

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE



January 2023 • Vol 55 No 1



HAPPY

2023



NEW YEAR

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

The Christian Worker Magazine is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom. The first issue was published in January 1969.

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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.



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MY PERSPECTIVE



What
will
2023
bring?

Another New Year

These past few years have been challenges for most people. I still struggle to comprehend what the entire world went through in 2020 with the Covid-19 pandemic. Reading about world-wide pandemics was something you read about in history books, not something you expected to happen in our lifetime.

2021, of course, was the continuing pandemic with more lockdowns and restrictions. This time last year Arlene and I were in 'quarantine' having just returned from our first visit in years to the United States and we were awaiting the results of Covid tests after coming back into the country.

Fortunately for most 2022 was the beginning of a return to 'normal', although the normal we are now living is different than how we lived at the beginning of 2020. In many ways we lost two years of our lives – as I try to remember when something happened I am often two years off, because of not seeing so many people during those years.

There have been good changes in our society. Working conditions for many have changed, as there is more working from home. Many suggested that this would be the way of working in the future but suddenly the future arrived! My wife now spends more time working from home and less time on the road – the company she works for discovered they can accomplish much of what they need to do in a more cost-efficient way by providing their training online.

For others though, coming out of the pandemic meant changes they did not

want in their lives because of the death of loved ones or even marriages that broke down. 2022 has been a year for many to learn to live with a different reality.

Many congregations have also changed and adapted what they do and how they do it. Due to restrictions many added online worship and have chosen to keep this, providing a way for people who are not well or who don't live near a congregation an opportunity to be part of worship and receive the encouragement this provides. At East Kilbride, we adapted our seating and even the way we approached the Lord's Table and liked the changes so much that we decided to keep them, which has led to our thinking of ways we can improve our time together.

One good aspect we saw in 2022 was the desire for Christians to meet together. We have seen large attendances at outreach events which has led to organising more regular times of singing and studying where Christians can come together and encourage each other.

So what will 2023 bring? I pray that it will bring a renewed thirsting for God's word and we will see more times we can come together and open God's word. I pray that we will see a renewed commitment to fellowship and that congregations will provide more opportunities to spend time together. I pray that this can be said of us: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* (Acts 2:42)

May 2023 be a year of growth for each of us as disciples of Jesus.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!



A new Christian in Edmonton

I wish to gladly inform you another soul, in the person of **Vivian-Gifty Opoku Afriye**, has given herself to the Lord. The baptism took place at our church building premises on Sunday, 13 November 2022.

Please keep her in your prayers as she begins her journey with the Lord.

S. Ofori Dwumah



UKRAINE UPDATE

Christmas Greetings from Ukraine

We are grateful to God for giving us a chance and salvation through Jesus.

We are grateful to God for the birth of Jesus Christ!

And we are grateful for your help throughout this difficult year.

We all love you and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

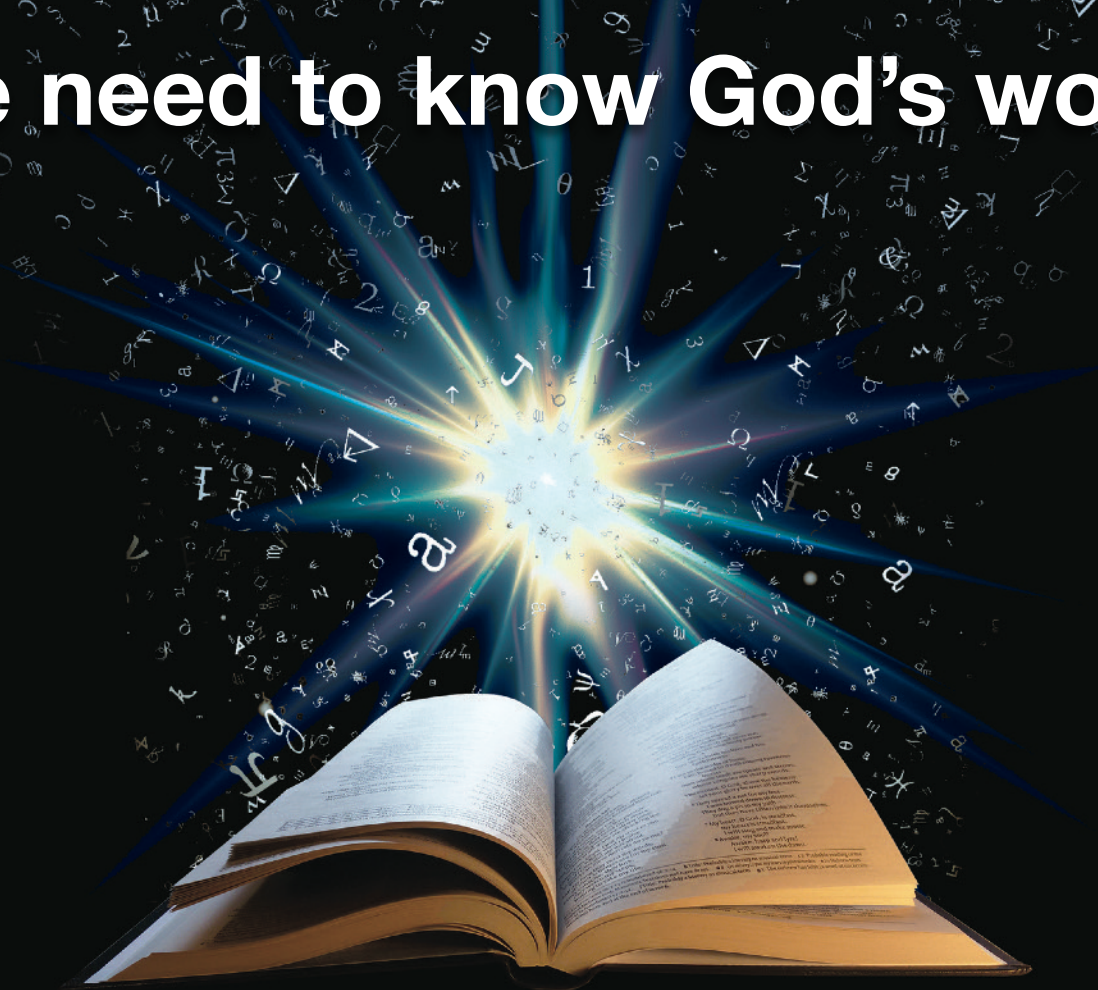
Blessings to you!



the Prokopchuk family and all the children we work with

Here is the link to view their Christmas message: https://youtu.be/T__6LLCqWA8

The need to know God's word



“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” (Psalms 119:130 NIV)

The beginning of a New Year is a good time to make changes in our lives. As 2022 ends and 2023 begins it makes sense to reflect on our lives over the last twelve months and to resolve to do better in the year ahead.

Many people make New Year's resolutions, usually to lose weight or to alter some other aspect of their lives. But this is also a good time to take stock of where we are spiritually. Do we know more of God's word now than we did this time last year? If we are not feeding ourselves spiritually how can we even think we are spiritually healthy?

David, especially in Psalm 119, speaks of the importance of God's word in almost every one of the 176 verses in our Bibles. One of the themes is that God's word gives light for us in our lives. We often sing: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” – this is based on Psalm 119:105. David went on to say that unfolding God's word gives us light.

As Christians we want to be “walking in the light”. John recorded: *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the*

light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7). How can we ‘walk in the light’ if we are not using our light to see?

Let me encourage you to make an effort to begin a systematic reading of God's word during 2023. Or if you are already a daily Bible reader to keep it up. There are many Bible reading schedules that can be accessed easily online and are simple to follow – they only require us to commit a little of our time and we will grow beyond measure from just a few minutes of daily Bible reading.

Bible study is also vital. Most congregations offer times during the week to come together to look a bit more deeply into God's word. The British Bible School also offers both online and in-person opportunities to study and learn. Two new evening classes begin this coming week. For more in-depth study, sign up for one of the BBS modules, which are offered online and in-person at various congregations.

Let's determine that we will grow in 2023 by making God's word part of our lives each day.

Jon Galloway



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Looking ahead to the New Year

Let me firstly thank all of you who continue to help in this work, whether as individuals or as part of a local assembly. As we begin another new year, we still need your prayers as much as ever. This is never to be our work, but that of God in us and through us, and we urge you to pray that God may use us usefully as we seek to work out his mission. We value your participation in the events and activities we organise, whether in person or online, and we are always open to many more joining with us on our journey. And we will always be able to use your gifts of funding as we continue to develop this work of helping to prepare each other for service.

Weekend Family Retreat

Our first major event of the year will be our Mid-Winter Weekend Family Retreat at

Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District. The dates for this are 13th to 15th January 2023. If you are wanting to be with us, do please get in your booking as soon as possible. Details can be found on our website.

And if you're not yet sure whether you would like to be with us – the answer is: yes, you would! A number of spaces are still available and we would love to have you with us. Our Weekend Family Retreats provide excellent opportunities of being together as the family of God, sharing time, thoughts and encouragement with many we may not otherwise get to meet.

Other events

We have a new round of Online Bible Classes beginning on 2nd January. Details should be on our website. And we will have a new term of our Online Extension Programme beginning the following week. Look out for our special, occasional Evening Lectures Online. And stay tuned for news of Study Weekends being conducted around the country over the next twelve months.

If you think that we might be of use to you or your local congregation, do please get in touch with us and let us discuss opportunities and ways in which we might serve together.

May God bless you, and may we be found to be useful in his service so that Christ might continue to work through us to bring light and salvation to those lost in this world of darkness.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com





FAMILY NEWS

EDMONTON



with us in commemoration of the occasion. It was great to see so many beloved and familiar faces. The Lord has been so good to us and days like this remind us how special and important this body of Christ has become to this community.

The programme was in two parts – the first was our Sunday worship, thanking God immensely through Jesus Christ for the great things the Christians here have witnessed in the 20 years of existence as God’s family in Edmonton. The second part which was grouped into three sections: (a) a brief history of the congregation, (b) presentation of souvenirs to Christians who, through thick and thin, have steered the

On Sunday, 27 November 2022, the congregation at Edmonton celebrated its 20th anniversary. The purpose of the celebration was to seize the opportunity an anniversary provides to gather Christians to celebrate God’s faithfulness to the congregation and together step forward in faith.

We invited sister churches from far and near to team



congregation into its present state, and (c) the scintillating acting performance by the children.

We climaxed the celebration with refreshment (communal eating) and the taking of pictures.

It is our fervent prayer that God will continue to work in mysterious ways and use his mighty works to draw souls to the kingdom of God.

S. Ofori Dwumah





AROUND THE WORLD

MOLDOVA UPDATE

Greetings from the Lord's people in Moldova!

An update on the current conditions the saints in Moldova must deal with. Compared to the conditions here last year, with its economic, social, and pandemic complications, things are much worse. The seven-fold increase in the price for natural gas, the related and unrelated substantial price increases for practically everything are only some of the stresses. To these should be added a constant danger of losing electricity and/or natural gas, because of the bombardment in Ukraine and because of Russia's potential actions against Moldova. As if that is not enough, there are new threats from Russia to punish Moldova, and new warnings (including from our intelligence agency) that Russia is indeed accumulating forces to resume a full-scale attack targeting Moldova too!

However, no matter how difficult or threatening the things may look from

here, they are nothing compared to the conditions in Ukraine! About a month ago the Odessa region (which is next to Moldova) was bombarded, and most of Moldova was disconnected from electricity. The blackout lasted for several hours, and that was enough to paralyse the entire country. What then to say about those who were (and still are) bombarded! Rather than complaining, it is far better be grateful for what we have!

As for the saints, by God's grace, we enjoy very special opportunities of growing in our ability to depend on Jesus, to love, and to preach by personal example! What a great chance of learning to appreciate God's wisdom and love behind the design of a local congregation (including the collection), and the fellowship that unites the Christians all over the world! I pray and hope we all make good use of these and other opportunities!

The saints keep studying the Scriptures and are trying their best to help and encourage one another! The sick have been helped with medicine and treatments and the needy were provided with food and other necessities! As always and as everywhere, no one is perfect and there are still many difficulties and shortcomings to be dealt with. But, by God's grace, we have everything we need to be successful! Praise the Lord!

May God bless you now and in the coming year! And may you be an ever-increasing blessing to all around and far away!

Serghei Corcimaru





APPEALS & UPDATES

LEICESTER

On 9th November 2014 the Leicester congregation met for the first time with twelve Christians and visitors supporting our first meeting together.

Over the past nine years the congregation has grown numerically and spiritually with Christians rising to the challenges. Our rented building had three halls and we outgrew them all – our landlord had expressed concern of our numbers at times reaching seventy in attendance.

We as a congregation felt the time had come to move forward in seeking accommodation of our own, we currently have around thirty children and a teens group so space is now critical to meet our needs.

We have been blessed to utilise the Loughborough congregation’s chapel, using their baptistry when we have needed it and recording in the chapel during Covid.

The picture (below) was taken 11th December – three families were absent, so it gives a feel to the need for a larger location. We have been prayerfully searching for a building to purchase and found one in the city. It suits all our needs and even has a baptistry.



The Building Price

We have had our offer of £315,000 accepted and have appointed solicitors, so the building is now subject to contract. The Christians here have already contributed to cover the solicitor fees and other costs.

We have been able to raise £178,646. The Leicester Christians have risen to the challenge, even in this time of recession and the holiday period. Pledges and commitments have been made as they have taken out loans, worked overtime, sold items and utilised their own funds for the success of this plan. Other congregations have also been generous.

We are looking to raise the last £136,354. Options are available for bank loans, although the repayment costs are excessive due to the current financial climate with higher interest rates.

We are looking for gifts or interest-free loans and would ask congregations to consider helping if they can. The Leicester congregation remains committed and will continue to seek every avenue to meet our target and fulfil our obligations. Please keep the congregation in prayer.

If you are able to help, please contact us:

Paul Hill: paulh41@hotmail.co.uk or 0780 4653690

Emmanuel Uwujare: emmax.uwujare@hotmail.com or 0744 8244849

Paul Hill

NOTICES

Help wanted!

Are you in your mid 20-30's, a faithful and active part of a congregation, and interested in younger people?

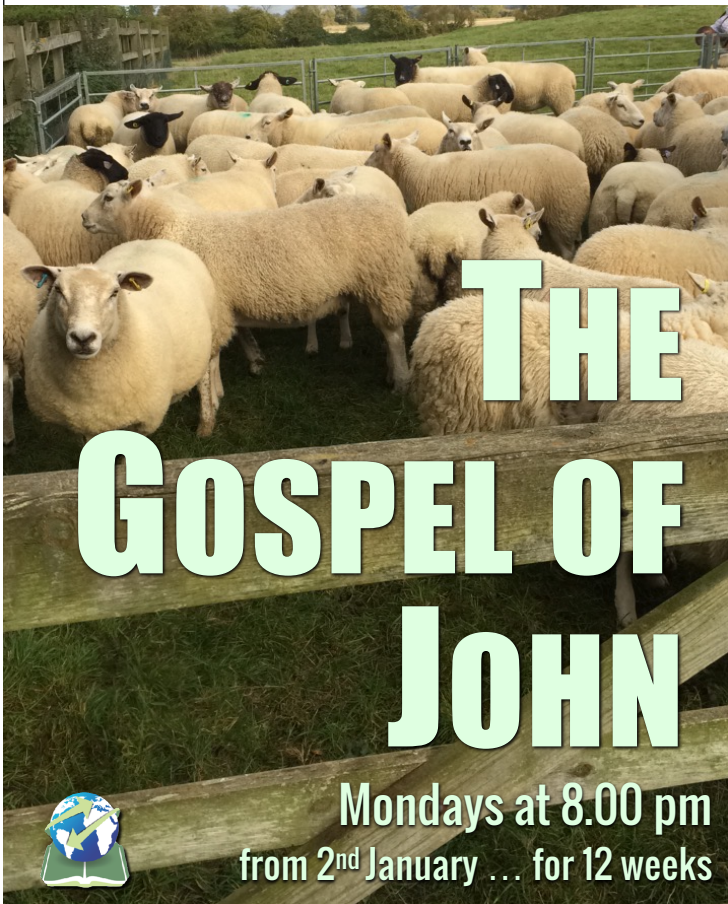
We are looking for a younger generation of Christians who would like to set up a social media site for teens and twenties to connect them to each other, our fellowship of congregations and, of course, faith in Christ. Modern media is moving so fast that the current editors of the *Christian Worker* cannot keep up with it and we need someone or even two or three to work together to encourage the younger generation.

We would like you to work with us and have the blessing of your local congregation.

There is some funding, to help start up or running costs as necessary. We think you may be in your mid 20's-30's, male or female - though you may be younger or older, you must be regarded as a faithful and active Christian by your congregation's leaders and have a keen interest in this sort of programme.

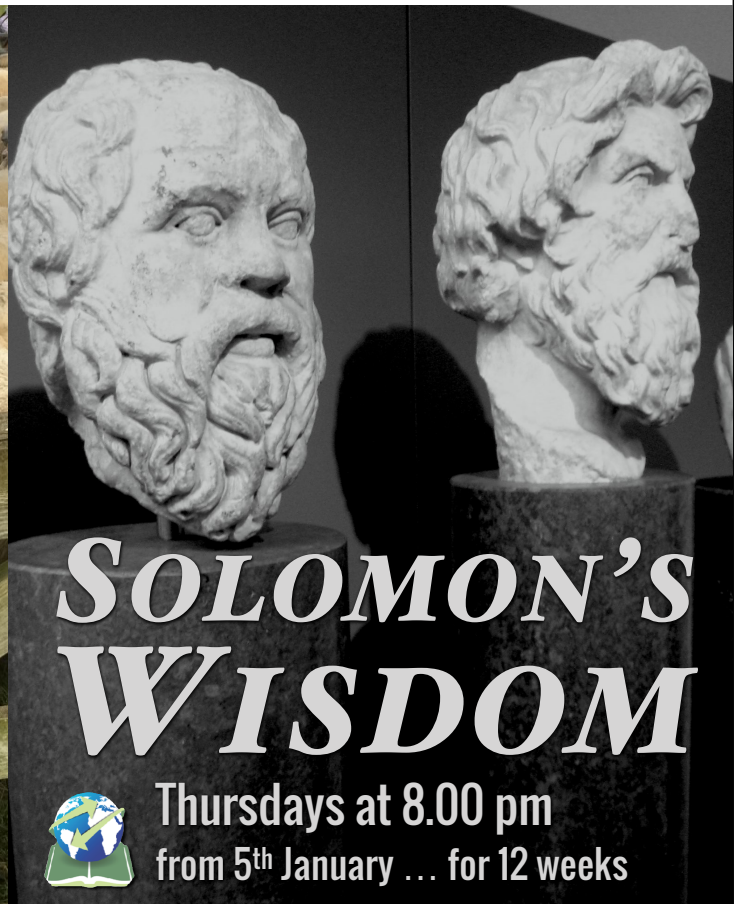

Let me know your interest
twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

Trevor




THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Mondays at 8.00 pm
from 2nd January ... for 12 weeks



SOLOMON'S WISDOM

Thursdays at 8.00 pm
from 5th January ... for 12 weeks





DIARY

January

2nd January – **British Bible School evening class**: “The Gospel of John” taught by Colin Hinde each Monday for twelve weeks, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

5th January – **British Bible School evening class**: “Solomon’s Wisdom” taught by Jon Galloway each Thursday for twelve weeks, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

6th January – **British Bible School evening quiz**: Steve Whitehead prepares and hosts a Bible quiz the first Friday of each month, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the quiz can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

13th-15th January – **British Bible School Family Retreat** at Bassenfell Manor. Register at our website soon: www.britishbibleschool.com.

28th January – **Kirkcaldy**: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Song leader: Alan Moyes; Devotional thought: Ian Starrs. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

February

13th-19th – **Gemünden, Germany**: Advanced Bible Study Series I and II. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

March

4th-5th – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend: “Timothy and Titus”; teachers: Jon Galloway and Jack Paton. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see the BBS Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net or 07434 956692).

11th – **Great Barr (Birmingham)**: “Bible Seminar”. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com)

25th – **Brandon**: Ladies’ Day. Contact: Rachael Sandison (rachael_sandison@hotmail.co.uk).

25th-26th – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend: “Timothy and Titus”; teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see the BBS Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net or 07434 956692).

April

29th – **Kirkcaldy**: Annual Social Day. Speaker: Nick Wilson. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.j.moyes@gmail.com).

August

5th-12th – **British Bible Camp**: EPIC – the Greatest Fish Story Every Told. Location: Lockerley Water Farm, E Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey SO51 0LW. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990 or Britishbiblecamp@gmail.com).

Appeal for news

We understand that several congregations do not let us know when people are immersed, but it is such a thrill to share with everyone - please let us all rejoice and tell us!

We want to hear about the activities in you congregation. We invite you to share your thoughts, your poems and if you are a hymn writer then please send in your work. If you wish to send in an article about 400-500 words is a maximum to read and for us to produce.

Please let us know you are there!

Trevor

THE FINAL WORD



The need for hope

“These three remain, faith, hope and love”
(1 Corinthians 13:13).

Starting a new year can be a time of positive thinking, of making plans for the months ahead, or a time of dread, having to face the same old same old. We can do little to change sad times but we can do something about making plans.

There have been lots of lessons presented about faith and love but not as many about hope. Hope always seems one of those things that may seem a little uncertain. In some ways it stops congregations being positive because it involves plans and plans are variable. Of course plans can be changed but better to have a changed plan than no plan.

The 2020's have not been exciting years due to Covid, the Russian war with Ukraine, price rises, and the list goes on. So what can we do?

- For congregations it is always useful to look at the finances, just as we would with our own personal finances. Do we know what we are really doing with congregational funds? It is always good to sit down and work out what we have, what we need and where we are going. A good long look may well help us. Remember everyone who is present each Sunday votes twice every week –

firstly by being present and secondly by what they give financially.

- Does your congregation have a plan for the year? What do you want to

do to reach out with the gospel? What special events do you want to host? Is the meeting place in good order? What training sessions do you plan to develop to help local Christians? Do you have a month-by-month chart to show everyone what is planned to happen and when? Will you look back at the end of December 2023 and say that your congregation didn't do anything or rejoice in having hoped to do things, and actually accomplished them?

- In a world that usually cares less about doctrine can we show our love for Jesus in practical ways? Many congregations are using their facilities in effective ways by opening up as warm centres, providing meeting places for groups, or have an open-door policy for demonstrating practical Christianity. Many congregations have reached out this past year to help Ukrainians but there is still much to do. Our chapels, if we have them, are expensive to buy, to maintain and to use them for an hour or two a week seems expensive.

I would love to hear from congregations that are involved in programmes/activities that make a difference in their local community. Many may be on the verge of extinction. Does your congregation have a plan for this year, for the next three years, the next five or even ten years ahead? Share your news with the CW and encourage others. Work with **faith**, share your **love** and place your **hope** in the hands of the Saviour.

*Lead us on to go forward gracious Lord.
Grant us a vision larger than our selves. Open our eyes that we may have vision and strength to do your will. Amen,*

Trevor

