

the Christian Worker

MAGAZINE



June 2023 • Vol 55 No 6

Kirkcaldy Social 2023

**Three new congregations in
the UK!**

News from the UK

News from around the world



CONTENTS

3 MY PERSPECTIVE

Growing in our knowledge of God's word

4 FAMILY NEWS

- Kirkcaldy Social update
- New congregation in Oldham
- Report on Shephed's Fellowship Day
- New congregation in Leytonstone, London
- Leicester has finalised their building purchase
- New congregation in Perry Barr, Birmingham

8 AROUND THE WORLD

- Update from Lungster in Malawi
- Update from the Ukraine
- India School Bag project
- A new work in the Algarve
- Appeal to help purchase Bibles for Pakistan

12 NOTICES

15 DIARY OF EVENTS

16 THE FINAL WORD

Getting Old



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.

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: Emmanuel Uwujare

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)

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.

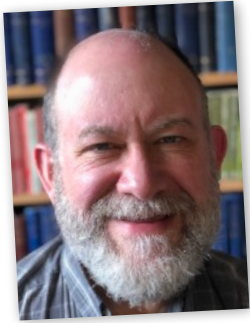
To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover and above: Kirkcaldy Social 2023



MY PERSPECTIVE



Bible study opportunities are available throughout the country

Growing in our knowledge of God's word

The Christian Worker this month is unique in several aspects. Almost all it contains is news! This is why the magazine was started over fifty years ago. Due to the pandemic it has taken a while to get congregational activities restarted. This issue reflects that we are very quickly getting back to normal.

Not only do we have four pages of news from congregations in the United Kingdom, we also have four pages of news from around the world. It is good to read of the initiatives that are going on in other countries as they try to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

There are also four pages of planned events. Most of these are 'in-person' in the form youth weekends and fellowship days, but there are also studies and meetings you can attend online.

It is also good to see that four new congregations have started: three of these are in England and one is in Portugal. So when we visit the Algarve there is now a group of Christians that we can meet with.

This month's magazine is also unique in that we are right down to the wire in getting it published. Our plan is to have it out before midnight – but it is almost 4.00 pm as I add the finishing touches to it.

The reason for the lateness is my own schedule. I am enjoying being able to teach two classes each week and have been doing so for most of this year. I teach weekly at East Kilbride – we are currently studying the Torah and are now in the book of Numbers. We are finding this study absolutely thrilling! Earlier this

year I taught one of the British Bible School's online evening classes on 'Proverbs' and I will begin a new series online on the prophet Hosea in late June. Since April I have been teaching a mid-week study for the Livingston congregation on the gospel of John. Each of these studies is very rewarding but they do take time to prepare.

This autumn the British Bible School will be having study weekends on "The Life of Jesus" in East Kilbride as well as a residential study week looking at "The United Kingdom" (being, of course, the reigns of Saul, David and Solomon).

I mention all of this to emphasise that there are ample Bible study opportunities going on throughout the country. Not only do these provide good Bible teaching, but there is also the wonderful element of Christian fellowship that takes place at the same time.

With so much happening in the world that is leading many to question what they believe, it is vital that we have a good grounding in God's word! How can we know what to believe if we have never looked at what Jesus taught, both what he personally said and what is revealed in the writings of the apostles and prophets? What better way to get to know God than to study the Jewish scriptures? As Paul wrote: *"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."* (Romans 15:4 NIV)

May we invest the time to know Jesus better so we can be grounded in our faith.

Jon



FAMILY NEWS

KIRKCALDY

Below is a comment from one of those attending the Kirkcaldy Social event on Saturday, 29th April.

I have just had the most amazing day at the Kirkcaldy Social. Congratulations to everyone involved in making it such an uplifting, spiritual experience – a real “family” reunion. The amount of work that had gone in behind the scenes was truly staggering. From the preparation of the hall, the catering – tasty pies. Aaron’s expert compering, Solus singers getting better all the time, the congregational singing was so uplifting and Nick’s beautiful lesson on families and God’s family set the pitch. Everything went like clockwork! Congregations from near and far were all represented. I just wish everyone who couldn’t be there could have received the blessings I did. To be surrounded by such warmth and love had to be experienced to be believed. God bless you all.

There were just under ninety brothers and sisters in attendance, on what was a truly uplifting day.

Allan Hughes

OLDHAM

We started meeting as a congregation of the Lord on 18th December 2022 after receiving the blessing of the Stretford

congregation the previous week.

Currently, we are a house church with two families. We meet every Sunday at 12.00 noon and we plan to begin a mid-week Bible Study soon. We meet at 22 Albert Street, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 7EP and can be reached on +44 7908618611. Our official email is info@oldhamcoc.org.

We recently launched a Digital Evangelism and Edification Program (DEEP) that involves sharing the Gospel of Truth and the Truth of the Gospel to an ever-increasing internet audience. Our hope is that this avenue will open doors for further in-person study and discipleship. Our website is: <http://www.oldhamcoc.org/>. Our social media are at – Instagram: @cocoldham ; Twitter: @oldhamcoc ; TikTok: @oldhamcoc ; Facebook: @oldhamcoc .

Our Needs

We invite brethren to visit us to encourage us and share fellowship with us as often as possible. We are looking to explore creating podcasts and short videos to spread the Word via our DEEP platform. These will require a subscription to a podcast streaming

platform, a Zoom Subscription for meetings, and gadgets such as a camera, a tripod, a lectern, lights, and editing software. The congregation is currently making arrangements to purchase some of these things but we will be glad if anyone is willing to partner with us on this project.

Daniel Ogunjimi
daniel@oldhamcoc.org



Kirkcaldy Social 2023

Family News

SHEPSHED (LOUGHBOROUGH)

On Saturday, 13th May, the congregation in Shepshed held its first fellowship day at the Shepshed Learning Centre. The theme for the day was: “The Heavenly King”. Our speakers were Mark Hill (Northampton) and Mike Glover (Aughton).

The title for Mark’s lesson was “The Heavenly King” and he emphasised the importance of making Jesus the King over every area of our lives. Mike’s lesson was about “The Heavenly Kingdom”. He focused on our citizenship in the kingdom and how we should behave as citizens. Both lessons were excellent and challenging.

Albert, a Ukranian brother who meets with us at Shepshed, gave a short talk about his work with the Christians in Ukraine.

The day was well-supported and there were 56 in attendance who came from eleven congregations. We also want to thank the congregation at Loughborough for allowing us to use their chairs and tables. It was good to be able to enjoy fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

Stephen Woodcock

LEYTONSTONE (LONDON)

A new congregation is meeting in Leystone in East London. Below are our contact details and meeting times and venue.

Church of Christ, Leytonstone Congregation
George Tomlinson Primary School
1 Harrington Road
Leytonstone
E11 4QN

Meeting time: Sundays 10.00 am-1.00 pm

Contacts: 07944158969, 07944660765, or 07468572582

Email: leytonstonecoc@gmail.com

Frank Agyapong

ILKESTON

On 7th May, coronation weekend, the Shepshed congregation met with those at Ilkeston for worship and a meal afterwards. Everyone enjoyed the time spent together. On 14th May Patrick Boyns was our speaker and during the afternoon we held a meeting supported by local churches at which time Patrick

again spoke. It has been so nice to have times when we could be together again, praising the Lord and being encouraged by our brothers and sisters.

Trevor



Family News

LEICESTER



Leicester moves into new meeting house.

We thank God that on Friday the 19th of May we took ownership of our first property in Leicester.

From finding the building late last year we put prayer faith and work into making this a reality, the congregation had fully risen to the challenge raising £350.000 by self-giving along with gifts and some loans to make this a reality.

We give thanks to our great God.

We have faced many challenges with this purchase and consequently have grown in faith and trust.

The Leicester congregation grew significantly in number over the years, our youth group and children alone reaching 40 in number, this created challenges all classes that had been held in one room, when we consider the achievement made in these circumstances we see that the building will be a great tool to the ministry.

Ironically our landlord asked that we seek a new accommodation just two weeks ago as we had doubled in safety numbers for his building.



Our trustees signed the contracts before the congregation, we then proceeded to ask one of the children to hold the documents as we prayed for God's blessing, we explained that this building will remain a tool for the kingdom until our Lord returns.

We are looking forward to hosting many activities along with carrying out continued ministry work in the city.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the gifts, loans and prayers uttered, we have been encouraged daily, each Sunday many tears have been shed and outburst of unplanned songs of praise to God.

We are a mission focused congregation with our eyes set firmly on growth numerically and spiritually, we are aiming to train and develop in the kingdom work.

Please keep the Leicester congregation in your daily prayers.

On behalf of the congregation: Paul Hill

Family News

PERRY BARR (BIRMINGHAM)

We are writing to you on behalf of the newly established congregation in Perry Barr, Birmingham, UK. It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we announce the formation of this new congregation, and we wanted to share this exciting news with our fellow Christians around the world and particularly in the United Kingdom.

Perry Barr is a vibrant and diverse community located in Birmingham with a rich history and a growing population. We recognise the need for a strong presence of the Lord's people in this area. Through prayer, discernment, and the support of our fellow believers, we have successfully established this new congregation.

Our vision for this congregation is to create a welcoming and inclusive community where people from all walks of life can come to experience the transformative love and grace of Jesus Christ. We are committed to studying God's Word, holding firm to the apostle's teaching, worshipping together, and engaging in service and evangelism to spread the good news of Jesus' salvation.

We would be honoured to welcome Christians who visit Birmingham and would like to worship with us. We believe that through the collective efforts of all congregations, we can significantly impact Perry Barr and bring glory to God's name. Our address and meeting times are below.

Meeting place: The Broadway Academy, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B20 3DP

Sunday meetings: Worship 11.00 am to 1:00 pm (Twi & English)

Saturday: Bible Study 7.00 pm - 8:00 pm on Skype (<https://join.skype.com/M07HdkayIe68>)

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at cocperrbarr@yahoo.com or phone us on 07482 006001 or 07428 827872.

Ishmael Arhinand

Loughborough Ladies are hosting a ladies day on **Saturday 24th June** at Church of Christ Meeting Place, Oxford street, Loughborough.

Subject is based on the book "The Well-Watered Woman".

The speakers and lessons are as follows:

Rooted in Truth – Jennifer Sparks

Growing in Grace – Petra Morrison

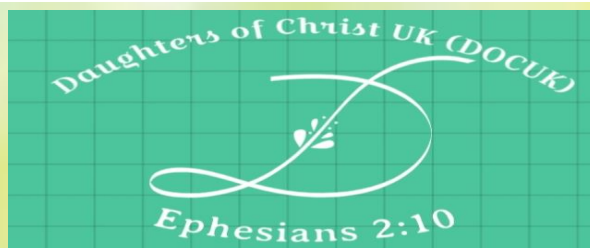
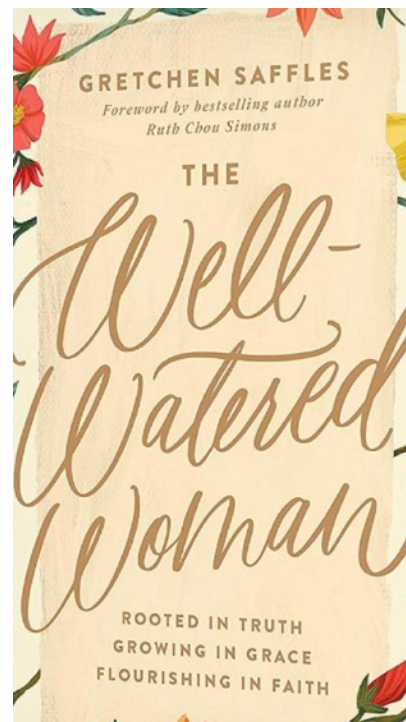
Flourishing in Faith – Marie O'Donovan

9.30 am arrivals, coffee, etc

4.00 pm Goodbyes

Please contact: Kirsty for RSVP's please.
Tel: 07772 282535

We hope that you will be able to join us in a time of fellowship and encouragement.



THEME: SERVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DAUGHTERS OF CHRIST UK (DOCUK) LADIES MINISTRY

will be another year older!!!!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY JULY 22ND, 2023 IN PERSON AND ZOOM EVENT

Please check July's Christian Worker as further details will be published then.

Or Contact Bernie on 07904303347



AROUND THE WORLD

MALAWI

The Lord's work is going on well. We just completed a gospel meeting at Jomo Road which lasted for three days. I was preaching and Davison came after me. Four women were immersed and it was a joyful moment seeing the Lord add them to his body.

Lungster Mlotha
(BBS graduate)



Lungster preaching in Malawi

congregation. We started to invite children from the neighbourhood to be with us every Wednesday and there are 12-15 children who are coming. My wife Kate helps me with this.

I continue to spend time with the children from the orphanage. As always, we take care not only of our spirit but also of our body. I personally cut the children's hair. Thus, I learnt a new profession. The most recent video we did with kids from Wednesday can be found here on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/B5fCEyn4CEY>.

So life goes on. Everything bad is forgotten very quickly. Especially if God helps you in everything.

Ivan Usmishki

UKRAINE

We are doing well. Our country and Kyiv are still being attacked by missiles. But recently, the air defence forces have

been working very well. Electricity, water, communication – everything has been restored.

We continue to work with children not only in the orphanage but also in the



Kate and children at their meeting place



Ivan with the children





The School Bag Project

Helping children to carry Right Bag to go in a Right Direction

Education is the key to end poverty and unfortunately it is still not in the reach of many in India. Over the years our governments are striving to increase literacy rate India, but huge population and poverty limits government efforts to reach everybody. The 'School Bag Project' aims at providing the children from poor families with a school bag with necessary note books at the beginning of academic year to help them to go to and stay in school. If not in school most of these children end up as dropouts and child labor and victims of child marriage. **The 'School Bag Project' helps such children to go and stay in school to continue the dream of education.**

Since 2010, '**God Loves You -School Bag Project**' has helped as many as 2365 under privileged children with kind and generous donations from Christians in many countries. Lord willing, **This year's School Bag Project will start in June 2023 and goes till the end of August 2023.** Post Covid Times have become more challenging to many children as covid disrupted many families financially. This has put more children in need and in vulnerable situation. With just **Rs. 750/- which is approx.. \$10 or £8 only.** You can provide one child with a new school bag and required notebooks, a slate, pens, pencils, color pencils, erasers, sharpener, slate pencil box and a pencil box and gently whisper **God Loves You.**

Many deserving children are waiting for someone to help them to continue their dream of going to school and eventually break the chain of poverty. **Your small help can make a big difference in the lives of these children.** Please help the children to carry the right bag. **Carrying a Right Bag at this age sets them in the Right Path.** If God moves you to help or to know more details, please contact us at **Tony Tyson** at tonytyson66@hotmail.com or **Joel Madiki** at joelmadiki@gmail.com.

Thank you.

* Photo author unknown. source Internet.



Two different bags two different stories.

Around the World

PORTUGAL

How do a primary school teacher and a university administrator, from the mountains of Tennessee, USA, end up in Portugal's Algarve region operating a Christian library? It is a question often asked of Paul and Debbie Pinckley. The answer seems simple to them. "God laid it on our hearts, as we were planning for retirement," answers Paul.

The Pinckleys had been working towards an early retirement. After two short trips and one six-month visit, they decided Portugal was the place, specifically the town of Tavira. They fell in love with the people, the food, the laid-back culture, the cost of living, and the 300 days of sunshine each year. It was everything they were looking to find.

In the autumn of 2020, as they were gathering necessary documents and working on visa applications, God presented an idea. They were sitting at home one Sunday worshipping online, Covid-19 style, they learned of a work in Prague that was receiving support from their congregation. It was a Christian library that provided Christian literature to borrow. Neither Paul nor Debbie had heard of this programme. Paul's interest was piqued. He went online and found that there were three libraries; one was in Prague, one in Berlin, and one in the Middle East. He learned more about what they offered, and how they were serving the community.

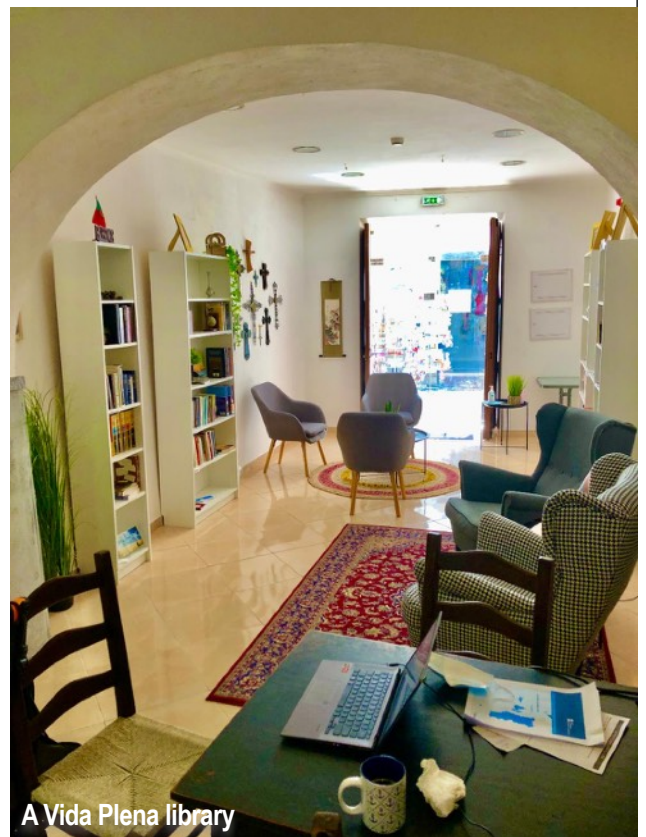
Later in that same week, Paul learned that Debbie had also been thinking about this programme. It seemed like a great project for two book-loving academics! Ideas were put to paper, a proposal was developed, and finally the idea was shared with a group of missionaries for their insights. All seemed very enthused. It was off to the races! Quite quickly funds were committed to the monthly operation of the library (rent, utilities, etc.). The Lord was making it all work out.

The Pinckleys moved to Tavira on 1st February 2021. A VIDA PLENA officially opened on 1st July 2021. On 10th July 2021, the first worship service took place.

A VIDA PLENA, is Portuguese for "The Full Life," which comes from John 10:10. It is thought that this friendly and encouraging phrase will put people at ease and draw them in. The library can be a home for believers, seekers, and observers. A VIDA PLENA is an inviting setting with comfortable furniture, pleasant music, Christian literature (English and Portuguese), and good coffee or tea. It even smells nice! All of this is provided at no cost/obligation.



Outside A Vida Plena



A Vida Plena library

Around the World

The programming at A VIDA PLENA goes beyond lending books. Some of the activities include weekly Bible studies for both men and women, Christian movies, such as 'Tortured for Christ' and 'Redeeming Love' have been shown, and three sessions were presented entitled, "Who is Jesus?" Monthly Song & Prayer evenings are being planned for the future.

God has blessed A VIDA PLENA with financial supporters, people contributing books, and local church members who are helping to spread the word, and "THE Word." The Pinckleys solicit your prayers in this effort.

If you have questions or want to know more, feel free to reach out:

Email: pep.avidaplena@gmail.com

Web : <https://A-Vida-Plena.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069882792421>

Paul and Debbie Pinckley



PAKISTAN

I have started Lord's work in a Hindu community and they are showing much interest in Jesus for their salvation. In the recent floods they lost family members and their animals and were very much down-hearted. We console and comfort them with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need Bibles for them so we would like to request you please help us to purchase Bibles for them. Please send your gifts and support to sister Barbara Fisher, 5 Portway, North Marston, Bucks. MK18 3PL.

Naeem Sabir

The Methodist church has recently been accused of misogyny among its own adherents. This may seem strange as even the mother of John Wesley the founder of Methodism held meetings where she spoke. However, our own congregations need to take notice of this, as I am aware that a number of sisters have left our fellowship, and several are unhappy because of the male only principle which often seems to place our sisters in a second place position.

The passages usually used for this are 1 Corinthians 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:11-12. All Christians need to make sure that we speak in the context of scripture and not just pull out a verse to make it a 'doctrine'. We need to ask questions about to whom the letter was written and why. We need to realise that scripture has to be balanced or we would be no more than any religious group who pull passages from various places and come up with some very strange teaching. If we accept everything in a literal way, we must follow the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5:29-30.

To aid discussion I have written an essay on 'The ministry of sisters', which I am happy to send by email to anyone who would like to think about the subject more fully. I am also happy to enter into discussion with anyone who has read the essay.

Trevor

NOTICES

Baptistry available for collection.

We have been storing a useable baptistry at our building in East Kilbride for the past several years. It originally belonged to the Cumbernauld congregation. We are needing it to go to a new home as we are having renovation work done in our building and no longer have a place to store it.

It is free to anyone who can come and collect it. From what we understand all the necessary hoses for hooking it up to a water supply come with it.



If you are interested, please contact Jon (jdgalloway@mac.com) or Alex (alexgear62@btinternet.com).

Jon Galloway

The Book of Acts

(part two)

an introduction to Luke's second volume

Thursdays at 8.00 pm
from 3rd April ... for 12 weeks

THE HEART OF DAVID

Thursdays at 8.00 pm
from 6th April ... for 12 weeks

Links to join the classes can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com

Notices



Leicester Youth Day

Saturday 8th July 10am to 16:00

The Leicester youth wish to invite congregations to our first youth day in our new building, Dean Mushamba who is a university minister in Lubbock and Jessica Smith will be joining and teaching.

For further information

Daniel Blake:

07733 714159

JOIN US for a time of *Encouragement*.
A time to *Refresh* and *Restore*,
to *Reset*, *Focus* and *Re-ignite* the fire.

With special guests from the Nolen Hills congregation (Nolensville, Tennessee)

Evangelism Through Discipleship: An Ancient Method in A New Time

14 July 2023
from 10.00 - 16.00

at Balmule House, Dunfermine

Featured Sessions:

Reaching Out: *Sharing the Gospel with confidence.*

Leading with Love: *Serving in the Gospel with confidence.*

Intergenerational Discipleship: *Filling the generation gaps.*

For directions to Balmule House, visit www.balmule.co.uk
For more information email alan.j.moyes@gmail.com



Kirkcaldy
church of Christ

Modernisation & Christianity

(Romans 12:2)

2023 Workshop

Organised by **Edmonton Church of Christ**



Date: Saturday 8th July 2023

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm (BST)

Speaker: Deacon James Obeng (Edmonton)

Group Discussion Leaders

Bro Gary Smith (Leicester)

Bro Vincent Samson (India)

Bro Shadrack Appiagyei (Berlin, Germany)

Venue:

Zoom



Meeting ID: 830 5148 5139

Passcode: workshop

Contacts:

Deacon Maxwell: 079-8343-5054

Elder Appiagyei: 078-4732-1141

Elder Banin: 075-0668-9396

Church of Christ Liverpool invites you to

Liverpool Young Adult Fellowship

On Saturday 29th July 2023

Arrival 9:30am - 10:00am

Fellowship from 10:00am - 4:00pm

Being a Christian in this Contemporary World

Speakers: Announced Nearer to Event



RSVP to Bro. Rexford Adu Boahen by email on nanadomfeh6@gmail.com or on 07538563751

Address: Liverpool Church of Christ, Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH

GAMES

DEVOTION

FOOD

FUN



DIARY

June

1st – **British Bible School evening class:** “The Heart of David” taught by Mark Hill each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

3rd – **Great Barr (Birmingham):** “An Evening of Psalms and Praise”, 7.00-8.30 pm. Venue: Zoom (Meeting ID: 879 9050 1513; Password: 484833). Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com) or John Onebuchi (johnonyebuchi321@gmail.com).

5th – **British Bible School evening class:** “The Book of Acts, part 2” taught by Patrick Boyns each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

9th – **British Bible School quiz night:** a light-hearted, educational Bible quiz hosted by Steve Whitehead, the first Friday of each month from 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the quiz can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

17th – **Stretford (Manchester):** Special meeting – “Who is Jesus?”, 1.00-4.00 pm. Speaker: Sam Appiah Anane. Contact: Pilomon Raja (dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk or 07963 876942).

17th – **Castlemilk:** Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

24th – **Loughborough:** Ladies’ Day – “The Well-Watered Woman”, 9.30 am-4.00 pm. Speakers: Jennifer Sparks, Petra Morrison, and Marie O’Donovan. Contact: Kirsty (07772 2825535).

July

8th – **Leicester:** Youth Day, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact: Daniel Blake (07733 714159).

8th – **Edmonton (London):** Workshop – “Modernisation and Christianity”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm; speaker: James Obeng. Contact: Maxwell (07983 435054), Appiayel (07847 321141) or Banin (07506 689396). Also available on Zoom: Meeting ID – 830 5148 5139; Passcode: workshop.

8th – **British Bible School online lecture:** “Herod the Great” present by Steve Whitehead, 7.30-8.30 pm. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

14th – **Kirkcaldy:** “Evangelism Through Discipleship: An Ancient Method in a New Time”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Venue: Balmule House, Dunfermline (directions can be found at www.balmule.co.uk). Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.j.moyes@gmail.com).

23rd-28th – **Camp Tayside.** Location: Douglaswood Scout Camp near Dundee. Contact: Aubrey Boyns (a.boyns@gmail.com).

29th – **Liverpool:** Youth Fellowship Day – “Where Do I Get Answers?”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm (arrive for 9.30 am). Venue: Liverpool congregation building, corner of Picton Road & Wellington Street, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Rexford (nanadomfeh6@gmail.com or 07538 563751).

29th – **Livingston:** Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.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).

19th – **East Kilbride:** Barbecue and Devotional Evening, 3.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

September

2nd-3rd – **East Kilbride:** British Bible School Study Weekend, 9.30-4.00 on Saturday; Bible class and worship on Sunday. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

9th – **Reading:** SongFest – “Songs of Hope and Joy”, 1.30-6.00 pm. Lunch will be served plus time for children’s songs and fellowship. Venue: Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, RG6 4HB (ample parking on site). Please send in numbers for catering purposes. Contact: message4heidi@outlook.com.

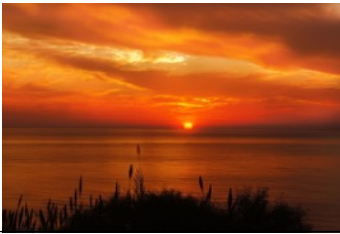
15th-17th September – **British Bible School Autumn Family Retreat** at Letton Hall. Further details and registration will be on our website soon, but make plans now.

October

7th-8th – **East Kilbride:** British Bible School Study Weekend, 9.30-4.00 on Saturday; Bible class and worship on Sunday. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

November

6th-10th November – **British Bible School Autumn Study Week** at Bassenfell Manor. Further details and registration will be on our website soon, but make plans now.



THE FINAL WORD



Getting old

“The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty if we have the strength; their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.” (Psalm 90:10)

I am getting old. My grandchildren are grown and setting out into their own lives. I creak and occasionally groan. I am getting forgetful and sometimes get slightly confused when I can't remember people's names or places or the names of the plants in my garden. I remember faces, dates, recipes, and I can turn to most passages in my Bible that I need. My faith is strong, I love to sing, I am thrilled when I am with God's people, but I am getting old. My peer group say the same things that I do and sometimes my brain and my mouth do not seem to work together. Just sometimes the words seem to come out the wrong way and

sometimes I need just a second or two to get myself together. I am getting old.

I can still sing the hundred and one choruses that I sang in Sunday School seventy years ago. I am still opinionated and I am anxious for the growth of the Kingdom of God here on the earth. I still have a sense of humour and enjoy a good meal. But I am getting old.

Please be gentle with me if I say something that seems a little odd. Perhaps you have a Mum or Dad, a relative or friend who is also getting on in years. Please give us an allowance – we are not stupid – life is still very real, and we are not in our dotage. But we are getting old.

We can remember all sorts of things. We have done our best and want to serve

Jesus until the day he calls us home. Please do not be sharp or angry – we need gentleness, hugs and to be told that we are loved. Our time is getting short, and we can fly away to the arms of Jesus. For Christians that is our trusted hope. Remember if you live as long as we do, you will find yourself in the same position.

Thank you, Lord, for granting us a home with you in Heaven. Long life is happiness and sorrow. At the end of the day, we are all we have and all that we can offer to you. Thank you for accepting us as we are, young and old. Your blessings never cease. Amen

Trevor

