

Appeals

Philippines: We have been deliberating on how to start our relief efforts for those affected by Super Typhoon Haima (Lawin locally). It was almost as strong as Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) that killed thousands in the Visayas two years ago.

Reports from congregations in the north of the country are just coming in. The Tuao congregation (at least 220 miles from Manila) has had most of the Christians' homes, including its chapel, partially damaged by the typhoon. Thankfully, there were no fatalities. According to the local government of Tuguegarao (the capital city of the province of Cagayan in northern Philippines), there are 6,571 totally damaged houses and 9,963 that are partially damaged in their city alone. Tuguegarao is only 25 miles from where Typhoon Haima made landfall.

Besides food, clean water, sleeping mats, and blankets, their immediate need there is to replace the galvanised iron roofing destroyed during the wrath of Haima. Initially, we have also arranged for 250 food packs to be given out to the Christians and their families.

As is always the case after a strong typhoon as Haima, the needs of our fellow Filipinos are great. We cannot help each

and every one of them, but we can at least start with those who belong to our family in Christ. Help us help them please. Pray for those of us who are willing to go there to help out with the relief work. Pray for those affected by this calamity.

Those wishing to send funds to the Philippines may do so directly through to Gigie Carranza helengie@yahoo.com or send them to Christian Worker c/o 195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford NG9 8PJ (please make out cheques to 'Christian Worker' and ear-mark them for the 'Philippines relief').

Gigie Carranza



Haiti: Geoff Daniell is receiving funds on behalf of the Bristol

congregation to help relief work in Haiti, due to the recent hurricane. Cheques can be sent to him at 24 The Witheys, Whitchurch Village, Bristol BS14 0QB (cheques made out to 'Church of Christ' and ear-marked please).

Trevor Williams

Greece: Donations are badly needed to help refugees (see the article on page 3). Cheques can be sent to Marcella Nathan, 7 De-Verdun Avenue, Belton, Leics LE12 9TY.

Trevor Williams

Devotional Thought: "It is a good land"

"And they took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, 'It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.'" (Deuteronomy 1:25 ESV)

Read through the first chapter of Deuteronomy and you will see the same old story that has dogged mankind from the beginning of time. When Adam and Eve were in the garden they were told they could eat of every tree with the exception of one. It was a good land in which they lived with abundance of everything they wanted, but they wanted what they could not have.

God gave the Hebrews freedom but they complained and what should have taken a few weeks became a journey of forty years. Now when they knew without a doubt that the Promised Land was fruitful they became afraid to take the extra steps to claim their home territory even though it was a good land.

What else did they expect to receive from God? Some sort of a desert where they would starve to death? His grace had kept them alive for forty years in the wilderness. What was the point of having them live in a place that had no value or use?

There seemed to be a goodly amount of weeping among these wandering people because they wanted God on their terms instead of simply doing what was asked.

How often have we decided to do something and have not read the instructions or followed the map or

listened to advice? The result has been the same as the Hebrews – disaster has bitten our heels.

We have a good land that the Lord our God has given us. We have a good land now that can only be improved by being faithful to God. How much

money is wasted on police or military forces because of the stupidity of mankind? How many wars are fought because of arrogance and pride? When God rules every land can be blessed.



Yet there is another land to which we may travel; the best land of all. We shall not have to go in and rid ourselves of giants or immorality for the Lord has prepared this place. There is room for all who would follow Jesus. The battle over sin

has been fought and won. We are now invited to enter this good land that the Lord is giving to us.

Trevor Williams

Online Developments

We are very delighted to announce that our first introductory module is now fully available online and is completely free to access. Until now, our Distance Learning Programme has been only available in the form of printed material and DVDs sent out to the student who was then able to complete assignments through email. This has now changed.

Our module, “Introduction to Bible Study” (INT01) is now available in its entirety on our website. Just look under the Distance Learning Programme

section under Biblical Studies – it’s here: <http://britishbibleschool.com/biblical-studies/distance-learning-programme/introduction-to-bible-study-int01>. It is completely free to access, but if you would like to undertake the module and complete all assignments, then you will need to enrol. Details are on the website and the cost for doing this is just £10.

So, please feel free to take a look and explore, share with your friends, and let us know what you think. We are continually looking at ways we can improve our provision of teaching and training within the UK and we do value your feedback. Our plan is to move more of our modules online whilst continuing development of our soon-to-be-launched Access Learning Programme. More about this another time.



Autumn Study Weekends

Our round of autumn Study Weekends has begun. Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill taught the first half of ‘A Letter to Ephesus’ (NEW10) at Wembley, in North London towards the end of October and the second weekend of this series will be on Friday and Saturday, 18th and 19th November.

This same Module is being taught at East Kilbride this autumn. Do please see our advert on our Events page on our website for details (and in the ‘Notices’ section of the *Christian Worker*).

Our Study Weekends

continue to give students an opportunity to engage in intense periods of structured Bible study, with further options to undertake additional assignments to work towards a BBS award.

Winter Family Retreat

We are very much looking forward to our Family Retreat at the beginning of next year. As you may already have seen it is now already fully booked and a waiting list is in place. Maybe we should plan another for a different time of the year as well!

Thank you for your continued help and support for this work. May God continue to bless our fellowship together in Christ Jesus.

Patrick Boyns

Family News

Shepshed: We would like to inform our brothers and sisters that there is a congregation meeting in Shepshed, Leicestershire. We meet in the Shepshed Community Centre for worship on Sunday at 11.00 am (see the directory update on page 4 for details and contact details). We invite all to visit with us when you can.

Stephen Woodcock

Field of Refuge: The Field of Refuge Women's Renewal was held the first weekend of October at Tulliallan Castle in Alloa, Perthshire. 38 women representing seventeen congregations from Scotland, England and the United States gathered for a time of study and fellowship, focusing on how God longs for a relationship with his children.

The speakers were Arlene Kasselmann, Marianna Long and Suzy Jeffrey, all from the United States. Arlene led us through studies of Exodus from the aspect of theology. Lessons focused on how God was Protector, Provider, and Promise-Keeper to the Israelites, even though they may not have thought so at the time. We examined how, as the great Covenant-maker, He still keeps this role in our lives today. Marianna deepened our understanding with art classes where we had the experience of illustrating different Hebrew names for God. Suzy led us through studies in the principles and



importance of prayer as individuals and as a body of believers.

All who attended the weekend were blessed through the studies and the opportunities to strengthen existing relationships and making new friends.

Plans for the third renewal in 2017 are underway and dates will be advertised through the Christian Worker and through information sent to congregations. For further information contact Yvonne Cass at yvcassplatt@gmail.com.

Yvonne Cass

Manchester (Stretford): On 1st October, Stretford had a Special Meeting. This well attended by the congregation, friends and Christians from Hindley, Liverpool and Eastwood.

John Morgan from Hindley

was the speaker and he presented an excellent lesson on God's Providence. It was a great afternoon of encouragement reflecting on God's Providence, sharing our love with one another and giving thanks to God!

Pilomon

Northampton: On Saturday, 8th October we hosted a Ladies' Day which we feel was a huge success. A special thank you to our speakers and all the ladies who came

to support the Ladies Day. There were 90 women from twelve congregations who attended. Everyone was encouraged by the thought-provoking lessons from Denise Smith and Anne Garner. Along with our spiritual food we were blessed by the men who prepared and served us the food for lunch. Singing praises to God and having fellowship with one another was time well spent.



Denise Sharpe

Malawi: Thanks very much for the donation of £750 for the Seed and Fertiliser Fund. I'm certain that next year we will conduct the annual Bible School and gospel meeting again as the brothers and sisters in the congregations will have maize with the Seed and Fertiliser funds.

recently that my lung cancer has now

We are doing fine though we don't have power and water most of the times in towns and semi-urban areas, while the rural people are suffering hunger which is worsening each day.

Please continue to keep us in prayers.

Davison Ndhlovu

Prayer Request

Alastair Ferrie has long served congregations in Scotland as an evangelist and teacher. He currently serves the congregation in Dundee. He was treated several years ago for cancer. Alastair wrote: "We were devastated to learn

returned and is present in six different locations. This makes it inoperable. I am currently going through a course of six rounds of chemotherapy (having previously gone through a five-day course of radiotherapy with high-energy X-rays).

We are praying earnestly that God might intervene and give me a prolonging of my ministry here to reach out to the lost. Please pray for me that God will give me the strength to bear with the treatment and that the treatment might be successful."

Please keep Alastair, Linda and their family in your prayers.

Jon & Trevor



A Bible Thought: Who is This Man?

Jesus was travelling through Samaria with his disciples. While his disciples went into the city to buy something to eat, Jesus sat down at the well. A woman came to draw water.

Jesus surprised the woman by asking her for

something to drink. This was surprising to the woman for two reasons. First, this man was speaking to her, a woman, in public – that just wasn't done. And secondly, this man was a Jew and she was a Samaritan – Jews did not have time for Samaritans. So she asked him, "How can you – a Jew – ask me, a Samaritan woman, for water to drink?" (John 4:9 NET).

Jesus reply also surprised her. "If you had known the gift of God and who it is who said to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). This surprised the woman because the man obviously had no way to get water from the well because it was very deep – surely he wasn't claiming to be greater than Jacob, who had dug the well!



Jesus then explained that his water was different: his water would give eternal life! That sounded too good to be true! "Sir,

give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water" (John 4:13-15).

Jesus then told her to call her husband.

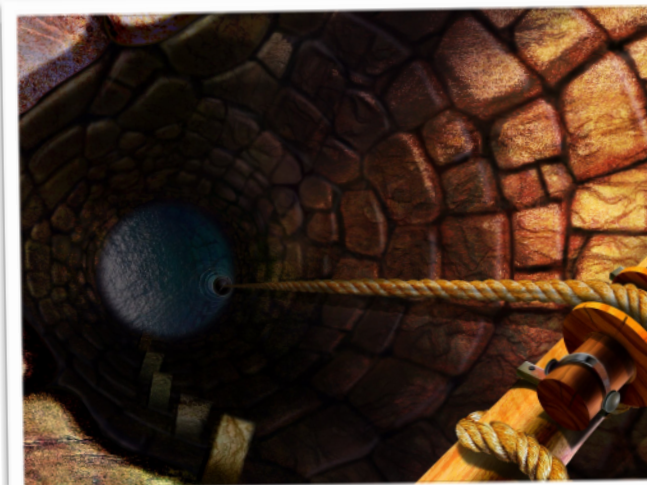
When she

replied that she had no husband, Jesus proceeded to relate her history: she had been married five times, and the man she was living with wasn't her husband. Again, she was surprised!

Then it came to her: this man must be a prophet! Quickly changing subject from herself, she asked a question that seems to

have been a point of debate between Samaritans and Jews: where is the correct place to worship, on the mountain in Samaria or in Jerusalem? Jesus' response, I am sure, gave her another surprise: the time is coming when neither place

will be the one place to worship, although the Jews were correct at that time. The time was coming when true worshippers



would worship in spirit and truth – this is the type of worshiper the Father desires.

The next response was revealing. “The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (the one called Christ); ‘whenever he comes, he will tell us everything.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I, the one speaking to you, am he’” (John 4:25-26). The woman ran back to the town, leaving her water jar behind, to tell people to come and meet this man: “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Surely he can’t be the Messiah, can he?” (John 4:29).

What is our reaction to Jesus? Are we like the woman who initially thought he was just a man? Or do we credit him at least with being a prophet? Or, because of all

that he said and did, do we realise that he is indeed the promised Messiah?

“Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the report of the woman who testified, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they began asking him to stay with them. He stayed there two days, and because of his word many more believed” (John 4:39-41).

When we believe that we have found the Messiah, like Andrew (John 1) and the Samaritan woman (John 4), we won’t be able to keep quiet but will have to tell others.

Let us always be proclaimers of the good news of Jesus!

Jon Galloway

Notices

Two Study Weekends ... One Beautiful Letter

~~Wembley: Fri. 14th to Sat. 15th October 2016~~
Wembley: Fri. 18th to Sat. 19th November 2016

East Kilbride: Fri. 11th to Sat. 12th November 2016
East Kilbride: Fri. 2nd to Sat. 3rd December 2016

Paul’s letter to the Ephesians takes us beyond this realm and into the heavenly places. Though the theological implications are vast, there is a wealth of practical instruction that cannot be overlooked.



Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

All are welcome to either or both weekends!





Power Up

Taking your strength from GOD

Loughborough Youth Weekend

11th – 13th November 2016

Ages 12 – 18

Contacts:

Liam Bates (07771242927)

David Bullock (07985714816)

Bookings: loughboroughccyp@hotmail.co.uk

An Evening of Fellowship
and Praise

Saturday, 12th November

“Modern World - Ancient
God”

speaker: John Morgan

at Seymour Road,
Eastwood, Nottingham
NG16 3ND

Refreshments served from
6.00 pm

Gospel Meeting at 7.00 pm

Gospel Meetings at Tunbridge Wells

Friday to Sunday, 11th-13th November

speaker: Gert-Jan Van Zentan

- A blueprint for spiritual unity.
- Loyalty to divine truth.
- Humility and meekness.
- Friendship and love for one another.
- Attitudes of love and forgiveness.
- Respecting the liberty of other Christians.

Contact Paul Daniell (01622 670630) for further information.

Diary

November

4th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting, 7.30 pm at regular meeting place (corner of Picton Road and Wellington Street, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH); speaker: Tommy Stone (Chattanooga, Tennessee). Contact: Mike Glover (mike97@talktalk.net).

11th-12th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School study weekend: “A Letter to the Ephesians.” Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway.

11th-13th – **Loughborough**: Youth Weekend, ages 12-18 – “Power Up”. Bookings: loughboroughccyp@hotmail.co.uk. Contacts: Liam Bates (07771 242927) or David Bullock (07985 714816).

11th-13th – **Tunbridge Wells**: Gospel Meeting, speaker: Gert-Jan Van Zentan. Contact: Paul Daniell (01622 670630 or paul.daniell@ymail.com).

12th – **Eastwood, Nottingham**: Quarterly Gospel Outreach Meeting, “Modern World – Ancient God”; speaker: John Morgan. 6.00 pm refreshments; 7.00 pm Gospel meeting.

18th-19th – **Wembley**: British Bible School study weekend: “A Letter to the Ephesians” (part 2). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Mark Hill.

18th-20th – **Glasgow area**: Joint gospel meetings – Friday at **East Kilbride**, 7.30 pm; Saturday at **Clarkston**, 7.30 pm; joint Bible study and worship on Sunday at **Clarkston**, 10 & 11 am; speaker: Nick Wilson.

December

2nd-3rd – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School study weekend: “A Letter to the Ephesians” (part 2). Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway.

January 2017

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

February

4th – **Cumbernauld**: Men’s Day.

10th-13th – **Cumbernauld**: Young Adult/Youth Retreat at Rowardennan Lodge Youth Hostel – “H₂O”. Cost: £30 for two nights or £35 for three nights. Bookings: nicole8barr@gmail.com.

March

11th – **Great Barr**: Bible Seminar.

June

3rd – **Reading**: RISE (Reading in Song event) with Keith Lancaster and Durant, at Lodden Valley Leisure Centre. Contact: Craig Benjamin (csbjlb@gmail.com).

July

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

August

13th-18th – **British Bible Camp**.

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

September

9th – **Great Barr**: Annual Fellowship Day.

The Final Word: "Welcome All People"



A certain preacher and his wife went on holiday to a place where they knew no one and no one from 'our' churches lived in the area. On Sunday morning, wanting to give thanks and praise the Lord, they visited a chapel that advertised that they broke bread in the morning and had a gospel service at night. Their website indicated that they considered the Bible the standard for their belief, so they thought to themselves that it would be good place to go. Not only did they want to praise the Lord but also to remind themselves what it was like to be in a situation in which no one knew them. Upon arrival at the hall they were met by a doorkeeper who immediately asked which congregation they were from. When realising that the preacher and his wife were not the same 'church brand' as the doorkeeper, they were told that they could enter in, sit on a back row and observe. The preacher and his wife said that if they were not welcome they would go elsewhere.

Going further down the street, feeling distressed and bewildered, the preacher and his wife saw people going into another place of worship. Over the door there was a large sign saying, "Welcome – All ages, All nations, All stages of faith". As time was quickly moving on they went in. They were greeted with a smile, asked if they were on holiday and where they came from. They immediately received the bulletin and shown a nice place to sit. The leader of the service greeted the regular congregation and especially the visitors, including the preacher and his wife. A couple of things were slightly different from the preacher's home congregation but the greeting, the love and consideration were given generously. When it came to the Lord's Table the preacher and his wife were invited to join in the thanksgiving and were offered bread and wine.

Which church showed the Spirit of Christ to their visitors – the one who wanted to keep their church pure and unadulterated by strangers or the one who welcomed all with open arms?

Sometimes I have visited some of 'our' churches and received no welcome. I have seen Christians in meetings ignore visitors. This is a disgrace and should never happen any where for any purpose! Our meetings are for all but especially for visitors. Our time of worship must always be a place of sanctuary and care. We must all make sure that our welcome is for "All ages, All nations and All stages of faith."

Trevor

Prayer

Holy God, help us to realise that the church does not belong to us but to you.

Help us to realise that church meetings are not cosy get-togethers with our friends but times to worship you.

Help us to share the gospel in love, showing care for the stranger, guidance to the lost, healing for the hurt.

Show us a new insight for the benefit of others in which we will decrease and you will increase.

Help us to lose our selves in you and by so doing find our true selves.

For your honour, your glory and your people we pray. Amen.