the Christian worker MAGAZINE

March 2026 • Vol 58 No 3

Cumbernauld Men's Day

Five new Christians!

CW needs a new webmaster

Update and appeal from Malawi

March 2026
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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams
twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk
(0115) 837 6895
195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway
jdgalloway@mac.com
(07906) 060618
5 Aklins Lane, Netherburn, Larkhall ML9 3FH

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks (CW account: HSBC 40-45-03 91059533)

Website:

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

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

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

MY PERSPECTIVE

Getting along…

As Paul began the letter we call 1 Corinthians he very soon began to deal with one of the problems he had been told about: they were beginning to quarrel and divide based on prominent teachers.

"My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: one of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas; still another, 'I follow Christ.'" (**1 Corinthians 1:11-12** NIV)

How close to home does that hit for us? Do we follow teachers that are popular? – and if they say something, then it must be correct! Whatever happened to "searching the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so"? Although we may not be as divided over teachers as these Christians were, there are those who place what a particular teacher says above what Jesus said.

This unhealthy emphasis on men was leading to their not agreeing with each other and not being able to present a united message.

The problem was that their emphasis was in the wrong place. Perhaps some had it right when they insisted that "I follow Christ" (although they could have been using this in a divisive way). When we place our focus on people, no matter how good a teacher they are, we take our focus off Jesus, which is where it should be.

Why do we tend to follow some teachers? Is it because we like what they say? Does what they teach align with what we already believe? Do we like the clever way they have of putting their points across? Do they impress us with their knowledge and education? Notice what Paul said about his teaching.

"When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (**1 Cor. 2:1-2**)

Isn't this what it is about? It isn't about you or me or this teacher or that speaker. It is about Jesus. Our teaching needs to be centred on Jesus. Our thoughts need to be centred on him. Our lives need to be focused on him.

Paul's message was not a popular one and easily offended first century sensibilities. One subject that was to always be avoided was that of crucifixion. Cicero, a Roman statesman (106-43 BC), said, "the very mention of the cross should be far removed not only from a Roman citizen's body, but from his mind, his eyes, his ears". Yet this was the message Paul proclaimed everywhere he went. He preached a crucified Messiah. No wonder it was a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles (1 Cor 1:23)!

It was this offensive message that should have united Christians at Corinth. Perhaps it wasn't polished enough or sensitive enough, but it was the only message that could lead people to forgiveness and eternal life.

May we be united on Jesus' death and resurrection. If we could just do this our squabbles and rivalries would disappear.

Jon

CONGRATULATIONS!

Amy Jade Robinson

New Christians in Aughton!

Please rejoice with us as **Amy Jade Robinson** surrendered her life to Christ on Sunday, 4th January. Amy is an outgoing young woman with a great sense of humour, and, more importantly, she has a real love for God and his Word.

We also announce the rebirth of our new sister in Christ, **Melody Banza**. After much study and pondering upon her relationship with God, was added to the Lord's family on Sunday, 15th January.

Melody Banza

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their new walks with and in Christ. – The Christian in Aughton

Freda Odiba

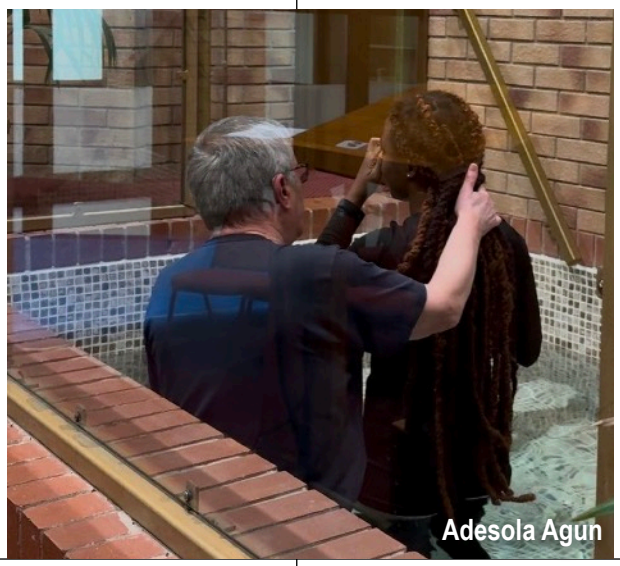
New Christians in Cumbernauld!

HAPPY DAY! We have a new sister. Welcome to the family **Freda Odiba**! Freda has been studying with her parents, Innocent and Blessing. After more studying with Adam and Melanie Barr, she made the decision to be baptised for the forgiveness of her sins. There is rejoicing in Heaven as another soul is saved!

Kelechi

And there is more good news – **Kelechi** was baptised into Christ on 17th February. After many months of questions and studying he made the decision to confess Jesus as his Saviour. Another soul saved as we rejoice with the angels.

Nicole Barr


Adesola Agun

Good news from Livingston!

We are very happy to share the good news of **Adesola Agun**'s baptism on 23rd January. Adesola had been attending worship with us for some time, and became convinced that she should take this step of being baptised into Christ. We are delighted to welcome her into our Christian family here in Livingston.

John Mooney

Cumbernauld Men's Day 2026

The Cumbernauld Men's Day 2026 was another huge success! A very encouraging and uplifting time of devotion and praise to our God, Yahweh! This year's theme was "The Name." What insightful and thought provoking lessons we had on this year's theme.

The day started, as any men's day does, with a delicious bacon roll, a cup of tea or coffee, an embrace from old friends and an embrace of new ones. In the first session Adam Barr lead us in song, lifting up our voices in praise to our God. Paul Offin then introduced his son Ivan, who gave us the first lesson of the day: "El Shaddai, The Almighty." Ivan gave us an incredible take on the meaning of the word, where it is used in scripture, how it used in scripture, and what it means for our lives today. What a blessing it is to know that we serve a God that is all-loving, all-powerful and almighty!

It was then our first break session where we enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee with some bakery items but, more importantly, it was a time of fellowship and reflecting on the message we had just heard. We then headed in for the next session where we were led in song by Edwin Offin and given a very uplifting and encouraging lesson entitled "YHWH – The Name of God" from George Okoroma who is from the Aberdeen congregation. Graham McDonald introduced him. George spoke to us about the importance of this name as it is the name that God calls himself. How great it is to know we serve such a personal God!

Following George's lesson it was lunch time where the ladies once again did not disappoint, with a range of homemade soups, sandwiches and sausage rolls topped off with a wide array of desserts – our bodies were filled! Thank you so

Ivan Offin

George Okoroma

much to the efforts made by the ladies to make days like these a huge success.

After lunch was our third session of the day where we were lead in song by David Cope followed by an introduction by Adam Barr of Robert Strang, from the Hyvots Bank congregation in Edinburgh. Robert's lesson was" "Yahweh Yireh – God will Provide". Robert spoke to us about Abraham and the sacrifice of his son that he was going to make to the Lord. He reminded us of the importance of names, and how specific names make us think of things the individual has done. The name "Yahweh Yireh" shows to us how our God is one who always provides for us. What a remarkable thing for us to always remember.

Robert Strang

We then had our final break of the day where the special home bakes and tray bakes came out for us to enjoy with our cups of tea and another time of fellowship with one another.

We then headed for our final session where we were led in song by Charles Takyi and given a very powerful and thought provoking lesson from one of our younger speakers of the day, Emmanuel Kabalo, from the congregation in Livingston. His lesson was very fitting to his name – "Immanuel – The Name to Come." Emmanuel reminded us about the closeness of our God and how he is not so far away as some may think but he is with us everywhere we go.

What an amazing day this was. We're so thankful for Graham McDonald for organising, the Cumbernauld congregation for hosting, the ladies who provided the food and served us, the lessons presented by our speakers, the men that led in songs and prayers and for all who attended making this a day to remember for ever. A day where, as it says in Hebrews 13, we let brotherly love continue.

Let us now tell others about the names of our God and what it could mean in their lives.

Edwin Offin

Emmanuel Kabalo

BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

The Accuracy of Biblical Prophecies

Sometimes we may not be as impressed with the fulfilled prophecies we find in the pages of Scripture as we should be. We read a prophecy in the Old Testament and find its fulfilment in the New. But do we realise all that had to happen for it to be fulfilled? Matthew wrote for a Jewish audience and quoted the Jewish Scriptures. When he wrote about the birth and early life of the Messiah he referred to the writings of the prophets – let us look at the first of these.

"When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."'" (**Matthew 2:4-6** NIV)

When Herod the Great asked where the Messiah was to be born the Jewish leaders quoted a prophecy found in Micah 5:2-4. We know by this time that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem so we realise that this is where the wise men needed to go. But how did his parents happen to be in Bethlehem? They weren't from this area. They were from the northern village of Nazareth. Mary lived there. Joseph was a builder there. They were betrothed, committed to marrying each other. So how did they end up many miles from their home?

It was the Romans who created the reason they needed to be in Bethlehem. It was a census, which the Romans took every fourteen years. We have the actual documents from each census from AD 20 to 270. Luke gives us information about this census.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register." (**Luke 2:1-3**)

Because we have the census information from AD 20 on, and because they happened every fourteen years, we know there would have been one in AD 6, which would have been the second while Quirinius was governor of Syria. The first would have been fourteen years before this, or in 9 BC – yet no one gives this as the year of Jesus' birth (and he wasn't born in the year '0' as that date never existed). Most place Jesus' birth around 6-4 BC due to the reign of Herod. So what happened?

There was a delay for some reason and the census didn't take place at the correct time but was a few years late – keeping in mind that there were not electronic means to report and all these types of administrative functions took far longer than they do today. But it seems that this one was delayed for around four or five years.

Joseph and Mary, being of the tribe of Judah, were required to go to their ancestral home to enrol in this census just at the time that Mary was full-term and needed to deliver her baby. But think about that for a minute – God had to arrange for her to become pregnant by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35) at the precise time to coincide with their being in Bethlehem for the delivery which would allow Jesus to fulfil the prophecy of Micah.

At first glance it might seem that all of this was a coincidence, but I would suggest that God didn't fulfil prophecies by coincidence! God works so that everything happens at the right time and place – and this is seen especially in the birth of the Messiah.

When we read a prophecy and find its fulfilment, take time to think about all that had to happen to make ensure that the prediction was fulfilled.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

BBS Charity
AGM

Saturday, 9th May, at Christian Fellowship Centre, Northampton

AT REST

Dick Carter

Livingston

1946– 2026

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of our dear brother Dick Carter on 19th February at the age of 79 after a very short illness.

Dick was born in Huddersfield on 19th November 1946 and married Anne Robertson on the 5th of April 1969. With Anne's influence Dick became a Christian in 1971, being baptised in Morley.

Dick and Anne had two children, Mark born in 1973 and Emma in 1977. They welcomed Brooke to the family in 1997 and David in 2002.

Dick worked as a secondary school teacher for many years, whilst Anne worked as a physiotherapist. They both retired prior to the birth of their first two grandchildren and welcomed four more: Juliette, Samantha and Morgan to Mark and Brooke and Cameron, Finlay and Anna-Rose to Emma and David.

Dick and Anne were active in several congregations in the United Kingdom, latterly in Livingston. He served as an elder in Sighthill (Edinburgh) with Andrew and George Gardiner, and in Stirling alongside John Renwick and Mitch Vick.

Dick had the honour of baptising two generations of his own family: his children, Mark and Emma and his two grandsons, Finlay, followed by Cameron.

Dick was known as a kind, caring and loving man whilst being a staunch defender of God's word. He will be greatly missed by all, especially the family, but we draw comfort from the knowledge that he is now with the Lord.

David McCready (Livingston)

Joyce Sheldon

Kirkby-in-Ashfield

We note the passing of our sister Joyce Sheldon on 25th January. She was a long time Christian of the congregation in Kirkby-in-Ashfield (Nottingham).

Trevor Williams

FALSE HOPE FROM AN UNDEFINED CONCEPT

Preachers preach and teachers teach, but not everyone understands the words. A recent sad story reveals how necessary it is for words and concepts to be clearly defined, so that people do not go away with a false understanding of 'religious' terminology.

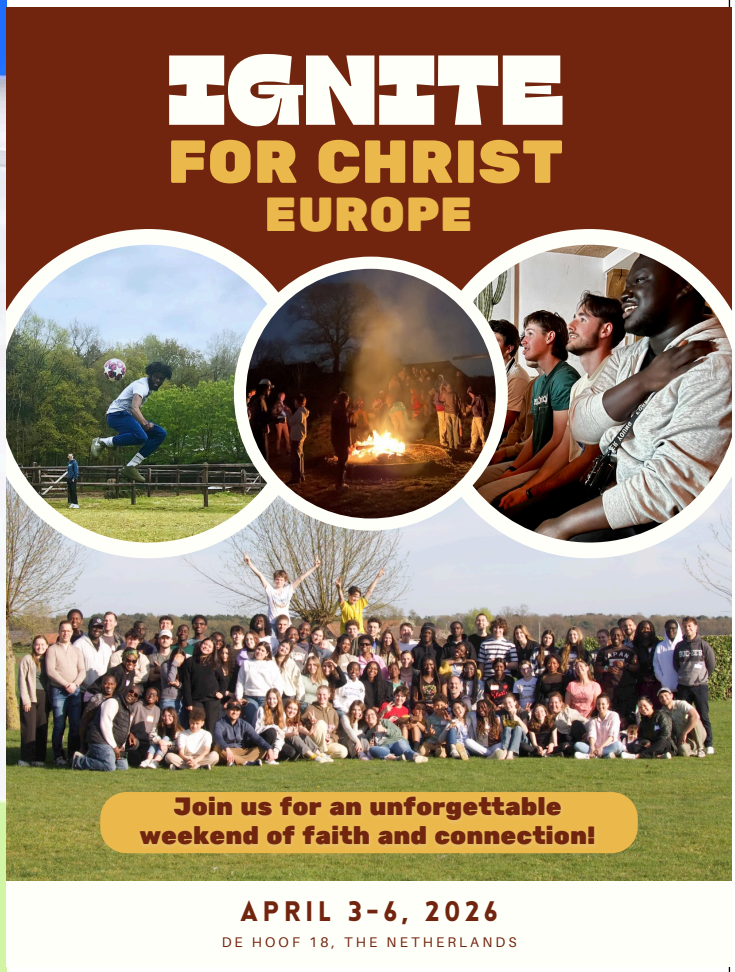
A young girl looked forward to going to church each week, since it was an escape from the sexual abuse she suffered at home. She heard the preacher promise that God and Jesus could save people from all the evils of sin, if only they would pray and seek forgiveness. On hearing this message the girl revived what little hope she had left that help was there for the asking.

During one particular savage attack at home she prayed fervently that God would be true to his promise, that someone would come and rescue her from the evil she was then suffering – but no one came.

As she recalled those early years of horror she said it was then that she realised there was no God and the Bible was full of false messages of hope.

Every Bible student will immediately see the error in this poor girl's thinking and probably, more to the point, the error in the minds of those familiar with their 'religious' terminology. It has to be clearly defined to be correctly understood, whether by child or adult ,and not just a word devoid of a broader context.

A. Spicer



AROUND THE WORLD

FRENCH SPEAKING WORLD

The French world includes over 250 million people, mainly in Africa, Europe and Canada.

Yann is involved in translation courses from World Bible School and Apologetics Press into French.

FRANCE: Bible Student Paul Vergnaud is working on two courses to complete his Bible Certificate after three years of intense study. Paul is an excellent Bible student and he is teaching others. He has also created a YouTube channel in French where he teaches what he has been learning. This is exactly what we encourage all our students to do.

CONGO: Godefroid Kabamba lives in the town of Lomami in the country of Democratic Republic of Congo. He is an elder in the church. He teaches regularly five young men and I am also helping him teach several courses. I am presently teaching to this group of Christian men a course on the Holy Spirit using Whatsapp so we can see and talk to each other. These five young men are very passionate about the study of God's word. They are reaching out to the surrounding towns and villages and are already teaching the material we have covered.

QUEBEC: Nine students are taking Bible classes online in Quebec, a province of Canada with over 8 million French speakers and congregations scattered in the province. Seven are taking classes as auditors and two for the diploma. The group has almost completed the Bible Certificate. The teacher is Jean Grenier who studied at Heritage Christian University. There is presently no known preaching school or college for French speakers in Canada where Christians in Quebec can take advanced Bible classes in the French language.

European Christian College in France: Europe is in a terrible moral and spiritual shape. A Christian College with a good Biblical foundation will help with the emergence of faithful Christian leaders, teachers and preachers. Pray for the new European Christian College in France and for Jerry and Zoobi Jones heading the project. This is a unique mission and challenge for the Lord's Church but exactly what Europe needs besides evangelism and is a big part of our mission and plans.

Yann & Rita Opsitch

MALAWI

My main work last year at Ekwendeni has been as follows:

- House to house preaching to lost souls and follow up to backsliders who are like the Galatians (Galatians 1:6). They are easily taken up by false teaching from denominations especially on use of instruments and dancing as they say it makes the worship lively. Others follow the false prophets and they claim to get healed or get marriage or wealth. So the war is not yet over but I'm glad that many are coming back to the Lord and his people.

- I have also very much been involved in teaching Bible class and speaking during Sunday Service and not forgetting

Around the World

- visiting those in hospitals and condole those who have lost loved ones.

- I also organised and helped the sisters to go out and have a day's teaching in Rumphi, Nkhorongo, Chizaula and Chimozimozi. To crown it all we had a sisters' meeting from 22nd-24th August. This was not all as the youth closed up and started the New Year with a three day seminar from 31st December-2nd January 2026.

So in summary, Ekwendeni registered the following in the just ended year of 2025:

37 new Christians
18 restorations
average Sunday attendance: **190**
number of Christians in Ekwendi: **350**

The most encouraging news is about the Youth. You know we are aging and we may not be here tomorrow and the youth need to be taught for the growth of their faith and congregations in Malawi.

Youth Seminar

With this in mind we managed to hold an end of year Youth Seminar, as we have had in past years. We had 189 students (102 male and 87 female) from 31 congregations and six adult teachers who came to help me – we taught the following subjects:

•How to remain faithful in Christ (Revelation 2:10) – youth tend to lose their faith due to the lack of jobs and other problems.

•Youth Development & Enterpreurship

- Lesson outline and presentation

- Youth Discipline and the Community

- How to chose a life partner (marriage)

- Church History

Let me also thank God as I have made my dreams come true as the Manolo church building in my village is now completed, although we still need to paint it and buy chairs. The year 2025 will go down in my history as the most successful.

Davison Ndhlovu

MALAWI APPEAL

Malawi is still one of the poorest nations on Earth and although they have been helped over and over again there is still a vital need. Is there a person or congregation that could support a preacher? We only need £70 a month. Is there a person or congregation that could help toward this cause? The Cumbernauld congregation is leading this project on behalf of Alferd Mzumara.

There is also a need for bicycles for the preachers to travel from village to village. The roads are often simple dirt tracks and often impossible to walk. Our Malawi brethren are kind and generous and many are still coming to the Lord. There is a genuine need. CW can head this cause. Our bank details are on page 2.

Trevor Williams

NOTICES

The Christian Worker is needing a webmaster to keep our website up-to-date. As many rely on the congregation listing it is important that this be properly maintained.

If this is something you could help us with, please contact Trevor: twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you!

Double Honor Retreat for 2026

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

Daughters of Christ UK & International
(DOCUK & I'NTL Youth Ministry)
Church of Christ

First Youth meeting online ages 12 to 17 years

March 28th, 2026. 15:00-17:00 GMT

Agenda

15:00-16:00 Meet & Greet, Discussion of topics and events for the year.

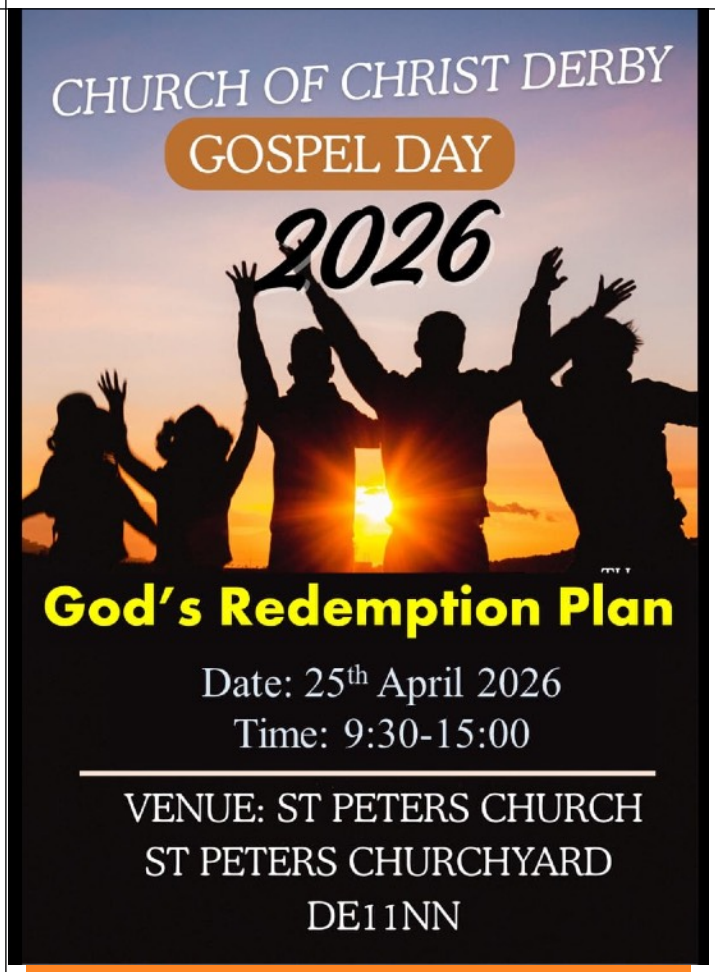
16:00-17:00 Quiz – 5 women who held positions of spiritual leadership in the bible

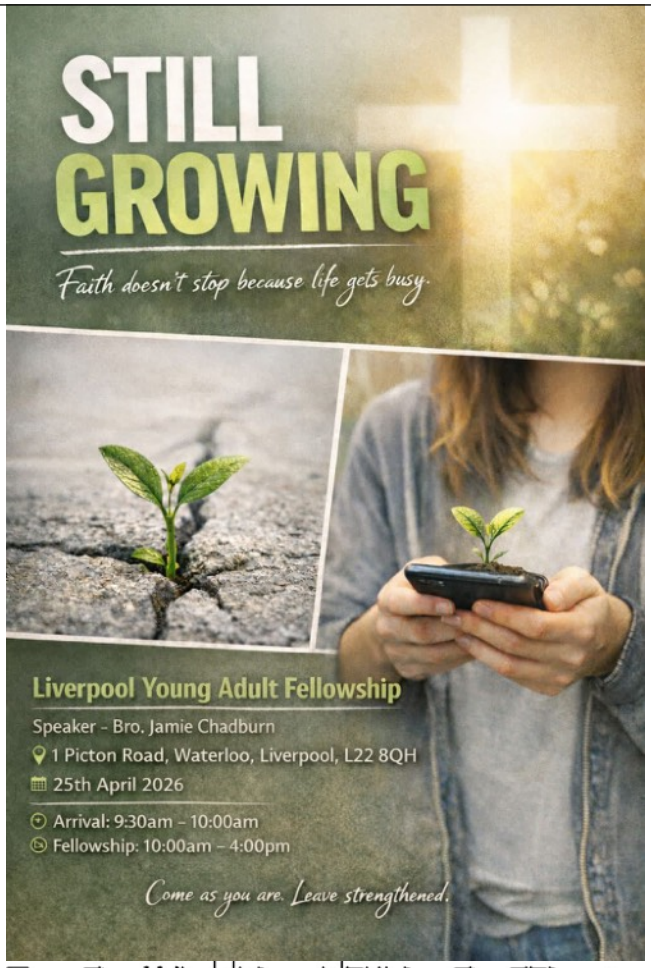
RSVP: Docuklm2021@gmail.com

Meeting link: https://tinyurl.com/yvm6em2k

Meeting ID: 681 623 4697
Passcode:DOCUKlm21

Notices


CHURCH OF CHRIST DERBY
GOSPEL DAY
2026
God's Redemption Plan
Date: 25th April 2026
Time: 9:30-15:00
VENUE: ST PETERS CHURCH
ST PETERS CHURCHYARD
DE11NN


STILL GROWING
Faith doesn't stop because life gets busy.
Liverpool Young Adult Fellowship
Speaker - Bro. Jamie Chadburn
1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH
25th April 2026
Arrival: 9:30am – 10:00am
Fellowship: 10:00am – 4:00pm
Come as you are. Leave strengthened.

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.

EL SHADDAI · ADONAI · EL ROI
camp Heatherbell VII
יהוה
MORE THAN A NAME
YaHWeH
3RD - 10TH JULY 2026
COMPASS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
GLENSHEE • SCOTLAND
"May your name be kept holy!"
Matthew 6:9

DIARY

March

2nd – British Bible School evening class: "Ezra-Nehemiah" – continuing 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.

5th – British Bible School evening class: "In the Beginning…" (Genesis 1-11) – on-going class 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.

14th – Thamesmead: Online Lectureship – "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!", 7.00-9.00 pm. Speakers: Douglas Atuah and James Tambe. Zoom ID: 336 078 6677 passcode: 811490. Contact: Douglas Atuah (atuahdouglas@gmail.com).

21st – Kirkcaldy: Annual Social, 1.30 pm. Speaker: Ian Starrs. Contact: Allan Hughes (allan580@virginmedia.com).

21st – Liverpool: Evening of songs, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

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 Jon Galloway: "British Congregation Leaders from the 1800s", 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.

28th – Daughters of Christ UK: Youth Meeting Online, ages 12 to 17, 3.00-5.00 pm. Meeting link: https://tinyurl.com/yvm6em2k (Meeting ID: 681 623 4697 Passcode:DOCUKlm21. RSVP: docuklm2021@gmail.com.

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/ANp4AexzFdnu6JV27. Contact: eubiblelectureship@gmail.com or +49 15122 374151.

3rd-6th – IGNITE for Christ Europe for ages 12-30. Venue: De Hoof 18, Netherlands. Cost: €70-115. This event is in English (translations available for some other languages). For more information about the organisation, the event and to get your tickets, check out our website: igniteforchrist.com.

18th-19th – Milton Keynes: Bible Seminar – "God's Redemption Plan", 10.00 am-4.00 pm, at Monkston Park Community Centre, 10 Pimlico Court, Off Plaistow Crescent, Milton Keynes MK10 9PN; speaker: Tim Burrows and Dale Mannon. Contact: Samuel Adorm (s_adorm@yahoo.com).

24th – Liverpool: "Scheme of Redemption" Bible study evening, 6.00 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

25th – Derby: Gospel Weekend – "God's Redemption", 9.30 am-3.00 pm. Venue: St Peters churchyard, Derby DE1 1NN. Contact: Paul Hill (paul.h41@outlook.com).

25th – Liverpool: Youth Fellowship – "Still Growing", 10.00 am-4.00 pm, speaker: Jamie Chadburn. Venue: 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. For further information contact Rexford AB (07538 563751).

May

16th – Milton Keynes: Men's Leadership Training, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, at Monkston Park Community Centre, 10 Pimlico Court, Off Plaistow Crescent, Milton Keynes MK10 9PN; lessons presented by Patrick Boyns. Contact: Samuel Adorm (s_adorm@yahoo.com).

16th – Brandon: Ladies' Day. Contact: brandoncofcladies@gmail.com.

Diary

23rd – Liverpool: Gospel meeting, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

30th – Great Barr (Birmingham): Bible Seminar – "Godly Homes: A Blueprint for Transforming Society", 12.30-4.00 pm. Speakers: Mike Glover and Kunlie Orekoya. Venue: The Beacon Church Hall, Collingwood Drive, Birmingham B43 7JL. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

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

6th – Aughton: Ladies' Day.

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.

27th – Liverpool: Annual All Day Fellowship, 10.00 am- 4.00 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

27th – Bristol: BIBLEFEST2026 – Bible related challenges, activities and quizzes taken from the books of Hebrews and James for all ages (children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult/guardian). Questions and Passages taken from ESV. Bookings or questions: Jason (07795 560990). Bible Fest 2026 'Timeless' booking form: https://tinyurl.com/bdcpe59p

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.

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).

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

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. Venue: 2 Hotel Sir Royal, Bucharest, Romania.

October

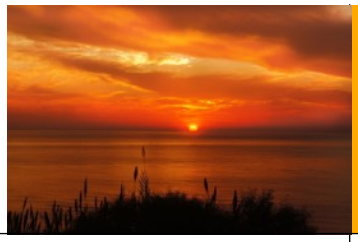
24th – Liverpool: Evening of songs, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

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

November

21st – Liverpool: Gospel meeting, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

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.



THE FINAL WORD

Be still and know God

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

This Psalm is taking the reader for a speedy journey around the countryside looking at mountains, sea, rivers, temples, war zones – and then in two words brings the whole journey to a stop. 'Be still'.

This cry of the writer knows that there is only so much that we can take in. Our eyes stream with tears, our heart aches with pain, our hands tremble with anxiety. We cannot bear the problems of nature nor the disasters of the world on our own shoulders. Each one of us is flesh and blood. There comes a time in each of our lives when we step out of the warmth of childhood into the cold realisation that life can be naked and vulnerable. We are not the apple of the eye of loving relatives. We try to take our responsibilities in life and do our best but often our best is not good enough. We do not know how to phrase feelings either good or bad. We are pushed along, stopping and starting like a car in a traffic jam.

Then we must face our God, particularly in the form of a crucified Jesus. We are offered salvation; we grasp it, falling in love with the one who first loved us. Then we start to grow in grace, in knowledge of the scriptures, in responsibilities to the congregation. We learn that we are given gifts from the Spirit of God for the benefit of the people of God and responsibility starts to weigh heavy on our shoulders.

Jesus calls us to carry our cross and sometimes it is a heavy load. Perhaps we do not feel that we can carry everyone's heartaches, we cannot heal the scars of life's tragedies nor can we be all things to all people all the time. It is then that we need to remember the words spoken three thousand years ago – 'Be still and know that I am God'. That may mean backing off from something, somehow. Each one of us is the Temple of the Holy Spirit and our time here is limited.

Does this mean that we can rust out rather than wear out? I do not believe so, but our spirit, soul and body may need to be refreshed. Sometimes the worship of our God in the assembly does not revive us – in fact it can sometimes increase our burden. We need peace and there only seems concern; we need quiet in a world of noise. 'Be still and know that I am God'.

Perhaps we do feel the need to run away. Will Christians understand if we slip out of the mantle of responsibility? Possibly and possibly not for everyone can be facing the same difficulties. Should we, can we, duck out to 'Be still'? Can we be still long enough to know God?

Hear our prayer for mercy, O God. The world and the responsibilities of our lives sometimes are so heavy we cannot see you. We rush through our lives craving time with you, but when it begins to be quiet the noise starts over again and it seems we can never quite be still long enough. Touch us with your care, heal us with your gentleness and renew us with your zeal. Amen.

Trevor