

CHRISTIAN WORKER



**John's Letters
of Love (p.3)**

**Two new Christians!
(p.4)**

**Tributes to Maureen
Gaunt (p.5)**

**Tribute to Bill Pirie
(p.9)**



From the editors:

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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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During the past months we have seen a number of Christians who were loved throughout the country leave this life for eternity. It is always tempting to express our sorrow at their leaving. It is really sorrow for ourselves in not getting to see them again. We can rejoice in that they were faithful to Lord and we will get to join them in our eternal reward when we leave this life – if we remain faithful in our walk with Jesus.

Maureen Gaunt's memorial service was in March and **Bill Pirie's** was in April. We have four tributes from some of those who spoke at her memorial service. Anyone who knew Maureen will recognise her in the words that were said and those that we have printed as a tribute to her. And the same goes for Bill – his son-in-law, Bruce Cheyne, was the main speaker at his funeral. We have had to considerably edit down what he said but we hope it still does justice to a great man.

Jack Strachan died during April and his funeral was at the end of the month. We hope to have tributes to publish for him in next month's issue.

Dorothy Proud and **Beryl Nisbet** also left this life in the past few weeks. Dorothy's funeral will be in the next few days while Beryl's is on 9th May in Tranent. Again, we hope to have tributes to them for next month's CW.

I knew each of these Christians and can say that I learned something from each of them. I was privileged to receive Maureen's hospitality on more than one occasion. We also stayed in Bill's home, where he gave my children a ride on his motorcycle. Jack immersed my wife and several year later officiated our marriage ceremony. I knew Dorothy from her many visits to Scotland. Beryl was a very encouraging person whenever I saw her.

Keep their families in your prayers. Despite the illnesses and our assurance of eternal life, they have still suffered a loss in their lives. We pray that God will bring them comfort. *“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

Letters of love by one who knew the love of God.

When one is reading through somebody else's correspondence, it can be very easy to misunderstand things or to get hold of the wrong end of the proverbial stick, unless one is aware of the context in which the writing took place. This is certainly no less true than when considering the letters we find in the second half of what we call the New Testament Scriptures.

The Writings, or Scriptures, were always revealed by God within a context of relationships. Sometimes those relationships might appear less personal than at other times, but somewhere and somehow God is always

in the picture communicating with and through his people. In the case of these letters the contexts are generally of a very personal nature, most having been written by men we have come to know through other New Testament documents and to believers whom they have personally taught.

The various letters written by Paul, Peter or others are therefore not to be seen in isolation as if they were written within an historical vacuum. They all have a particular context and our understanding of this setting will affect our understanding

of what we are reading. There will certainly be times where we might remain uncertain of some aspects of this setting, but whatever we do we must not treat them as isolated and arbitrary documents.

Recently, during a number of our Study Weekends, we have been exploring the three letters written by John. These letters were most likely written at the same time and it is not unreasonable to see the two shorter ones as possibly having accompanied the main letter which reads more like a lesson or a talk. Whatever the

specific issues were that were being faced by the believers to whom they were written, it seems as if the writer is wanting to clarify matters in the most simple terms.



His repetition of ideas and themes is particularly striking, coming from one who had personally known and shared life with Jesus, the Christ. If he was, as is not unreasonable to understand, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' (see John's Gospel), then his frequent encouragement to love as he has loved is even more compelling.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

The letters should easily be read during a single sitting, so let me encourage you to pull a chair up alongside John, listen to him writing about the one whom he knew so well in the flesh, hear the echoes of love from the lips of the Teacher himself, and share in his joy.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com

Congratulations!

Northampton: On Sunday 18th March we rejoiced as we witnessed a new birth in Christ. **Jennifer Nkrumah** has been brought up hearing the gospel from her parents. It is good that she is now related to them and her two brothers in Christ. (The photo shows Jennifer (on left) with her mum).



We welcomed **Chris Arnold** as a brother in Christ on Sunday, 15th April. Living here but working in the USA, Chris was taken to a congregation in Houston by a work colleague. When he had to come to the UK to do some work they looked up the nearest congregation which was Northampton. After attending our meetings in the UK and in the USA, as a result of his studies, he was immersed whilst in America. You could say he has dual citizenship in meeting with congregations in two countries, but we are so pleased his real citizenship is now in heaven.

Mark Hill

Directory Update

LONDON (Kentish Town)

Delete Contacts: **Rose Payne & Dorothy Proud**

Add New Contacts:

Kwame Agyiri. 📱 (07970) 073975 🖨️ kwagyiri@hotmail.com

William Santos. 📱 (07867) 127735 🖨️ wnsantos@hotmail.co.uk

Tributes to Maureen Gaunt (1942-2018)

Maureen Gaunt was a Christian for 55 years. She always put others first and loved her children, Russell and Rachel, and her five grandchildren, Lewis, Libby, Leo, Emily and Jacob.

She was born in Morley and grew up in Drighlington. Her favourite childhood memories centred on her family: she had two sisters and a brother. The family enjoyed walking and going to the seaside each year for their holidays. She was involved in tap dancing, ballet, tennis, and hockey.

Michael moved into the village when Maureen was seventeen. They remembered each other from primary school, although they had not been friends then.

When Maureen turned 21, her birthday held two of the greatest events of her life: she was baptised into Christ and she became engaged to Michael.

She couldn't have asked for a better 21st birthday!

Michael and Maureen were married in 1964 in Morley. Russell was born five years later, followed by Rachel in 1974.

In 1971 the young family moved to Corby where Michael began working with the congregation as an evangelist, and in particular working amongst the growing

youth group. Even for Maureen, the youth became a large part of her life, having them over Sunday evenings to spend time together.



As the Corby congregation grew, Michael saw a need in Peterhead and moved to serve as an evangelist there. Initially, Maureen stayed behind in Corby to sell their house and allow the children to complete school before moving.

Although Maureen missed her family and friends in England, she was helped in settling into a different culture and environment by the Christians in Peterhead, who soon became like family.

Most important to Maureen in her life were the Lord and his people, as well as her family. She was happy that she could help her children grow in their faith.

She was known and loved by Christians throughout the world, especially for her hospitality – which was second to none. She was a great encourager and homemaker. She will be missed because her seat will be empty.



Maureen never was interested in fame for herself, but kept her eyes on Jesus.

Michael Gaunt

Maureen makes me think of one of the great words in the English language – **home**. She created and hospitably shared her home with so many.

She nurtured a home life in support of Michael's work for the Lord – from Morley, to Corby, to Peterhead. Like Ruth of old "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people".

For a long time she struggled with poor health, but still continued serving her family (she picked up the grandchildren from school just a few hours before her death) and still continued to serve her spiritual family, the congregation in Peterhead: quietly and unassumingly.

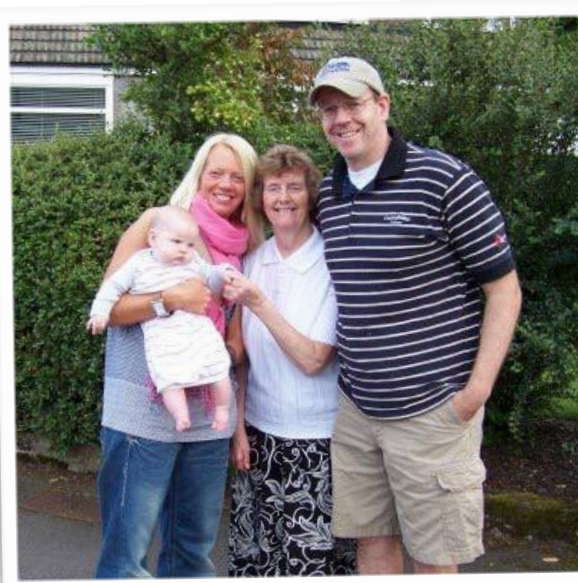
The outer nature was wasting away – the earthly tent that she lived in was destroyed – but we do not lose heart, we are always of good courage – Maureen is at home with the Lord.

I envisage the Lord, arms open wide, saying to Maureen "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master...welcome home!"



Soon after I arrived with my family in Belfast almost 53 years ago, I came to know Albert Winstanley, and the more I was around him I eventually made the decision to go into "full-time" work and study – do my apprenticeship, if you like – under Albert. During my last year at university, I flew over to England and joined Albert who was holding a Gospel Mission in a town not far from Morley. That is when I met Michael and Maureen for the first time. That night after the meeting we went

back to their house, and I instantly fell in love with both of them! The prospect of moving to Loughborough a few months later excited me because I knew – among other things – that I would get to see more and more of this wonderful, amazing couple. I knew that every time I drove up to Morley, I would be at their house. I have so many happy memories of those days – which were a foretaste of the many days that Jean and I would spend with them in Corby.



Maureen was all of her life a "family" person. Her family – Michael, Russell, Rachel, and her grandchildren – meant everything to her. If ever there was a

John Mooney

woman who would sacrifice everything – including her very life – for her family, it was Maureen. Maureen and Michael’s family may have begun the same size that most families begin – with just the two of them. But, it grew...and grew...and grew...until in time that “family” has spread all over the world.

It was a rare thing to go to Maureen and Michael’s house – be that Morley, Corby, or Peterhead – and there to be just you! The house always seemed to be heaving with people! We had a standing invitation to stay with them at all of the Corby Holiday Fellowships – even though it always meant that our bed was under the stairs! We’d wake in the morning to the pounding of feet up and down! I also remember that most nights, we’d stay up late talking, and when we went to bed, Maureen would be busy in the kitchen. And, when we got up the next morning, she was in the kitchen! I think she must have slept in the kitchen every night!

What is true of each one of us is also true of Maureen. It is very unlikely that any of us will remember everything that she did or everything that she said. But, all of us who knew her will

never forget how she made us feel. Maureen had a way of making everyone she encountered special. She had a terrific sense of humour and was always laughing and smiling. It would be wonderful if that could be said of all of us. The joy of having a friend like Maureen may be taken from us, but no one can ever take from us the joy of having had her as our friend.



C.S. Lewis wrote a beautiful book – *A Grief Observed*, a collection of his reflections on bereavement following the death of his own beloved wife Joy. One sentence in it has always stood out for me, and I have come to know how true it is: “No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear.”

There is a lot of truth in that.

There is an old Buddhist saying that I have found this past year to be so true: “*When you are born, you cry, and the world rejoices; when you die, you rejoice, and the world cries.*” Maureen is now rejoicing, and as much grief as we may feel at this time, as Christians we rejoice with her. She was a lovely, sweet, humorous, godly, loving family woman and we will all miss her.



Bob Eckman

If you were asked to remember a person's legacy with one word, what would it be? For me, knowing Maureen as long as I have, one word that comes to mind over many is "Kindness."

I looked in the dictionary under "kindness" and these words best describe Maureen to me: kindhearted, warm, tender, affectionate, gentle, thoughtful, compassionate, sympathetic, understanding, hospitable, generous, patient, and tolerant (and very tolerant when it came to me!). I am sure she would be embarrassed to hear me use these words as she did not like a fuss made over her yet she always made a fuss over others. When I look back and think of her I remember her calming nature and how it has helped to define me through the years.

When I came to Peterhead over 31 years ago, I stayed with Michael and Maureen during a Holiday Fellowship. Until then I had lived in East Kilbride. At that time I was not working and did not have a career path. I had been a little wayward in my choices. I was having a discussion with them one day, and Maureen said, "why don't you get a job here in Peterhead?" Maureen said I could stay with them as long as I was working. It was supposed to be a short time, however

it end up being four years – Michael finally said, "I think it is time you had a place of your own." It was a defining moment for me; little did I know that would be the best thing to ever happen to me. Maureen was key in making this all happen. That's how thoughtful she was, always thinking of others. One thing I loved about her was she made me feel I was important, and that I could achieve my best potential. It was years later, of course, before I realised what opportunity she gave me that day.



I love Maureen very much and will miss her dearly. Her life touched so many people and I will continue to live my life the way that she taught me to, to work hard, to be kind to others, and to not take myself too seriously. Maureen was always there for me and even when I got it wrong she never scolded me but always

encouraged me to do the right thing. She was always there to guide me in the right direction. Her humour, kindness and selflessness will continue to live on in her own family, and in others, by leaving us her legacy.

One last thought: be kind to others, because one day you might change a person's life, as Maureen did for me. That's the legacy I will never forget.

Robert Wallace

Tribute to Bill Pirie (1931-2018)

Bill's life – or should I say 'adventure' – began on 5th September 1931 the last of five children born to Willie and Nelly Pirie, in Portknockie. Bill came from a God-fearing, loving family. He always spoke warmly about his parents and in particular how his mother would look after him so well. He also spoke fondly of his grandfather, a fact which I think marked Bill out for the man he would become in later life.

Bill made it through school and upon leaving in 1946 he started his apprenticeship as an electrician at Davidsons of Cullen, owing to his father's reluctance to have him follow him to a life at sea. During his adolescence Bill would go to the church meetings with his parents. He would recount many years later how, when he was a little older and able to understand, he would be filled with dread because of the content of the preaching.

After his apprenticeship he still had National Service to contend with. In 1951 he left the North East coast for Blanford. He said, "We went in all shapes and sizes but after 6 weeks we came out men." It was then off to Germany where his love of motorbikes saw him become a dispatch rider. Bill had quickly fathomed that being a dispatch rider got him off of the parade ground.

In 1953 Bill returned home and eventually ended up back at Davidsons in Cullen. One of Bill's work colleagues when he returned to Davidsons was an older gentlemen

named Sammy Hunter, a Christian who had moved over from Northern Ireland.

Bill had been paid off from Davidsons due to a lack of work but he had his eye on a young lady, Helen Jane Innes Hunter, or Eleanor as she's known – who just happened to be Sammy's daughter. Bill, being the smooth talker that he was, soon won Eleanor over and eventually Sammy as well.

Bill and Eleanor began courting in 1956 and Bill returned to work for Davidsons of Cullen. The two were married a year later, in October 1957. They set up home initially above Bill's parents in the Portknockie but eventually had their own home. Their first child, Ruth, was born in August of the following year.

Something happened in Bill prior to Ruth's birth that would, in a sense, complete him. Bill was complete in his marriage and in the love that they shared. He had been a God-fearing soul from an early age. Through his love of Eleanor and association with Sammy Hunter he found what he lacked: the love of the Lord. He knew that it was time to start on a walk, a way from which he never strayed in sixty years. Bill met the Lord Jesus through the waters of baptism in Peterhead in 1958, being immersed for the remission of his sins, rising to walk in the newness of life and having his name written therefore in the Lamb's book of life.

Two more children were to follow within the next six years, with Lynn born in 1962 and Hunter in 1965. By all accounts Bill



excelled in being both a husband and a father. Like many a man he could get things wrong and mess up a bit, but the heart of the man was sincere. It was during this time that Bill and Sammy set up in business together in East Church Street Buckie. The rest is history, as they say.

It is perhaps as a family man that Bill will be most fondly remembered. For his wife Eleanor it was sixty happy years of marriage peppered with plenty of laughter. For his own children it is memories of a dad walking up and down the pier at Portknockie dragging them in a wee dingy with one hand in his pocket and puffing away on his pipe, of him appearing home at the end of a working day with a puppy in his inside pocket, of the master sales man coming through from the shop to show somebody the TV in the sitting room then as the kids watched, it being unplugged and sold.

With the passage of time and his children getting married, Eleanor and Bill became grandparents to Yvette, Louise, Alana, Aaron, Billy, Samantha and Emma. Bill took great delight in spending time with all of them. He was proud of all of his grandchildren and considered each one special. It was no different with his thirteen great-grand children. When his first great-grand children arrived someone told him: "aye, that's you a great-granddad now" and of course Bill replied, "I've always been a great granddad." I'm sure his grand children would agree.

Bill was first and foremost a Christian. Someone once said, "That Bill Pirie – he's always laughing and joking", to which he received the replied, "Yes, true, but if you want to see a serious man watch him open up the Scriptures." I'm sure there will be many others like me that Bill helped on their way to becoming a Christian. Bill actually baptised me and he was instrumental in helping many others.

By and large Bill was in good shape for his years. However, on Thursday 22nd March he received the news that he had



aggressive bladder cancer which was inoperable. Bill didn't waste this time and things were said and advice was given and our prayer is that those words of Bill will weigh heavily on those hearts so that they may bare fruit. I think it would be true to say that all those who visited or called him in his last days were the ones who came away encouraged.

It is perhaps a true mark of the man that, with days to live, he felt that he'd not done enough, that he somehow could have done more for Christ. When the phone started ringing and the house callers came, with each one it was, "Bill, do you remember the time you helped me, do you remember the prayers and the kind words, do you remember the fiver you'd shove in my pocket." It is my belief that God spoke through these callers to say, "Well done good and faithful servant".

Bruce Cheyne

Family News

Northampton: The congregation in Northampton is blessed with so many comings and goings and activity. Many nationalities are represented here which always makes for very interesting fellowship meals.

In March we hosted the first part of a British Bible School Study Weekend focusing on the Letters of John. As I write we look forward to part two. We are very grateful for the teaching brought to us by Steve Whitehead (Buckingham Park) and John Griffiths (Wembley). We highly recommend such Study Weekends to be considered by other congregations to host. The benefits are eternal.

For two weeks in May we will have a group of young adults from the USA, "Raiders For Christ," with us. The group that

was with us last year worked hard and were such an encouragement to us we did not hesitate to accept them back. After their first two weeks, six of them will return to the States and three will remain until the end of July. We hope to establish whilst they are here a specific outreach to college and university aged young people. They will begin this work and our own young adults will continue it. It is hospitality and friendship based and we are looking forward to seeing how it works out.

Our young people are busily preparing for our youth weekend which will take place 25th-27th May. A wonderful bonus is that

we will host a concert with a group called "Best Friends" from Lubbock, Texas, on the Saturday night. We might even let people who are not young come to that.

People have not been coming to our coffee mornings so we we decided to take our coffees mornings to the people. Once a month we are going to a residential home, where one of the Northampton Christians resides, and we spend time with the residents and staff. Another week they bring a minibus full of residents to our church building. We also cause havoc at Garden Centres and cafes but when people see our group and ask who we are, its a

great way of letting people know about Jesus.

Albert Brown began what we now call our "Send Forth" rota. We know we are blessed to have so many present at our meeting on a Sunday morning



whilst other congregations are not so blessed. Families or groups go from here to meet with other congregations to provide the encouragement of having a few more people in their assembly. "Send Forth" does sound much better than rent a crowd! We are fortunate to have a number of men able to preach and on any given Sunday one or two will be away speaking.

We recognise that our growth has mainly been from existing Christians relocating to this area. So we will not be complacent but do all we can to reach out to our community.

Mark Hill



Galatians

"The dangers of legalism are never far away and always to be opposed. This module examines the text of this letter in light of its first century context and draws some important lessons from it for today."

Aberdeen
393 George Street
Aberdeen
AB25 1EQ

Friday, 25th May 7.00 to 9.00 pm
Saturday, 26th May 9.00am to 4.15 pm

Friday, 29th June 7.00-9.00 pm
Saturday, 30th June 9.00 am to 4.15 pm

Teachers: Jon Galloway and Jack Paton
www.britishbibleschool.com

Study Weekends provide opportunities for short periods of instruction in a group setting. Participants can expect a fast-paced, intensive approach, covering a significant amount of material from a selected module.

For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

WEMBLEY LADIES' DAY

Date: Saturday, 2nd June 2018

Time: 10.00 am–3.30 pm

Theme: Love in Action

Venue: 92 Barnhill Road, Wembley
HA9 9BS

Speakers:
Athena Theodotou (Wembley)
Esther Chikurunhe (Thamesmead)
Amanda Appiagyei (Wembley)

Come and join us for a day of fellowship, encouragement and uplifting from God's words.

Contact: Anne Airebamen (07415 135166 or 020 8205 8218 or Anne-andrew@live.co.uk)

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Adults and children over 12 yrs.: € 180

Children 6-12: € 90 - Children 6 yrs. old or younger: Free

(Price per person reflects full board in double occupancy room)

Please contact:

ALEXANDER MELIRRYTOS
amelirry@aol.com (6944) 83 65 79

ELENI MELIRRYTOU
emelirry@aol.com (6945) 01 43 85



Ladies' Day at Ilkeston

Recipes for Righteousness

Saturday, 16th June 2018

10 am – 4 pm

For more information and to let us know if you are coming:
Patty (0115 8543471) or
Jenny (07526542565)



**For More Information
Contact us at
Registration@EuropeanChristianWorkshop.com
or on 01509 768789**

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12-14 October 2018

Diary

May

11th – Livingston: “Best Friends” programme (a cappella group from Lubbock Christian University), 7.30 pm. Contact: John Mooney (jmoon0412@aol.com).

12th – Glenrothes: “Best Friends” programme (a cappella group from Lubbock Christian University). Contact: Alan Phillips (phillipsallen528@gmail.com).

12th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the True Vine”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

12th-13th – East Kilbride: Outreach meetings with David Murray. Saturday: refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; Sunday: 10.00 and 11.00 am. Contact: Jon Galloway (ek.klesia@icloud.com).

25th-26th – Aberdeen: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 1) presented by Jack Paton and Jon Galloway. Friday: 7.00-9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

25th-27th – Northampton: Youth weekend. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

28th – Tooting (London): Lectureship – “Setting Things in Order – Towards a Spiritually Organised Leadership, 10.00 am-4.30 pm. Contact: Daniel Anoff (tootingcoc@live.com).

June

2nd – Wembley (London): Ladies’ Day – “Love in Action,” 10.00 am-3.30 pm. Contact: Anne Airebamen (020 8205 8218 or 07415 135166 or Anne-andrew@live.co.uk).

16th – Ilkeston: Ladies’ Day – “Recipes for Righteousness,” 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact: Patty Bullock (0115 8543471 or Jenny Sparks (07526 542565).

20th-23rd – Athens, Greece: Christian Family Retreat – “The Harvest” (hosted by the Omonia congregation). Cost: €180 per person. Contact: Alexander or Eleni Melirrytos (amelirry@aol.com or emelirry@aol.com).

23rd – Liverpool: All Day Fellowship – “The Love of God,” 9.30 am-3.30 pm; speaker: Tony Coffey. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07891 262910).

29th-30th – Aberdeen: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Galatians” (part 2) presented by Jack Paton and Jon Galloway. Friday: 7.00-9.00 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.15 pm.

July

14th – Edmonton (London): Men’s workshop.

20th-27th – Camp Heatherbell: Auchengillan Outdoor Centre (Allander Chalet); theme: “5G”; Contact: Adam Barr ((07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744) or email 5G@campheatherbell.org.uk for more details and camp forms.

21st-25th – Commonwealth of Dominica: 8th International Women’s Lectureship – “Wise Woman, Hold On, the Best is Yet to Come.” Contact: eighthiwl2018@gmail.com.

29th-3rd August – Camp Tayside: Douglaswood Scout Camp, Dundee. Contact: Contact Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902) or camptayside@gmail.com

August

11th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the Way”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

16th-18th – Lancaster: European Christian Workshop: “Digging Deeper”. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (registration@EuropeanChristianWorkshop.com or 01509 768789).

September

1st-2nd – East Kilbride: Outreach meetings with Niall Scobbie. Saturday: refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm; Sunday: 10.00 and 11.00 am. Contact: Jon Galloway (ek.klesia@icloud.com).

8th – Great Barr: Fellowship Day.

14th-16th – Letton Hall Family Retreat in Norfolk (IP25 7SA). Theme: “I Want to Know Jesus.” Cost: £70 per person (children ages 4-12 are half price). Organised by the British Bible School. To book, visit the BBS website: <http://britishbibleschool.com/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2018>

21st-22nd – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Hebrews” (part 1). Friday: 7.15-9.15 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.30 pm.

22nd – Loughborough: Anniversary meeting, speaker: Mark Hill; refreshments: 6.00 pm, lesson 7.00 pm. Contact: Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

29th – Peterhead: Social Day.

October

12th-14th – Kincardine: Field of Refuge Women’s Renewal: “For Such a Time as This” at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine FK10 4BE. Cost: £120 (£8 saving if you pay deposit before 1st June). Contact: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.

13th-14th – Stapleford: Weekend meetings with Ken Mullan. Saturday: 7.00 pm; Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm. Contact: Bob Eckman (bbbeckman@aol.com or 07714 207279).

26th-27th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Hebrews” (part 2). Friday: 7.15-9.15 pm; Saturday: 9.30 am-4.30 pm.

November

5th-9th – British Bible School: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick. Module: “The Conquest and Settlement of Canaan – a study of the book of Joshua”. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com or visit: <http://britishbibleschool.com/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2018-the-conquest-and-settlement-of-canaan-joshua>

10th – Eastwood (Nottinghamshire): Quarterly Outreach meeting: “Jesus – the New Beginning”; light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

10th – East Kilbride: An afternoon of praise. 1.00-4.30 pm.

17th – Northampton: Ladies’ Day.

February 2018

18th-24th – 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: "More Samuels needed"



There are reports in this month's *Christian Worker* of a number of brothers and sisters who have completed their walk here on earth and are now, we believe, with the Lord. Each of those named have served the congregations well over many years and we are thankful for their faithfulness. Time rolls on all too quickly and each one of us needs to walk in faith with Jesus as the day of our own departure draws closer.

Our own salvation is not the only thing we need to consider. The older we become, the greater the urgency to see younger people in the congregation grow in grace and ability to serve. We may well think that our children or grandchildren who have been "raised in the church," and may have even been immersed, will fill the gaps when others pass away. But this is not necessarily the case. Over the years many have left the faith and we have a number of congregations in the UK who are hanging on by a thread because they have no young people and can only see the future in the closing of their assembly.

In 1 Samuel 3 we read the beautiful story of the call of Samuel. There is no indication of how old he was, or the length of time he had served at the Tabernacle but we may assume that he was old enough to know what to do, how to act and to be responsible. Verse 7 says "*Samuel did not know the LORD. The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.*" How could he not know the Lord? He was living in the Tabernacle, he served the High Priest, he saw everything that went on, he was part of the life of worship – but he did not know God.

Verse 10 tells us that the LORD came and called Samuel. Verse 11 contains his reply: "*Speak, for your servant is listening.*" Oh foolish Samuel! He was told to say in verse 9: "*Speak LORD for your servant is listening.*" Samuel had no idea of the personality of God.

Our young people will not be as fortunate as Samuel to see God or to hear the divine voice, nor to be directly commissioned by him, but the call now is to our young people. Living in a world filled with talent and ability we call our youth to the forefront and ask them to become leaders early in life. To be teachers of the word of God in younger years is a blessing to themselves, the church and the nation.

Of course young people are doubtful of their abilities, are developing who they are, and they make mistakes. This does not exclude them from being wise for Jesus. Our youth are more precious than gold. They are a rare jewel in the crown of the Saviour. Love the young in your congregation, give them every opportunity to serve and let them rise up to be people of their generation even as Samuel was for his.

Trevor

*How shall the young secure their hearts and guard their lives from sin?
Thy Word the choicest rules impart to keep the conscience clean.
Thy Word is everlasting truth; how pure is ever page!
That holy book shall guide our youth, and well support our age.*

Isaac Watts