

CHRISTIAN WORKER



Jack Strachan
(1941-2018)



Beryl Nisbet
(1931-2018)

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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And summer has arrived...if not on the calendar, then at least in the weather we have been having. Even Scotland has been warm the last few weeks!

This issue contains tributes to those who have departed this life: Jack Strachan and Beryl Nisbet. Both funerals took place recently and both were very well attended. It is right that we remember their lives and the good work that they did for the Lord during their lives. May these serve as a good example for us.

There are quite a number of events coming up: Ladies' Days, Study Days, Family Days, and Youth Weekends. Try to support these if you can – you will be enriched through the fellowship with other Christians around God's word. And, for those hosting these events, be sure to send a write-up for the next *Christian Worker*.

Below is a statement about Data Protection.

Jon

Data Protection Statement

The editors wish you to know that no personal data is held by us other than the email addresses for those receiving the *Christian Worker* magazine and the addresses of those who receive the magazine through the postal system. If anyone does **NOT** wish to continue receiving the *CW* please do let us know.

Our website holds the emails and phone numbers of those who have chosen to be contacts for their respective congregations and these are published periodically in a directory of congregations.

We suggest that every congregation has a point of contact for the magazine but we request that all photographs of people are sent with their permission.

By not including personal addresses in our publication we believe that we are correct in law. Perhaps if brethren believe that we are making any mistakes they will be good enough to let us know. Congregations do need to be aware of Data Protection Regulations.

Trevor & Jon

Jack Strachan (1941-2018)

Jack was born on the 12th February 1941 in Peterhead to Alexander and Jessie. He was the youngest of five children: Betty, Jimmy, Alex, and Mame. Only Betty remains now, but when I consider their children and grandchildren and the countless lives they have touched for Jesus, what an incredible legacy has been left by a family who grew up hearing the stories of the Bible and learning to love Jesus, to love God, and to follow Him. It began with songs sung over the radio when Alexander was at sea. Hot soup on a stove for any who came by. The Bible and their hearts were always open and ready to encourage any who came to their home.

From the earliest age, Jack learned to love God and to serve others. When still a boy, the family would arrive early at the Masonic Hall in Peterhead on a Sunday morning and begin to clean the place of the previous night's beer bottles in preparation for worship. In time, the church in Peterhead found its own building on Merchant Street. Encouraged by others, Jack not only learned the gospel in Peterhead, but learned to preach it as well.

Hearing Jack tell stories of growing up in Peterhead it sounded like something out of a book. He was as mischievous as any boy. He took a shilling from his mother's purse only to have Alex find him and get it back, for himself. There was the Luftwaffe pilot that tried to shoot him. There were jam jars to see cowboy movies at the local cinema, and there was the River Ugie, and so many wonderful memories made there and around the town.



One evening in 1960 when he was walking in Peterhead with his girlfriend, he saw Maureen and asked his own girlfriend, "Who's that?" Not the best thing to say to your girlfriend, but Jack was smitten. Another time he saw her, he told his pals he was going to walk her home. Egged on by them, he did, and he told her she was the woman he was going to marry and spend the rest of his life with, so Maureen had best tell her boyfriend that that was the way it was going to be.

They were married in 1963 by Willie Steele in Peterhead, a man whom Jack deeply admired all his days. Over the next five years, they would have five children. Sadly, the twins, Jenny and Lynn, died not long after being born in 1965.

Jack had lived in Canada for a year, did his time as a plumber, worked as a water engineer, served in a power station, was a diver, had his own business, and always served in the church. In his heart he wanted to preach and he asked Maureen if she could be a preacher's wife. With Maureen committed to him and his dream, they moved to Edinburgh in 1969 to begin working with Andrew Gardiner in Sighthill. From there, they would move to East Kilbride in 1972, raising funds to build the congregation's facility there and serving as one of the elders before moving to Florida in 1989. They came back to Scotland in 1992, and in 2010 they made their final move to Cumbernauld.

In all those years, Jack helped raise the funds for at least three church buildings in

Scotland, preached countless sermons, held gospel meetings, taught thousands of personal Bible studies, and witnessed only God knows how many souls being born again. He was tireless when it came to working for the Lord.

When Jack, Maureen and John moved to Florida in 1989, they would be 4,500 miles away from home and their two daughters. In November 1990, Nicole and Jamie were the first grandchildren to be born. Maureen went home to help the girls, and stayed for several weeks. When Maureen came back to Florida,

she had lots of photographs of her grandchildren. I was staying with them at the time, and I remember sitting in the kitchen with Jack and he looked at his new granddaughter and grandson. Maureen was busy in the kitchen as always. "Oh Maureen," he cried, a tear in his eye. "All our lives we wanted to be grandparents, and here we are with a fine

quinie and loon, and we're 4,500 miles away!" At that moment, John arrived and said, "Aye! And if you don't bond with them in the first two years, you never bond with them!" Jack was inconsolable.

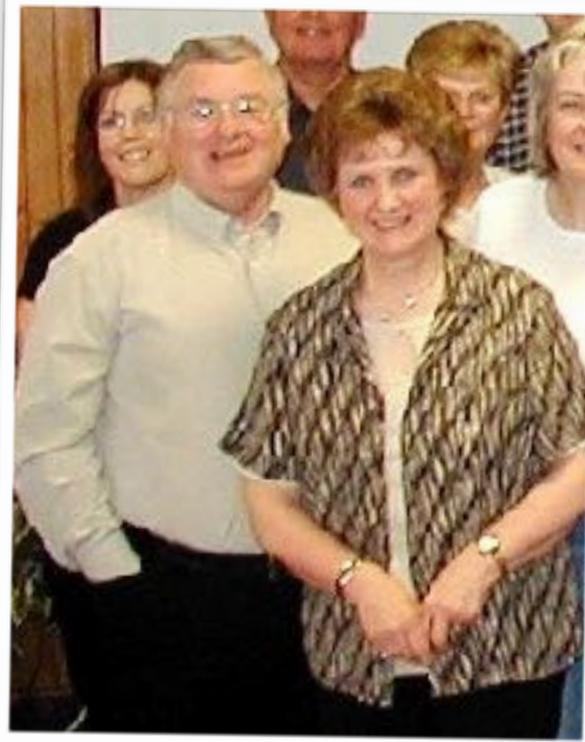
They came home to East Kilbride in 1992, and they watched with delight as their grandchildren grew up and more were added. In time, John would marry Kristen and they would begin their own family and still there was an ocean between Jack and Maureen and grandkids. Yet, for all that, the

bond that Jack had with all his grandchildren was as strong as the bond he had with his brothers and sisters, and his own children.

Jack made people feel special, to feel like members of a deeply loved family. Every sermon was seasoned with love. Every word was measured with grace and a view of the salvation of someone's soul.

He made Maureen feel special when he told her she was the only woman he ever wanted to be with for the rest of his life.

He made his son and daughters feel special when he held their hands and they knew they were safe. He made his grandchildren feel special when they sat on his lap as he read to them and told them stories of growing up in Peterhead. He made Mia, his great-granddaughter, feel special when he made that goofy face that made her laugh and did that thing with his glasses that made his eyes look weird.



Our friend, our mentor, a gospel preacher who taught many of us the gospel, has, like his father, left the kitchen and gone on to the parlour to his eternal rest, to his assured hope, to be with Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith.

Farewell Jack. We will see you again. And we will rejoice together in that day.

Graham McDonald

Jack Strachan, my father

As you can imagine most folks talked about my father as a larger-than-life individual, and we really thought that he was larger than life. Over the years he used to joke about being Peter Pan, and I think as a child we really believed that we thought that maybe he truly was Peter Pan. Maybe we still believe that.

However, if you had a personal experience with my dad you knew instantly that he was a good and kind individual. He was a wonderful husband.

He adored my mother. He was a wonderful father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, and son. He was a unique gospel preacher and an amazing Bible teacher. He had a true Christian spirit about him. Just like Jesus, my dad was a lover of people and a godly man. He had an unshakeable faith. Those who knew him well knew him as

positive and peaceful. He was a man who commanded respect because of the life he lived. He personified a Christ-like example to those he encountered, whether friend or foe.

He always viewed life as the glass that was half-full and not half-empty, no matter the circumstances. He always had an encouraging word and a lot of jokes – our children were often embarrassed by his jokes. That was just my dad.

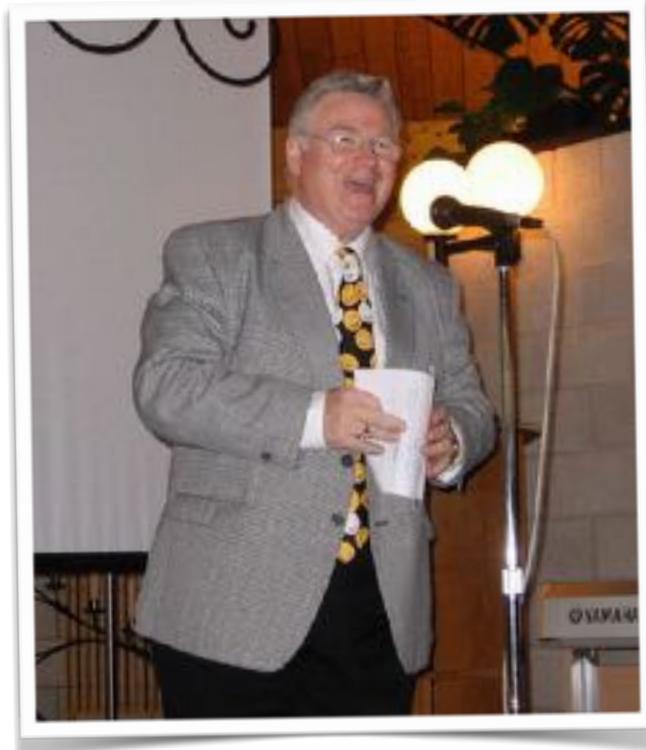
Some of the amazing things that you'll remember from him is, "Boy, do I feel great!" or, "It's just nice to be nice" or, "Your altitude is determined by your attitude." My dad was a person who drew strength and energy from those around him.

My daughter, Mary Katherine, said about him, "My papa was a great man. He was the only person on the planet who made me feel invincible. He made me feel like I could succeed at anything I put my mind

to. He was unlike any other papa because he made me feel uniquely special. He never focused on the negatives of life, but rather things that were positive and happy. He could always talk to complete strangers and knew exactly what to say to make them feel good. He was a man of faith. He would always talk about making sure I would get to heaven. I will really

miss my papa. He's irreplaceable. He will live on in my memories and I know I will see him again one day. So Papa, take your flight into heaven and we will be cheering you every step of the way."

My son had a unique bond with him. He said, "I'm not sure there's truly a way to describe my Papa Jack Strachan. He meant so many things to me. He was the best grandfather I could ever ask for. He was truly my best friend. He was a true man of God who's



always trying to make a lesson out of something or trying to make some sort of Biblical analogy. I have really good memories of my papa. In fact, I remember the time he took me fishing and although it rained all day we caught a fish. I was just glad to have him sitting next to me. This is probably my most special memory.

Some other memories are when he used to phone me at Christmas time and he pretended to be Santa Claus.

Another one is when he would set up treasure hunts around the house for my sister and me. Since I lived in the United States I didn't get to see

him as often as I wish but I still knew that he was there for me. One day I know I will be with him again if I listened to what he taught. He encouraged me to do my best he was my inspiration, my true moral compass. He will always be in my heart and I will miss him more than I could ever describe."



My sisters, Nicola and Melanie, were amazing when my father had his last few months of life. They were there every day during the final months of his life. They cared for him, provided amazing care, provided all of his needs. They said: "Our father was a genuine man. He was a fun-

loving people-person a great encourager. He was always there for his family. He'd lift us up when we were down, but most importantly, he was a godly man who loved the church. He was loved by many but we were extra-blessed to call him dad. No daughters could be prouder and we're forever

thankful for all your love and guidance throughout life. We will miss you dad and we love you loads."

John Strachan

Jack Strachan, my papa

To everyone my Papa was something different and to me he was so many things. He was my Papa. He was my best friend and he was my hero.

People often throw the title 'best friend' around lightly but my Papa really was one of mine. We never could go long without seeing each other. Even when I was living in America my Papa, the most technologically stunted person, would Skype

me on a regular basis. Although he never could work out how to get his microphone to work, I would talk to him over the video and he would write his responses on a big notepad and hold it up to the camera with a massive smile on his face, thinking it was just great. It would have been much easier and quicker for us to just type what we were saying as a message but we just enjoyed seeing each other.

Since I've been home from America, hardly a day has gone by that I haven't seen my Papa. Some days we would go out and some days we would just stay in and watch a film. Some days we would play backgammon and some days we would just lie up on his bed and he would tell me old stories about when he was younger. It didn't matter what we did, as long as we were spending time together.

Everyone who knows me knows how protective I am of my family and my Papa is definitely no different. As long as I can remember I've been a Papa's girl. We

were glued at the hip – partners in crime – and no one could say a word against my Papa in front of me. My Papa was always just as protective of me too. When I was in high school and played basketball he would come watch my games. He didn't have a clue what the rules were or what was going on but anytime a player even came near me he'd be on his feet shouting "Penalty! Free kick!"

Obviously neither of these are even a thing in basketball but it just confirmed what I always knew. My Papa would never let anything bad happen to me.

My Papa has always been one of the most encouraging people I know. No matter what was going on in his life, he always had time to listen and give me advice. Always a giver. Even when he was ill, he would still be asking how things were going for me and

keeping up with what was going on in my life. If I was going through a tough time, he would show me how important it was to stick it out and pull through. If I was celebrating a good time, he was right by my side celebrating with me.

I have thanked God over and over again for my Papa. I know I have been blessed with the best. He was a light in my life every step of the way and I know he will continue to be so forever. I have learned many lessons sitting at his feet. Watching how he loved God, his family and the church. Watching him make even a



stranger feel special. How he trusted and forgave over and over again. His faith that God is always in control. His whole attitude toward life is contagious. He is a giant in my life, leading by example, showing me what is really important.

He has changed and inspired so many lives, mine included, and I can honestly say that I am a better person because of the influence of my Papa in my life. Nothing can ever extinguish the bond I have with him and I will carry the memories we have made in my heart with me forever. He has instilled in me the importance of positivity, faith, family and friendship and I hope that for the rest of my life I can make him as proud to be my Papa as I am to be his granddaughter.

I miss you to the moon and back Papa.

Nicole Barr

Jack Strachan, my mentor

Jack Strachan was a man I considered my mentor, my friend. A man who was like a grandfather to me.

Jack was a man of tremendous faith. When I think about him the words that come to mind are: hard worker, caring, storyteller, faithful, encourager and family man. But it is impossible to summarise how great a person Jack was in words.

My earliest memory of time spent with Jack is visiting his home in East Kilbride and fixing his computer. I would get a phone call in the middle of the night or in the middle of a class or even in the middle of an exam, or at work. He would say “Do you have 15 minutes?” – it is always 15 minutes but I would end up staying for an hour or two. I’m gonna miss those phone calls.

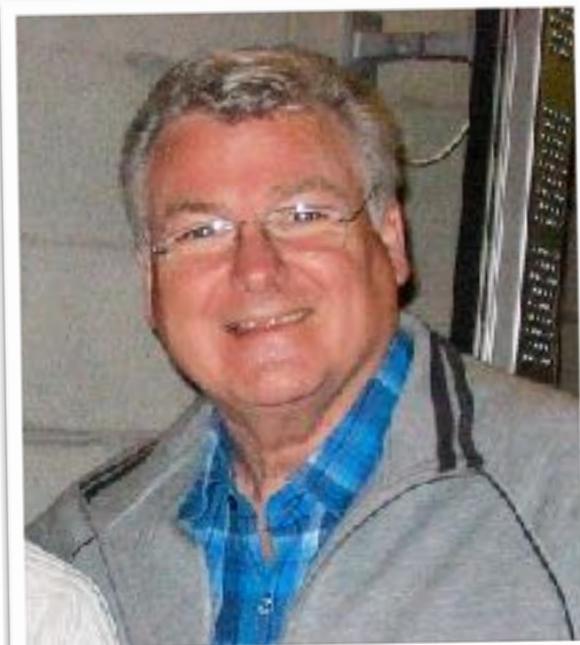
He always made you smile. When you were down, he made sure that you were smiling. There was not a dull moment with Jack. He always put

other people first. Their needs before his, their comfort before his, their struggles before his, their problems before his.

Often in Jack’s sermons he’d mention who his hero was. It was the apostle Paul who said, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Jack was a true follower of Christ! You knew it and could see it within just minutes of meeting him.

One of the last words he said to me was “keep doing what you are doing...that is how the church will grow.”



I am going to miss Jack’s stories, his jokes, his wisdom, his love. One day we will meet again. Until then I will keep doing what I am



doing. I will pass your wisdom down to my children and future grandchildren. I want to thank you for being such a wonderful person to me, your family and friends. We will all miss you Jack and we love you always.

Paulo Budlong

Jack Strachan, my father-in-law

Jack impacted me in many ways. He helped lead me to Christ. That changed my life!

He encouraged me to preach. That changed my plans!

He smoothed the way for me to University. That changed my prospects!

He gave his blessing to marry his daughter. That changed my hair colour!...no, I'm kidding. That changed everything for me!

And I'll be eternally grateful to Jack for all these things.

But most of all, he taught me about really, **REALLY** loving God. And I guess he taught me that by showing me that God really, **REALLY** loves me.

That actually ties in nicely with Jack's final hours of this life because as Jack lay in that hospital bed struggling for the strength to even speak, he wanted to sing "Jesus Loves Me". Maureen, Nicola and Melanie started to sing but Jack shook his head and whispered, "when we are all together." When

Jamie, Jordan, Nicole and I arrived, Jack had already gone home. But we did sing that song together. And I know Jack was able to join in like he never had before.

Jack has impacted the lives of countless people in some way. Maybe he gave to you when things were tight. Maybe he lifted you up when you were down. Maybe he believed in you when you failed. Maybe he forgave you before you were even sorry. Maybe he led you to Christ before you even knew you were lost. I am sure most of us are at least better people through what he taught us.

But if you have missed that God loves you; if you have forgotten about loving Him back: you have missed what Jack was all about and why. And the most tragic part is that you will miss Jack himself forever.

His final words were always going to be: "God never fails!" In other words: "He loves you! Be right with Him! And I'll see you when you get here!"

Adam Barr



Beryl Nisbet (1931-2018)

Beryl was a joy and a blessing to so many. Her body was laid to rest in Tranent, East Lothian, amid tears and happy smiles of remembrance, and with confidence that she was now with her Saviour.

Born in that same town to Archie and Beatrice Stevenson on 16th August 1931, she was blessed to be part of a Christian family. Her father was a miner, and Sunday School superintendent. In January 1948 she and her younger sister, Moyra, were baptised into Christ by Albert Winstanley, who expressed the family's joy on that day, "how happy that one day we can all be together in heaven".

As a young girl, Beryl excelled in many ways. Her sister summed her up, "everything she did was just right." Her accomplishments covered needlework, knitting, cooking...all to be used as part of her later Christian service. She won awards for ballet dancing, played piano and had a beautiful singing voice. This love of music was passed down to her sons and her grandsons, and in later life Beryl re-awoke her talents to perform with "The Sweet Adelines" singing group.

In September 1952 she married Joe Nisbet; they were the perfect complement for each other. In time Stuart was born, then their twin boys Kenneth and Brian. In 1967, at short notice, the family moved to Belfast in pursuit of Joe's dream of working for the Lord in a full-time capacity. Beryl defined her role as creating a home, certainly for

her family, but also as a key element of their work together. Her talent for hospitality complemented Joe's teaching and preaching.

As Northern Ireland became dominated by the 'Troubles', Beryl's kind, gentle character and faith often offered a necessary antidote. Bert Ritchie, then a young student at Northern Ireland Bible School, stated:

Beryl's heart was a mirror of her faith. A heart always open to all without prejudice or discrimination, a heart where all were welcomed irrespective of colour, creed or religion...lives are richer because of her faith. Not a cold lifeless faith which divides communities but a vibrant living faith which brought healing and blessings to so many...She lived a faith that made no enemies, only friends. She acted in ways which hurt no one but in ways which healed many. It teaches us that building bridges is better than building barricades.



In 1979 the family moved to Corby where Joe became Director of the British Bible School. More than one international student described Beryl as "my Mum away from home". In Corby, then later in Aberdeen, Beryl continued to make Joe's ministry more effective. Many enjoyed her hospitality and found by experience that "everything she did was just right." She was like the "Virtuous Woman" of Proverbs 31 who "rises when it is yet night and provides food for her household...strength and dignity are her clothing".

They also supported each other, helped by their family and by the church, during their final years when they had to deal with failing health. In all these things the great lesson of Beryl's life was her persevering faith in Jesus Christ. Hence our comfort and our confidence, "how happy that one day we can all be together in heaven".

John Mooney

"We would like to thank those who sent us cards, texts and called us during our most recent family loss. It was greatly appreciated."

Kenneth Nisbet

Kenneth & Helen's new address & phone:

Kenneth and Helen Nisbet,
98 Dovecote Way,
Haddington,
East Lothian,
EH41 4HY.

(01620) 826275

Around the World



Bethsaida The School Bag Project

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- Tony Tyson

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for more details please contact tonytyson66@yahoo.co.uk or joelmadiki@gmail.com

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)



Ladies Day at Ilkeston

“Recipes for Righteousness”

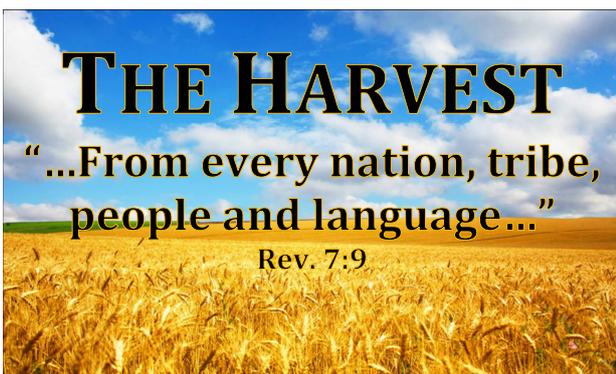
Saturday, 16th June 2018

10 am – 4 pm

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

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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

Aberdeen Youth Weekend 2018

24th-26th August



ANCHORED

Ages 12 and up
Speakers to be announced
To book your place, or for more information contact: jessica04f@gmail.com
Find us at:
393 George Street, AB25 1EQ



'Liverpool Youth Weekend'

Contact: Lawrence 07456483374
laurensmails@yahoo.com

Date: Friday 29th June 6:30pm to Sunday 1st July

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

church of Christ, Liverpool
(1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH)

Island-wide All Day Fellowship
Saturday 23rd June 2018
10.00am—3.30pm

Love of God

Speaker: Bro Tony Coffey

- The Love of God – “Constrains Us”
- The Love of God – “Gives Us the Victory”
- The Love of God – “To remain in His Love”

Contact: Charles Yankish - 07891261910



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Banking Queries:	Mariales Craythorpe	Tel: 01733-351142 or 07541331908	Email: mariales@west10@aol.com

June

2nd – Wembley (London): Ladies's 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's Day – "Recipes for Righteousness," 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact: Patty Bullock (0115 8543471 or Jenny Sparks (07526 542565).

18th – Cumbernauld: Christian Leadership Seminar – "Aspects of Christian Leadership," speaker: Patrick Boyns, 9.30 am-2.30 pm. Contact: Jack Paton (jgpaton@outlook.com).

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," 10.00 am-3.30 pm at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 8QH; 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.

29th-1st July – Liverpool: Youth Weekend – "Stand Up and Be counted". Contact: Lawrence (07456 483374 or laurensmails@yahoo.com).

July

2nd-5th – Perth: Gospel Meetings and Holiday Bible Club; venue for both: North Inch Community Campus, Gowans Terrace, Perth PH1 5BF; Holiday Bible Club – 2.00-4.00 pm, Gospel Meetings 7.00 pm, speaker: Jeremy Tate. Contact: Scott Tominey (tomiyemi@hotmail.co.uk).

14th – Edmonton (London): Men's workshop – Visionary Leadership, speaker: Gary Smith, 9.00 am-4.30 pm at 1 Foxglove, Edmonton, London, N9 8LW. Contact: Charles Banin (07506 6893960, Frank Okyre (07852 956602), Charles Ofosu (07448 368755), or Paul Nyarko (7572 998555).

14th – Peterborough: Gospel Meeting. Contact: Mac Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com).

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 – “Bearing One Another’s Burdens”, speakers: Jon Galloway and Patrick Boyns; registration from 10.00 am at Collingwood Community Centre, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF. Contact: Sola (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

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.

29th-30th – **Sheffield**: Lectureship, speaker: Trevor Williams; Saturday – 11.00 am-4.00 pm, Sunday – 10.30 am-3.00 pm. Contact: 07508033534, 07809 719855 or 07577 938049.

29th-30th – **Tottenham, London**: Annual Bible Lectureship – “Growing a Healthy and Strong Church”; Saturday – 10.00 am-4.00 pm, Sunday – 12.00-5.00 pm, venue: Duke’s Aldridge Academy, Tottenham, London N17 0PG (behind Tottenham Spurs Stadium). Contact: Nyarko (07932 979748), Isaac (07525 777146), Ben (07424 075300), Osei (07535 035357) or tottenhamchurchofchrist@yahoo.co.uk.

October

3rd-5th – **Bratislava, Slovakia**: European Vision Workshop; venue: The Park Inn Danube. Contact: Doug Reeves (dreeves@sibi.cc).

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 (bbobeckman@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 2019

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: "A Right Royal Wedding"



Many of our readers may well have watched the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle; either as it happened or a little later. If you did not actually see the wedding it is more than likely you know that it took place in a 600 year old chapel. The pomp and ceremony associated with the British Royal Family was in full flow with trumpets, orchestra, choirs, the rich, the famous and of course the head of state, Her Majesty The Queen, who is after all Grandma to Prince Harry.

One young man, Sheku Kanneh-Mason certainly made a name for himself playing the cello before a worldwide audience; just 19 years old, his music moved many people. Having met this fine musician at a number of concerts we have attended in Nottingham, we can confirm that he and his family have been blessed with a special gift and all can play for the sheer enjoyment of their abilities. Not many of us will have been married in such a famous place of worship as St George's chapel in Windsor Castle. Indeed not many of our places of worship are overly elegant, but there is no such thing as an ugly bride. Having conducted numerous weddings over the years I have sometimes wondered what the couple could see in each other but that had nothing to do with me, it was my job to lead the service. One thing has always surprised me though is the beauty of the bride. Every one was beautiful, even the ones who I thought were not always so attractive. This brings some relief to me since Ephesians 5:25-27 says: "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by washing with water through the word and to present her to himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless."

The church is a radiant church with no stains, no wrinkles, no blemishes, but is holy and blameless. Those who are in Jesus are the bride of Christ, always beautiful, always perfect, because Jesus has made us that way.

Our engagement ring, presented as a gift of love, is ruby red with the sacrificial blood of Jesus who declares his love for us. The place of our marriage is in the waters of baptism where we die to self and rise to walk in newness of life. We are dressed in far greater gowns than that of any princess, for we are washed pure and white with the blood of the Lamb of God. The union is made and nothing can divorce us from Christ unless we turn and leave Him. No person can break the relationship – only ourselves.

We are Royal Priests married to the great High Priest. We have been united with Jesus in love and now bear his name. We are Christian and our privilege is to stand at the side of Jesus in his joy and prosperity. Our marriage to Jesus can truly be called a Right Royal Wedding.

Trevor

*We would see Jesus in all his beauty,
Hear his voice calling our names,
Feeling his touch of tenderness around us,
Knowing his care and sharing his home.*

Amen

*"Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair
as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as
the stars in procession?"*

(Song of Solomon 6:10)