

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of several bright orange daylilies in bloom, with green leaves and buds visible. The title 'the Christian Worker' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font at the top. The word 'the' is smaller and positioned above 'Christian'. Below 'Christian' is a horizontal line of blue silhouettes representing various people: a person sitting, a family of four, a person with a stroller, a group of four people, and a person with a backpack. To the right of these silhouettes, the word 'Worker' is written in a larger font. Below 'Worker' is the word 'MAGAZINE' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font.

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

July 2025 • Vol 57 No 7

**Have your say! –
request from
editors**

A new Christian in Brandon

Articles to enlighten us

Updates and further appeals

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Front cover and above: Summer flowers in Netherburn.



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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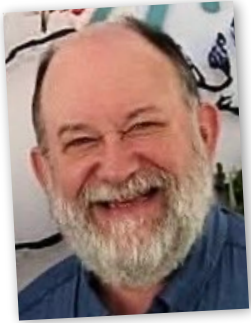
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All articles and news items should be sent to **Trevor Williams** by the 21st of each month. Late items may be accepted until the 25th. Publication is the first day of each month.

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



Who am I?

June is a month of anniversaries for me. Arlene and I observed our 44th wedding anniversary; my parents' anniversary was also in June – if still living they would have been married for 69 years. A big one for me is that I've now lived in the UK for forty years.

Forty years – that is roughly 62% of my life thus far. That always leads to the question: am I American or Scottish? My passport says 'United States of America' but my residency for the past forty years has been Scotland. I still think in some ways as an American; in other ways my outlook is more British (with a Scottish slant). It often leads me to question "who am I?"

With the world focussed so much these days on immigration perhaps this is a pertinent question. According to the UK Home Office I am a "resident alien" – that almost makes me sound like someone from another planet. I guess I could be looked on as an immigrant – I'm not sure people realise that when they speak against immigration they are including people like me, too.

Society likes to pit one group against another: citizens or immigrants, English or Scottish (or Welsh or Irish), men or women, older or younger. We are not really looked on as individuals but as representing a particular group. But most can't be classified so easily. This has been going on for millennia. We even read about these manmade divisions in scripture.

"Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."
(Colossians 3:11 NIV)

The divisions listed are those that were present in the world inhabited by the Christians in the first century: Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, Roman or barbarian, slave or free. Paul's point is that in Jesus these false divisions disappear. Together we are God's chosen people (Colossians 3:12). This means we all have equal access to God.

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:26-29)

Rather than emphasising our earthly nationality and trying to emphasise that one is better than any other, we should be emphasising our common heritage in Christ and our common citizenship.

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." (Philippians 3:20-21)

So – who am I? Quite simply, I'm a Christian; I'm a misplaced citizen of heaven trying to get back home. If we can view ourselves in these simple terms and realise that is who we all are no matter where we were born there is hope that we can be unified because of the common ancestry we all have: we share one Father and we live with one hope.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

A family of Christians!

Cuinnton O'Donovan was immersed into Christ on Saturday, 14th June. He was immersed in the sea at Gorleston. Cuinn is the fourth generation in his family to become a Christian – his family worships with the Brandon congregation.

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

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 ...



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

New studies online

We began a new 'round' of classes yesterday evening in our Online Evening Classes. These new series will continue for twelve weeks.

Each Monday evening **Mark Hill** will be leading a study on "Job's Questions/God's Answers", looking at some of the questions Job asked and the answers that God gave.

On Thursday evenings **Jon Galloway** will present a study on "Listen to what the Spirit says". This will be looking at the letters Jesus sent to the seven congregations in the Roman province of Asia, the struggles they were going through, and lessons we can learn from these letters.

Our next Study Weekend will take place in East Kilbride on 23rd-24th August and 6th-7th September. The first weekend will once again look at evidence for God, Jesus and the Bible while the second weekend will look in more detail at what the Bible says about Creation and the Flood as well as comparing the Theory of Evolution with what science actually says. We have received more bookings for this particular series of lessons

– Mark and I would have happy to present these at any congregation.

Our Autumn Weekend Family Retreat will once again be at Letton Hall in Norfolk in September, arriving on Friday, 12th September, and departing after lunch on Sunday, 14th September. Come for a weekend of good study and good fellowship. You can book your place on our website (www.britishbibleschool.com) – there is also information about how to pay.

Don't forget our weekly "Something to Think About". This devotional is released each Sunday on YouTube and contains a challenging thought based on a text of scripture. Our YouTube channel also has recordings of the evening classes that have been taught.

We exist to help Christians in the UK to grow in their faith – let us now how we can help you or the congregation where you are.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

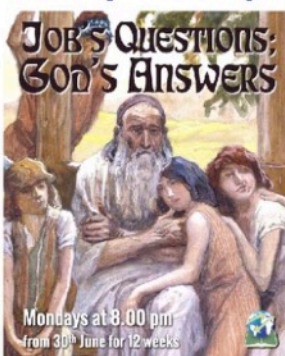
Online Bible Classes

with the

British Bible School

For twelve weeks commencing
30th June 2025

Mondays at 8.00 pm

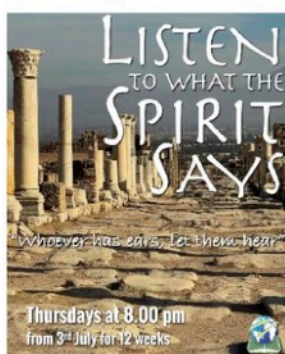


While the book of Job is generally viewed as addressing human pain and suffering, this may not be its sole focus. Though prevalent, the book doesn't offer a definitive solution to the problem.

In this study we will focus on Job's questions and how they are answered by God.

Presenter: Mark Hill

Thursdays at 8.00 pm



Inspired by a trip to western Turkey, visiting sites associated with the seven congregations of Revelation.

This series will examine the messages of Jesus to early assemblies of believers going through various struggles, and lessons from Christian communities in other nearby towns.

Presenter: Jon Galloway

Also: weekly podcast on YouTube ...



This is a growing collection of 'Thoughts' aired on a weekly basis, each one lasting around 20 minutes. Each episode stands alone and is generally based around a passage of Scripture – aimed to give us something to think about.

These are pre-recorded and then 'premiered' at 10 o'clock each Sunday morning on our YouTube channel, where they remain accessible. See weekly link published on our Facebook page.



CW UPDATE INFORMATION

WEBSITE REVAMP

Emmanuel has been giving his time to redevelop our website www.churchesofchrist.co.uk. Please let us know what you would like to see included on our website so we can have good ideas to send to him.

CHECK YOUR CONGREGATION'S LISTING

We need everyone to check and recheck their congregation details. Are they accurate? Have your contacts been changed? Have your meeting times changed?

Recently we had visitors from another country attempt to find a congregation but it had closed down four years ago. Please also check the listing for other congregations that you think may not have updated their details recently.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE CHRISTIAN WORKER?

Do you like the CW? Do you like what is being included? What else should we include?

We have received requests for more articles, but we want to invite others to think about this and share their thoughts. I believe most congregations are well informed on scriptural matters but there are issues alive today that we need to think about; for example:

How do we react to people who want to change their sex or dress and act like the opposite sex?

How can we encourage our young people to remain faithful or how can we bring them back to the Lord?

How do we deal with schools that impose Darwin's Theory of Evolution as well as other ideologies on our children?

How can we better look after our faithful older people through dementia?

How do we deal with financial troubles?

The list is endless...we need both male and female Christian writers who can think through these, address them, and ask questions.

Please let us know.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE DEADLINE!

The last few months we have received information and notices about events very late (the day before publication). The deadline for articles and notices is the **20th of each month**. If it arrives after this please do not be disappointed if it is not included. Time has to be spent each month compiling the magazine from the information received, then it is sent to our fantastic team of volunteer proofreaders. Although we publish the first day of each month, days are spent in putting it all together so it can be published on time. When you know you have an event planned **please** submit the information and graphic ASAP so we can insure that it fits into the magazine. Thank you!

Trevor and Jon

Three Minute Videos by Tony Coffey

Impressing Jesus

<https://youtu.be/sK41qqpLa1I>

The Effect of Mercy

<https://youtu.be/L9AGTmfu1Qg>

Touched by Jesus

<https://youtu.be/DyZr-jkhS1c>



REMEMBER THE WRATH OF GOD

In the comfort zone of forgiveness, brought about by the enormity of God's grace, the Christian could be in danger of forgetting God is still the God of wrath. The wrath of God is ever present on all who disobey him in unbelief. Christians live in obedience and worship, which is rooted in their appreciation of being saved from the wrath of God, which exists on all unrighteousness.

That appreciation can wear thin over time, causing praise and thankfulness to become routine, having lost sight of the danger from which one was rescued. If firefighters risked their lives to save someone from certain death, would that person simply say, with no personal expression of thankfulness, "Well, that's what they get paid for." Could that be how some come to view the sacrifice of the son of God? They simply follow what the Bible states needs to be done, but with little depth of understanding of the magnitude of what is happening and the cost involved.

Why struggle with sin and the curse of the weakness of the flesh in a constant battle if not out of thankfulness for a new life, where we were once under wrath, but now are adopted as a child? Why all the effort

and sacrifice of repentance, to guard one's salvation, if not both in gratitude and also fear of God's wrath if found to have treated his sacrifice as a common thing?

"For if we are wilfully sinning after we received the full knowledge of the truth, then a sacrifice is left no more for us concerning sins, but a certain fearful expectancy of judgment and a zeal of fire being about to eat the adversaries. Anyone, having rejected the Law of Moses, dies without mercies upon the word of two or three witnesses. How-much worse punishment, do you think he will be deemed worthy of for having trampled down the Son of God, and having deemed the blood of the covenant in which he was made holy as common, and having insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know the one who said, 'Vengeance is for me. I will be repaying, says the Lord.' And again, 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:26-31)

Therefore, as Paul once penned, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work, on behalf of his delight. Do all things without murmurings and arguments, in-order-that you might become blameless and harmless children of God, flawless in the midst of a crooked and

perverse generation, among whom you appear as illuminations in the world" (Philippians 2:12-15 – see also 1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Pass judgment on our thoughts, choose words with care, sing praises with meaning and pray for one another. Be ready to share one another's burdens so that fellowship is living and vibrant in one's soul (Galatians 6:1-10).

Anthony Spicer





FAMILY NEWS

YANN & RITA OPSITCH

Yann and Rita are making plans to live and work in France a good part of the year. In their most recent visit to France last autumn they travelled to several cities and found that people were eager to talk about God and the Bible. This is an important change since the pandemic. Statistics have shown that the younger generations in France (ages 18 to 35) are seeking answers in spirituality and the Christian heritage.

Yann was immersed into Christ in June 1970. He has been an evangelist since 1972 after graduating from the North Ireland Bible School. He is a Bible teacher, author and translator and has helped being new congregations of Christians. His wife Rita is also of a Catholic background – she became a Christian in California at the age of 18. Two years later she began helping the Christians in Marseille and supported herself by working in the family business. She has worked in campaigns throughout French speaking Europe. She has great experience in personal evangelism and teaching of women.

For the past twenty years they have worked at Abilene Christian University in various roles. Yann served as a professor of French as well as translating and writing Bible courses, Christian books and commentaries. He currently teaches the Bible using the program *l'École du Maître* (School of the Master), started by Doyle Kee while he worked in Geneva. Students are from Africa, Europe, Quebec and other French-speaking areas in the world.

Yann has translated into French a great number of the courses now online with French WBS. <https://worldbibleschool.org/fr/>.

Yann & Rita Opsitch
yopsitch@gmail.com

EDMONTON (LONDON)

We would like to bring to your attention that Edmonton congregation has started organising a Food Bank at our new building. The Food Bank is open three times a week (Thursday, Friday and

Saturday), between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm. If you know of anyone who lives in or around Edmonton let them know about this so they can take advantage of it if needed.

Venue: 201a Bury Street, Edmonton, London, N9 9JE

Time: 11.00 am-2.00 pm

Days: Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week.

Ofori Dwumah

APPEALS: CAN YOU HELP?

With the Trump regime in America, we are hearing from Ukrainian Christians that they fear they will be deported from the United States. We are being asked if there are homes that they could go to here in the UK. Many Christians reached out and helped when Russia invaded and I want to say thank you to everyone who helped, but we may need to help out some more. Please let me know if you can help or know of someone who may be able to help. Thank you.

Since last months' appeal for school bags for the Philippines we were able to send £800 from the CW and we know others sent directly. Thank you so much. Many do not realise in missions there is always something else that is needed and never a source of funds to get going unless you give. We praise God for the generosity of willing Christians.

£500 has also been sent to Ivan Prokopchuk in Ukraine who works with children. These young people are seeing things which they should not, often losing sleep because of bombing raids and sometimes losing friends and family. Please keep praying for peace.

For the past three months we have been sharing news that Naeem Sabir in Pakistan is needing more financial aid. Christians are often persecuted in Pakistan and life is always lived in difficulty. Please help if you can.

Trevor Williams



ONE DAY WHEN I WAS YOUNG...

When I was young no-one ever paid any attention to me. I was neglected. People passed me by...and looked the other way.

At times...I was hungry...and when it was warm they didn't give me a drink.I used to get sand in my eyes...when the winds were blowing.

Visitors, ignored me too. Some, laughed at me...but they didn't care...Casting me off..as no good.

I didn't make a fuss...or go where I shouldn't. I was lonely. No one spoke.

Then...one day...I heard some people talking. They were telling some kind of story...I tried to listen.

Then...I began to see more people... walking...together and chatting loudly. Then a large crowd began to gather...

The people sounded happy. People in the crowd...were straining to see who was around.

Then...a man came by. He was in a hurry... he returned...The crowd got very excited...

One of my relations was being marched along the street...The people were at frenzy point. Some one...touched my back slipped a rope round my neck...and walked off.

I had to stop...A man...very gentle... climbed on my back.. He made himself comfortable...

Then...the people in the crowd...went to get hold of palm Branches...and started to lay them down...on the road...making a sort of pathway...

Then...they broke out...and with one voice...shouting "Hosanna, HOSANNA TO God...in the Highest. Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna...

The Crowd cheered even more...I heard the name of a *JESUS*...Picture that...Jesus... riding on MY back...

Praise God...for the COLT!

Geoff Sheldon

Geoff Sheldon is now house bound but has a deep love for Jesus. He sends out some of his thoughts to anyone who would care to read them.

Contact him at:
geoff.sheldon@yahoo.com.





WILLIAM TYNDALE

The man who translated the Bible into English was burnt alive at the ridiculous young age of 42 years old, for his efforts (You can find this information in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, which is freely available on the internet). Nearly 500 years ago William Tyndale, fondly called the 'Father of the English Bible' was strangled and burned at the stake after being tried and convicted of heresy and treason.

HIS OFFENCE

His offence was that he translated the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures into English. That we have a Bible in a language we can read is largely due to his labours, and many of the very phrases you read in it retain the flavour of his understanding of Greek and Hebrew.

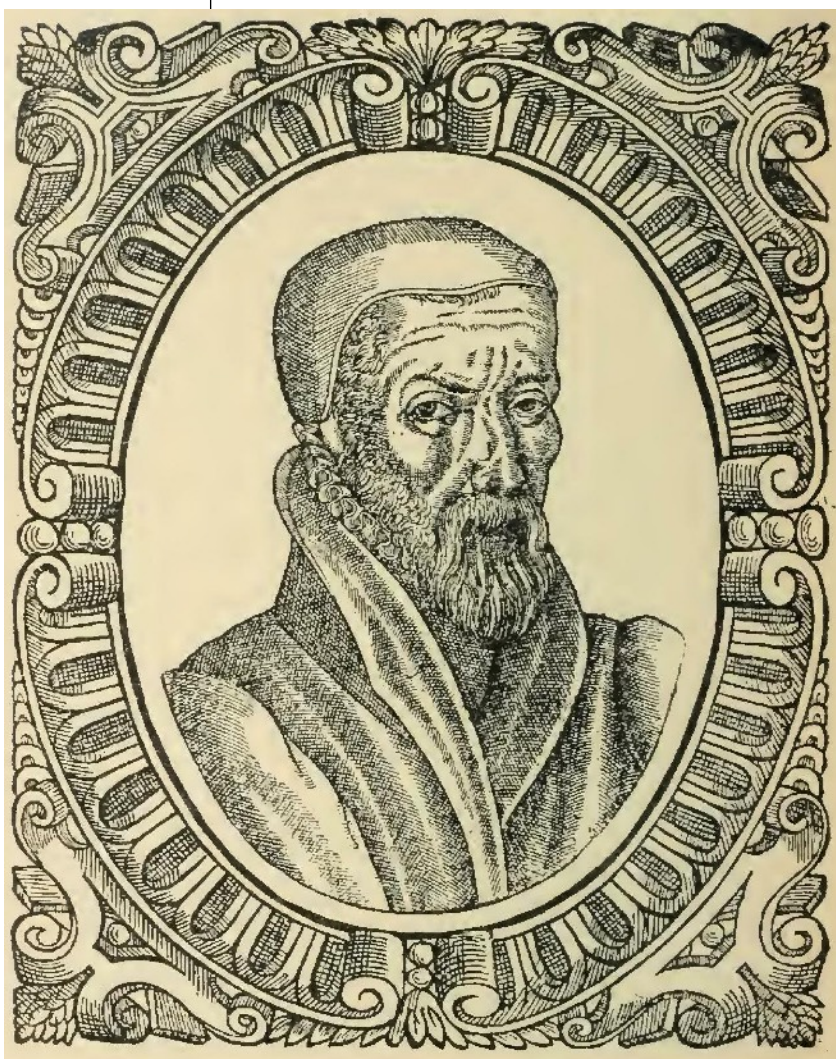
A graduate of Oxford and Cambridge, Tyndale had a powerful desire to make the Bible available even to the common people in England, in order to correct the 'Biblical ignorance of the priests.' At one point Tyndale told a priest, "If God spare my life, ere many years pass, I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scriptures than thou dost."

Today, 90% of the King James Version of the Holy Bible and 75% of the Revised Standard Version are from the translation made by Tyndale, a man to whom you owe more than you'll ever know.

A nice dream, but how was Tyndale to accomplish his task when translating the Bible into English was *illegal* at the time? He went to London to ask Bishop Tunstall if he could be authorised to make an English translation of the Bible, but the Bishop would not grant his approval.

However, Tyndale would not let the disapproval of men stop him from carrying out what seemed so obviously God's will. With encouragement and support of some merchants, he decided to go to Europe to complete his translation, then have it printed and smuggled back into England. In 1524 Tyndale sailed for Germany. In Hamburg, he worked on the New Testament, and in Cologne he found a printer who would print the work. However, news of Tyndale's activity came to an opponent of the Reformation who had the press raided.

Tyndale himself managed to escape with the pages already printed and made his way to the German city of Worms where the New Testament was soon published. Six thousand copies were printed and smuggled into England. The Bishops did everything they could to eradicate the Bibles. Bishop



William Tyndale

Tunstall had copies ceremoniously burned at St. Paul's; the Archbishop of Canterbury bought up copies to destroy them. Tyndale used the money to print improved editions! He continued hiding among the merchants in Antwerp and began translating the Old Testament while the King's agents searched all over England and Europe for him.

A copy of Tyndale's *The Obedience of a Christian Man* fell into the hands of King Henry VIII, providing him with the rationale to separate the Church in England from the Roman Catholic Church in 1534. In 1535, Tyndale was arrested and jailed in the castle of Vilvoorde outside Brussels for over a year. His work was denounced by authorities of the Roman Catholic Church and Tyndale himself was accused of heresy.

Tyndale, 42 was finally found by an Englishman who pretended to be his friend but then turned him over to the authorities. After a year and a half in prison, he was brought to trial for heresy – *for believing, among other things, in the forgiveness of sins and that the mercy offered in the gospel was enough for salvation*. In August 1536, he was condemned and was executed (burned alive at the stake) publicly on 6th October 1536, in a small town in Belgium. As he burnt to death, Tyndale reportedly said, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes."

WAS HIS PRAYER ANSWERED?

Yes! The prayer was answered first, in part, when three years later, in 1539, Henry VIII required every parish church in England to make a copy of the English Bible available to its parishioners. Today, Tyndale's prayer is fully answered, not only are the King's eyes opened, but the Bible is a universal instrument. In 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew significantly from Tyndale, as well as from translations that descended from his.

Today it's hard to imagine the world without an English Bible, and there could now be as many as

900 different translations of the scriptures in English in existence – but before Tyndale it had never happened. He's known as the Father of the English Bible, since the later, epochal work of the King James Version of the Bible largely consisted of Tyndale's scholarly and accessible translations.

The English language, as with scholarly understanding, continues to evolve – and so the work of Bible translation continues today. But without the courage and genius of men like Tyndale, who challenged the status quo before them and died for doing so, it might never have been possible.

This article is copied from and available on the internet. John Griffiths is hoping to present a lecture on William Tyndale in September in the BBS's evening lecture series.

Trevor Williams



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

SONG FESTIVAL & FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND
21-22nd 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



APPEAL UPDATES

UKRAINE UPDATE

God created people with an incredible ability: to adapt. Over time, even the hardest conditions begin to feel normal. Remember COVID? It felt like the world had come to a stop. But now, looking back, I sometimes think, “Bring that time back. It was easy and carefree.” Now, things are different.

Last night, we barely slept. There were explosions, flashes in the sky, and thick black smoke floating over the city. It wasn’t even scary anymore. The only thought was, “Someone’s life just changed forever.” And that’s sad. More and more often, the hard news touches people we know personally.

I heard recently from a former resident of the orphanage whose brother had gone to the front and had been wounded several times. Then the family got the news...he was gone. I never imagined this war would take the lives of people we knew by name.

Honestly, I didn’t want to write about war. Because war is evil. Because we’re all tired of it. But this is the reality we live in. Still, life goes on.

We keep meeting with the children, sharing joy and laughter. And, even now, more children keep joining us. During the summer, we’ll slow down a little — many kids will go to visit grandparents in the countryside.

What’s definitely not standing still is our family. We’ve welcomed our third child — a daughter named Mira. Katya and I are overjoyed and wanted to share this happiness with you. Mira is already one month old, and she’s smiling at life with us.

Thank you for your support, your prayers, and for remembering us. Please keep praying for us.

Ivan Prokopchuk and family

MANDALAY UPDATE

Earthquake relief mission continues this week in Mandalay with the distribution of rice, cooking oil, and especially the preaching of the gospel. Introducing Jesus to people who do not know the him and what he did on the cross to bear the sins of all people is the best gift we can give.

The team are loading up and ready after a couple weeks of rest and recovery following their tireless efforts to help Mandalayans recover from their suffering.

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:15

In thankful partnership with MARCH for Christ and our generous donors from congregations in the Philippines, UK, Singapore and the USA.

Gigie Carranza



NOTICES

Men's Workshop 2025



Organised by
Church of Christ, Edmonton, London UK

Youth Empowerment

(Ecclesiastes 12:1 & Proverbs 20:29)



Main Speaker: Brother Patrick Boyns
(Principal, British Bible School)

Discussion Topics

The Youth as the Future of the Church. Leader Shadrack Appiagyei (Berlin, Germany)

Living as the light of this world. Leader: James Obeng (Edmonton, London)

Not conforming to the patterns of this world. Leader: James Tembe (Stratford, London)

Date: Saturday, 12 July 2025 Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Venue: 201A Bury Street, Edmonton N9 9JE

Contact: Deacon Maxwell Adu-Yeboah - +44 7983 435054



DOCUK & I'NTL Ladies Ministry

4th Anniversary Programme

Date: Saturday 19th July 2025

Time: 1:30pm to 4:30pm UK Time

Topic: That We All May Be One - (John 17: 17 - 21)

Speaker: To be confirm

Meeting ID: 681 623 4697 Passcode: DOCUKIm21

Email Contact: Docuklm2021@gmail.com

YOUTH GATHERING 2025

CHURCH OF CHRIST, DERBY



THEME:



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/3ybnk7e7>



Register here

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



DIARY

July

3rd – **British Bible School evening class:** “The Letters to the Seven Congregations” led by Jon Galloway, each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks on Zoom. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th-11th – **Camp Heatherbell:** Theme – “Transformed.” Cost = £185. Venue: Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee Lodge, Blairgowrie. Contact: Adam Barr (07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744), or email info@campheatherbell.org.uk for more information or to request an application.

7th – **British Bible School evening class:** “Job’s Questions/God’s Answers” led by Mark Hill each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks on Zoom. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

10th-28th July – **La Maison de Perrine, France:** “Christian Faith and European Culture”, a university-level course open to all adults. For more information: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J0zjg8-nJzS-pTudD4i65Hk_SGQIOJoVOpzess61OwA/edit?tab=t.0

12th – **Edmonton (London):** Men’s Workshop – “Youth Empowerment”, 9.00 am-4.00 pm; speakers: Patrick Boyns, Shadrack Appiagyei, James Obeng, and James Tembe. Venue: 201A Bury Street, Edmonton N9 9JE. Contact: info@edmontonchurchofchrist.org.uk or Maxwell Adu-Yeboah (07983 435054).

19th – **Livingston:** Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm, at Garden Place, Eliburn, Livingston EH54 8RA. Contact: info@churchofchrist.co.uk.

19th – **Daughters of Christ UK:** 4th Anniversary Programme – “That We All May Be One”, 1.30-4.30 pm, on Zoom – Meeting ID: 681 623 4697, Passcode: DOCUKlm21. Contact: Doculkm2021@gmail.com.

19th – **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.

25th-27th – **Edmonton (London):** European Youth Lectureship – “Remember the Creator in the Days of Your Youth”. Venue: St Mary’s Church of England High School, Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, EN7 5FB. Speakers: Liam Bates, Blessen Opoku, and Joshua Agyemang. Contact: Joshua Agyeman (07780 917590).

26th – **Huddersfield:** Lectureship, 11.00 am, at Northfield Hall, 40 Norfolk Avenue, Huddersfield HD2 1GS.

27th-1st August – **Camp Tayside:** Contact: Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902 or a.boyns@gmail.com) for more information or to request an application.

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).

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/1Zl6wPFlBXwdGenMwS6GiVPlxZjqKOnYebjFakw7MD7U/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.

Diary

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.

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.

29th – British Bible School evening lecture by John Griffiths on William Tyndale, 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.

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

October

4th – Loughborough: 184th Anniversary Meeting, 6.30 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

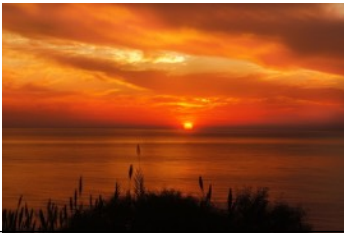
3rd-7th November – British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor – “Post-Exilic Israel”. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

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

21st-22nd – 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 FINAL WORD



Getting back to the cross

Those among our fellowship have a deep love for the study of the scriptures that we call The Bible. We believe that what is written is what Christians are to believe and teach and anything outside of the writing is not the direct Word of God, even though they may be worthy of being read. But there is also a feeling amongst some Christians that we are the only interpreters of Scripture, and that we have the ability to assure others that what we teach is the only correct interpretation.

I overheard a comment recently when a Christian was asked the question, 'When did your church start?' The reply came back, 'AD 33'. Now the ordering of early years can be a little difficult. We do not know exactly when Jesus died, though I am pleased that our calendars look back to the approximate time of his birth.

When we look at scripture we do not have the right to superimpose our thoughts into them. The church certainly was started on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles. The Kingdom of God however started a long time before that; God has always been King. However our Bibles, as a unit, did not suddenly appear in book form one day and were readily available to all. It took years for the Hebrew as well as the Greek writings to be combined – there are many references by the second century of New Testament

passages
being quoted.

What went
from Hebrew
and Greek
was
eventually
translated
into Latin
and many of

the early translators into English had to rely on that Latin translation. Of course, the English spoken in the 1400's was quite different to what we speak today. I have had the privilege of listening to and reading the stories of Jesus for over seventy years and they constantly amaze me. When we talk about when did "our" church start?" we may well reply that we do our best to follow New Testament teaching but there is no direct line back to AD 33 for anyone.

What is of vital importance in our study of Scripture is that we need to read this sacred text with the picture of the cross in our minds. It is all about the Saviour. All things look toward the cross and all things look back to the crucifixion. We may feel that we are theologically correct but if our speech and way of life does not demonstrate that we have died to self and live for Christ, then we are theologically wrong!

Our faith is based on Jesus, not congregational practices. Our love must flow as the blood of Christ flowed from the cross. Over the years there have been discussions on hat wearing for the sisters, cups on the communion table, what sort of bread is suitable in communion, can sisters pitch the start of hymns, or what Bible is the correct version? The questions go on and on and we forget the cross. May our discussions together be sweet and wholesome speaking the words of truth in love.

"May you have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled with the measure of the fullness of God."
(Ephesians 3:18-19)

Trevor

