



the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

August 2025 • Vol 57 No 8

Five new Christians!

An examination of Islam

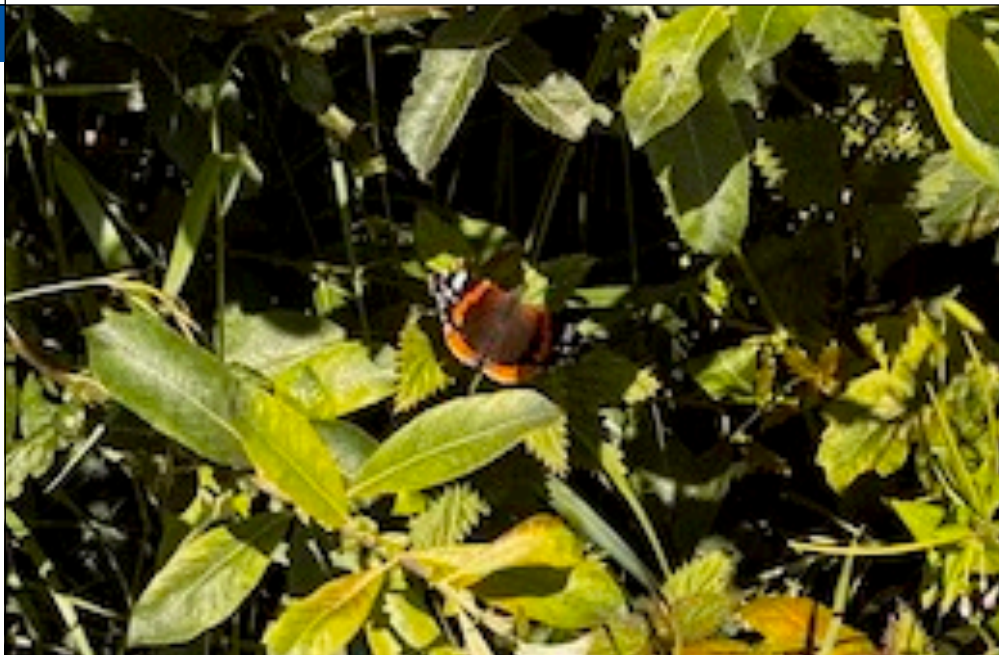
Updates and more appeals

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Front cover and above: Summer in Netherburn.



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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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



A grand reunion

Sometimes my thoughts go to what it will be like in eternity. Two occasions tend to trigger these thoughts: when someone I know has died and when I get to spend time with people I've not seen in a while. I start thinking about what it will be like to have a grand reunion but one that won't have to end.

When I was growing up and we would be heading to my grandparents' house, my Dad would talk about 'going home'. When we would pull into the lane going to their house they would come out to meet us. I remember that feeling of being with grandparents and then the extended family would come together for an evening. It was a joyful time of food, visiting, and always singing hymns together.

As I got older and had my own family I, too, looked forward to the days when I would get to 'go home'. Usually my parents met us at an airport and we would have several hours to drive to their home. Those were times I looked forward to as I would get to talk to Dad for the entire trip. While we were with them I'm not sure Dad got a lot of work done – we would end up talking and talking. At some point usually some of my siblings would join us and there would be a grand reunion. At some point the hymnbooks would come out and we would spend the evening singing.

That has become my image of what eternity with Jesus will be like – a great family gathering that isn't just for an evening or two but will go on forever. We'll get to see those who have 'gone on before us'. I'm fortunate in that many generations

of my family have been faithful Christians – I'll get to finally meet great-grandparents, great-great grandparents, and even older ancestors that I have only read a little about (and visited their graves). But in addition to these, there will be those we have known and loved in this life, and even those from Biblical times. And I'm sure we'll get to sing, although I doubt we will need hymnbooks!

The question often arises: will we know each other in heaven. I am confident that we will, that we won't need to wear name-tags. Two incidents in scripture give me this confidence.

The first was when Jesus was 'transfigured'. Peter, James and John were there and when they saw Moses and Elijah they knew exactly who they were (keep in mind there were no photographs or drawings of them). The second is just after Jesus' resurrection when he appeared in the locked room – all knew who he was. I think these incidents indicate that we will know each other – and those we have never met.

Let's live our lives looking forward to our grand reunion!

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."
(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!



Ayo with Adam Barr

Joy in Cumbernauld!

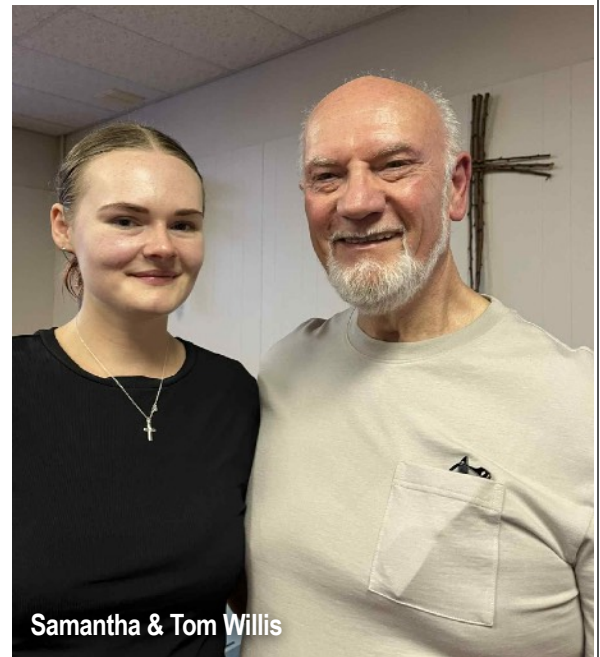
Join the angels and our God in celebrating our new brother **Ayo** who was baptised for the forgiveness of all sins! We couldn't be happier as he takes this next step in his relationship with God.

Nicole Barr

Another new Christian!

On 23rd July **Samantha Lee Willis** was immersed into Christ by her grandfather Tom Willis. The service was held at the Chapel in Adam St, Ilkeston.

Trevor Williams



Samantha & Tom Willis

Three new Christians in Lewisham!

We're happy to announce we have had three baptisms recently at the Lewisham congregation, two of whom were teenagers and one was immersed by her husband: **Kingsley** became a Christian on Sunday, 18th May, **Natalie** and **Christopher** were immersed on Sunday, 20th July. We are delighted and we pray for their continued growth and zeal in Christ's name.

Donna Anderson



Kingsley



Natalie



Christopher



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

The power of God

Do we truly realise the power that God has? Think about what we see in the very first chapter of the Bible: beginning with nothing, one week later there was everything! That is power!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2 NIV)

What if we were to create a new place of existence? Where would we start? I’m amazed at the logical progression we read about in Genesis 1. We realise, in order to have life, water is needed – this is where God started. As our scientists search for somewhere in the universe besides our Earth where life could exist, the first thing they look for is water. And this is precisely what we find on the earth when God began to create. On the first day, he added light to the water (Genesis 1:3-5).

Where would we go from here? Notice that on the second day, God created what we might refer to as our atmosphere, separating the waters below it from the waters above it. We realise the need to have light, water, and an atmosphere for there to be life.

It was on the third day that life began, although initially it was plant life. First, the waters on the earth were separated to form dry land, and then vegetation was created on the land. Vegetation is necessary for a number of reasons: food for the animals and humans that would follow, as well as to continue to produce oxygen, taking in the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and changing it to oxygen with the help of the sun – but we don’t have the animals that need the food yet, nor do we have the sun. Perhaps we can see that God had in mind what needed to be done beforehand.

We also see a principle beginning: *“The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good”* (Genesis 1:12). God designed a way for the procreation of plants: they would contain seeds that would be able to reproduce the same type of plant. He later did the same for animal life and humans.

The fourth day was when God gave the light a home, if you will: he created the sun, moon, and stars. Not only would these contain the light, but God set in motion a system that would allow for timekeeping. *“And God said...’let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.’ And it was so”* (Genesis 1:14-15).

On the fifth and sixth days God created the birds, fish, animals, and finally he created humans. Humans were different from the rest of the creation in that we were made in God’s image, something not said about any other part of creation. We are to take care of the rest of the creation.

God could have created everything in six seconds or even six micro-seconds, or he could have chosen six million years. But he did it all in six days and rested the seventh to give us not only the basis for a week but to have a day set aside for rest. The seven-day week is the one part of time-keeping that is separate from an external source: there is nothing in the way planets operate that gives us this.

What a powerful and wise God we serve!

Join us in East Kilbride on 23rd & 24th August to learn more about Christian Evidences and on 6th & 7th September to learn more about Creation and why Evolution scientifically cannot work.

Jon Galloway



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR? (MY MUSLIM NEIGHBOUR)

Living in a multicultural society, we are going to meet people who are from a Muslim (Islamic) background. The founder of this faith was Muhammad, born in AD 570. With over 4,000,000 Muslims living in the UK we are more than likely to meet their women wearing a full robe or at least the hijab, a head scarf. In the UK at the present time, the most used given name for boys is Muhammad.

Perhaps you have been able to become friendly with someone of this faith. Although some are converting to Jesus, there are also British people who are converting to Islam. It is impossible to detail all that Muslims believe here but there are some excellent books that can help further with understanding their faith.

Their Scripture is the Quran, quoted by Muhammad as the words of God. Though it was said he could neither read nor write, he quoted what he believed was God's revelation for mankind. The world at this time was a mixture of Jewish and Christian writings, as well as other faiths, and some of Islam seems to be a mixture of various thoughts.

The Muslim faith stands on five 'pillars' of doctrine. They also have a second book known as the Haddith.

Pillar 1: Shahada (witness) – Their great statement and creed is, 'There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet'. Jesus is also regarded as a prophet of God but Muhammad is regarded as superior and his teaching final. Jesus is not regarded as God. They do not believe that Jesus died on the cross and was therefore never resurrected from the dead. It should be noted that every time Muhammad's name is spoken or written, their writings always add 'pbuh' (peace be upon him).

Pillar 2: Salat (prayer) – The Quran in Sura 24:58 recommends prayer to be said three times a day but the practice is now extended to five. Each prayer is similar to others and will involve ritual washing of hands, face and feet.

Pillar 3: Zakat (almsgiving) – Although there is a variety of suggestions for giving, it is regulated between 2½%-10%. This is not a free will offering as Christians would understand but is supposed to be for the support of the poor.

Pillar 4: Saum (fasting) – Ramadan is a movable feast as the timing depends on lunar months, and so can take place at different times of the year. The event can be harsh but is expected for all followers. During the hours of light nothing must be eaten or drunk, and sexual relationships are forbidden, as well as smoking and alcohol. In reality smoking goes on all the time, and in countries like Turkey there is plenty of alcohol about.

At the end of the fast, which is timed to the minute, there is lots of food to eat, and most restaurants will offer a Ramadan Special. Visitors will go to the restaurant with plenty of time before eating. Food will be put out on the tables just before the end of the fast so everyone can eat straight away. During the hours of darkness there will be parties and get togethers with lots of food – this time of day is the celebration of the giving of the Quran. It is said that often people will eat twice as much during the night than they will during the day. They will also rise before dawn for a meal.

Pillar 5: Hajj (pilgrimage) – This pilgrimage is a visit to Mecca at least once in a lifetime. The process seems complicated and expensive but attracts 2-3 million people each year and involves ceremonial walks and bathing.

Who is my neighbour?

Other Practices

Deuteronomy 23:19-20 forbids having to pay interest if the borrowing of money takes place, unless the funds are lent to a non-Jew. In the same way the Muslim should not receive interest on his Muslim bank account though the bank may offer some form of shares in ownership of the bank.

The eating of pork and gambling are forbidden, as is the worship of idols and stealing, but, like everywhere else, these things take place. Jihad is not considered murder but honour killing. Adultery, rape and conversion to Christianity are also forbidden. Originally Jews and Christians were looked upon with a greater regard and known as People of the Book, however over time they were considered apostate as they did not follow the prescribed teaching of Mohammed.

The reading of the Quran is difficult for most people used to reading the Bible. It does not seem to have the same flow of story or poetry. Many Muslims will never read the Bible, even if given one. The children may well attend Islamic School to read the Arabic text or learn the prayers, which are never said in English.

Many women may say that they enjoy wearing the Hijab, but it is also felt by many that this is a way of keeping women subjugated. In our travels to Turkey, we have seen young women wearing skimpy clothing change into the Hijab just before arriving – they would be going to see Granny.

In some Islamic countries women cannot go out, drive or shop on their own. Sadly, in some of these nations, girls are forbidden an education. It is possible for young girls, before puberty, to be married to much older men. In order for girls to be kept pure, Female Genital Mutilation is still practiced in parts of Africa and Asia. This procedure offers no value for the individual but is extremely dangerous, leading to a life of pain, infection and even

death.

There are a number of people who, though brought up in an Islamic family, do not practise their faith on a strict basis – much as many Christian young people have failed to relate to their parents' faith.

The British and Islamic cultures can be at odds, but we have a duty to share our love for all people. A friendly face and a kind word or gesture can at least break down some walls. There are a number of books that can help Christians understand Islam – I recommend *Christ or the Qur'an* by Evertt Huffard and *Christianity and Islam, Bridging Two Worlds* by Glover Shipp.

Trevor Williams

Christian Apologetics

Examining evidence for God, Jesus and the Bible
Examining the Theory of Evolution in light of the Bible & Science

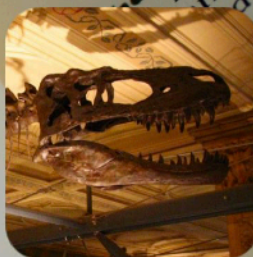


East Kilbride

1 Scholar's Gate, G75 9JL

Saturday, 23rd August, 9.30am-4.30 pm

Sunday, 24th August, 10.00am-12.30 pm



Saturday, 6th September, 9.30am-4.30 pm

Sunday, 7th September, 10.00am-12.30 pm

Teachers: Jon Galloway & Mark Hill

All are welcome to either or both weekends
For more information visit www.britishbibleschool.com
or look for us on Facebook



A British Bible School Congregation Resource

AT REST

Jean Stevens

1935-2025
(Skelmersdale)

Our sister Jean Stevens went to be with her Lord in June 2025. She was known to many as Jean Partington. Her first husband died in 1991 and ten years later she married Brian Stevens

She was a faithful Christian for over seventy years, meeting in Wigan (at Newton and Scholes) and later in Skelmersdale. She regularly opened her home for fellowship with her brothers and sisters. She also loved walking and cycling. She leaves behind three children and three grandchildren.

Later in life she suffered from dementia, spending her final days in a care home. In her last years she always looked forward to



meeting her brothers and sisters in heaven – her wish came true in June

Tony Tyson

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th
September 2025

at Letton Hall
in Norfolk



AT THE
OF **NAME
JESUS**

Bring all the family ...



FAMILY NEWS

PAUL & JANET HILL

Since November 2014, Paul and Janet Hill have been in Leicester to help begin a congregation. Initially meeting in an apartment in the city, they later found a community centre to use as their base and more recently they purchased a building. Through the years the congregation has grown, both with many becoming Christians and others moving into the area.



Leicester congregation

In November 2024, they began a plan to complete their work in Leicester in May 2025 – their final Sunday working with this group of Christians was 1st June. The congregation expressed appreciation for their service with lovely gifts, presentations and a lunch.



Leicester Christians with Paul and Janet Hill

Paul and Janet are beginning a new chapter of their lives by working with the congregation in Derby, to help the congregation continue to grow and to support the work they are already doing. They have been involved with them from their beginning and are looking forward to their work together.

Paul wants to continue to support newer congregations that they have been involved with over the years by offering help and guidance as needed. He will continue to work online with Sunset's United Kingdom Bible Institute to assist in study for those seeking learning support. There are currently over 100 students in the UK who are using this for online home studies. All UK students study completely free as we have been blessed with a sponsor to cover the costs. We provide daily support and guidance with memory work, revision, exams and help in learning. We also provide group zoom sessions with multiple student classes.

Keep them in your prayers as they move into a new area of work for the kingdom.

Paul & Janet Hill

JOHN TAMAKLOE

John Tamakloe is a graduate of the British Bible School and has been a preacher in Ghana for many years. He records his thoughts and anyone can listen to them by visiting Johntamakloe.com – he always has something good to say.

Trevor Williams

LONDON LADIES' LECTURESHIP

On Saturday, 5th July, 75 women from 13 congregations across London and beyond gathered at Edmonton's church building for a day of spiritual renewal and fellowship. With hearts open to the Scriptures and the work of the Holy Spirit, they explored how true transformation begins within, through the Spirit producing his fruit in them (Galatians 5:22–23).

Family News

The theme for this year was “Changemakers”. They were blessed by powerful teachings from Emmanuela (Tooting) and Jemilla (Stratford), who spoke on harnessing the might of the Holy Spirit and evangelism to drive change in our lives and in the lives of others. This was a timely and much-needed reminder that, as believing women, they must yield to God’s will and be refined by the Holy Spirit, so they may become true change-makers, carrying his light, love, and truth into the world.

A highlight of the programme was a thought-provoking debate led by some of our young sisters on the motion: “Is Change Always Good?”. This reminded them that while godly change is always beneficial, not all change promotes growth or draws us closer to Christ. When driven by worldly desires rather than the Word of God, change can lead to confusion and destruction (Romans 12:2; Proverbs 14:12).

As the day ended, one clear message echoed in all their hearts and minds – change starts now! They enjoyed sweet fellowship and left the lectureship with a renewed purpose, to be agents of change, bearing the fruit of the Spirit and leading others to Christ in a world in desperate need of him.

S. Ofori-Dwumah

Starting a congregation has been a project that Sarah and I have prayed over for many years and in April we decided to take the leap of faith and trust God to lead us. After talking to quite a few community centres around Sandwell and the Black country, we were directed to a trust-owned community centre on the outskirts of West Bromwich town centre.

After sitting and discussing our plans with the centre manager and an encouraging chat with their community officer, we felt God’s pull. West Bromwich has always been one of the region’s most deprived areas and we believe that God’s work would be most beneficial here.

We officially open the doors to worship on Sunday, 14th September, at 12:30 pm. But the real work starts now. Please join us in prayers as we start our new journey and for the local community to allow God to make a difference in their lives through us.

Martin and Sarah Huburn

EDMONTON MEN’S WORKSHOP

The leaders of the Edmonton congregation warmly express our heartfelt gratitude to our sister churches for their wonderful support and encouragement in our recent Men’s Workshop, which took place on Saturday, 12th July.



Women at the London Ladies’ Lectureship

WEST BROMWICH

New congregation in the West Midlands.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the planting of a new congregation that will be meeting in West Bromwich.

The theme for the workshop was “Youth Empowerment”. Fifty-seven men representing twelve congregations attended the workshop in person. There was also opportunity granted to those outside the United Kingdom to attend via Zoom.

The main speaker for the day was Patrick Boyns, Principal of the British Bible School. He delved deep into the theme, touching on love and respect; what showing of respect involves, and the role of leadership. After his thought-provoking lesson there was a question/answer session.

Family News



Men attending Edmonton's Men's Workshop

In the second part of the programme we split the participants into groups of three for discussion. There were three topics divided among the three groups: youth as the future of the church; living as the light of the world; and not conforming to the patterns of the world. The group leaders summarised what each group had deliberated upon to the workshop – there was a further time to ask questions, give suggestions and contributions after each speaker.

All said and done, we were all fed with spiritual renewal and fellowship. Once again, we thank you for making this workshop a meaningful and enriching experience for everyone involved.

S. Ofori-Dwumah

NOTTINGHAM (SHERWOOD)

On 29th June the Sherwood congregation joined forces with the Christians at Ilkeston for a time of worship and lunch together. It was a joyful occasion and we were all fed spiritually and physically. Mark Hill was our guest speaker.

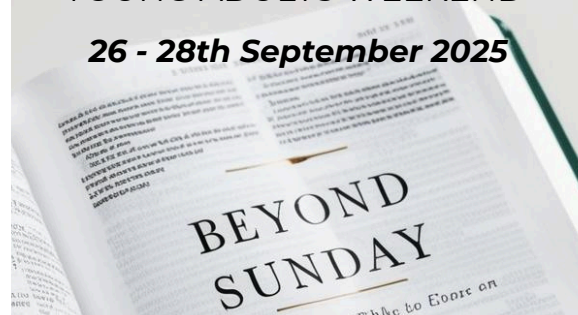
On 13th July, 150 Christians and friends from around the country gathered to witness Philemon Gyasi-Antwi be appointed evangelist for the congregation in Sherwood. Trevor Williams was invited to preach on 'Leadership' and with the permission of the congregation prayed for Philemon and his family as they begin this appointment.

Trevor Williams



BRANDON CHURCH OF CHRIST YOUNG ADULTS WEEKEND

26 - 28th September 2025



Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre,
Shadwell, Thetford, IP24 2RX

20 - 40 yrs old singles & couples
welcome. Unfortunately no children
please.

Register your interest by **contacting
Tapi O'Donovan or by completing the
form [here!](#)**

£40pp total inc. accommodation & food.
Payment in full by **15th August 2025.**
Payment in instalments available.

Contact - 07933279091 - tapitaruvinga@gmail.com

YOUTH GATHERING 2025 CHURCH OF CHRIST, DERBY



LETTERS

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3



For Youths & Young Adults

DATE:
30TH AUGUST 2025

TIME:
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

VENUE:
ST PETER'S CHURCH
10 ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD
DERBY DE1 1NN

FREE REGISTRATION HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/3ybnkZe7>





"THE FATHER'S ANSWER"

This poem was submitted Paul Dover and was published many years ago in the Christian Worker when Albert Winstanley was the editor. It was thought that people would appreciate it today.

*My dearest child,
You have turned to me and asked why you live.
You are sad, because the world is hard, the weather cold, the
people cruel.
Why should you suffer misfortunes that make pain and sorrow your lot,
while others go unscathed?
Hear my reply:*

*Since the beginning, I prepared the world for your birth.
I made the earth and covered harshest rock in softest greens.
I made the sky so that each morning, when you arise,
its beauty stretches from end to end of your sight,
and every day I paint it differently that it might make you glad.
But you chose to see the ground.*

*Even there, I clothed dark, wholesome earth in living green.
In Spring, I set it ablaze with flowers, and in Winter,
I pour sweet, cool snow on it for your childish heart to love.
Still, you complain.*

*I have given you love in all my creation, yet, you fear I am a myth.
At last, I sent my Son, so close to me, my heart aches
remembering our parting.*

*I watched with tears in my eyes as mankind tore him to shreds
and nailed him to hang against my sky.*

*That memory hurts me still, but my heavens sang with joy
when he fought Satan and conquered death
to bring abundant life for you!*

*My child you cannot ask for more.
I have given you all you need.*

Melanie Gardiner (Edinburgh)



APPEALS AND UPDATES

SHEFFIELD APPEAL

A place to call home – help us to have a permanent place of worship.

The Sheffield congregation is a growing and vibrant community of believers who are faithfully worshipping and serving God. Our challenge is that we do not have a permanent place to meet. For years we have been assembling in rented halls, borrowed spaces and temporary venues. While God's presence has never failed us, the constant moving has limited our ability to grow and serve effectively.

We believe it is time to settle and are stepping out in faith to purchase a permanent place of worship where God's name will be glorified, his word declared and his people can grow for generations to come. Please consider helping us create a spiritual home.

Donations can be made directly to our account: Church of Christ, Sheffield, Acc 50677136 SC 54-41-37. For more information, please contact Patrick (poppong20@yahoo.com or 07508 033534) or Maxwell (07809 719855 or maxwellnyarko2000@yahoo.com).

Patrick Popping



Malawi preachers: Davidson on left and Stywell on right

MALAWI PREACHERS

We have had to change our banking arrangements for the Missions Fund to reduce costs and ensure the Malawi men get the full support we receive and forward on your behalf. To that end, we have closed the Missions Fund. The new bank details are:

Church of Christ
80-13-13
00192196

If sending a cheque to support the Malawi preachers, please make the cheque payable to "Church of Christ" and include a letter saying it is for the Malawi preachers, or write "MPA" on the back of the cheque. If your congregation sends funds by bank transfer, please use the details above with reference: **MPA-congregation** (please substitute *congregation* with your congregation's name). This is important as the bank account now includes other works and will help place the funds with the Malawi preachers. We apologise for the inconvenience, but this is a necessary exercise to maximise the support for these men.

Also, please keep Stywell Nyirenda in your prayers. He needed emergency medical treatment in the past week at a cost of £350. The Cumbernauld congregation was able to help cover the costs. If your congregation would like to help defray some of those costs, it would be most welcome and may help with any future treatments he may need.

Please get in touch if you have any questions and alert your treasurer with this new information.

Graham McDonald

DIARY

August

3rd-8th – British Bible Camp: Theme – “Building on the ROCK.” Ages: 8-18. Camper applications open on 10th February. If you would like to apply, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/KnpmGjBMyS>. We are already taking staff applications. Anyone 18+ wishing to apply as a member of staff, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/kzVs9JCdwm>. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990).

4th – British Bible School evening class: “Job’s Questions/God’s Answers” led by Mark Hill each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm,. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

7th – British Bible School evening class: “The Letters to the Seven Congregations” led by Jon Galloway, each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

9th-15th August – La Maison de Perrine, France: “Co-Create!” A faith-based, seven-night art retreat. Various artists, using their talents for the glory of God, offer fun and creative workshops enabling you to connect with God and each other through art. For more information: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zl6wPFIbXwdGenMwS6GiVPlxZjqKOnYebjFakw7MD7U/edit?tab=t.0>

16th – Kirkcaldy: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm, at Hayfield Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 5DG. Contact: alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com.

23rd – Stratford (London): Foodbank, 10.00-1.00 pm.
Venue: St. Francis’ Catholic Primary School, Maryland Park, London E15 1HB.

23rd-24th & 6th-7th September – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study weekends. Two weekends looking at Christian Evidences and Creation/Evolution; teachers: Jon Galloway and Mark Hill. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com or jdgalloway@mac.com.

30th – Derby: Youth Gathering – “Letters”, 10.00-4.00 pm.
Venue: St Peter’s Church , 10 St Peter’s Churchyard, Derby, DE1 1NN. Register to attend at: <https://tinyurl.com/3ybnk7e7>. For further information, contact: Ubong Bassey (07721 954487), Kingsley Acheampong (07940 654996), Femi Olabanjo (07354 704624) or William Adansi B. (07459 934347), or e-mail us at derbychurchofchrist@outlook.com.

September

1st-5th – La Maison de Perrine, France: Christian couples’ retreat. Free rest and respite week for couples working with congregation, subsidised by ‘Double Honor Ministries’. Visit our website for details: <https://www.faithworks-lachapelle.com/>. Contact us for sign-up information: elite.not.elitist@gmail.com.

12th-15th September – British Bible School Autumn Weekend Family Retreat: “At the Name of Jesus”.
Venue: Letton Hall, Norfolk. For more information and to book a place visit our website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

13th – Castlemilk: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm, at 465 Carmunnock Road, Glasgow G45 9PU. Contact: delboy82@ntlworld.com or llubder55@yahoo.com.



FOOD BANK Outreach 2025

THEME: **SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

SAT. 23RD AUGUST 2025
10AM – 1PM

PLEASE COME IN FOR FREE MEAL, DRINKS AND TAKE AWAY FOOD ITEMS

St. Francis Catholic Primary School
Maryland Park, London
E15 1HB

CONTACT: 07979096293 | 07852343010 | 07951497620
www.stratfordchurchofchrist.org.uk
stratfordchurchofchrist18@gmail.com

Diary

20th-21st – Peterhead: Social Day, speaker: Mark Hill. Join us for an afternoon of praise worship, beginning with lunch at 1.00 pm. Contact: Michael Gaunt (01779 476170 or 07887 407288).

26th-28th – Brandon: Young Adults Weekend, ages 20-40 (no children please). Venue: Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre, Shadwell, Thetford IP24 2RX. Cost: £15 deposit per person, total cost of £40 payable by 15th August (you can pay in instalments). Contact: Tapi O'Donovan – 07933 279091 or tapitaruvinga@gmail.com).

27th – Stratford (London): Marriage Enrichment – 'Before and After I say I Do', 7.00-9.00 pm. Zoom details – meeting room: 8540976249, Passcode: sc2020. Contact: 07934 731219 or 07852 343010 3 or 07979 096293.

30th-3rd October – European Vision Workshop in Wroclaw, Poland. Contact: Kristin Hagins – kristin.hagins@sunset.bible.

October

3rd – Loughborough: 184th Anniversary Meeting at Christian Meeting House, 17a Oxford Street, Loughborough LE11 5DP, 6.00 pm; speaker: John Griffiths; refreshments to follow. Contact: Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

18th – Loughborough: Ladies' Day, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact: Joanne Townsend (ps56_8@icloud.com).

18th – East Kilbride: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm, at 1 Scholar's Gate, East Kilbride G75 9JL. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

25th – Stratford (London): Health Discussions, 10.00-2.00 pm. Zoom details – meeting room: 8540976249, Passcode: sc2020. Contact: 07934 731219 or 07852 343010 3 or 07979 096293.

31st-2nd November – Peterborough: Ladies' retreat. Contact: Marsha Erysthee (merysthee1@aol.com).

November

3rd-7th November – British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor – "Post-Exilic Israel". Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

15th – Livingston: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm, at Garden Place, Eliburn, Livingston EH54 8RA. Contact: info@churchofchrist.co.uk.

29th – Stratford (London): Marriage Enrichment – 'Before and After I say I Do', 7.00-9.00 pm. Zoom details – meeting room: 8540976249, Passcode: sc2020. Contact: 07934 731219 or 07852 343010 3 or 07979 096293.

December

20th-21st – Milton Keynes: Song Festival and Fellowship Weekend. Venue: Monkston Community Park, 10 Pimlico Court (off Plastow Crescent), Milton Keynes MK10 9PN. Register at: 07483 893786 or 07305 384832.



The church of Christ meeting in Loughborough invites you to our...

184TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Join us as we give glory to God for His presence within His church worshipping in Loughborough since 1841.

03.10.2025
18:00

Christians meeting house
17a Oxford Street
LE11 5DP

- Lesson from John Griffiths (Wembley)
- Tea & Refreshments provided

be numbered, transcribing as the churches in Leicester and South Wigton had arisen out of the association of brethren who had been brought into the church in connection with (Gospel) work in Loughborough; and by whom other churches had also been influenced in the right direction. Some eighty brethren, many from Leicester, partook of tea; the after-meeting, including, being...



MILTON KEYNES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Cordially invites you to...

SONG FESTIVAL & FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

20-21 December 2025

FREE ENTRY
FREE REFRESHMENTS

JOIN US FOR 2 DAYS OF:

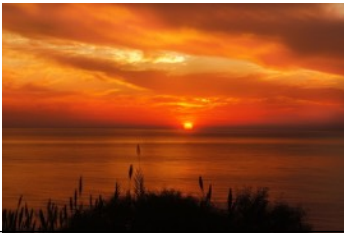
- UPLIFTING MUSIC
- FELLOWSHIP
- FUN ACTIVITIES

DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

Register

Monkston Community Park
10 Pimlico Court, off Plaistow
Crescent, Milton Keynes, MK10 9PN

RSVP: 07483 893786 / 07305 384832



THE FINAL WORD



The people of two halves

When we read through our Bibles, we see the great heroes of the faith and are astounded at their works for the Almighty. Yet, when we read their life stories, we may well wonder whether or not they were so great. Certainly, when we look at our own lives or the lives of other people we can see people of two halves. One half can be the Spirit-filled lover of Christ whilst the other half seems anything but someone who loves Jesus. How many of us have felt let down by those we have held up high in our estimation thinking that they have everything sorted out, that they are pure and holy before the Lord and are genuine faithful Christians, only to find a chink in their armour or a crack in their personality.

When we look at our own personality we may well be going through a time of doubt, fear, loneliness, or disappointment whatever it may be it makes our souls callous and brings distress to our minds. It seems that we are not one whole but two halves, almost battling with our self.

We know who we want to serve and what we should do, then there is a huge, **BUT**. Our minds go one way, our reasoned thinking goes another, and we sit back and say to ourselves: "Who am I? What am I? How did I get here? Is this what I want?" The questions bombard our minds until we wither with lack of strength. We may well call upon the Lord, cry out and plead with the King of kings, and our voices shout out – but we hear no reply.

With our minds in that state of disappointment with our own self we have two choices – and neither is easy. Do we soldier on, shaking off the dust of despair? or do we say "I am me" and walk away from Jesus? Sadly, too many have gone the second route. When we turn the pages of our Bibles, we meet the

great heroes of faith and often see them fall. Peter denied Jesus three times, one after the other. Paul had Christians put in jail with the intention of having them put to death. And what of Abraham who, although he waited for Isaac, had another child who was the founder of the Arab people. David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, a man after God's own heart, was adulterous. His son Solomon, blessed with earthly wisdom, became a worshipper of idols. We say "if it happened to them what chance do we have?"

We are two personalities with God on one side and ourselves on the other. It seems as if there is a battle to end all battles and we are being blown to smithereens. Which way is out, where can we go, to whom may we speak of this mixture of woe? Who can understand? Who will hold our hand? Who can wipe away our tears? The choice is ours we either rely on our own selves or turn again to the one who went to the cross, rose from the dead and now holds out pierced hands to hold ours. There is a balm for even us, not from Gilead but from the one who stands at our side.

Though we cannot hear the Saviour weep over us, nor feel his tender arms around us, he still cries out into our deaf ears, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart **and you will find rest for your souls**. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:28-30).

We may feel like two people inside of us, but Jesus makes us one.

Lord some days seem it is all too much for us – too many burdens, too many worries, not understanding ourselves or those around us. Please grant your healing power and bring your wholeness to our brokenness. Amen

Trevor