

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE



March 2020 • Vol 52 No 3

ABSS in Gemünden, Germany

One new Christian
Fergusons celebrate 50
years in East Kilbride
Ezekiel: Telling it as it is



CONTENTS

- 3 MY PERSPECTIVE**
What is it that we worry about?
- 4 ABSS IN GEMÜNDEN**
- 5 CONGRATULATIONS**
- **New Christian: Kerry Parry (Liverpool)**
 - **50th Wedding Anniversary: Robert & Isobel Ferguson (East Kilbride)**
- 6 BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES**
The Book of Ezekiel
- 7 FAMILY NEWS**
- **Bob Whittaker at Wembley**
 - **Northampton Youth Weekend**
- 9 APPEALS AND UPDATES**
- **Philippines volcano**
 - **Malawi crop failure**
 - **Photos from Pakistan**
- 10 BOOK REVIEWS**
- **God's Woman Revisited**
- 11 MAGAZINE UPDATE**
- **"The Voice"**
- 12 NOTICES**
- 14 DIARY OF EVENTS IN UK & EUROPE**
- 16 THE FINAL WORD**
Liquid sunshine



ON THE COVER AND ABOVE: Advanced Bible Study Series in Gemünden, Germany.



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

The Christian Worker Magazine is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom. The first issue was published in January 1969.

Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

(0115) 837 6895

195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway

jdgalloway@mac.com

(07906) 060618

4 Broughton, Valleyfield, East Kilbride G75 0JU

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website: Emmanuel Uwujare

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

UK Congregation Directory Online: www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

Former Editors: Albert E. Winstanley (1969-1973; 1980-1987); Robert C. Eckman (1973-1980); Graham A. Fisher (1987-2014)

All articles and news items should be sent to **Trevor Williams** by the 21st of each month. Late items may be accepted until the 25th. Publication is the first day of each month.

To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



MY PERSPECTIVE



Always be ready

What is it that we worry about?

It seems that almost every news headline I have seen recently has to do with the ‘coronavirus’ (my news, by the way, is from Internet apps, having given up on television news many years ago). From the headlines I’ve seen and articles I’ve read, it would seem our media is trying to escalate this into almost a panic (which has happened in some countries).

What are the facts? The BBC news website reported that this virus (Covid-19) seems to start with a fever, followed by a dry cough, and after a week it leads to shortness of breath requiring some patients to need hospital treatment (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51048366>).

How dangerous is it? The BBC news website stated that it had infected 78,927 people in China, as of 28th February, with 2,790 of these dying. Any virus can cause death so is this something that we should be concerned about right now?

I found the following statistics concerning Covid-19 on a website (<https://bay.com.mt/coronavirus-in-numbers-and-why-we-really-shouldnt-panic/>). Currently there are 80,000 sick with the Coronavirus, of which 77,000 are in China. Only 4% are outside of China. If you contract the virus, 81% of the cases are mild, 14% moderate, and only 5% are critical (the death rate is reported at 1-2%). This means if you were to get the virus, you are most likely going to recover from it (SARS had a fatality rate of 10%). Most deaths are of those over 50 years old.

If you are under fifty years old and not living in China, you are more likely to win the lottery than die from Covid-19!

On 10th February 108 people in China died of coronavirus. On the same day 26,283 died of cancer; 24,641 died of heart disease; 4,300 died of diabetes; 3,024 committed suicide. Perhaps these figures put this into perspective.

What is my point in mentioning all of this? While we should be concerned about our health there are more important matters to devote our lives. The chance of contracting this disease and not recovering is very small.

There is something we can be guaranteed to have to face: death (if Jesus doesn’t come first) and the judgement. While we should do what we can to stay healthy, do we put as much time and concern into being ready to meet the Lord for eternity?

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” (Hebrews 9:27-28 NIV)

All humans have a fatal disease: sin. Unlike viruses, there is a cure: the blood of Jesus. But it is up to us to take the cure through our obedience to the gospel and then living for Jesus. Rather than worrying about a disease, we need to concentrate on always being ready for eternity.

Jon

ABSS in Gemeinden



The UK was represented again this year at the Advanced Bible Study Series in Gemeinden, Germany, 17th-21st February. It proved once again to be a week of good fellowship with Christians from congregations throughout Europe as well as spiritual refreshment through the lessons and singing (all lessons are in English).

There were four speakers this year presenting lessons from a wide variety of topics. Patrick Boyns represented the British Bible School in the first time slot each day, presenting lessons from Judges on “The Deliverance of Israel.”

Rick Atchley from Texas was the keynote speaker, presenting two lessons each morning on “The Bible Doesn’t Say That”. He looked at eight ‘sayings’ that are commonly heard in the ‘Christian world’ and thought to be in the Bible, and showed that these are not only not found in the Bible but most often go against what the scriptures actually say.

Before our evening meal Craig Hutson from Dublin presented lessons on “Bad Bible Study”. After our meal Craig Young, representing the CEM school in Marseilles, spoke about “Third-Culture Leadership Development”.

A special treat this year, for me at least, was having Konstantin Zhigulin with us. He is a Christian from St Petersburg and is an accomplished musician and hymn writer. He

conducts singing workshops and congregation worship workshops throughout the world, although primarily for congregations in Europe. He was given the devotional time at 4.00 each day and used it to teach one of his original hymns.

Afternoons were spent relaxing or visiting nearby sites: Schloss Braunfels (Castle), Saalburg (reconstructed Roman fort and museum), and Limburg (medieval town).

Next year the Advanced Bible Study Series I is 15th-19th February with ABSS II on the weekend. Although it is a distance, it is well worth making plans to attend this gathering of Christians from throughout Europe.

Jon Galloway





CONGRATULATIONS!



Kerry Perry with Mike Glover

A happy day in Liverpool

It's always a happy day when Jesus washes the sins of anyone anyway. For **Kerry Parry** it was an extremely happy day when the Lord washed her sins away on Thursday, 6th February.

Please keep Kerry in your prayers as she begins her new walk with her new Master.

Mike Glover

Celebrating 50 years of marriage

On 10th January, **Robert and Isobel Ferguson**



The Ferguson Family

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! To mark the event, they invited their family and friends to join them for (as Isobel put it) the wedding she never had. Isobel is part of the congregation at East Kilbride.

Several years were in the planning of this day of celebration which took place Saturday, 11th January, at the East Kilbride church building. They asked Jon Galloway to be the officiant as they renewed their wedding vows.

Their wedding day in 1970 took place at Castlemilk, Glasgow, amidst a snowy day. It was officiated by Andrew Gardiner. Jon was able to recount during the ceremony how they met, the romance, wedding, and years of their marriage. They have been blessed with three sons: Stuart, Scott and Craig, plus

ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Most of these were present that day.

The evening ended with a catered meal and evening together.

A marriage lasting fifty years is definitely worth celebrating and is a good testimony to those around us. We wish for Robert and Isobel many more years together.

Jon Galloway



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

The Book of Ezekiel

When asked what people know about Ezekiel the prophet, most will mention either wheels, or dry bones – not that the two go together, unlike the bones, but that is another matter. Both the wheels and the bones have been made popular through songs in which they are mentioned, though by and large any sense of context or relevance seems to be obscure.

The same might be said of most of the prophets – particularly the latter ones – they may be known for one or two specific incidents, but by and large they seem not to have featured greatly in our experiences or in our studies. I think this is tragic.

The books of the prophets were an integral part of the Hebrew canon of Scripture. They form an essential backdrop to the teachings of Jesus and

feature heavily in the New Testament Scriptures as a whole. And yet for all that, they have suffered serious neglect in more recent times, and that very much to our loss.

The book of the

prophet Ezekiel is arguably the most straightforward of the latter prophets. Delivered and written in the sixth century BC, the book records the message of God during a very dark time in Israel’s history. In the midst of captivity in the distant land of Babylon, this once-to-be priest is to convince the people of their responsibilities and persuade them of better days to come.

That no one would listen or take him seriously was irrelevant – his responsibility was to serve as a watchman for the people of God and to speak the words that God had given him to speak. And this he does it in a most dramatic fashion – not mincing his words, but “telling it as it is” and laying responsibility at the feet of those to whom it belonged.

There was good news to come, but before this could be told, calamity was to come upon the nation and their beloved city of Jerusalem. Ezekiel lived through all of this, though far removed in a foreign land, but the day would come when all would once again be well.

We are delighted to be presenting a number of Study Weekends over the next few weeks – two in Aberdeen and two in Northampton – looking into the life and work of this, at times rather eccentric character. We would love for you to join us on this journey, or maybe you would like to host a British Bible School study event with your home congregation.

We look forward to sharing this exciting book with you.

Patrick Boyns

britishbibleschool.com

Ezekiel

Aberdeen

393 George Street
Aberdeen
AB25 1EQ

Friday, 6th March 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 7th March 9.00am to 4.15pm

Friday, 20th March 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 21st March 9.00am to 4.15pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway
www.britishbibleschool.com

Thought by some to be a difficult book, this module shows the writings of Ezekiel to be both clear and full of excitement, as well as very relevant to the work of mission today.

All are welcome to either or both weekends!
For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.



FAMILY NEWS

WEMBLEY (LONDON)

Recently we were blessed with a visit from **Bob and Annette Whittaker**. Bob spoke to the congregation about the work they are doing in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) at the Mathangeni Church of Christ Clinic where they have been working for the past few years since leaving Nigeria.



It was most encouraging to hear how they are helping patients physically through the clinic and spiritually by praying with them and sharing the gospel. We pray the Lord will continue to bless their work.

John Griffiths

Along with the Northampton youth and helpers the building was full of people and lots of activity. What a joy to hear so many voices raised in song to the Lord! Friendships have been renewed and new friendships made. Songs were sung, prayers prayed, food eaten, lessons listened to and activities enjoyed.

The speakers served us well. Thank you to James Biyi (Northampton), Paul Hill (Leicester), Declan O'Donovan (Morley), Kunle & Tutu Orekoya who taught the boys and girls respectively (Northampton), Mark Montgomery (Livingston) and Simon Hardy (Loughborough).

A weekend like this with so many in attendance can only take place with a great deal of help. With people offering their homes to accommodate the girls, others providing transport, help with cleaning and tidying, speakers, song leaders, drivers, activity organisers and responsible adults, we are thankful for all who contributed in any way. Akin and Enoch worked hard to provide creative activities exercising the old grey cells. Due to it being too windy for a fire outside we sang around the fire inside.



Mathangeni Church of Christ Clinic

NORTHAMPTON

It was a privilege for the congregation in Northampton to once again host a youth weekend on 21st -23rd February.

Those traveling from around the UK to be with us including youth and responsible adults/ drivers numbered 70. They represented fifteen different congregations from as far south as Bristol and as far north as Perth.

The food was excellent with great choices. Paulus and Rose led the



FAMILY NEWS



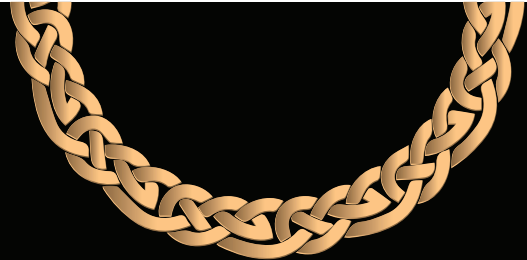
charge with many helpers in preparation and cleaning up. The selection of wraps at lunchtime, chile and chicken curry with rice for dinner (and supper for the boys) was greatly appreciated. The fellowship meal on Sunday must have easily served 200 people who were in attendance for the meeting. We are truly blessed with the facilities we have in Northampton and for that we are thankful for the foresight of those whose dedication from nearly 40 years ago through to today has provided for what we enjoy now. What plans are we making today that will result in such blessings for future generations?

To see parents who enjoyed youth weekends in their teenage years now bringing their children along is wonderful. Certainly, my longest lasting friendships are with friends I met at youth weekends and as they encouraged me then, they encourage me now.

Our young people today face pressures, challenges and choices we never would have imagined in a world that has certainly changed since I was at school. In your congregation pray for them, provide for them, listen to them and take them seriously. Find out what they are facing and what is going on in their lives and make your worship services and Bible teaching appropriate to their needs. If you want the youth to be the church of tomorrow, we need to do all we can today to make sure they will stick around to be so.

Thank you to everyone who made this such a wonderful weekend.

Mark Hill



SOLUS

Solus is a group of Christian friends from congregations across the central belt of Scotland.

They will present a singing workshop and a programme of contemporary Christian songs and hymns in Northampton.

2nd May 2020

**Singing workshop: 3.00 pm
(followed by a meal)**

Evening programme: 7.30 pm

**Christian Fellowship Centre
2 Shadowfax Drive
Northampton NN3 8DB**

SOLUS.acappella@gmail.com





APPEALS AND UPDATES

PHILIPPINES

To date congregations and individuals have raised £6,500 with more still coming in.

The latest we heard is that the volcano is still active. Gigie and the Christians there are helping many individuals. At least 45 have come to Christ – 14 in one night. Many of the evacuees are now being settled in other places as it is impossible for them to return to their homes.

Thanks to everyone.

Trevor Williams

MALAWI

News is coming in from Malawi telling of the failure of crops, due to heavy rain in some places. Many are going hungry. Davison and Lungster Mlotha, both graduates of the British Bible School, seek humanitarian help.

Donations can be sent to Bedminster Church of Christ, c/o Geoff Daniell, 24 The Witheys, Whitchurch Village, BS14 0QB and indicate what the funding is for. Personal donations could be put through Gift Aid thus adding paid tax to the amount.

Trevor Williams

PAKISTAN

Photo update from Naeem Sabir.



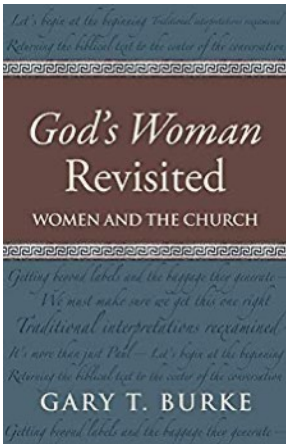


BOOK REVIEW

God's Woman Revisited: Women and the Church

By: Gary T. Burke

Luminare Press / 2019 / 356 pages / ISBN: 978-1-64388-077-8 / Amazon £13.42 / Kindle £7.11



C.R. Nichol (1876-1961) was a well respected preacher, writer and debater amongst churches of Christ in the USA. In 1938 he published the fruits of his study on the role of women in the church in a book entitled *God's Woman*. In this work he advocated a wider role for women than was currently practiced in congregations. At the time his work received a mixed response and then became largely forgotten. Gary Burke has revisited C.R. Nichol's work in his own study of the role of women in the church, *God's Woman Revisited: Women and the Church*.

The introduction and first two chapters of the book emphasise the importance of this topic and set the scene with a review of C.R. Nichol's work and life and a consideration of the current diversity of views on the role of women amongst those of our brotherhood who have written on this topic. This is written from a North American outlook. Before dealing with the Biblical texts that address the role of women in the assembly, there is a helpful chapter on disciplined Bible study. If we are to approach a text with an open mind, free from assumptions and preconceived views, three questions need to be asked of the text: What does it say? What did it mean? and What does it mean? Very often we jump to the third question before answering the first two.

Gary Burke begins his examination of the Biblical texts with a consideration of the creation narrative of Genesis 1-3. He argues that if we are to understand the relationship between men/husbands and women/wives then we must correctly

understand these chapters. He then considers how those texts in Genesis are used in the New Testament either by direct quotations or allusions. This is important in seeing how the New Testament writers understood the meaning of the Genesis passages.

The chapter entitled 'Women in the World of Jesus' provides a useful background on the status of women in first century Palestine. This is followed by an enlightening chapter on 'Jesus and Women' which demonstrates just how counter-cultural Jesus was in his attitude towards women and his relationships with them. This was one of my favourite chapters in the whole book.

Four chapters are devoted to the texts from Paul's letters which are often brought up in any discussion on the role and involvement of women: Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:8-15. A careful exegetical study is applied to each passage to help us understand their contexts.

This is a book which should at least cause us to reflect upon our own understanding of this important topic and how we have arrived at it. The book is not necessarily an easy read and some parts require careful concentration. Not all will agree with his conclusions, but none can question his respect for God's word and his genuine desire to understand it correctly and to go where the evidence leads.

John Griffiths



MAGAZINE UPDATE

"The Voice"

Written and published by Graham A. Fisher

Trevor's 5th CW commandment in the February 2020 edition reminded us, rightly, that the CW is 'the only church magazine among British churches of Christ'. It is the only magazine of its type carrying news, views, reports, notices and information both from and about our brethren. It has a very specific purpose and ethos and is especially aimed at encouraging mission. Its contents are mainly driven by involved brethren submitting relevant articles for inclusion. There are at least two other magazines which circulate and are for our brethren with different agendas and objectives, one of which has been published monthly for over five years by the previous CW editor, namely myself, Graham Fisher, as a niche monthly magazine covering a perceived need in the 'market'. It's called *The Voice*.



The niche was created when the new team took the CW reins over from myself, went fully digital and electronic, with greater scope for wonderful presentation than my hard copy issues ever could achieve, but they decided not to present the sorts of regular articles I used to produce on a monthly basis. Many brethren kindly thanked me for them and said that they would miss them. So the idea arose in my mind that I could probably continue to write the sorts of articles I used to write, but in just a little more depth because there were no limiting constraints on their length. Thus *The Voice* was born.

It has the same target audience as CW: 'Christians' who are 'Workers'. (If you are reading this, you are almost certainly

one of those brethren, not just a pew-warmer!) It is free. It too comes as a PDF attachment. It has more-or-less morphed into eight pages each month, with two main articles. Care is taken to present the ideas in as lively a way as possible to help keep your interest and not fall asleep reading it. It can be read by young and old alike. We don't do modern politics as a policy, though we might use politicians and contemporary events by way of illustration – the buzzword 'Brexit' has never once appeared!

It is written for brethren, members of churches of Christ. It assumes the basics are in place. Hebrews 5:11-6:8 covers our aims. We are not laying again foundations of repentance and baptism, but are presenting '*solid food ... for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil*' (Hebrews 5:14). It is written to take thinking brethren into areas they might never have ventured, to help keep them working at their faith and going deeper and deeper into the things of Christ. It's to help the faithful keep on being faithful and growing.

Copy is drafted until September as I write this, and amongst some coming titles are: 'Hat's On', 'Holy Beards', 'The Laodicean Ideal', and 'A Defenceless God'. You may not like every idea and article but if you are led to think further, our aim will have been achieved. If you would like to join the several hundred brethren at home and abroad who are already on board, just e-mail me at gafisher888@aol.com.

Graham Fisher

NOTICES

Ezekiel

Northampton

Christian Fellowship Centre
Shadowfax Drive
NN3 8DB

Friday, 27th March 7.00 to 9.30 pm
Saturday, 28th March 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Friday, 24th April 7.00 to 9.30 pm
Saturday, 25th April 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway
www.britishbibleschool.com

Thought by some to be a difficult book, this module shows the writings of Ezekiel to be both clear and full of excitement, as well as very relevant to the work of mission today.



All are welcome to either or both weekends!

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

Church of Christ Adam Street Ilkeston

140th Anniversary

25th-26th April 2020

Saturday service at 3 pm followed by tea.

**Mike Glover will be the speaker
and will also speak at the service**

on Sunday at 10:30

followed by a fellowship lunch.

Come and be our guest.

RSVP please twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

0115 8376895



Come on over and
learn new songs
with us and revisit
some old ones!

Teach the group a
new song and sing
with passion!



You can find us here:
Shepshed church of
Christ, Community
Centre, Charnwood Rd,
Shepshed, Leicestershire,
LE12 9QE.

We start at 7:00 pm
and finish by 9:00 pm,
on 20th March. Don't miss
out!

COME JOIN OUR SINGING NIGHT!



NOTICES

Greece this summer: 26th-29th June

"I Am who I AM"

Four days and three nights at a beach hotel near Ancient Corinth at Cenchrea, the port where Paul departed following his long stay in Corinth.

Six keynote lectures:

<i>I am the light</i>	<i>I am the Lord</i>
<i>I am the redeemer</i>	<i>I am the truth</i>
<i>I am the way</i>	<i>I am the life</i>

Also: devotional sessions, children's classes, fellowship, relaxation, and good food.

Extend your stay and visit the ancient sites in Athens or sail to some of the islands.

For more information and ideas for travel contact Trevor Willilams – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

Trusting the Teacher

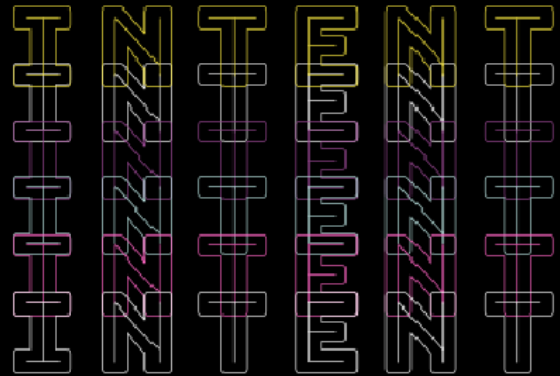
... taking him at his word

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday, 18th to Sunday, 20th September 2020

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

www.britishbibleschool.com



CAMP CHARNWOOD 2020

AGE 7+

Sunday 16th August-Friday 21st August 2020

For more information:

Guy Sandison on 07791101397

guyandison@hotmail.co.uk

or

Simon Hardy on 07728028636

simonthehitman@hotmail.co.uk

or

Debbie Hill on 07940160634

ACTS

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

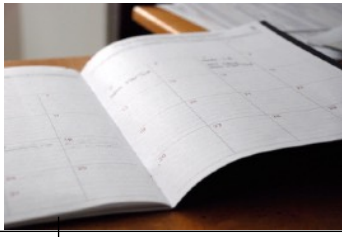
Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District
Monday, 2nd to Friday, 6th November 2020

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £150 per student

This module begins to examine this key New Testament book within the context of God's purpose for mankind. The mission implications for the student are immense as the good news of Jesus continues to be taken across cultural boundaries throughout the world.



For full details visit our website:
[britishbibleschool.com](http://www.britishbibleschool.com)



DIARY

March

6th-7th – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Ezekiel” (part 1), teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: David Murray (dgmsem@gmail.com or britishbibleschool.com).

14th – **Great Barr**: Bible Seminar – “Spiritual Leadership”, 10.00 am. Speakers: Scott Tominey and Paul Hill. Venue: Main Hall, Collingwood Community Centre, Collingwood Drive, Birmingham. B43 7NF. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

14th – **Glasgow**: Study Day – “James: Faith in Action”, 10.00 am - 4.30 pm; teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Venue: Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church Hall, Observatory Road, Glasgow G12 9AR. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

20th – **Shepherd (Leicestershire)**: Singing night, 7.00-9.00 pm. Venue: Community Centre, Charnwood Road, Shepherd LE12 9QE. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (01509 768789).

20th-21st – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Ezekiel” (part 2), teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: David Murray (dgmsem@gmail.com or britishbibleschool.com).

27th-28th – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Ezekiel” (part 1), teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net or britishbibleschool.com).

27th-29th – **Morley**: Youth Weekend. Contact: Declan O’Donovan (07889 842236 or declant92@live.co.uk).

April

11th – **Kirkcaldy**: Annual Social Day, 1.30 pm. Speaker: Adam Barr. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

18th – **Liverpool**: Men’s Fellowship, 10.00 am. Venue: 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8 QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

24th-25th – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Ezekiel” (part 2), teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net or britishbibleschool.com).

24th-26th – **Hindley & Skelmersdale**: Special meetings. Speaker: Gert-Jan van Zanten. Venues: Friday and Saturday evenings, 7.30 pm at Argyle Street, Hindley; Saturday afternoon at Hindley; Sunday morning, 10.30 am at Jubilee Hall, Roby Mill, near Skelmersdale; Sunday evening, 6.00 pm at Hindley. Contact: Stephen Daniell (07929 263021 or 01695 228760; stephen.daniell@hotmail.co.uk).

May

2nd – **Northampton**: Singing emphasis with Solus (afternoon workshop and evening performance). Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

9th – **Eastwood (Nottinghamshire)**: Quarterly Outreach meeting – “Jesus – when you feel broken”. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

16th – **Liverpool & Skelmersdale**: Ladies’ Day. Venue: 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8 QH. Contact: Maria Appiah-Anane (mgyaa5@googlemail.com).

22nd-23rd – **East Kilbride**: Gospel outreach meetings with Ian Starrs, 7.30 pm. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

30th – **Wembley (London)**: Ladies’ Day, 10.00 am - 3.30 pm. Contact: Anne Airebamen (07415 135166 or anneandrew@live.co.uk).

June

27th – **Liverpool**: Annual All Day Fellowship – “Faithfulness in Steadfastness”; speaker: Patrick Boyns, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Venue: 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8 QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

DIARY

July

3rd-10th – **Camp Heatherbell**: “Focus” at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre, Stockiemuir Road, Blanefield, Glasgow G63 9BA. Contact: Adam Barr (brujnr@icloud.com) or Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

25th-31st – **Camp Tayside**: Contact: Aubrey Boyns (a.boyns@gmail.com).

August

2nd-7th – **British Bible Camp**. Cost: £120. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990).

8th – **Eastwood (Nottinghamshire)**: Quarterly Outreach meeting – “Jesus – when you feel forsaken”. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

16th-21st – **Camp Charnwood**: John’s Lee Wood campsite, Markfield Lane, Leicester, LE67 9PS. Contact: Guy Sandison (07791 101397) or Simon Hardy (07728 038636).

27th-29th – **European Christian Workshop**: Lancaster University. Theme – ‘AWAKE’. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (01509 768789 or registration@europeanchristianworkshop.com).

September

5th – **Great Barr**: Fellowship Day. Venue: Main Hall, Collingwood Community Centre, Collingwood Drive, Birmingham. B43 7NF. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

18th-20th – **BBS Family Retreat**: “Trusting the Teacher...taking him at his word”. Venue: Letton Hall, Norfolk. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

26th – **Peterhead**: Annual Social Day, 1.00 pm. Speakers: Tony Coffey and Graham McDonald. To help with catering, please send number attending by beginning of September. Contact: William Strachan (wstrachan007@gmail.com).

October

2nd-3rd – **Wembley (London)**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

3rd-4th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Contemporary Christianity” (part 1 – exploring the history of churches of Christ), teachers: Jon Galloway and Mark Hill.

30th-31st – **Wembley (London)**: British Bible School Study Weekend, part 2. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

31st-1st November – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: “Contemporary Christianity” (part 2 – exploring the practice of contemporary Christianity), teachers: Jon Galloway and Mark Hill.

November

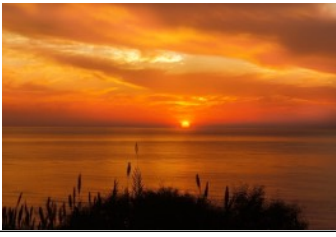
2nd-6th – **British Bible School**: Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick; module: “Acts”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Mark Hill and Jack Paton. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

7th – **Eastwood (Nottinghamshire)**: Quarterly Outreach meeting – “Jesus – when you feel forsaken”. Light refreshments at 6.00 pm and lesson at 7.00 pm. Contact: Adrian Limb (cofceastwood@aol.com).

European Events Calendar

February 2021

15th-21st – **Gemünden, Germany**: Advanced Bible Study Series. Arrive Monday evening for ABSS I, which begins on Tuesday morning. ABSS I – Tuesday-Friday; ABSS II – Friday-Sunday. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).



THE FINAL WORD



Liquid sunshine

I don't know about you but I feel that we have had more than our fair share of rain these past months. Where we live just outside of Nottingham, we have a more or less average national rainfall – but even around here fields are flooded and so are some of the houses. Areas nearby have been much worse with town streets turning into rivers. I hope that you have been safe during the storms that have swept our country. I am amazed though that the trees are in bud and daffodils are in flower. With our oldest two sons and their families living in Australia we have also been concerned for their welfare. Some Christians we know had to be evacuated in the fires there but are now back home – I understand they have been shaken by the events.

The Bible records at least two spectacular weather events, the first being the flood in the days of Noah (Genesis 6-9). After that, there was the great drought in the days of Elijah (1 Kings 18). As I was thinking about these events I realised that both events came about because of the unfaithfulness of people who should have been worshipping the God of Heaven. Now I am not suggesting that the Australian fires or the floods across the UK are by divine will but I do think that all nations have a need to realise that our world is precious and we are all responsible. We hear a good deal about Global Warming and there seems plenty of evidence that mankind has been lax in its care for what it puts into the air and the seas.

Perhaps there is little that you or I can do to change matters on a massive scale but can we help? The answer is a definite 'Yes!'. Household waste can be lowered. We can use our own bags rather than plastic (I am quite sure that you know as

much about this as I do). However, last week I realised as I was taking the cup in communion that what I was drinking out of was a little plastic cup that would never be used again. OK, so someone has to wash up glasses if they are used but at least there is no waste product. Then at a fellowship meal in another congregation I ate my delicious lunch off a plastic plate with a plastic knife and fork. We could have used degradable plates and cutlery without having several bags of plastic waste.

Our society is geared up to buying from supermarkets that, in my opinion, create the bulk of the waste we have to get rid of. We can complain, we can rethink, we can take more care, we can reuse. We do have a responsibility for today and for the future.

Some may have said, 'Where is God?' in allowing the floods and the fires. That is a question I cannot answer but I can see God in the helping hands and kind deeds sharing with those in need. I can see God in the generosity of British churches of Christ sending funds to the Philippines after the volcano eruption. I see God at work in the care we have for the farmers and orphans in Malawi or India or Pakistan or Ghana or any other place that we try to help. Yes we have liquid sunshine right now, but I can't help thinking that if we have a hot summer in this year, will we be complaining again?

Trevor

Great God of the storm and fire, who can cleanse and renew, bless those in need because of natural disasters. Help us to be light in dark places and soothing for the souls of the distressed. Amen