

British Bible School Residential Study Week



Another new Christians!

Thoughts on faithfulness and Jesus' birth

News and appeals

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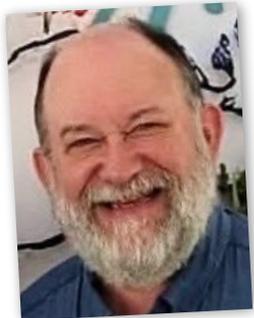
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Front cover and above: British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor



The end of another year

It is hard to believe that we are about to enter the last month of another year. Have things changed during 2025?

The world is still in turmoil – we think of war in Ukraine and Russia as well as Israel and Gaza, but there are numerous conflicts going on in other places as well. Those who claim to follow Jesus are being persecuted in various place. We pray that there may be more peace between the countries and peoples of the world.

But what about our own lives? Have our lives changed for the better during this past year? As we continue to get older many discover more things going wrong with our bodies. We are thankful for the advances in medical science and long for even more!

Our families often change during a year – sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. Siblings can continue to fuss and fight, wanting their own way. But families can also grow as we welcome children and grandchildren into our lives.

But of greater consideration should be how we are doing spiritually. Have we grown to be more like Jesus in the past year? Has our faith grown stronger? Have we grown in our knowledge of God’s word?

Although sometimes we don’t like change, if we really think about it change indicates life. We worry about children who are not growing physically. We realise that a lack of growth is an indication of deeper problems and it is the same with us spiritually. Have you noticed that in the apostles’ letters, written to Christians, that we read about the need to grow?

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Ephesians 4:15-16 NIV)

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3)

Perhaps that last Scripture may point out a reason that some Christians do not grow – have we tasted that the Lord is good? We read about having a growing faith and growing in our salvation but it is based on our experience of Jesus. Some of the problem, it would seem, is that many have no experience of Jesus in their lives – they haven’t tasted to see that following him is really the best way we can live! As we all grow we find the body of Christians we are with also grows, both spiritually and numerically.

A good challenge as we look forward to a new year is to get to know Jesus. The only way we can know him is to spend time studying what he left for us to know and change our lives to better reflect his.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!



Harry Brown

Good news from Edmonton!

We bring you good tidings from your fellow Christians in Edmonton Church, hoping and trusting that all is well with you.

It is with great joy once again that we share wonderful news regarding a new Christian. On Sunday, 2 November, **Harry Amoah Brown** made the heartfelt decision to dedicate himself to the Lord, marking a significant milestone in his spiritual journey. Please pray for him as he begins his new life.

Samuel Ofori Dwumah

Double Honour Retreat for 2026

Free rest and respite week for couples who are Christian workers in southern Normandy, subsidised by Double Honour Ministries.



The next retreat will be 23rd-26th March 2026.

All accommodation and meals included.

\$150 towards travel.

Visit the Double Honor website for details.

<https://doublehonorministries.com/retreats/>

La Maison de Perrine website:

Faithworks-lachapelle.com

Note: if you would like to attend the 2026 retreat in France, please let us know. You will not be able to reserve online until the New Year, but at least we can put you on the list.



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Past and coming events

Autumn Study Week

Ever since the Autumn of 2017 we have held an annual residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor in the northern Lake District. This is the same venue at which we hold our Mid-Winter Weekend Family Retreat in January each year, and provides an excellent, out-of-the-way location for a few days of intensive study.

On the menu this year was our module on *Post-exilic Writings* in which we explored God's dealings with Israel following the exile in Babylon. We looked mainly at the texts of Ezra and Nehemiah, along with Esther and three of the Twelve Prophets writing at this time. It is the era with which Old Testament Scriptures conclude, preparing the way for the coming Messiah.

Although some of our recent, regular students were unable to be with us, it was a joy to welcome others with us for the first time. We are already looking ahead to next year's event, and though we are yet to decide which module we shall be teaching, we can

confirm the dates as being: **26th to 30th October 2026**. You will probably want to make a note of this in your diary as you think about being with us, and it may be of interest to some to know that this coincides with most English schools' autumn half term week.

Study Weekends

We have now also come to the end of our Study Weekends for 2025, and are beginning to make plans for the coming year. We are hoping to return to a number of locations we have visited this year, and will be looking to decide upon dates and areas of study soon. Our Study Weekends are excellent opportunities to grow in grace and knowledge of the word over a couple of closely-spaced weekends of teaching. They are open to all, and if you are interested in hosting a couple this coming year, then please do get in touch with me soon.

Weekend Family Retreat

We are looking forward to hosting our Mid-Winter Weekend Family Retreat from 16th to 18th January 2026. At the time of writing we still have just a few spaces available, so if you are wanting to be with us then do please register as soon as possible. Details can be found on our soon-to-be-renewed website.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the work of BBS. May God bless us all, that we might be a blessing to those around us.

Patrick Boyns

britishbibleschool.com





THERE'S NO TURNING BACK

Society is in constant change, whether fast or slow, for good or bad. Some people may want to live in the certainty of the past and don't want to know or accept the present. They live in a mentally protected bubble that either cares not or fears to acknowledge, alternatively they feel overwhelmed if they allow themselves to venture too much into all the issues society presents. By contrast, others thrive on getting involved in issues that present themselves in an ever increasing number, often helped by modern social media.

These are the extremes, but where do Christians stand? Must they investigate and have an opinion on everything? Should they live in a bubble that rarely ventures outside of a congregational environment? Or maybe their own struggles with a repentant life are more than enough to occupy their mind?

As a Christian you do not have to venture far to realise the vastness of opposing views to your faith. Each one requiring you to give an answer that justifies your position in answering their objections. If you fail, they walk away self-congratulating for their

victory and in some cases leaving you feeling defeated, questioning your own faithfulness.

If truth is really on our side, then regardless of our sometimes feeble efforts, we believe answers can be found. This is where the power of fellowship should engage, if we truly care for the wellbeing of each other. But, as with all solutions, it takes two to be involved, those who provide and those who are willing to accept. This principle is seen from the very start of creation to the present day – God provided, humans have a choice to accept or not.

However, there is always a danger in this set-up when only humanity is involved. The trick of a cult is to convince people it alone has the answer and all they have to do is accept whatever they are told by that organisation and never to question its advice. The Scriptures provide a balanced view; the apostles and prophets, lead by the Spirit, have authority; but people have a responsibility to engage their minds in testing what is being taught, for some could be using Scripture but in a way inappropriate to support an idea. We are not sponges soaked from the pulpit, or swayed by academic achievements. Those with more knowledge, helpful and often appreciated, have greater responsibility and will be judged accordingly (James 3:1). Beyond those, people cannot remain babes forever (Hebrews 5:11- 6:12).

A congregation that is fully engaged, helping and supporting each other and not expecting a select few to do all the work, is a powerful entity in its community. When an unbeliever comes in, are they convicted or simply entertained (1 Corinthians 14:24, 25)? The young, the old, rich or poor, single or married all function with one desire to “*adorn the teachings of God our Saviour in all things*” (Titus 2:1-15). On this we will be judged.

Anthony Spicer





FAMILY NEWS

NEW CONGREGATION

We would like to inform you that a congregation has now begun meeting in Middlesbrough. Our first worship took place on Sunday, 5th October and we have continued to meet every Sunday since. We are currently fifteen in number, including three children, and assembling in the home of one of our brethren while we search for a suitable meeting place. We kindly request your prayers as we continue this work for the Lord.

Adu-Gyamfi Asare
07846074237

RETREATS HELD AT BALMULE HOUSE

Young Professionals Retreat

What a truly special and spirit-filling time we shared at Balmule House! Over a few wonderful days together, our young professionals gathered for a retreat that reminded us of God’s faithfulness, his purpose for our lives, and the power of Christian fellowship as we shared and encouraged one another. Set in the peaceful and picturesque surroundings of Balmule House and made complete with regular visits to the friendly Highland cows!

Our time together was filled with moments of worship, laughter, study, and encouragement. The setting provided the perfect space for us to pause from the busy-ness of daily life and focus on God’s Word and his plan for us as young professionals



Balmule House

navigating an ever-changing world. Through a series of engaging lessons and heartfelt devotionals, we explored how we can use our God given gifts to serve and glorify him in all that we do.

The Nolen Hills team (from Nolensville, Tennessee), led us through meaningful studies that challenged and inspired us to always remain faithful and steadfast in Scripture, as we face modern complexities and worldly distractions that are ever changing daily. In our breakout groups, we had the opportunity to share personal experiences, reflections, and advice with one another as we continue our walk with Jesus. These discussions reminded us that our journey of faith isn’t one we take alone, but in community, united by love, service, discipleship and fellowship.

Throughout the retreat, we looked to examples in Scripture of our Lord Jesus Christ and faithful servants such as Peter, John, Paul, Naomi, James, Ruth, and many others – we are able to see reflections of our own struggles and triumphs in their stories. Their lives reminded us that God’s grace continues to work through each of us today and will continue as we work towards our infinite goal of eternal life.

Our time at Balmule was truly a blessed few days filled with worship, growth, joy, and connection which helped to strengthen our bonds together and renewed our spirits. Many lasting friendships were formed, and hearts were encouraged to continue striving toward God’s plan with renewed faith and purpose. Speaking on behalf of all of the attendees, we extend our deepest thanks to the Nolen Hills and the Kirkcaldy congregation for their presence, wisdom, and encouragement in making the retreat happen, and to everyone who helped make this retreat possible. Above all, we give thanks to God for his goodness, for bringing us together in such a meaningful way, and for reminding us that through him, we are never alone on this journey of faith.

Amina Kabalo

Family News

Parenting/Family Retreat

The Parenting/Family retreat in October this year was an intimate gathering held at the very comfortable, idyllic, Balmule House in Fife. Those who attended enjoyed an informative time together, not only being reassured as parents but learning and preparing for the next stages that will be encountered on the journey of parenthood.

In addition to strengthening our beliefs and challenging us to be Christ-like in our parenting it was a time of bonding and strengthening our relationships in our own families and with those in attendance. The fellowship that was shared during the weekend was edifying and our souls and stomachs were well fed. We so often are pouring out, serving others, but as we see from

Jesus and his disciples it is important to take time away to be served and refill so we can continue serving in turn. These retreats certainly are a time of renewal and refilling.

There is so much to be gained from attending events like these as worldliness is ever pressing and pulling at us, often creeping in unnoticed. We need to be proactive in seeking times where we can bring our focus back to the Bible and God's design for our families. I encourage all who are blessed with the opportunity to attend future retreats, whatever the theme, to make it a priority to attend. Time devoted to learning, fellowship and God's word is never wasted and always invaluable.

Deborah Chapman

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT NEW CROSS – LONDON PREACHER WANTED

The Church of Christ at New Cross, London, invites applications for a Dedicated Gospel Preacher to serve and labour with the congregation.

We are seeking a man who is:

- Maturing well spiritually by being actively involve in the church for many years.
- Formally educated (Bible college or Sound Doctrinal Knowledge).
- Sound in doctrine and faithful to the teachings of the New Testament.
- Preferably married, maintaining a godly home.
- Experienced, with at least ten (10) years of effective preaching and teaching.
- Capable in pulpit management, with a proven record of leadership and communication.

Applicants should provide:

- References from two (2) congregations within the Churches of Christ.
- Two (2) audio sermon samples.
- A detailed résumé or CV highlighting ministry, educational background and number of years as member of the Church of Christ.

Additional Information:

- A yearly review will be conducted.
- Application deadline: *31st January 2026*.

✉ Email: admin@cocnc.org.uk

☎ Frank Ansah-Brown: +44 7956 746 945

☎ Hogan Udo: +44 7801 494 938

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season...” – 2 Timothy 4:2



AROUND THE WORLD

MALAWI

We are translating and writing tracts in our local language. So far twelve have been written. We then take them for printing and distributing to people in our area.

I recently spoke for the first time in Mzuzu prison, where twenty-eight gathered and two decided to become Christians.

Lungster Mlotha



Lungster with Christians in Malawi

Besides teaching and preaching I have been blessed with opportunities of translating for our online Bible studies on Tuesdays and Fridays, and for lessons presented before and during our Bible lectureship in October.

Our regular activities include:

Sundays – worship and Bible classes in Chisinau, Benderi and Balti. The preaching in Benderi is conducted by Vasili Vladov or me (I visit the saints there every other Sunday); in Balti – by Victor Turcanu or me (I visit the saints there when I don't go to Benderi); in Chisinau – by me.

Tuesdays and Fridays – online Bible studies on the Minor Prophets and Jeremiah, for the saints and visitors from Moldova, Lithuania, and USA conducted respectively by John Gentry and Kurt Norbut, to whom we all are endlessly grateful.

Every other Wednesday – an online Bible study with the saints from the Czech Republic (Krystof Sadek and Jaromir Vokal).

The Christians in Chisinau continue being very active and generous in supporting spiritually and financially Christians in other locations. As always we are very grateful for your continued prayers!

The recent parliamentary elections, which could radically complicate the already fragile situation in Moldova, ended with the victory of the political forces that, to my opinion, are the best among the less harmful (at least under the current circumstances). Not that I invest too much hope in politicians, but I am grateful for that outcome and, of course, for the prayers!

Serghei Corcimaru

MOLDOVA

Greetings from the saints in Moldova!

During the autumn I have been blessed with the following opportunities of presenting lessons/ and other studies for the saints and visitors in Chisinau and all who join online, as well as for the saints and visitors in Balti, and Benderi. I also presented ten lessons on Genesis 1-11 with question & answer sessions, with additional lesson on Genesis and related topics for Krystof Sadek and Jaromir Vokal from the Czech Republic.



Christians in Chisinau

Jenny Jacques (Dunoon)

14th January 1950-1st November 2025

Originally from Aylesbury, Jenny moved to Dunoon in the west of Scotland over forty years ago. There she became a faithful and reliable servant of Christ within the ever-changing, local congregation of believers. Where military families from the nearby American naval base would come and go, Jenny and her family remained a constant and reliable presence, opening their home for the service of Christ, and providing a welcome to those far from their own homes.

I first met Jenny in December 1980, just six days before I committed my life to Jesus. I remember the weekly gatherings at the Jaques family home where we would listen to cassette tapes of recordings of the Scriptures being read. Whenever there was work to be done, Jenny would always be there as a faithful and loyal servant, doing whatever was needed.

When the American military left the area, Jenny kept things going along with a small handful of fellow believers and whoever



else might be able to help. In latter years she worshipped alone with her heavenly Father, joining with others online, singing and communing with the Lord.

Jenny is deeply missed by her four children, Zoe, Samantha, Anne, Clive and their families. The good fight has been fought. The race has been finished. The faith has been kept.

Patrick Boyns
(on behalf of Zoe and the family)

You are invited!
Family Christmas
Carol Service
Sunday 21st December at 7pm
Livingston church of Christ
Garden Place, Livingston
EH54 6RA
Contact: info@churchofchrist.co.uk



APPEALS AND UPDATES

JAMAICA & THE PHILIPPINES

During this past month both the Jamaica and the Philippines have been devastated by floods. People have lost their homes, work places and, saddest of all, their lives.

Because British Christians have given freely to the *Christian Worker* we were able to send off £1,000 to the Philippines, This amount was made even larger by one congregation adding a gift of £300. So £1,300 went to help feed and provide bedding for many people who were served by Philippine Christians working together.

We have not been able to send any funds to Jamaica. We feel it is better to try to help one or possibly two congregations rather than send funds to a larger organisation that we are not directly connected with. We are working on this project.

To this end we invite Christians individually or collectively to help us in yet another project. If you would like to help either Jamaica or the Philippines please send to 'The Christian Worker' account, HSBC account sort code 40-45-03, account number 91058533, and ear mark it with the country of choice.

Trevor Williams

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!

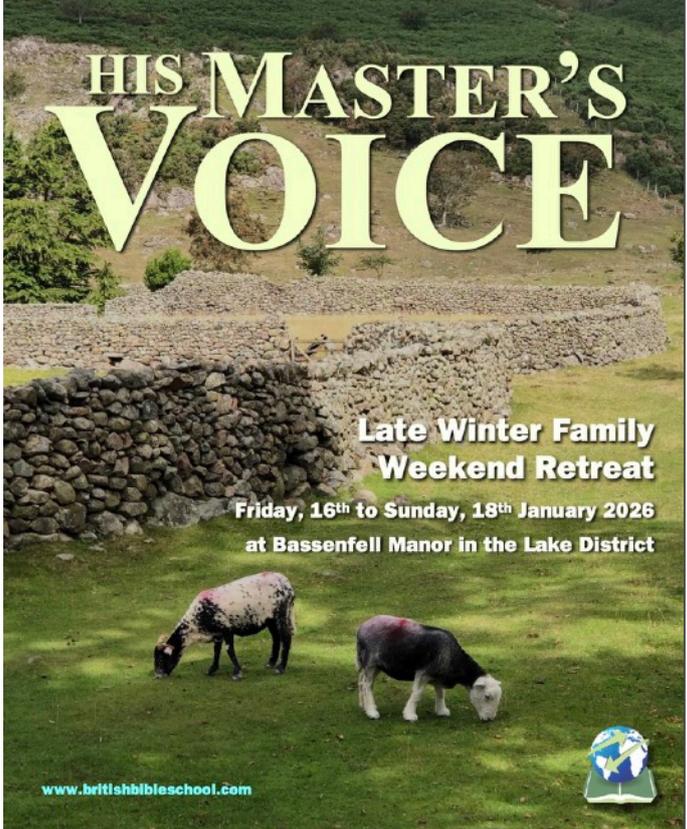
 **Monkston Community Park**
10 Pimlico Court, off Plaistow Crescent, Milton Keynes, MK10 9PX

Register

RSVP: 07483 893786 / 07305 384832

HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Late Winter Family Weekend Retreat
Friday, 16th to Sunday, 18th January 2026
at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District



www.britishbibleschool.com





JESUS' PEACE

Another year draws to a close. When we think of Christmastime our thoughts are often drawn to something most of us long for: peace. Yet, when we look around us, we don't see much peace in the world. We might well ask ourselves, "did Jesus not come to bring peace?" – after all, isn't this what the angels announced?

"Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, 'Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your saviour is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, 'Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours.'" (Luke 2:8-14 CEB)

What an announcement! There was no need to fear because the Messiah had arrived bringing peace. But what is this peace, because we don't see much of it around us?

Notice that the angels said that the peace would be "among those whom he favours" (CEB, NIV, NRSVUE). Other translations deal with it this way: "peace among those with whom he is pleased" (ESV, NASB, NET) or "let there be peace among the people who please God" (NCV). Who is it that God favours? Who is it that God is

pleased with? Who are the people who please God? It is God's people, Christians, those who are seeking to follow and obey him.



It wasn't universal peace throughout the world that the Messiah came to bring – although if the people of the various nations would seek and serve God it would bring peace throughout the world. The peace that Jesus brings isn't like the peace we find in the world, which is fragile at best as we have seen in the past few years. Notice what Jesus said about the peace he brings.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27 NIV)

Jesus' peace is not like the world's because it isn't based on treaties and compromises. The peace Jesus offers is based on him and his sacrifice on the cross for our forgiveness. Because we are forgiven we can have peace – forgiveness brings peace. We have peace with God and, as we learn to forgive each other, we can have peace in our lives. Jesus' peace is based on his death, burial and resurrection and the victory these brought for us all.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

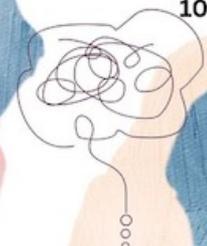
As we end a year in which conflicts continue throughout the world, remember who we are because of Jesus. We are a people that he purchased with his blood (Acts 20:28). Because of this we can be forgiven and be at peace with God. Because of our relationship in Jesus we can have peace with each other. This is the message we need to be proclaiming to the world.

"You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all." (Acts 10:36)

Jon Galloway

NOTICES

Saturday 28th February 2026
10:00am - 3:30pm



Wholesome Thinking

2 Peter 3:1

Speaker: Jason Snethen

Loughborough Fellowship Day

Christian Meeting House, Oxford St, LE11 5DP

CHURCHES OF CHRIST EUROPE
Presents
EUROPEAN BIBLE Lectureship 2026

THEME THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

3rd - 5th April 2026  **Jugendherberge Duisburg Sportpark, Germany**



MORE INFO
+4915122374151 / +4917643482373 / +491786940809
eubiblelectureship@gmail.com

READING Song Fest

'Sing to the Lord a new song!' - Psalm 96:1



SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026
1:00PM - 6:00PM

Reading Church of Christ, Crescent Resource Centre,
Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, RG6 4HB

FOOD PROVIDED!
Please inform us of any allergies or dietary needs.
Please let us know your numbers for catering purposes.
RSVP: readingchurchofchrist@gmail.com
Free parking on site.

camp
Heathcubell

יהוה
MORE THAN A NAME
YHWH

3RD - 10TH JULY 2026
COMPASS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
GLENSHEE • SCOTLAND

"May your name be kept holy!"
Matthew 6:9



DIARY

December

1st – **British Bible School evening class:** “Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah” led by John Griffiths each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks.. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th – **British Bible School evening class:** “Following the Master” led by Patrick Boyns, each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

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.

21st – **Livingston:** Family Carol Service, 7.00 pm, at Garden Place, Eliburn, Livingston EH54 8RA. Contact: info@churchofchrist.co.uk.

January 2026

5th – **British Bible School evening class:** new class led by Patrick Boyns each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

8th – **British Bible School evening class:** “In the Beginning...” (Genesis 1-11) led by Jon Galloway, each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

16th-18th – **British Bible School Winter Weekend Family Retreat.** Venue: Bassenfell Manor, Cumbria. For more information and to book a place visit our website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

31st – **British Bible School evening lecture** by Patrick Boyns, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

February

16th-22nd – **Gemünden, Germany:** Advanced Bible Study Series – Tuesday-Friday ABSS I, Friday-Sunday ABSS II. Contact: abss.gemunden@gmail.com or Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

27th- 28th February – **Kirkcaldy & Hyvots Bank:** Joint gospel meetings – “What This World Needs”, 7,00 pm (Friday in Kirkcaldy and Saturday at Hyvots Bank), speaker: Aubrey Boyns. Contact: Nick Wilson (hnickwilson@icloud.com) or Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

28th – **Loughborough:** Fellowship Day – “Wholesome Thinking”, 10.00 am-3.30 pm, at Christian Meeting House, Oxford Street, Loughborough LE11 5DP. Speaker: Jason Snethen. Contact: Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).

March

23rd-26th – **Double Honour Retreat** in southern Normandy, organised by ‘Double Honor Ministries’. All accommodation and meals provided plus \$150 towards travel. For details: <https://doublehonorministries.com/retreats/>.

28th – **British Bible School evening lecture** by Mark Hill, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

Diary

April

3rd-5th – European Bible Lectureship: “The New Testament Church”. Venue: Jugendherberge Duisburg Sportpark, Kruppstraße 9, Neudorf-Süd, 47055 Duisburg, Germany (near Dusseldorf). Cost: Adult – €75, youth (10-18) – €60, children (6-9) – €40, below 5 – free. Register here: <https://forms.gle/ANp4AexzFdu6JV27>. Contact: eubiblelectureship@gmail.com or +49 15122 374151.

May

30th – British Bible School evening lecture by Steve Whitehead: “Esther”, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

June

20th – Reading: “Song Fest” from 1.00-6.00 pm at the Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 4HB. Food will be provided, please let us know of any allergies. For enquiries please email: readingchurchofchrist@gmail.com.

July

3rd-10th – Camp Heatherbell: “More than a name.” Venue: Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee. Cost: £195. For more information or to be sent an application, contact: admelbarr@gmail.com.

25th – British Bible School evening lecture by Jack Paton, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

September

18th-20th – British Bible School Autumn Weekend Family Retreat. Venue: Letton Hall, Norfolk. For more information and to book a place visit our website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

26th – British Bible School evening lecture by John Griffiths, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

29th-2nd October – European Vision Workshop in Romania (details to be published soon).

October

26th-30th October – British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

November

28th – British Bible School evening lecture by Jon Galloway: “Influential Christians from the Past”, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.



THE FINAL WORD



Immanuel

“You shall call his name Jesus, they shall call him Immanuel.” (Matthew 1:21-23)

We know from Micah 5:2 that the Saviour was to be born in Bethlehem, the hometown of David, the great king of Israel. We are told that the ruler to come would have his origins from of old, from ancient times. Jesus who came was before Micah and after him. He was from the beginning (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-20). Jesus was the Word in the beginning (John 1:1) and was God.

The name ‘Jesus’ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew ‘Joshua’ which means ‘the Lord saves’. Joseph was told that is what Jesus would do, and through his death and resurrection the Christian faith hangs. Without the rejoicing at this birth, we could not rejoice over the death that brings life to all who have faith.

Matthew adds that this all this took place as the prophet had said and quotes from Isaiah 7:14, ‘Therefore the Lord

himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and you will call him Immanuel.’ In this case the name means, ‘God with us’.

So, we put the two passages together and see that Jesus was the saving Lord because God was with the people. It is what Jesus stands for rather than the sounding of his name. God, the Creator, came to save his creation. Those who follow Christ are his and he is theirs. What more joyful relationship could there be? This relationship is closer than husband and wife or parent and child. Jesus was foretold from the time that the story of creation was told and written large in the blood poured out for us on the cross. The effect of Jesus has gone through the ages and enfolds us today in his loving arms.

The question is now to each reader of this article, what do you call Jesus? Prophet, Priest, King, Saviour, Lord, Master,

Friend? Is he **your** Jesus, is he **your** Immanuel? What is he to **you** as an individual? What will **you** tell others about him?

Jesus, for the children you are a gentle friend, for the heavily burdened you are the helpful friend. To the lonely you are the comforting friend, to the sinner you are the forgiving friend. To all you are God with us, the Saviour and our only hope of Heaven. Thank you. Amen.

Trevor



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem