

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

September 2024 • Vol 56 No 9



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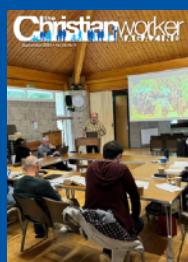
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All articles and news items should be sent to **Trevor Williams** by the 21st of each month. Late items may be accepted until the 25th. Publication is the first day of each month.

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



Front cover and
above: BBS Study
Weekend at East
Kilbride



CONGRATULATIONS!



Elaine Okyere-Mireku

Joy in Edmonton!

Greetings from the saints at the Edmonton congregation. We bring you joy as we celebrated, yet again, the baptism of another soul. On Sunday, 4th August 2024, the Lord added **Elaine Okyere-Mireku** to his body. Keep her in your prayers that she will grow as a Christian.

Ofori Dwumah

A new Christian in Wembley!

On Saturday 3rd August **Hemma Leckraz** was immersed 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

Another soul saved in Cumbernauld!

Martin is an acquaintance from a few years ago. He has been studying with Graham McDonald since the end of last year and on 7th August he made the decision to give his life to Jesus through baptism. From acquaintance to our new brother in Christ!

More rejoicing with the angels.

Nicole Barr



Graham immersing Martin



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Learning from John

The last weekend in August was the first of our Study Weekends for the autumn (although we are not quite into autumn yet). Eleven came along from several congregations to East Kilbride where we continued the study of The Gospel of John.

This is the one of the longer modules that has been divided into two parts so that we could better concentrate on the text. Last year at East Kilbride the study concentrated on the first half of the book, covering chapters 1-12 as well as some introductory matters. This year we began with a topical study on the Jewish establishment and a review of what we covered last year. Chapters 13-18 were then taught by Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway for the rest of Saturday and during the Bible class and worship times on Sunday.

Next weekend, 7th-8th September, will see the second study weekend in which we will complete a study of the text, looking at John 18-21, and then look at some reflections and applications of this gospel to our lives. During the second study weekend Patrick and Jon will be joined by Jack Paton, who is

currently teaching an online class for the BBS on "Life Lessons in the Gospel of John".

If any are able, you are welcome to join us for the second weekend in East Kilbride

A new series of online classes will begin on Monday, 23rd September. Mark Hill will take over from Jack and teach a series of lessons on "Covenants of the Bible". On Thursday evenings the plan is to have different teachers looking at various characters in the Bible. You will be able to find additional details and links for these classes on our website and in our social media.

Our Residential Study Week is rapidly approaching. This year's study will be 'The Divided Kingdom of Israel'. Teachers will once again be Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, and Mark Hill. The cost for the week, which includes room and board plus study materials, is £180. Details and how to register can be found on our website: <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2024>.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com



British Bible School Events

Online Bible Classes with the *British Bible School*

For twelve weeks commencing 1st July 2024

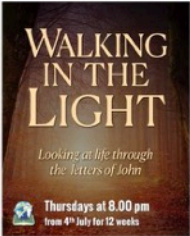
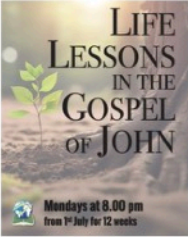
Mondays at 8.00 pm

Life Lessons in the Gospel of John

Throughout history, Christians have endeavoured to embody the Biblical ideals of justice, love, and truth. Despite the challenges presented by a world marked by injustice, hate, and lies, the Gospel of John offers valuable insights.

It provides a clear understanding of living as reflections of God's character in our interactions with others and empowers us to flourish as we strive to live out our Christian calling. John's account of Jesus' teachings on justice, love, power, freedom, truth, and spirituality inspires us to embrace these values in our lives.

Presenter: Jack Paton



Thursdays at 8.00 pm

Walking in the Light

The letters of John deal with everyday life for those who trust in Jesus and follow his ways. We are not in need of sinless perfection, but we are to be walking in the light, as he is in the light, and ensuring that we live our lives in Jesus, everyday.

He was sent that we might have life, and have it in all its fullness. We cannot have a healthy relationship with God unless we first believe in Jesus, and accept him for who he is. We cannot claim to love God if we do not love other people, whom he has created in his image. This is eternal life.

Presenter: Jon Galloway

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

(PART 2)

East Kilbride

Scholar's Gate, G75 9JL

Saturday, 24th August 9.00am to 4.30pm
Sunday, 25th August 9.45am to 12.30pm
Saturday, 7th September 9.00am to 4.30pm
Sunday, 8th September 9.45am to 12.30pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton

For full details visit our website:
britishbibleschool.com

Standing in contrast to the other Gospel accounts, that of John deserves separate attention. In this module the student will be introduced to the structure and significance of this book with an opportunity to explore a number of key passages.

IN CHRIST ALONE

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September 2024

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

www.britishbibleschool.com

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

BANGOR HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP 1961

These photos were submitted by Stephen Daniell, wondering if anyone can recognise any of the people in these photographs. Albert Winstanley and John Daniell are pictured. Can anyone recognise any others?





FAMILY NEWS

EDMONTON (LONDON)

Men's workshop 2024: The leaders warmly express their sincere gratitude and thankfulness to all who participated in this year's Men's Workshop which was hosted on Saturday, 13th July 2024. The theme for the workshop was "Building Effective Communication", and the corresponding scripture text was taken from Ephesians 4:29.



It was the first time in five years the programme was held in-person because the Covid-19 pandemic. However, opportunity was granted to brethren outside the United Kingdom to attend via Zoom. Those who attended were men from congregations in the United Kingdom and beyond. In all eleven congregations were in attendance.



The main speaker for the day was Manny Ebong from Nigeria. After his lesson was a question and answers time.

In the second part of the programme, we split the participants into groups for discussion. There were three topics and three groups: 'Practising Effective Communication' led by Stephen Eusell: 'Ways to Improve Decision Making' led by James Obeng; and 'Bringing Churches Together' led by Trevor William.

After the group sessions the leaders summarised what each group had discussed and participants were allowed to ask questions, give suggestions and contributions.

The last session was brought by Frank Otchere-Mireku who walked us through a talk on men's health. The topic this year was 'Prostate: Causes, Effects and Prevention.'

It was a great day of information and fellowship.

S. Ofori Dwumah

NORTHAMPTON

On Saturday, 13th July, it was our privilege to host in Northampton a **Mission Bible Class teaching seminar** in conjunction with 'Story of Redemption Films'.

James Nored introduced the proceedings with an update on the work of Story of Redemption Films and how the number of films for children and youth is growing. These are designed to help children understand and enable them to discuss Bible themes. We have used them in our Bible classes and are excited that there are so many more available now, with still more to come.

Family News

Gina Nored led sessions to help teachers and would-be teachers learn, concentrating on how children at different ages learn. She equipped everyone with hints, helps, and craft and activity ideas that will appeal to each age group. Everyone present was enthused as they saw and thought of opportunities to be more effective in passing on God's Word to the children in their care. Some things have already been adopted in the Sunday Bible classes. However, we are very much looking forward to putting these things into practice in our VBS in August.

On Sunday, 14th July, James preached and taught the adult Bible class in Northampton. Those who were already familiar with the film series were encouraged again to realise what is available for them to use to spread God's Word not only in the UK but with family who are abroad. We were thrilled to learn of new films which are helping to keep things fresh.

Northampton church of Christ

Memorial Service

for
Stephanie Stones
at
Oxford St, Loughborough
on
Saturday, 7th September

3.00 pm followed by tea
Ken Mullan to officiate

Stephanie had been a Christian at Loughborough since her baptism in 1958. She passed away during the Covid pandemic when regulations were tight and there was no proper service to remember her life at the time. This will be the opportunity for family and friends to come together and share.

Are you planning to be with us this year?

Bookings are now open for our
Autumn Weekend Family Retreat at
Letton Hall from 13th to 15th
September 2024.

If you are wanting to join us this year then please let us know as soon as possible! Numbers are limited and places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. In light of there not being an event at Bassenfell Manor next January, due to renovations being carried out, we anticipate places filling up quickly!

For details: <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2024>





AROUND THE WORLD

YANN & RITA OPSITCH

École du Maître – Our mission is to offer biblical teaching to strengthen churches of Christ throughout the French-speaking world in order to equip them for the preaching of the gospel and the planting of churches faithful to New Testament Christianity.

YouTube and WhatsApp (<https://youtu.be/viYPLQucRog>) – We are teaching using email, Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, YouTube, and FaceBook. Most students in Africa who applied can only study using their cell phones



Yann teaching in Quebec

and through audio interaction and using WhatsApp solved this problem. We also want to teach through personal visits and training sessions.

École du Maître School (School of the Master) – Hundreds of French speaking men and women in congregations throughout Africa and the world are in



David Massicotte immersed into Christ

need of Biblical training. There are only four schools in the French speaking world that we know of where preachers can

receive Biblical training. Most brothers wanting to study and preach cannot travel far and be able to study for two or three years away from their families and local congregations.

Baptism due to a fellowing meeting of EDM students and congregations in Quebec – During the Quebec meeting of congregations and EDM students, David Massicotte was immersed into Christ. David trained at a young age to become a Catholic priest but left Catholicism. One of our EDM students in Quebec, Gilles Boucher, got in touch with him through Facebook and after studying with Gilles and evangelist Jean Grenier, David decided to be immersed into Christ.

David, with the help of Gilles, will be starting a new congregation in the town of St Georges, Quebec, a town of 40,000 population with no congregation, situated an hour drive from Quebec city.

Yann and Rita Opsitch – Born and raised in France, Yann Opsitch became a Christian in June of 1970 during an evangelistic campaign in Geneva, Switzerland. He attended the North Ireland Bible School and did mission work in France while training other missionaries who came to France. Rita became a Christian in California at the age of 19 through the “One Way Program” in 1984. She did mission work in France for fifteen years and is a very capable Bible teacher.

Yann and Rita met on the mission field. Yann founded the Christian journal *Horizons Chrétiens*, now read online throughout the French speaking world. He helped start the CEM Biblical training programme in Marseille before he and Rita worked as European Missions

Around the World

Coordinator with the Halbert Institute for Missions (Abilene Christian University). Yann holds three Master's degrees and is a graduate of NIBS, Belfast and University of Geneva in biblical languages.

Yann Opsitch
yopsitch@gmail.com
<https://www.ecoledumaitre.com/>



Notice from the Editor

Our web site is www.churchesofchrist.co.uk – in it readers will find where congregations in the UK are located as well as contact details. It is up to individual congregations and Christians to make sure their details are correct. This is not something the editors can do but when information is sent in I am happy to pass the information to Emanuel in Leicester who will kindly correct the entry.

Secondly, would readers please send in their information ASAP. Every issue is emailed out on the 1st of the month so please send information in as early as possible. For those who advertise activities please also send in a report after the event has concluded. We do not have a secretary to deal with last minute announcements.

Thirdly, we are in need a new website developer. This should be someone with a youthful view of life and properly skilled at this work. We are able to pay a small stipend. Thank you.

A big 'Thank You' to our production editor, Jon Galloway, who spends a great deal of time each month on this task. Jon and I have been working on CW editorship for 10 years. Neither Jon nor I receive any finances from the CW but we do have running costs and your support is most welcome. We would also like to hear your comments – but please be nice.

Trev



I AM NOT AFRAID ANYMORE

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces many seeds." (John 12:24)

It was a cold November morning. That was the morning I chose to walk away from my 'so-called' *certainties* to face an uncertain future. On that day, I packed my personal belongings and left the house I had called my home for over 25 years. I was leaving an abusive relationship; a relationship in which there was no longer safety, and trust and respect were seriously broken. On that November morning, I felt broken and afraid.

When I closed that door, I had no job. For years, I had spent my time volunteering, serving people in need. However, I now needed a paying job. During the Covid lockdown, the options for finding a job were very limited. I sent many, many applications, but only got rejections; I was seen as overqualified or under-qualified. So, I decided to start my own counselling/

coaching practice to earn an income. However, I soon found out that the income from this effort was insufficient to meet my basic needs. It seemed like I was hitting one dead end after another.

My heart has always been with people in need and in pain, and despite my own fears and pain, my desire to serve those in pain continued to grow. Therefore, I began to pray to God, asking for opportunities to serve in this area. But the answer did not come immediately. Nevertheless, I persisted and intensified my request to God, asking him to put me to serve where he felt I was needed most. Little did I know that he would answer my prayers in the most unexpected way.

In 2022, war began in Ukraine, with many women and children fleeing their homeland and some were coming to my country. These frightened women and children, who had to leave their homes hastily were in great pain and need and I began to develop the desire to help them. Thanks be to God that in answer to my prayers, I was able to find churches in which God opened the hearts of the leaders to support me financially so I could dedicate time to help this group.

But God was not done. Because of the experience I gained helping refugees, another door opened widely for me. I was offered a paying job to work in refugee shelters. In accepting this employment, God would focus my passion to help those in pain, and I was entering a space in which he would continue my healing and restoration. Finally, it seemed like God had taken me to the place where he wanted me to be.

It is almost two years since I have been working with refugees. I provide mental health care support at various locations and in a variety of settings. The refugees I work with are from very diverse cultures,



I am not afraid anymore

of different ages, and they range from being highly educated to being illiterate. The common denominator is that they are foreigners in a new country who fled their home country, and they are seeking protection.

Prior to my work with refugees, I had become familiar with images on TV showing the flow of people walking from their home country to different countries in Europe. I had seen videos of boats on the Mediterranean Sea, crowded with mostly men, all on their way to Europe. To be honest, I didn't always know what to think about what I was seeing, and I thought the flow of people was too much. It seemed like Europe would soon be overrun by refugees, and these people were coming to take our jobs and houses.

Soon I began to see shelters where the refugees were housed. The news media began to cover stories of violence breaking out in some of these shelters. These news reports gave me a negative view of the entire group. I also began to see refugees where I lived. Whenever I saw them walking or sitting somewhere, I felt uncomfortable, and my discomfort increased when I encountered male refugees. I especially did not like when the men grouped; I found it quite intimidating.

Now, after almost two years of working intensively with refugees, both men and women, something has changed. I hear their stories; I am aware of what they have gone through and are still going through. I am deeply touched by their stories, the experiences they have gone through and continue to go through, all because they were fearful for their lives and embarked on a journey in search of safety, safety for themselves and for their family.

My heart has been touched: I see their faces, I appreciate their tears, I share their sorrow, and I feel their pain. But I also see their unshed tears. Tears that they cannot yet allow to flow lest they become an uncontrollable floodgate. I see real faces; I now see them as human. I also see that there are parallels between their story and my story, between their journey and my journey.

I'm not afraid anymore.

In subsequent articles I hope to share some of their stories and describe my growth.

© 2024 Anna

'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.

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**



APPEALS & UPDATES

PAKISTAN



Yashua Sabir

I am looking support for my son Yashua. During his school years he received an A+ Grade and now he is about to start his medical studies. In the first two years his educational experience the cost for his tuition fees will be US\$100 per month (around £75 per month). The next five years will be double that amount per month. It will take seven years of study to become a doctor.

Please, I would like to request on our behalf that someone who would like to see a brilliant student fulfil his studies and become the good servant of the Lord to help with his support. I believe that after completing his studies, he will be very helpful for the communities in working with the poor – there are few doctors helping poor people.

Naeem Sabir

MALAWI

I'm pleased to inform you that John Manda from



Kabwanyanga, Stanley Kumwenda from Chiskombe and Zakawiro Nkhoma from Manolo congregations were all smiles for the gift of the bicycles. They are more energetic than me and I hope and pray that this will ease their mobility as they preach to win the lost souls.

Thank you very much for the funds – each was bicycle cost MwK250,000 each making a total of MwK750,000 plus transport it came to MWK 780,000.00.

We had a balance of Mwk 450,000.00 which helped us in the gospel meeting and the Bible School we had here at Ekwendeni.

Davison Ndhlovu

GODLY LIVING IN A CORRUPT WORLD

HOST:
SHEFFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST

DATE
14 SEPTEMBER, 2024

TIME:
10:00AM - 4:30PM

VENUE:
(411 BELLHOUSE ROAD, SHEFFIELD. S5 0RB).

MAIN SPEAKER:
BRO. MAXWELL ADU-YEBOAH
(EDMONTON, LONDON)

DISCUSSION TOPICS & LEADERS

GROUP BLACK:
BEARING THE PAIN OF UNJUST SUFFERING (BRO
TREVOR WILLIAMS- ILKESTON)

GROUP BLUE:
SUBMITTING TO EVERY HUMAN AUTHORITY (BRO
ANTHONY - MANCHESTER)

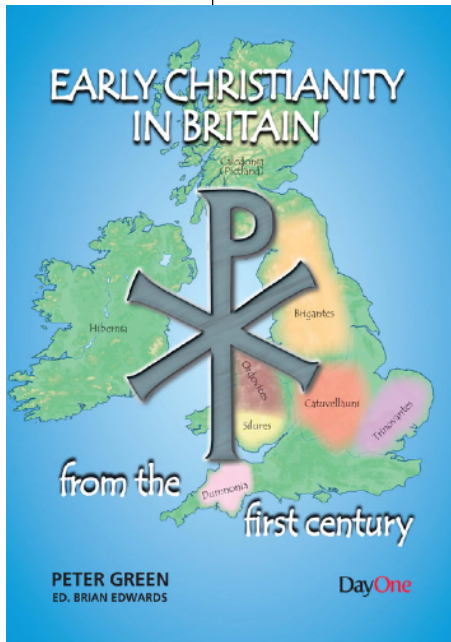
GROUP GREEN:
BENEFITS OF LIVING AS FOREIGNERS (BRO GEOFF-
MORLEY)

Main Contact :

07508033534 - Patrick 07383863600 - Godwin 07809719855 - Maxwell

BOOK REVIEW

Early Christianity In Britain by Peter Green.
Day One Publications, £9.00
ISBN: 9781846257605
<https://www.dayone.co.uk/products/early-christianity-in-britain>



Description from the website: "It has long been a popular belief that Augustine of Canterbury introduced Christianity to Britain in the year AD 597. In fact, he was over five hundred years too late. From the earliest days of the Roman conquest of what became Britannia Romana, gospel churches were planted and spreading across these islands.

land of the Celts and Druids turns many so called 'legends' into the reality of history and presents some exciting surprises to connect the gospel in Britain with the letters of Paul in the New Testament. Here is a long-needed correction to accepted errors of history in an accessible account of the earliest churches in Britain."

For years I have read about Celtic churches planted here but had some gaps in my knowledge. This particular book was easy to read and logically set out to show that simple Christianity was preached without any outside interference and when Rome wanted to plant its own doctrine there was a huge resistance from Britain. In a land of many tribes and kingdoms where Druids and pagan religions ran side by side history is a mishmash of information. Thankfully the book deals with many of these problems.

"This carefully researched and referenced examination of the history of the earliest entry of the good news of Jesus into the

Costing £9 I felt the money well spent.

Trevor Williams

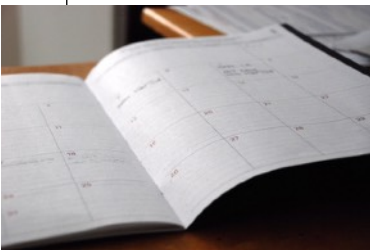
Celebrate With Us Northampton church of Christ

44 years ago, a group first started meeting in Northampton. 40 years ago, they began meeting in their own building. We had hoped to offer praise to God over a weekend and thank him for his work. However, so many events are happening we are only celebrating over Sunday 22nd September beginning at 10.30am.

Though it is a Sunday we are inviting all people who ever met here in Northampton or helped erect the building or over the years has had any connection to come along. Whatever your circumstances now this is an invitation for all to join us. We will be giving thanks to God for what He has done, is doing and will do.

SPEAKERS: Trevor Williams and Augustine Nyamatore

Christian Fellowship Centre
Shadowfax Drive
Northampton NN3 8DB



DIARY

September

2nd – **British Bible School evening class**: led by Jack Paton each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, ending on 16th. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

5th – **British Bible School evening class**: “The Letters of John” led by Jon Galloway each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, ending on 19th. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

7th-8th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend – The Gospel of John (part 2). All day Saturday and Sunday Bible class and worship. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

13th-15th – **British Bible School**: “In Christ Alone” – Autumn retreat at Letton Hall. For details, see our website: britishbibleschool.com.

14th – **Sheffield**: Fellowship Day – “Godly Living in a Corrupt World” (1 Peter 2:11-25) at 411 Bellhouse Road, Sheffield S5 0RB, 10.30 am-4.30 pm. Contact: Patrick (07508 033534) or Maxwell (07809 719855).

20th-22nd – **Glasgow area**: Joint gospel meetings with David Murray – “Being a Disciple of Jesus”. Friday and Saturday at East Kilbride, 7.00 pm; Sunday joint worship at Clarkston, 11.00 am. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

21st – **Reading**: ‘Songs of Joy and Harmony’ Song Fest at Earley Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Reading, RG6 4HB. Lunch at 1.00 pm, singing at 2.00 pm, dinner at 5.00 pm. Send numbers attending to: Heidi Stevenson (message4heidi@outlook.com).

21st – **Great Barr, Birmingham**: Fellowship afternoon, 3.00 to 6.00 pm, at The Pheasey Community Hub, Hillingford Avenue, Birmingham B43 7HN. Contact: Sola (sola.adeosun@gmail.com) or John (johnonyebuchi321@gmail.com).

21st – **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.

22nd – **Northampton**: Celebration Day beginning at 10.30 am; speakers: Trevor Williams and Augustine Nyamatore. Contact: Mark (marks@uwclub.net).

23rd & 26th – **British Bible School** evening classes: A new round of classes begins – details and links to join the classes will be on our website and in our social media.

October

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. Contact: Michael Gaunt (01779) 476170 or michael_gaunt@hotmail.com.

25th-27th – **Bristol**: Youth Weekend, ages 12-18. 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 Dad. 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

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.



THE FINAL WORD



Each month I have the opportunity to write a few of my thoughts. One or two have suggested that I should compile these mingled notes into a book – I smile and say thank you for your encouragement, never thinking that is on my mind. I am only too aware that some only glance through the CW, others ignore it, and many of our brothers and sisters do not even think about it. Yet for some this little magazine is important, for a few at least.

We have congregations in this country that are growing and flourishing and several others that are hanging on for dear life. We live in a world where we hear the stirring messages at the start of the Olympics that nations can work together and at the same time three beautiful young girls are murdered instead of people working together for peace. We have experienced some of the worst scenes of violence, shame and disgrace our nation has experienced for many years. My heart was broken to see both men and women cause such havoc in our cities, but thankful for those who stood against this abuse.

We have thrown God from his throne, created a society in which anyone can do what they like, and morality has

been trodden into the gutters. We have same-sex marriages, murder of the unborn and are about to introduce the killing of the infirm. We have more university graduates and higher education skills but have forgotten mercy, kindness and godliness. We have an abundance of food, yet families are hungry; we have houses that look like palaces and people are living on the streets. We have more millionaires than anyone can imagine while children are living below the poverty line.

I see many of our places of worship near empty most of the week while faithful Christians are singing and giving and gaining Bible knowledge but rarely sharing their faith. Oh, I know I am judging but I see a society that has not changed since the early Christians came to these sacred isles in the middle of the first century. We have tribal warfare instead of different people sharing and working together. We have warfare in some of our congregations because one group does not approve of another. We have muddied the cross and tarnished the crown.

It is time for the church of Christ to peel off past glory and face the world for what it is – lost, angry, soiled and heart-broken. The light of Jesus still shines out and that light is inside of us. We have a choice of being real servants of Christ by standing on the promises or be those who are merely sitting on the premises.

Great God put fire in our bellies, hope in our hearts, the message of salvation on our lips. Put us to the plough lest we fall into the dirt. Amen

Trevor

