

the **Christian Worker** MAGAZINE



July 2026 • Vol 58 No 7

**Wembley
celebrates 65
years!**

Four new Christians!

**New congregation in
Essex**

Thoughts on marriage

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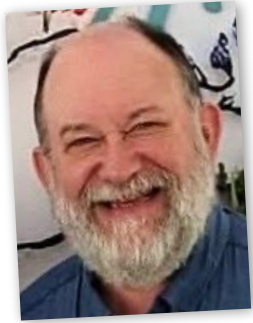
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To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover and above: summer flower in Scotland



Kernels from Corinthians

Are we growing in Christ?

If we were asked what the first letter we have to the Corinthian Christians is about, the most likely replies would be ‘unity’ or ‘division’. While those are correct answers they only scratch the surface of the real problem – the lack of unity was only a symptom of a much deeper issue.

Paul had been informed by a visiting household from the congregation in Corinth about what was happening there but the news he received was not encouraging. There was “division”; they were not “united by the same mind and purpose”; there was quarrelling. Although it is quite easy to shake our heads and think how badly fractured it was in Corinth, if we are honest those characteristics still affect our modern congregations.

All of this had resulted in their dividing into factions, aligning with a particular apostle, teacher or even Christ himself.

“Now I mean this, that each of you is saying, ‘I am with Paul,’ or ‘I am with Apollos,’ or ‘I am with Cephas,’ or ‘I am with Christ.’ Is Christ divided? Paul wasn’t crucified for you, was he? Or were you in fact baptised in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:12-13 NET)

This, by the way, is not talking about denominations – this is talking about Christians fracturing over popular teachers: Paul, Apollos, Peter, or even Jesus (although it could have been that some were trying to remain true to the Messiah). Again, we should not be quick to point fingers at what was happening in Corinth, because this also happens today. I still hear people basing their beliefs on well known teachers or writers rather than the living word of God. It is always

worth reading books by good Bible scholars but we must be prepared to examine their writings in conjunction with Scripture because these authors are human and can be wrong. We must always align what we believe with what we find revealed in the pages of scripture.

As I said, the real problem was not division but this was a symptom of something more serious. What was the real problem?

“So, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but instead as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. In fact, you are still not ready, for you are still influenced by the flesh. For since there is still jealousy and dissension among you, are you not influenced by the flesh and behaving like unregenerate people? For whenever someone says, ‘I am with Paul,’ or ‘I am with Apollos,’ are you not merely human?” (1 Corinthians 3:1-4 NET)

The real problem was a lack of growth in Christ. They couldn’t handle serious Bible teaching, still needing to be taught the basics. They were more influenced by the world around them than they were by Jesus.

What was the solution? Stop being “self-deceived” (3:18). Realise what we don’t know and then spend more time in God’s word so we can grow to be more like Jesus.

It is the same today. If we are grounded in God’s word we would not be arguing amongst ourselves or dividing over issues; Paul said “imitate me in imitating Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1) – we must become more like Jesus.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!



New Christian in Northampton!

On Sunday, 21st June, our new sister, **Georgina** was baptised into Christ. Having been invited to worship by her friend Charity she asked to study further. It was quickly apparent through her own reading Georgina already knew what was required of her. We rejoice at her new birth.

Mark Hill



New Christians in Loughborough!

The Christians meeting at Oxford Street, Loughborough, are pleased to announce three who recently were immersed into Jesus. The Lord has added the following to his body: **Rachel Baum** (4th April), **Minisha Patel** (21st May) and **Dylan Smith** (31st May).

We give thanks to the Lord for his work in their lives. Please keep them in your prayers.

Jason Hill



Wembley celebrates 65 years

On 11th May 1961 a group of eleven Christians met for the first time in a rented hall on the High Road in Wembley. Over the next few years their number grew and they acquired a property at 92 Barnhill Road, Wembley, to which was added an auditorium extension. This building was formally opened on 14th June 1966, and the congregation has met there ever since.

On Saturday 6th June 2026 those currently part of the Wembley congregation, along with visitors and friends from other congregations (including Reading, Bristol, Brandon, Stratford, and Lewisham) gathered to celebrate these two anniversaries and to thank God for all that he has done and blessed us with over these past years.

The theme for the day was 'One Body in Christ.' Encouraging lessons were presented by Sydney Lewis (from

the Lewisham congregation), who spoke on 'One Body, Many Members,' and Vince O'Donovan (from the Brandon congregation) who spoke on 'Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit.' We also enjoyed an uplifting time of praising God in song, and were challenged with a Bible quiz. The variety of food and refreshments provided was wonderful and met our physical needs. Two people were present who had been at the opening of the building in 1966, young children at the time:



The opening of the building, Wembley, 14th June 1966



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

BBS Charity AGM report

An Annual General Meeting of any organisation is concerned with several main items: what has been accomplished during the past year, what is planned for the coming year, a look at the finances, and an appointment (or reappointment) of charity trustees. When the current Charity Trustees met with the teachers and Friends of the Bible School on Saturday, 9th May, in Northampton, these were the points that were considered.

Jack Paton, chairman of the Charity Trustees, highlighted that Bible teaching continues weekly in the Zoom evening classes as well as study weekends held throughout the country throughout the year and the residential study week, held each autumn. In addition to these Evening Lectures on topics of interest continued last year and the 'Something to Think About' Podcast has been well-received.

Planning for the coming year included implementing a new way forward with a 'mentoring programme' as well as continuing to capitalise on the teaching that is already being accomplished. The website

is in serious need of a re-vamp and plans are being made for that to be done this year. All were reminded that all the studies that are offered are for anyone interested, both male and female, and also including those outside our fellowship.

Financially the School continues to be solvent, with monthly donations coming in from the Friends of the Bible School.

In accordance with the BBS Charity constitution, two of the three Charity Trustees needed to step down – those serving as Trustees going into the AGM were Jack Paton, Jon Galloway, and Mark Hill, with Patrick Boyns serving as an *ex officio* trustee as principal of the school. Jon and Mark stepped down and were then reappointed, along with two new trustees: Andrew Morphet (from Northampton) and David Murray (from Aberdeen) bringing the number to six.

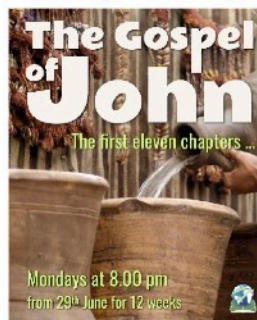
Those who are involved with the school were commended for their continued work.

Jon Galloway

Online Bible Classes with the British Bible School

For twelve weeks commencing
29th June 2026

Mondays at 8.00 pm

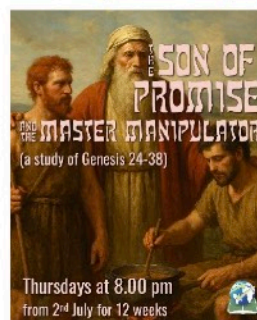


The first half of John's Gospel proclaims Jesus as the incarnate Son of God, the one who reveals the Father, fulfils Israel's deepest hopes, and offers the life of God's kingdom to all who believe.

Through a series of signs and profound teachings, John guides his readers toward a pivotal question ...

Presenter: Jack Paton

Thursdays at 8.00 pm



Isaac and Jacob continue the narrative of God selecting a family to bless all people. Their family reveal how divine purpose directs redemptive history.

Jacob shows God's relentless grace working through broken people, giving hope through answered prayers ...

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.

LESSONS FROM AN OLD, OBSOLETE SAVINGS PASSBOOK

On Friday, 15th May 2026, I finally had in writing the end of an era of something I had during my childhood. Let me explain, and give some background.

I am not sure of the reason, but when we were children, we all had Post Office saving books. These were flimsy blue books, with National Savings Bank written on the front above a graphic of a key with a crown on it, and below was written, “Ordinary Account”. It was originally run by the UK Post Office, and later became the “National Savings”. When we had any spare cash, we would take it, and the book, to a post office, fill in a small form and hand it, the book and the cash over the counter. The person at the counter would put the cash in a drawer and update our passbook with the amount deposited and return the book to us.

This, as children, was our first experience of banking, or running a savings account. I believe I may have used it to save for a school trip, costing over £50.00 (a large sum in the early 1980’s). Later, we would open building society accounts, which had cute money boxes, which we put coins into, then took to the branch who would open and deposit them in our building society accounts – well that was the theory. So, over the years those building society accounts would grow to become proper chequing accounts where we had salaries deposited, until we might change banks or building societies. Whilst my passbook lay somewhat forgotten, still with a nominal sum in it, I

seemed to have carried mine with me for a while although still forgotten.

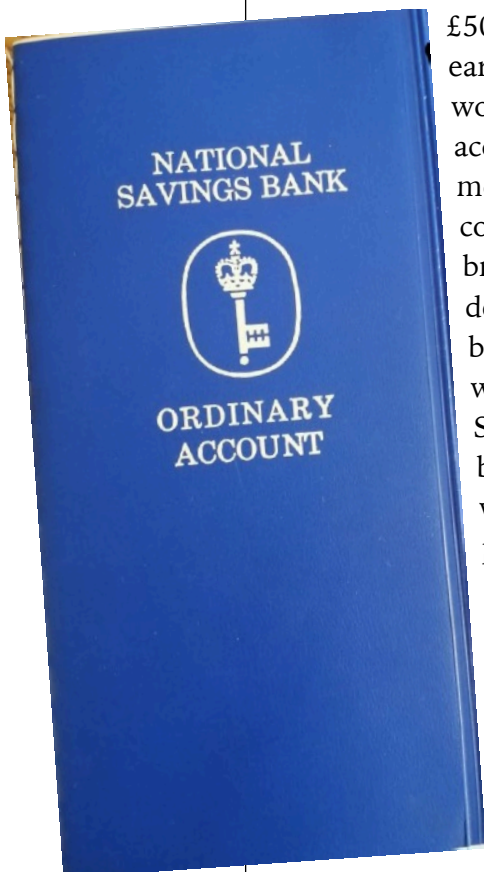
I could make this a parable of how many people may treat Bibles or pocket New Testaments given to them at school or by a well-meaning relative. They might leave them on a shelf and they end up being lost, but still with hidden value in them, namely the Word of God!

In the 2010’s I rediscovered my battered old passbook. I asked at a Post Office what to do with it and was given an impenetrable application form, and there it languished in a plastic folder which I carried in a shopping bag. Then On Friday, 18th May, I was sent the final statement on my old postal account, sorry, NS&I Investment Account, as it was closed for good. As I said at the beginning, this is an end of an era for me that began in childhood.

This put me in mind of the apostle Paul, who references putting away the things of childhood to go onto maturity, although he was talking about how miraculous spiritual gifts were going to pass away. “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.” (1 Corinthians 13:11 NIV)

I was also reminded of the rebuke in Hebrews 5:12-14 – “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

The upshot is that when we become Christians, we are supposed to grow in Christ. This means becoming more mature



Lessons from an old, obsolete savings passbook

and laying aside some of the things from our early years and move on.

An era may have ended for me when I received the letter confirming the closure of what was my old savings account, but now I have gone on to a better, more adult savings account. We therefore move on from childhood Post Office savings

accounts, and Building Society money boxes, to other more adult financial products, such as bank accounts, credit cards, savings and investments. If we can do that with our personal finances, surely, we can do this with our spiritual growth?

Graeme Stickings

Our love and sympathy

Jack Martin, preacher of the gospel in Northern Ireland and latterly in America, passed from this life on 20th June.

Susan Maddeaux née Limb, originally from Eastwood, passed away on 14th June in Canada.

Our love is sent to the Martin family and the larger Limb family.



DISTRACTIONS



Northampton Youth Day

4th July 2026

10am - 4pm

Ages 12+

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

Article on David King

Philip Slate, who worked with congregations in the UK in the 1960s and was a Professor of Missions at Christian Universities in the USA, has written a substantial article on David King, who was influential amongst British congregations in the 1800s. This was published in *Restoration Quarterly*, a scholarly journal in the USA. If anyone would be interested in having a copy of this article (pdf), contact Trevor or Jon.



FAMILY NEWS

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, ESSEX

I am writing to share some wonderful news with the readers of the *Christian Worker* magazine regarding the work of the Lord in Essex. On the weekend of 20th–21st June 2026, the newly planted Southend congregation officially marked its inaugural weekend of serving the Lord.

Our launch began on Saturday afternoon with a dedicated team taking to the streets of Westcliff-on-Sea for intentional evangelism, sharing the good news and connecting with our local neighbours.

This evangelistic momentum carried directly into our Sunday morning, where we hosted our very first worship service at Chase High School. We were blessed with a wonderful turnout. Michael delivered a powerful, timely message titled "*How to Master Your Mind (God's Greatest Gift to*

Man)," challenging us from Numbers 13 and 14 to build this new congregation on a foundation of absolute faith rather than mental limitations. The service concluded with an edifying and collaborative Q&A session, demonstrating a beautiful spirit of unity and shared responsibility among our brothers and sisters.

We are overflowing with gratitude for how the Lord has preserved and blessed this beginning. Moving forward, the church will continue to meet every Sunday at Chase High School, Westcliff-on-Sea (SS0 0RT), with worship being from 10:00 am to 12:45 pm.

We would be deeply grateful if you could share this encouraging milestone with the wider brotherhood to praise God for His faithfulness and to invite continued prayers for the work here in Southend.

Fred Quaye



Church of Christ
EDMONTON (UK)
On Christ The Solid Rock We Stand



Theme:

BAPTISM SAVES

(Acts 2:38)



Speaker:

EVERETT CHAMBERS
(France)



2026 MEN'S WORKSHOP

DISCUSSION TOPICS & LEADERS:

01

Topic 1:
ONE BAPTISM

Leader:
Bro James Tembeh
(Stratford)

02

Topic 2:
BAPTISM INTO CHRIST

Leader:
Bro James Obeng
(Edmonton)



Date:
11th July
2026



Time:
9am – 4pm



Address:
201A Bury Street,
London N9 9JE



CONTACT PERSONS:

Bro Maxwell Adu-Yeboah 07983435054
Elder Charles Banin 07506689396
Elder Anthony Appiagyei 07847321141



You are invited to our Ladies Day at
Adam Street Church of Christ, Ilkeston
Saturday 18th July
10am-4pm

Please contact
Patty Bullock (07867793156)

or

Jennifer Sparks (07526542565)
for more details.

THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

I am sickened when I hear of a couple deciding to live together, no marriage intended. There is little thought of the importance to family, community and God – and yes, I know there are Christians in congregations who are living as husband and wife outside of marriage. The sanctity of this God given gift is either thrown out or not thought of.

Listening to the radio this past weekend I heard Dr Harry Benson discuss marriage and, as the presenter of the programme tried to negate some of his thinking, he stood solidly on the belief that a wedding for the start of a couple being together is the best way forward. For years people have said that marriage is

only a piece of paper – but so is a University Degree, a will, a document of ownership of a house, even a £50 note. But none of these is as important as a marriage license.

When two people, one male and one female, are joined together in the face of family, community, law, church and God then we have a recipe for strength. Marriages are not trial runs to see how they get on together, it is the beginning of a God ordained relationship. Sadly, even with practising Christians, not every marriage works out well but at least the start is good. May we all work together to support our singles so they can have beautiful, happy lives.

Dr Benson has written several books, one of which is *Reliable Love: the Psychology of Marriage and Commitment*. It is currently available as a Kindle pre-order on [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) and will be released on 1st August 2026.

Trevor



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MARRIAGE & PARENTING AS SHARED FORMATION

Building Stable Homes and Shaping Future Generations

TOPICS

- MARRIAGE - GODS WAY IN AN AGE OF REDEFINED VALUES
- BUILDING STRONG CHRISTIAN HOMES IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING CULTURE

10AM - 4PM SAT 29TH AUG, 2026
411 BELLHOUSE RD, S5 0RB



AROUND THE WORLD

MALAWI

Lungster Mlotha, a graduate of the British Bible School, reported that a new congregation now meets in Jandalara, Malawi.

Christians meeting in Jandalara



French speaking (only a few speak Arabic). In **North Africa**: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia – nearly all have Muslim-majority populations. In the rest of **Africa**: Senegal, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Chad, Cameroon, Comores, Mayotte, Djibouti, Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Soudan du Sud, Congo Brazaville, and Réunion.

EDM can be found on social media:
YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/@ecoledumaitrebible>
Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/18jGiDrJZa/>
Website – <https://www.ecoledumaitre.com/>

French speaking Africa – Weekly Bible studies ‘Sharing the Gospel’ and teaching is taking place in the remote town of Luputa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Godefroid, a Christian man has gathered five younger men for a weekly Bible Study. The teaching is done through mobile phones using WhatsApp.

Quebec – The Canadian province of Quebec has a population of 8 million French speakers (most people in Quebec do not speak English). A dozen congregations are scattered throughout this vast Province.

Yann has also written a number of historical novels based on the life and times of Christians in new century. These can be found on Amazon and Yann’s website.

Yann & Rita Opsitch

YANN & RITA OPSITCH – FRENCH MISSIONS

École du Maître – There are five preacher training schools in French-speaking Africa and one training programme in France. Most of the Christians in the French world cannot attend these schools. École du Maître was originally a correspondence course with sixteen advanced biblical courses to help train preachers and prepared by Doyle Kee in the 1980s.

In 2021 Yann Opsitch became the director of the programme. There are presently **115 students taking the online courses** through email, WhatsApp, Zoom, Facebook or YouTube videos. Several French-speaking Christians are helping out with this work.

EDM has a number of students in these French-speaking African countries. Most are Muslim majority nations who are

PHILIPPINE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

It has been three weeks since a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Mindanao in southern Philippines. To date, in Negros Occidental alone, 22,576 families are reportedly affected with almost 2,000

Around the World

houses totally damaged while almost 3,000 are partially damaged.



Malalan office building

Last week, I was in General Santos City to work with the local brethren doing relief work. Most of the video footages shown on television, locally and internationally, were from GenSan. The most horrific was the collapse of a local fast-food building shown live.

We travelled six hours to Jose Abad Santos in Davao Occidental where most of the devastation was experienced. From there we traveled nearly two hours to get to the villages in the mountains nearest the epicentre. Most families are on makeshift tents along the mountain roads fearing aftershocks. Driving up the winding sharp curves could be frightening as we passed huge boulders that fell from up the mountains. That afternoon as we were returning to our home-base, a truckload of relief goods took a wrong turn and slid off the ravine.

Our visit to the local Christians was quite a blessing to all. Food and clean water were scarce. People were already getting sick. With the funds that were initially provided, we were able to buy rice, canned goods, noodles, milk, and tarpaulins (for temporary shelter) for the families we visited. About a thousand food packs were prepared and given out to different villages, primarily to local Christians. We were able to provide funds for the repair of a chapel in one of the mountain villages, and for two identified widows from the church whose houses were totally damaged.



Food packs distribution

There is a typhoon coming. and the situation there will definitely be worse. There was already flooding in the town of Glan, one of the worst hit areas, when heavy rains were reported days after the huge earthquake. Besides food and clean water, the people there are needing blankets, beddings, raincoats, hygiene packs, and, ultimately, funds to help them rebuild their homes.

The people of Mindanao need our prayers and financial support. There are just too many needs there. The Philippine government is not quick with its disaster response. The mountain villages we went to visit are either without any help yet, or very little support at all. They continue to suffer from aftershocks varying from small to big ones everyday. The day we returned to GenSan, there was an intensity 5.6 aftershock that was scary to say the least.

Please help us help them. Please give.

Gigie Carranza

Congregations can, of course, send directly to Gigie or to the Christian Worker account – sorting code 40-45-03 a/c 91058533. On your behalf we have already sent £1,000 to start helping. This money had already been raised by generous brethren sending before hand. Please contact me on 0115 8376895 for more information. Please help!

On behalf of others – thank you! Gifts small and large are important.

Trevor

Around the World

INDIA – SCHOOL BAG PROJECT

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and dream. For many Indian children from underprivileged families, the excitement of a new school year is overshadowed by the lack of basic school necessities.



Something as simple as a school bag and school supplies, which many of us take for granted, can be beyond the reach of struggling parents.

Providing a child with a school bag not only meets a practical need but also gives them confidence, encouragement, and the assurance that someone cares about their future.

Through our **School Bag Project**, every year we provide school bags to needy children in India and remind them that they are loved, valued, and not forgotten. Over the years, this project has touched the lives of **hundreds of children**, helping them

attend school with dignity and motivating them to continue their education.

The cost of sponsoring one school bag with essential supplies is only **Rs. 850 (approximately £7 or \$9)**.

Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring one or more school bags? Your gift, though small, can bring joy to a child, ease the burden on a struggling family, and invest in a brighter future.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of these children. Thank you for your kindness, prayers, and support over the years.

Tony Tyson

tonytyson66@hotmail.com

Mike Glover

mike97glover@gmail.com

Joel Madiki

joelmadiki@gmail.com

A STORY OF FAITH. A LEGACY THAT INSPIRES

BARNABAS

A Historical Novel on the Life and Times of a First Century Christian.

WRITTEN BY
YANN OPSITCH

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FAITH. COURAGE. ENCOURAGEMENT.



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 5th ANNIVERSARY

THEME: FINDING OUR PURPOSE IN CHRIST
(Ephesians 2:10 Jeremiah 29:11)

Speakers: Rachael Adelanwa & Bridget Reyes

Date: Saturday, 18th July 2026

Time: 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

ZOOM LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/jdun263h>
Meeting ID: 6816234697 Passcode: DOCUKlm21

Contacts – Mobile: 07904303347/ 07539547272
Email: docuklm2021@gmail.com

DIARY

July

2nd – **British Bible School** evening class: “The Son of Promise and the Master Manipulator” 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.

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.

4th – **Northampton**: Youth Day – “Distractions”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, for ages 12+. Venue: Christian Fellowship Centre, 2 Shadowfax Drive, Northampton NN3 8DB. Contact: Mark Hill (hillbilly6272@gmail.com).

4th – **Stratford (London)**: Joint Ladies’ Lectureship – “Equipped to Serve”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Venue: St. Francis Catholic Primary School, London E15 1HB or Zoom: Meeting ID: 8540976249 Passcode: sc2020. Contact: Comfort (07365 253029) or Pfunzo (07478 739081).

6th – **British Bible School** evening class: “John’s Gospel, chapters 1-11” led by Jack Paton 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.

11th – **Edmonton (London)**: Men’s Workshop – “Baptism Saves”, 9.00 am-4.00 pm; speaker: Everett Chambers. Venue: 201a Bury Street, Edmonton, London, N9 9JE. Contact: Ofori Dwumah (edmontonchurchofchristuk@gmail.com).

11th – **East Kilbride**: Devotional Evening, 7.00-8.00. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

18th – **Ilkeston**: Ladies’ Day – “Be Holy”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, at Adam Street, Ilkeston. Contact: Patty Bullock (07867 793156) or Jennifer Sparks (07526 542565).

18th – **Daughters of Christ UK**: 5th Anniversary – “Finding Your Purpose in Christ”, 1.30-5.00 pm, on Zoom – <https://tinyurl.com/jdun263h> (Meeting ID: 6816234697 Passcode: DOCUKlm21). Contact: 07904 303347 or 07539 547272; email: docuklm2021@gmail.com.

24th-26th – **European Youth Lectureship**: “The Young Shall Grow”, hosted by the Edmonton (London) congregation. Venue: St Mary’s Church of England High School, Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, EN7 5FB. Ages 18 and above. Speakers: Douglas Attuah, Benjamin Archen, and Calum Hill. Contact: S. Ofori-Dwumah (edmontonchurchofchristuk@gmail.com).

25th – **Liverpool**: Gospel meeting, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

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.

August

2nd-7th – **British Bible Camp**: bookings will open at 12.00 am on 16th February 2026. Camper application form: <https://tinyurl.com/3zs2crk2>. We are currently recruiting volunteer staff (age 18+ – staff dates 1st-8th August). Staff booking form: <https://tinyurl.com/4z6snftb>. Contact: Jason (07795 560990).

15th – **Livingston**: Barbecue and Devotional Evening, 5.00-8.00 pm. Please send numbers attending by 9th August to fellowship@churchofchrist.co.uk.

22nd-23rd – **East Kilbride**: BBS Study Weekend – “More Evidences for God and Creation”; Saturday 9.30 am-4.30 pm, Sunday 10.00 am-12.30 pm. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

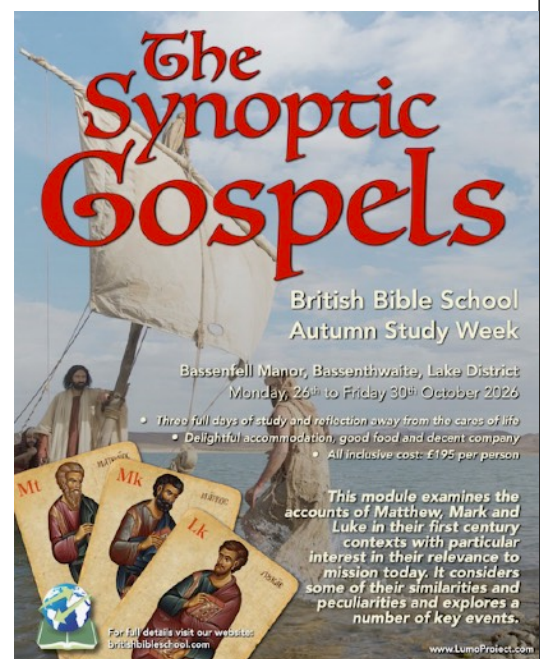
28th-31st – **Marriage Retreat**: “Connecting With a Purpose” (organised by Crewe congregation). Speaker: Paul Hill. Venue: Holiday Inn Aylesbury (By IHG), New Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury HP22 5QT. Cost: £600 per couple. Contact: Dexter (07445 223631) to register. Full Payment by 30th June to: Mercy Asiamah (Sort Code: 20 53 00; Account Number: 135 65 009 – kindly add your name as reference).

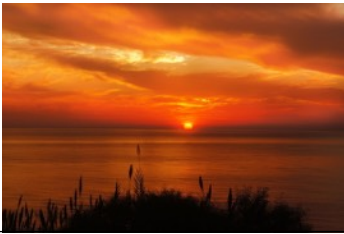
30th – **Liverpool**: Praise and Harmony with Keith Lancaster, 10.00 am, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

September

5th- 6th – **East Kilbride**: BBS Study Weekend – “More Evidences for God and Creation, part 2”; Saturday 9.30 am-4.30 pm, Sunday

Due to too many articles and adverts this month, we have published only events coming soon. Our apologies!





THE FINAL WORD



Major Oak: Dead

Not everyone will be familiar with Major Oak – weighing in at 23 tons, having a circumference of 33 feet (10 m), and a canopy spread of 92 feet (31 m), Major Oak was one of the largest oak trees in the country. Named after Major Hayman Rooke and his book about trees written in 1790, the tree originally was called the Cockpen Tree because for years that was where cock fighting took place. Planted anywhere between 800-1200 years ago in the middle of Sherwood Forest, tradition has it that Robin Hood hid in its branches.

Having given life to thousands of acorns, on 18th June 2026 it was declared dead since it had produced no leaves this year. It had however given life to thousands of acorns now growing all over the world. The reasons for its demise are the changes in the water table, local coal mining and soil compaction by its 350,000 visitors each year. The tree is to be left alone so that nature can take its course.

Isaiah 61:3, a text used by Jesus himself, says ‘they will be called Oaks of Righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour’.



It seems like mighty oak trees and congregations have a life span which may be short or long. There are no continuous churches from Bible times, as each one passed away. The same is evident today, a church may be planted, grow well for a number of years, then it slows down – perhaps seeing little growth – then produces no growth at all.

The reasons for these closures are many. Some areas have had population changes due to closing industries, or an area will be changed through road systems, or people moving to other areas leaving only a struggling handful of the faithful. Sometimes the godly congregation leaders have not been able to reproduce themselves leaving a flock without a shepherd.

I remember as a young Christian the concern from a number of people about the future demise of Fred Day, Albert Winstanly, Frank Worgan and many more. These men were heroes of their day, doing what they could for Jesus. When they died the church continued without missing one Sunday – the way each one of them would wanted.

What is needed now is for Christian saplings to grow into oaks of righteousness. It bothers me that many of our younger men and women are either leaving the church as we understand it should be or drift off into uncertain faithlessness. It does take a long time for a tree to grow, and it takes time for young people to completely, entirely, concentrate their lives for Jesus. Then it also takes older people to step aside and let younger ones take the reins.

Mighty oaks need space – and so do mighty Christians.

Trevor