

A group of people are standing in a room, likely during a formal event or ceremony. In the foreground, a man in a maroon polo shirt stands looking towards the left. Behind him, a line of people is standing, including a man in a light pink shirt and blue trousers, and a man in a dark suit. To the left, a wooden podium is visible. The room has a grey carpet and a brick wall in the background.

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Front cover and above: Northampton Anniversary Day.



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

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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CONGRATULATIONS!

A new Christian in Wembley!

On Saturday, 3rd August, **Hemma Leckraz** was baptised into Christ. Hemma had been searching and visiting different churches in the local area before finding the congregation at Wembley. After attending Bible classes and worshipping with us for several months she made the decision to follow Jesus and be baptised. We rejoice with her and pray for her growth.

John Griffiths

Good news from Ilkeston!

Stacey Mhembere was immersed on Sunday morning, 1st September. She is the daughter of Brine and Taimlly who re-located from Zimbabwe a couple of years ago. Stacey experienced camp for the first time this year.

Trevor Williams

More good news in Cumbernauld!

Two more additions to the family as **Alana** and **Derek** give their lives to Christ on Thursday, 12th September after having been studying with Adam and Melanie Barr. They started worshipping with us a few weeks ago and through studying they realised their need to be baptised into Christ. More rejoicing in Heaven!

Nicole Barr



Aaron Sparks immerses Stacey



Adam Barr immerses Alana



Adam immersing Derek



Northampton celebrates forty years

The congregation in Northampton first started meeting in 1980, initially in houses and then in community centres and a school. The Christian Fellowship Centre was designed and built by those Christians and opened for worship in June 1984.

On Sunday, 22nd September 2024 we celebrated and gave thanks to God for his mercy and work through all the people who passed this way over those years. Kunle Orekoya presided over the meeting and along

with Matt Lima led us in our singing. 150 were in attendance including those from the congregation, friends and visitors.

It was good to have Trevor and Pauline Williams with us who worked with the congregation in the past. What an encouragement to have him tell of those early days of baptisms in a deep freezer, family homes opened up for fellowship and outreach, and remortgages and houses put on the line to further the work of the congregation. The faith of the first converts and those who had come to reach out to them built a solid foundation on the truth of God's Word. What they did in the past has ensured the gospel light still shines brightly today.

Mark Hill gave a summary of things that are taking place now. It was noted that many nationalities were represented and are now one in Christ. We were also glad to have with us Augustine and Itai Nyamatore. Augustine served as an elder here in the past. He gave us encouragement as we move forward with the Lord. Where there is no vision the people perish. We are where we are



because those in the past had a vision of what they wanted to do for the Lord. He may take those plans and give a little redirection, but plans need to be made. He encouraged us to excel in our service to the Lord.

We also appointed three new deacons to serve the congregation. Dave and Karen Johnson, Tunji and Yinka Okubanjo, Julius and Imabong Donker are valued members of the congregation and very active in the life of the church. As we have been blessed with growth these appointments will help to ensure our fellowship, youth work and benevolence will go from strength to strength.

It was so good to catch up with old friends and get to meet new ones over some lovely food. Pat who has been here from the beginning, and her daughter Alison made some nice displays to decorate the building. They also put together a slideshow of the building being erected and the opening. Pat's son was the youngest person in those days and was one of the first to break the ground. I believe the oldest lady at the time was Dorothy Wood, who has already gone on to her reward, and she broke the ground with him at that time.

We are privileged to benefit from the faith of those who have gone before us. It is our prayer that God will continue to be glorified from this place as we look for more opportunities to serve him.

The Elders at Northampton



THE Divided KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

British Bible School
Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenhwaite, Lake District
Monday, 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £180 per student

This module examines the history of Israel during its most turbulent period and considers its role among the surrounding nations. All is seen within the context of contemporary history and modern archaeology.

For full details visit our website:
britishbibleschool.com

SHEPSED YOUTH DAY



SATURDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2025
(DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

More than Music Workshop Led by Alan Dod



Saturday, 26th October 2024
10.00 am – 3.30 pm
at

Wembley Church of Christ Meeting Place
92 Barnhill Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9BS
Contact: John Griffiths
griffiths.jhg@virgin.net
020 8204 2432



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Letton Hall

Family

Retreat

2024

Fifty-seven people gathered at Letton Hall, Norfolk, for our retreat hosted by the British Bible School. Joining them were six who visited during the day. The theme for the weekend was "In Christ Alone". Almost half the number were attending for the first time.

The programme started on Friday, 13th September, lucky for us. On arrival we were assigned our rooms and eventually found them thanks to a useful map. An evening meal of pizza and salad was enjoyed, and we spent time getting to know new friends and catching up with old friends.

On Saturday the day began with early morning devotions led by Wolseley Hinze, followed by a hearty breakfast for which we are grateful to Guy Sandison. Our mid-day and evening meals were delicious for which we are thankful to Steve, Carol and Alice Whitehead and Suzanne Hill – Alice deserves special mention as her work in the kitchen was invaluable. So many people helped along the way with setting up and clearing away after mealtimes, washing and cleaning. I was going to name names, but I think there are too many to mention, and I would hate to have missed anyone. Suffice it to say we all pulled together to make a great weekend.

Spencer Eastland led our time of singing praise to God followed by a lesson from Patrick Boyns. Patrick had been quite unwell the preceding week, so we are thankful he was able to be present. His lesson emphasised that following Jesus is so much more than what happens on a Sunday morning. To be in Christ affects who we are, our very identity is found in him.

The second session rather than being another talk was spent in discussion groups. Patrick prepared questions which after the group discussions we had feedback from each group. It was interesting to hear the different perspectives of what it means to be in Christ. Is our identity really found in what we do or in who we become?

The younger children were in the meantime engaged in a nature treasure hunt in which the beauty and diversity of God's creation could be seen. Of particular interest to them was a herd of cows in the field next door.

Saturday afternoon was left free for everyone to do as they wished. Some took a drive out to see nearby places of interest. Others took a good long walk around the area. Children played around the grounds or in the games room. Adults chatted over tea and coffee

then later enjoyed afternoon tea with some delicious home baked scones with jam and cream.

Our evening meal was a barbecue. We were due to have a conker competition, however when holes were made to put the string through the conkers split in half. Somehow we did not get around to the apple bobbing either. We enjoyed a great time of singing together followed by good conversation into the night.



British Bible School Notes

On Sunday we again had early morning devotions led this time by Graham McDonald to begin our day. After breakfast we had a time of Praise and then Graham led us in the taking of the bread and wine. Steve Whitehead brought our last lesson interspersed with a couple of songs helping us to remember that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. That then is the reason to Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

This was a very enjoyable weekend enabling us to reunite with old friends and make many new ones. A few younger children were crying as they did not want to go home – the adults knew exactly how they felt. With these events growing in popularity, I can only advise everyone to book early to avoid disappointment next time!

With that in mind we look forward to hosting a week of study in the beautiful Basenfell Manor, in Bassenthwaite. Monday Oct 28th to Nov 1st. A deep dive into a study of the “Divided Kingdom”. Good company, good

food, studying God’s Word together and free time to contemplate in the setting of the Lake District. Book now on our website: britishbibleschool.com

The British Bible School

Online Bible Classes with the *British Bible School*

For twelve weeks commencing 26th September 2024

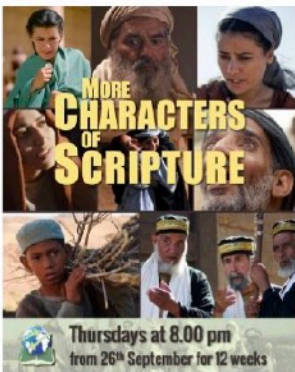
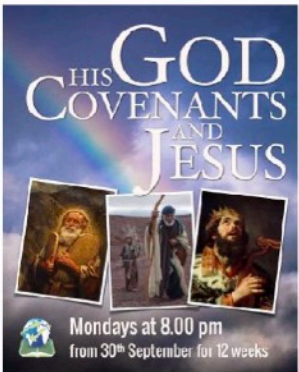
Mondays at 8.00 pm

God, His Covenants and Jesus

The story of God, as revealed through the pages of Scripture, tells of his desire to live in loving harmony with those whom he has created in his image. One recurring feature is the establishment of special relationships, formalised through the forging of covenants. Some are made with individuals, others with people groups, all with a common theme.

This series will explore a number of these significant covenants, each one leading to the establishment of the supreme covenant in which we are called into a special relationship with the very Son of God himself.

Presenter: Mark Hill



Thursdays at 8.00 pm

More Characters of Scripture

The Scriptures tell the story of God’s loving pursuit of mankind. The story is revealed in the context of all sorts of different relationships, and introduces us to some of the most fascinating characters we will ever meet along the way.

This series will be brought to us by a number of different presenters, sharing with us characters which have been of particular interest and significance in their walk with God.

Join us on our journeys as we are introduced to both new and familiar faces, each one sharing with us something of their story – the story of God and us.

Presenter: Various

Occasional Fridays at 8.00 pm (check social media)

Bible Quiz Time!

Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment! This really is for everyone – nothing too testing (promise!).

You might want to have a pen and paper handy – plus a box of choccies to award yourself if you happen to win – or even if you don’t. We’d love to present these personally, but under the circumstances this is a little tricky ...

We will hold these occasionally as availability permits – please check online.

Presenter: Steve Whitehead



www.britishbibleschool.com

All times = GMT +1

Bolade Oyenike Olatunji

(Northampton)

12th November 1951-13th August 2024

On 13th August 2024 our beloved sister in Christ, Bola, passed away, aged 73 years. For the past two and a half years she had received 24-hour care unable to move or communicate. Because of her faith this is a blessed relief. She is home with her Lord.

On our arrival in Northampton one of the first things I was called upon to do was preside over the funeral of Bola's husband. So, I first got to know her during a time of grief. She never, ever, faltered in her faith and was always an encouragement to her Christian brothers and sisters.

On moving to Northampton, she left her house one Sunday morning to find a church. She asked a lady at the bus stop if she could direct her to the nearest church. The Christian Fellowship Centre on Shadowfax Drive is where she was directed having been told, "I've heard the people there are nice". What a wonderful and important day that was both for her and the congregation here. She was immersed not long afterwards.

We host Bible Study Weekends with the British Bible School. Bola would attend on Friday evening before going on her nursing



night shift. She attended all day Saturday and then went home for a couple of hours sleep before going on night shift, then attending worship on Sunday when she had finished. At our coffee mornings, pre-Covid, she brought friends and introduced interesting food items which became quite a topic of conversation.

She loved the Lord, and she loved her congregation. She was a blessing to all at Northampton offering hospitality to many. We have been missing her presence but are comforted that she is free from suffering.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this down: "Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on." 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!'"
(Revelation 14:13)

Mark Hill

You're Invited to the..

Midlands Churches of Christ
Lectureship & Fellowship Day



Date: Saturday, 12th October 2024

Time: 10:00 am to 3:45 pm



Venue: Coventry CR Centre, Red Lane, Coventry. CV6 5EE

Margaret Daniell

(Tunbridge Wells)

1936-2024

Margaret was born on 9th December 1936 to Robert (Roy) and Mary Scott in London. She attended the Kentish Town congregation in London, where her father was an evangelist right up until his death. There she also gave her life to Jesus by being baptised in June 1948 at the age of 11. She continued to serve him for the remainder of her life.

She married my father, Derek, in May 1959, himself also a fervent Christian. They moved to Tunbridge Wells and set up their home whilst helping Albert Winstanley to build on a newly established work there and remained there – this became their lives' work.

It was in this period that I came along and also my brother, Mark, who passed away when he was two years old. I have no memories of him, but losing a child at the age of two would have been a devastating loss to Mum, but she didn't let it affect her faith adversely and I never heard her grumble about it. She was tough underneath it all and certainly had broad shoulders too.

They also took on two foster children and soon needed a bigger house and so, in 1967 they purchased 34 North Farm Road where they lived happily together as a family. They bought this, not just because it was big enough for our growing family, but also it was very close to the church building. It soon became pivotal to that work. Usually on Sundays there would be lots more than just our family around the table; the house was often more like a hotel, but Mum was always providing hospitality to many Christians who were passing through and also hosting meetings for Bible study, singing and prayer.

Mum was a qualified teacher and for a while she worked as a teacher alongside bringing up her children. She also taught lots of children in Sunday school over the years. She taught me to read before I started school and instilled in me a strong sense of right and wrong to help steer me through life.

For Mum, her life was first and foremost about her faith that was passed on from her parents but which she made personal. She was a great believer that God would provide when sometimes there were things they couldn't afford, like a washing machine or vehicle – whatever it was turned up somehow, whether it was a vehicle abandoned in a field or someone getting a new washing machine and passing on the old one.

She truly lived 'seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you'. She 'lived by faith and not by sight'. Dad would not have been able to do a fraction of what he did were it not for her looking after the children, no mean task when there were so many of us! She always put the needs of others ahead of her own.

Living her life as a Christian wife and mother was her dedication, enabling Dad to preach, even travelling to Brighton and Kentish Town to support them midweek. If someone needed her help, be it somewhere to sleep or a meal or encouragement and advice, she would provide these without judgment, always with love and humility in service to her Lord and Saviour.

One task that she took on was to do the posters for the large board at the church building, which were all hand painted (she definitely had some artistic talent), with poster paint on bright coloured paper and had her own distinctive style. She did this for many years with great dedication and sense of duty.

Even after having a stroke and losing her physical ability to do even the most basic tasks for herself, she still had a smile on her face and wanted to get to the Sunday service and serve her Lord. Her faith remained true and strong to the end.

She leaves behind a sister, six children, thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She will be missed by many others whose lives she touched with her love and care, especially the foster grandchildren and her spiritual brothers and sisters in the church.

Paul Daniell



FAMILY NEWS

NEWPORT

‘Go and Make Disciples’: On Saturday, 31st August, the Newport congregation hosted a day of spiritual encouragement for Christian women.

Lydia Todd (Tennessee) and Kayley Wadlington (Kentucky) had for the past year been working with a number of congregations in London – predominantly Stratford – their mission being primarily to encourage and support women to evangelise, which included running a ten-week course to several congregations. Following discussions had during British Bible Camp, they were delighted to receive an invitation to come and visit us in order to continue their missionary work before they returned back to the USA in September.

We extended the invitation to other congregations, and were joined by many other women who attended the event.

During the course of the day there were songs and prayers led by our women, as well as lessons from both Lydia and Kayley, with a discussion session after each lesson. There was (as is standard for Ladies’ Days) obviously a good spread of

food prepared by several men - who also did a fantastic job caring for all the children that were in attendance.

We appreciate each and every single person who helped make the day a success, God bless you all.

Although they are headed back home to the USA, Lydia and Kayley have left us in the capable hands of Pfunzo (Stratford) to do the ten-week course on how Christian women can better evangelise, which is starting very soon.

‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...’ (Matthew 28:19-20)

Lydia David

‘DOUBLE HONOUR’ RETREAT

My wife and I had the privilege of attending this year’s Double Honour Retreat at La Chapelle Au Riboul a little village in France from 2nd-5th September. We arrived on the day around 5.00 pm local time to a beautiful reception from our host Jerry and Caroline Jones.

We met the other couples attending (three others) and were introduced to each other, had our dinner, and retired to



Family News

rest after long day of travel. The next morning after breakfast fast we went through the programme for the rest of our time and had our first session.

Our mornings consisted of breakfast, meeting for devotion and discussion of mutual interest as couples and the work we are involved in. Then each couple had the choice of spending time by themselves or visiting the local area with the group. In the afternoon, the group either had lunch at a restaurant or prepared lunch at the Jones residence. Couples then had a choice of spending time by themselves, going out to visit some of the scenic villages or playing games.

We then had dinner in the evening, engaged in discussion, played games, or the men and women met separately to share experiences and encourage each other.

The night before our departure we visited a 14th century church on top of a mountain and it was so peaceful – we sang hymns to praise the Lord for his wonderful creation. Trevor Williams and his wife Pauline were our dedicated chefs and we enjoyed some sumptuous meals during our stay.



The retreat gave us the opportunity as a couple to reflect, share experiences and how we can be effective in our service for the Lord.

Charles and Shirley Banin

PAKISTAN

Brethren I would like to share with you that in last two months we have HAD many stresses and false accusations against the Christians here, being accused of blasphemy. The Christians are very much downhearted. But God is using these situation to glorify his name in this part of the world and using his servants to save souls for his family.

Naeem Sabir

Sahiwalbiblecollege43@yahoo.com



A New Christian in Pakistan





THEY DIDN'T 'JUST' LEAVE

It has been several years since I separated myself from a relationship after many years. The reason for this was not because things were difficult or because I was 'not happy', so to speak. No, I took the distance to no longer be exposed to abuse and other violations of trust. I left to be able to live in safety and peace. I didn't 'just' go.

Many people decide by free choice to leave their country for a variety of reasons, often in the hope of a better life elsewhere. They can decide for themselves at any time whether or not to return to their home country. How different it is for the people I work with, the refugees, people who have been forced to flee their home countries because of war, violence, or persecution. They are being persecuted because of their religion, political beliefs, sexual preference, or because they belong to a specific ethnic group. They cannot return home until the conditions in their country of origin are safe. No one knows when that will be or if that will ever be the case.

In many cases they have had to flee suddenly and without prior warning. They were often unable to prepare for their departure. These people often do not have

time to think, because they have to act. There is not much time to pack a suitcase. Besides that, how much can you take with you if you have to continue your flight by foot? How much luggage are you able to carry? Sometimes there isn't even time for them to say goodbye, or it's too dangerous to say goodbye, like Mehmet.

Mehmet is from Turkey and has a wife and two girls aged twelve and fifteen. They lived in a small village in a house with a little garden. The family has two cats that the younger girl especially loves. Mehmet had a good job with many responsibilities. He was very dedicated to his job, which he also enjoyed very much.

His life changed dramatically when, after the coup in his home country, he was declared a terrorist, just like many others, and was removed from his position. He was in jail for two years, was released, but another prison sentence awaited him. During his first imprisonment he had to share a twenty square meter cell with twenty other people. He made the very difficult decision to flee the country to avoid more years in prison.

Mehmet arranged his flight in secret. It was too risky for him to inform his children and even his wife about his plans. If his children in particular accidentally said something to others, it would mean that he would immediately be arrested by the police, imprisoned, tortured or perhaps killed. Mehmet knew when it came time to say goodbye to his family, but he had to remain silent for his safety. How difficult that must be! His family didn't know anything, and they found out a day later



They didn't 'just' leave

that he had fled the country. They were not able to say goodbye to their husband and father. This is very hard on his family. He knows he will not be able to see his family for a while. His younger daughter especially misses him very much. Mehmet showed me a post from her on Facebook, a big heart with the text: "When will I see you again daddy? I miss you so much!" He had tears in his eyes.

While he is trying to find his way, there are people from his home country in a position of authority in the shelter where he lives who have become aware of his circumstances and are mistreating him and still labelling him as a traitor.

Mehmet asked for my help to face his new reality while managing his past. It is very difficult, after having served your country for many years, to be seen as a traitor. Mehmet is a decent, strong, and honest man who had men serving under him. A man who is determined to work hard, as he said at our final meeting, "I promise you I will do my utmost for this country once I get a residence permit." I still see this man of integrity sitting on the chair, and I was touched by the deep love with which he spoke about his family.

Unlike Mehmet, when God decided to get Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 12), people wanted to leave. They were able to pack their stuff and take their families with them.

Mehmet was able to pack a suitcase, but didn't want to leave. For others, there is no time to even pack their stuff. Some of them had to flee in such a hurry that they only had the clothes they were wearing with them. I see people whose country of birth can no longer be their home. People who had not much or nothing to choose. Sometimes their reality is to die or to flee. These people come to 'our' country and have given up everything. They have left everything they are familiar with and the people they love. They left behind everything that is near and dear to them.

And here they are in another country, 'our' country, a completely different country for them, with all the emotional baggage that they carry with them. What a world! This is their world and this is their reality. Most are not looking for a better life, but they are looking for protection, security and peace.

They did not 'just' leave.

Anna

Disclaimer: To ensure the safety and anonymity of refugees, certain details in these stories have been modified. Names, locations, and identifying information have been changed or omitted. Any resemblance to real persons is purely coincidental.

'Anna' is the pseudonym for a Christian in the Netherlands. Due to the sensitive content of some of her work she prefers to write simply as 'Anna'. She hopes her experiences will be an encouragement.





APPEALS & UPDATES

INDIA

We are writing to you with heavy hearts as the people in Wayanad, Kerala, witness the devastating impact of the recent landslides. The scale of the tragedy is overwhelming, with 357 people confirmed dead and more than 200 still missing. Thousands of families are grappling with unimaginable loss, while over 10,000 people have been left homeless and are now taking refuge in temporary shelters.

The immediate needs are immense. Those who have lost their homes are in desperate need of basic necessities such as food, clean water, clothing, hygiene kits and medical care. Once the rescue operations comes to end and people start to vacate shelter homes, the real battle begins for the surviving victims. As challenges don't end with immediate relief. The long-term needs are just as crucial. These families will need help rebuilding their lives from scratch. This includes reconstructing homes, repairing the houses, restoring livelihoods, procuring household items, appliances and educational implements for children to ensure that they can continue their education despite the disruptions caused by this disaster. The road to recovery will be long and tough. We may not help them to reach the end of the road, but we certainly help them

to take few steps on the road to recovery. The people of Wayanad are in of need help and we cannot do it alone. We urge you to come along with us.

Every contribution, no matter how small, will make a significant difference in the lives of those affected. Your contributions will be used to provide some immediate relief and help lay the foundation for long-term recovery efforts. Please write to joelmadiki@gmail.com or tonytyson66@yahoo.com for details on how to send your financial help or to know more details.

Please join us in extending a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in Kerala. Together, we can offer them hope and the means to rebuild their lives. Let us join hands to help and serve. Thank you for your prayers, generosity and kindness.

Joel Madiki



Livingston Church
of Christ

Invites you to our youth day

OUT OF THIS WORLD



OUT OF THIS WORLD

Saturday 2nd November 2024

10 am till 8pm
Ages 10+

Please bring warm clothes, a jacket, waterproof shoes and an adult from your congregation for the landing site visit!

Please send names, ages and any food requirements to:
aminakabalo316@gmail.com
by Sunday 27th October

Church of Christ Livingston, Garden Place, Elliburn, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 6RA



DIARY

October

3rd – British Bible School evening class: “More Characters of Scripture” led by various teachers 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.

6th-9th – Cumbernauld: EQUIP – “Living With the End in Mind”, speaker: Joseph Horton (Winchester, Tennessee); Sunday: 11.00 am & 7.00 pm; Monday & Tuesday: 10.00 am-3.00 pm & 7.00-8.00 pm; Wednesday: 10.00 am-noon. Contact Adam Barr (07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744), or email info@campheatherbell.org.uk.

7th – British Bible School evening class: “God, His Covenants and Jesus” led by Mark Hill each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for eleven weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

9th-10th – Christians Resources Exhibition in Milton Keynes: “These Exhibitions are well worth going to for ideas and information about church life and its needs. Highly recommended this for those in easy driving distance.” Trevor

12th – Coventry: Lectureship and Fellowship Day, 10.00 am-3.45 pm at Coventry CR Centre, Red Lane, Coventry, CV6 5EE. Hosted by Midlands area congregations. Contact Ernest (07737 528259) or Samuel (07799 941270).

19th – Peterhead: Social Day, 1.00-4.00 pm. Contact: Michael Gaunt (01779) 476170 or michael_gaunt@hotmail.com.

25th-27th – Bristol: Youth Weekend – “Masterpiece”, ages 12-18. For booking and information contact Jason: 07795 560990 or jsnethen@hotmail.com.

26th – Liverpool: Evening of Songs (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

26th – Wembley: Singing Workshop with Alan Dod. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

28th-1st Nov – British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor: “The Divided Monarchy”. Info and registration will be available at www.britishbibleschool.com. Contact: Patrick Boyns (pkb@britishbibleschool.com).

November

2nd – Livingston: Youth Day – “Out of This World”, ages 10+. Send names, ages, food requirements to aminakabalo316@gmail.com by 27th October.

4th-12th – Trip of a Lifetime: Seven Churches Tour of Turkey. Info: ianstarrsturkeyitinerary.pdf. Contact: Ian Starrs: jes22ian@msn.com or 07960 150856.

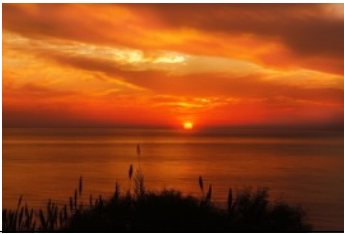
23rd – Liverpool: Gospel Meeting (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

April 2025

5th-6th – Liverpool: Young Adult Fellowship Weekend – “Influencer or Follower?”, ages 18+. Venue: Liverpool building, Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 8QH. RSVP: Rexford (rboahen@outlook.com) or use Eventbrite link.

July 2025

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.



THE FINAL WORD



How were your summer fruits?

When we moved into our present home we decided to divide the garden into two sections, one for lawn and flowers the other for vegetables and fruit. This year our tomatoes were useless, but our raspberries were superb. Plums were riddled with little worms, but the apples have bent their branches down with their weight. This is the best crop that we have had and now we have picked boxes of apples with more still on the tree. They still need a week or two to sweeten and then it will be apple with everything.

The prophet Amos was instructed to look at a basket of summer fruit, ripe and full, but God turned the blessing into a curse (Amos 8). For all the blessings that God had poured upon Israel there were only problems ahead. Verse 11 reads, “The days are coming”, declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or thirst for water but a famine on hearing the words of the LORD”. Now this was written for the people of Israel, and they had all sorts of problems with their secular leaders and surrounding nations which eventually led them into slavery by the Assyrians and later the Babylonians.



In our day
and age we
see an
abundance
of good
things,
our super-
markets
are filled
with fruit
from around
the world
(though it never

seems to be fully ripe and tastes of nothing). We have medicines and operations that can cure or help almost anything. We live in a world of have nots. We have our summer fruit baskets filled with good things while so many are worried about the next meal. But the scripture text is not talking about a famine in the land of a shortage of food but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

Churches are great places for chopping things up and creating a tasteless menu. We can fuss over traditions, words, methods, seats, etc., and all the time the bulk of people walk past our meeting places and never give a second glance.

In verse 12 we read, ‘Many will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.’ There are all sorts of groups holding meetings for thousands of people, teaching all sorts of philosophies but not the Word of God.

I know we live in a glamour society but wonder if at least our meeting places might rid themselves of damp and dusty rooms. Can we hear sermons that are to the point, relevant for today and do not make us sit until our backs ache?

Is it possible for us to have the summer fruits of God’s Word, healthy and wholesome to share and nourish the people we meet, so there will not be a famine of good teaching, and a menu to delight the eyes and feed the souls of all people?

Trevor