

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

(0115) 837 6895

195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway

jdgalloway@mac.com

(07906) 060618

5 Aklins Lane, Netherburn, Larkhall ML9 3FH

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website:

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

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

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



Front cover and
above: Cumbernauld
Men's Day



CONGRATULATIONS!

New Christian in Livingston!

Helen Semple was baptised into the Lord on Monday, 11th December.

She first worshipped with us in Livingston towards the end of October, fully aware of her need for the Lord in her life. Helen was also conscious that she needed to be baptised to be saved. After a few studies with Helen, she was immersed into Jesus for the forgiveness of her sins. Helen is a bubbly personality and is a wonderful addition to the God's family here.

May God richly bless her as she grows in Christ.

Charlie Harding



Great news at Cumbernauld!

Great news! We have welcomed a new brother into the family! **Ire Adekoya** was baptised on 16th February. He has been coming along to worship and events at Cumbernauld for just under a year and is always asking questions and wanting to grow closer to God. He has also started bringing his Mum along to worship. We are all so excited as he has made the next step in his relationship with God.

Nicole Barr

Three become Christians at Ilkeston!

On Saturday, February 3rd we were privileged to witness three souls commit their lives to Christ.

Daniela Adansi Bonnah, from the Ghanaian congregation in Derby, and Gary & Jane Woodcock, who have been worshipping with the Christians in Adam Street, Ilkeston. Gary and Jane had been thinking seriously about committing their lives to Christ while meeting with the congregation in Stapleford and, on learning of Daniela's request for baptism, asked if they also could be baptised. Of course we were delighted to say 'yes'!

A large number of people from Derby, Stapleford and Ilkeston attended and Aaron Sparks took their confession and baptised all three into Christ. A time of fellowship and welcoming the new Christians into the family of Christ followed. A great day of rejoicing!



John Bullock

Congratulations!

New Christians in Northampton!

We rejoiced when Cathy **Brandt**'s niece **Trevie** realised her need for Jesus and accepted the gospel call. This had been on her mind for a while. Ultimately God brought her to the right time and place to make the decision to turn to him. We are so thankful.

On Sunday, 4th February, **Jack Haddon** was immersed. A short while ago Kofi was immersed after his grandmother in

Ghana kept encouraging him to go to church. Living near our building he walked in one Sunday and was immersed having read the Bible for himself. He moved across town and in the same block of flats met Jack. Jack told him his grandmother had been telling him to go to church and having read the Bible he knew he needed to be baptised. Kofi brought him along.

For a little while now **Joel Litrean** has been talking more seriously with his parents Paulus and Rose about needing to respond to the call of Jesus. With much discussion and prayers offered, Joel was immersed on Saturday, February 10th. What a joy for this close family to be made closer by the bond they now have in Christ.

We welcome **Bianca Pietrzak** into

our church family. She was immersed on Sunday, 11th February. Visiting our worship service from the local area and after a short discussion she knew of her need to faithfully follow Jesus.

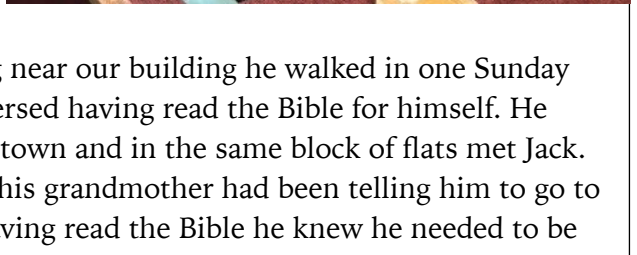
This has been such an encouraging time for us and we pray this is not just a trend happening here in Northampton but that it will be seen in other places, too. The world can be seen as having nothing to offer – surely people will listen to the Jesus' message of hope.

Northampton church of Christ

A new baby!

Scott and Rachelle Galloway are pleased to announce the arrival of their third son, **Elijah Melchizedek Orion Galloway** in January. Proud grandparents are Patrick Boyns and Jon & Arlene Galloway.

Jon Galloway



Cumbernauld Men's Day 2024



“The Resurrection”

On Saturday, 3rd February, the congregation at Cumbernauld hosted its annual Men's Day. This year our theme was “The Resurrection” with lessons presented by Derek Brown (Castlemilk), Johnson Olusola (Cumbernauld), Jon Galloway (East Kilbride), and John Mooney (Livingston). Each speaker presented their lesson splendidly, with all in attendance thoroughly encouraged.

There were 44 men who were able to attend from congregations across Scotland and our ladies did a great job working hard in the background helping to cater the event. The singing was superb, and the



time of fellowship and mutual encouragement was much needed and appreciated. Plans are already underway for next year's event at the beginning of February.

All the lessons were live-streamed and can be viewed by visiting our Facebook page and going to our videos, or by following the link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/100064493568145/951577786326320>.

Graham McDonald



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Being an effective Christian

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-8 ESV).

As Christians, we should all want to be effective, productive and fruitful. Sometimes it seems this type of life is difficult and possibly beyond our grasp. But Peter, in quite simple language, explains what this type of life is all about.

Our text above begins with “for this very reason”, keying off what he had just written. As Peter began his second letter he reminded his readers that God has given us everything necessary for living and for “godliness” – for growing and maturing as a Christian. He has already given us what we need.

Because he has so adequately supplied us through Jesus and his great promises, we then must do our part. We must “make every effort” to move on from our faith by adding other qualities to our faith: virtue (excellence), knowledge, self-control, steadfastness (perseverance), godliness, brotherly affection and love. It isn’t that we need only one of these, or a few, or even most of them – we need all of these qualities to be the Christian that God is looking for. Notice what Peter wrote: *“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:8).*

If we want to be effective and fruitful, this is what we must do. Reading through the list we quickly realise that these are things we must work on. Knowledge only comes through reading and studying God’s word. Self-control doesn’t just happen – we have to work at. And

the same could be said for the rest of these qualities including brotherly affection and love.

Notice also that this is not something we ‘get’ and then sit back on our laurels; these qualities must be ours and must be ‘increasing’ – we must grow continually in all these areas!

If we don’t have these qualities we are “so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins” (2 Peter 1:9). In other words having these qualities is not an optional extra for us but forms the core of our very being. These are the things that makes us God’s children. If we don’t have them we have forgotten that we were cleansed of our sins – in essence, we have forgotten what Jesus did for us on the cross.

There is an added benefit. *“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11).*

Did you get that? If we have these qualities we “will never fall”! Having these qualities keeps us faithful to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. We will then have an entrance into “the eternal kingdom” and be with Jesus for eternity.

Do we want to be effective and fruitful? Then we must work on increasing these qualities in order to grow. If we want to serve God and spend our eternity with him, there really isn’t a choice!

Join us in March for two weekends studying the letters of Peter and Jude at Northampton. These studies will be led by Patrick Boyns, John Griffiths and Jon Galloway.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com



GRANDMOTHERS FOR CHRIST

A wonderful situation occurred in Northampton. A young man who lived near our church building was encouraged by his grandmother in Ghana to find a church to attend. As we are on his doorstep, he decided one Sunday to walk through the doors to see who we are. On first seeing Kofi I thought he had been brought along by one of our other young adults. But no, he was there because his grandmother told him to find a church. Having spent time reading his Bible, something also encouraged by his grandmother, he knew to be forgiven and be right with God that baptism was needed. So, he requested it and was immersed.

After a while Kofi moved across town. As a result, he made friends with Jack who lived in the same block of flats. In conversation Jack told Kofi his grandmother had told him he needed to find a church to attend. He had also been reading the Bible because she advised him to do that too. Kofi brought Jack along and he was baptised.

This is incredible. Most of my life has been spent trying to reach out to the young. The knock-on effect was that hopefully the parents would then be reached with the

gospel. This of course is something that has happened. We used to have Sunday School prize giving once a year to which parents and/or grandparents would come along. I know of one couple and a grandmother who came to the Lord after that first introduction to the church.

Things are different today. In my day most people would at least send their children to Sunday School. Even where Sunday School classes are still offered, they are usually only attended by children now. So perhaps this is the time to work our outreach the other way round. Grandmothers who are already following Jesus should be helped and supported in reaching out to their grandchildren. Ensure there is something attractive and appropriate for them to bring their grandchildren to.

2 Timothy 1:5 records Lois as a woman of “sincere faith” that she passed to her daughter, and to her grandson Timothy, who eventually became close to Paul and a helper to him. Among many other things, something I remember fondly about my grandmother is that she baked the bread for the Lord’s supper. It might not mean

much to you but as I recall it, I can smell the wonderful aroma and see it and remember her telling me why it was made the way it was. There is a wonderful legacy Christian grandmothers can leave which will be far reaching.

People are living longer we are told, so what an opportunity for grandmothers and grandfathers to continue faithful service to the Lord. An example of a godly life is better seen than read about. Tell us how you were able to remain faithful for so long. Let us know why you stuck with



Grandmothers for Christ

Jesus all this time. Explain to those who throw away their marriage and disregard their wedding vows, why it was worth working through the difficult times and staying together. Surely your love grew stronger as you weathered the storms of life in your relationship. Show us the way. As you follow Christ let us learn how to do the same from your example.

As I told Jack and Kofi's story to a friend in America he said they have a group of grandmothers who work together to reach out. They do this by being grandmothers to children who do not have a grandmother. How wonderful is that? Helping children to find Jesus by being a grandmother to them.

Timothy's father was a Greek. So, Timothy's mum, a Jew, married an outsider. How did that affect Timothy's grandmother? I would suggest she did not meddle. She did not shun her daughter (I'm speculating of course). She did, though, continue to serve God and loved like Jesus loves. As a result, her grandson benefitted as her daughter no doubt did too.

What does all this rambling mean. I think what I want to say is that first of all those who are older in our fellowship should be looked after and cared for. Congregations are in existence due to all they did over the years. Maybe like Kofi and Jack you are saved because of a grandparent. Let's be thankful and show our gratitude. May we always be respectful.

That said, grandparents have so much to offer. Any who read this probably are still doing many things for the Lord. I want to encourage you not to stop. Grandchildren will listen to you probably more than they will listen to others. There may be limitations due to health but how fit do you need to be to encourage grandchildren to seek Jesus, or go to church, or read their Bible? Continue to let your light shine – it is noticed, it is appreciated.

Right now, I reckon grandparents are the most effective evangelists we have. Timothy's grandmother. Kofi's grandmother. Jack's grandmother. They all testify to it. Now it's your turn.

Mark Hill

POINTLESS

Speaker
Daniel Chapman (Clarkston)

Kirkcaldy
Friday 1st March 7.30pm

Everything is
Meaningless

Hyvots Bank
Saturday 2nd March* 7.30pm

A Sense of Purpose

Hyvots Bank
Sunday 3rd March 11.30am

Shortcut to Jesus

*with Solus

1st and 2nd Peter and Jude

Northampton

Christian Fellowship Centre
Shadowfax Drive, NN3 8DB


Saturday, 2nd March, 9.00am to 4.30pm
Sunday, 3rd March, 10.15am to 1.15pm
Saturday, 16th March, 9.00am to 4.30pm
Sunday, 17th March, 10.15am to 1.15pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and John Griffiths



A British Bible School Applied Biblical
Studies Module
www.britishbibleschool.com

©www.LumpProject.com



**Trip of a Lifetime 7 Churches of Revelation
Tour of Turkey with Ian Starrs
4th-12th November 2024**



Ian invites you to join him following in the footsteps of Paul to Turkey visiting the 7 Churches of Asia Minor from the book of Revelation.

Itinerary highlights:

- City tour of Istanbul
- Canakkale
- Troy
- Izmir
- 7 Churches of Revelation
- Pumukkale
- Kusadasi & Miletus

£1561.00*
per person
based on
20+ group
members

The tour will be accompanied by a local English speaking tour guide. Price includes flights from Edinburgh, delightful hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, tours and entrance fees.

To book or for further information please contact - Ian Starrs
Phone number: 07960 150856
Email address: jes22ian@msn.com

Price per person based on two people sharing a double/twin room.
Single supplement: £227.00. Travel insurance, gratuities and lunches not included.
*Tour only option available on request.



groups@travelinkuk.com 020 8931 8811
www.toursforchristians.com





FAMILY NEWS

GLENROTHES

The Christians at Glenrothes are happy to announce the appointment of elders to shepherd our congregation into the future. The new elders are **John Fraser** (on left below) and **Allen Phillips** (on right below), who have graciously agreed to take on the mantle of eldership.



the congregation in the Nottingham area that meets in Stapleford. "Stapleford church of Christ" is the way we refer to ourselves locally in our outreach to the community, but for further afield, we refer to ourselves as "Nottingham Church of Christ". When we take into account that there are about six "Staplefords" in England it can be confusing to outsiders, especially students from overseas.

Christians: 42 Children: 10

Meeting Place: Eaton's Road, Stapleford, NOTTINGHAM, NG9 7EB

Phone: (0115) 939-9541

Send post to: Church of Christ, Eaton's Road, Stapleford, NOTTINGHAM, NG9 7EB



NOTTINGHAM

We wish to thank them whole heartedly for their commitment and welcome any added prayers for the Lord's guidance as we move forward into uncharted territory.

Richard Gilmour

Updated information for





APPEALS & UPDATES

URGENT APPEAL FOR NAEEM IN PAKISTAN

Naeem and his work in Pakistan. We have received some one-time help which is gratefully received but we need to replace the support he has lost. I'd like to appeal to see if any congregation or individual can help this be replenished. If any Christian or congregation would like help with this, please send cheques to:

Barbara Fisher (Pakistan Account)
5 Portway, North Marston
Bucks MK18 3PL

If anyone can help that would be so great. Naeem and the Christians in Pakistan would be most grateful.

Barbara Fisher

Here are some recent photos of Naeem's work.





HOW LONG DOES EASTER LAST?

Like many others we were amazed to see Easter eggs in the shops even before the mince pies had left the shelves. Of course, those who are chocoholics like me stand and drool thinking of the creamy centre and the thick chocolate coating of these forbidden fruits. All those with diabetes or on diets know what I mean. As far as Christians are concerned how long does Easter last?

There are some who chose to go through Lent reading, praying or doing something spiritual to try to bring us nearer in faith and practise to our Lord Jesus Christ. The idea of giving up chocolate for Lent is not really sufficient even though it may take our drooling lips and bring them under some sort of discipline – either that or we just give in!

The sacrifice of Jesus at the Jewish Feast of Passover is the foundation of our faith. Christmas is often thought of as the GREAT celebration but while we need the birth of Jesus in order to have Christ's death, it is the death and glorious resurrection that is the whole basis for our faith. Jesus Christ is our sacrifice; in him we are saved and without the resurrection we are of all people most to be pitied.

The time of Jesus' crucifixion is of vital importance. We can read about the start of the Passover when the Israelites left Egypt in Exodus 12. The people were to have a one-year-old male lamb either from the sheep or goats, they were to keep it at home for four days, then it was to be slaughtered, roasted, eaten with bread made without yeast and eaten with herbs. They were to eat it with their shoes and coats on ready to leave their homes. The blood of the lamb was to be put on the doorposts and lintels of their house so that God himself would pass over them. So many people say that it was 'the angel of death' that passed over them but that is

not what the Bible says (see Exodus 12:12-13). In fact, the phrase 'the angel of death' is never even mentioned in the Bible. It was God himself who did the passing over.

The feast of Passover is the start of fifty days of preparation leading up to the Feast of Pentecost. This started on the Sabbath (Saturday) in Passover week which meant that Pentecost was always on a Sunday, seven weeks and one day later. Whereas Passover is a celebration to remember the release from captivity in Egypt, Pentecost is a harvest celebration. Leviticus 23 gives some information about this.

Passover is a celebration reminding the Jewish people that they were slaves, that they were in fear and bondage, a time for eating unleavened bread. Pentecost is a celebration of new life, of harvest and plenty and a time for eating bread with yeast (Leviticus 23:17). It is little wonder then that it was during the Feast of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles and they were able to speak in languages they had not learned. They preached to the peoples from all over the Roman world and told them the gospel of Jesus. The result was that three thousand were immersed and this is when we usually say was the birthday of the church.

So how long does Easter last? In the year that Jesus was crucified it seems to go from the trials to the cross, to the tomb, to the resurrection and then to the giving of the Holy Spirit. But then we find the followers of Jesus met every first day of the week, at least, to remember the death of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:26). For as long as there have been followers of Jesus the message has been passed on to children, to congregations, in the home and in the workplace. The message of Jesus has never stopped.

How long does Easter last?

Jesus died and is raised from the dead. He now calls us to his side to love him and the follow him. *'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'* (Philippians 2:9-11).

Wherever the gospel is preached that is how long Easter lasts. The message of the resurrection is told every day – enjoy!

Happy Easter to one and all.

Trevor Williams



pudding and Prayer

SATURDAY, 9TH MARCH

AT

7.00PM TO 9.00PM

SHEPshed CHURCH OF CHRIST

SHEPshed TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

47A CHARNWOOD ROAD, SHEPshed, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE12 9QE

(OPPOSITE TESCO)

(CONTACT STEPHEN WOODCOCK, shepshedcoc@outlook.com)

MORE THAN MUSIC WORKSHOP IN ILKESTON

Led by Alan Dod who has attended the Praise and Harmony workshops

Saturday, 23rd March

10:30 arrival and introductions

11:00 Workshop I

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Workshop II

3:00 Break

3:15 Workshop III

5:00 Finish



Basic music theory

Song leading techniques

Four part harmony

Worship planning

Learning more songs

Improving what we think we

know

Enrolment is necessary please email Trevor at twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk or phone John Bullock: 0115 8543471

More singing on Sunday in our services at 10:30 followed by a Fellowship Meal.

NOTICES



**Field of Refuge
Women's Renewal 2024**

*"From His abundance we have
all received one gracious
blessing after another"
John 1:16 NLT*

Venue: Tulliallan Castle, Alloa FK10 4BE
Theme: New Beginnings, when Grace abounds

Date: 19th - 21st April 2024
Arrival time: 16.00 pm (no earlier)

Price: Single room £170.00
Double room £155.00 per person
Deposit: £45.00 (non-refundable)

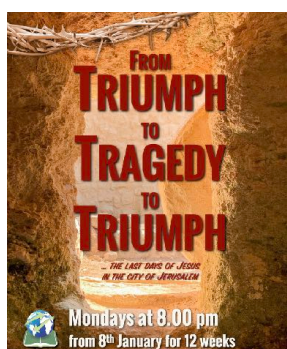
Should you require registration forms, please feel free to contact
us via : Fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com

Online Bible Classes

with the
**British
Bible
School**

For twelve weeks commencing
8th January 2024

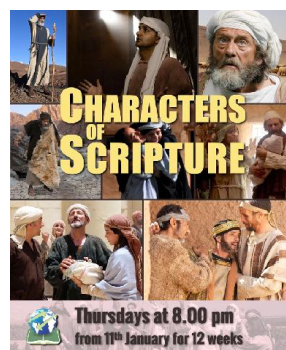
Mondays at 8.00 pm



From entering Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling ancient prophecy, and being greeted by a large crowd, Jesus embarked upon a turbulent journey which would ultimately lead to his unjust arrest and execution upon a Roman cross. From triumph, through tragedy to the triumph of the tomb ...

Presenter: Mark Hill

Thursdays at 8.00 pm



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. Join us as we are introduced to their stories ...

Presenter: Various

1st Fridays at 8.00 pm



Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment for everyone - nothing too testing (promise!). And 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. Please check dates on social media.

Quizmaster: Steve Whitehead



DIARY

March

1st-2nd – **Hyvots Bank and Kirkcaldy**: Joint gospel meetings, speaker: Daniel Chapman. Contact: Nick Wilson (nick-donelda@blueyonder.co.uk) or Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

2nd-3rd – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: Letters of Peter & Jude. All day Saturday and Sunday morning worship and class. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and John Griffiths. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

4th – **British Bible School evening class**: “The Last Week of Jesus” taught by Mark Hill each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

7th – **British Bible School evening class**: “Characters in the Bible” taught 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.

16th-17th – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: Letters of Peter & Jude. All day Saturday and Sunday morning worship and class. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

23rd-24th – **Ilkeston**: Singing weekend with Alan Dod. Contact: Trevor Williams (twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk).

29th-31st – **European Lectureship 2024**. Venue: Verona, Italy. Contact: Kojo Mensah (kojom262@gmail.com).

30th – **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

5th-6th – **Wembley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: Hebrews. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

12th-13th – **Wembley**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: Hebrews. Contact: John Griffiths (griffiths.jhg@virgin.net).

19th-24th – **Field of Refuge Women’s Renewal**: “New Beginnings, When Grace Abounds”. Venue: Tulliallan Castle, Alloa FK10 4BE. Cost: £155 per person sharing a room (£170 for a single room); £45 deposit on booking. Contact: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.

26th-27th – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: Ezekiel. Friday evening and all day Saturday. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: David Murray (dgmsem@gmail.com).

27th – **Great Barr Bible Seminar**: “Devotion to Fellowship” (Acts 2:42-47), 3.00-6.30 pm, at The Pheasey Community Hub, Hillingford Ave, Birmingham B43 7HN (about a two minute walk from our old location at the Collingwood Community Centre). Speakers: Stephen Woodcock and Mark Hill. Contact Sola (sola.adeosun@gmail.com) or John (johnonyebuchi321@gmail.com).

27th – **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.

May

10th – **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.

11th – **Kirkcaldy**: Annual Social Day. Venue: Hayfield Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 5DG. Speaker: Jon Galloway. Contact: Allan Hughes (allan580@virginmedia.com).

25th – **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.

June

7th-8th – **Aberdeen**: British Bible School Study Weekend. Module: Ezekiel. Friday evening and all day Saturday. Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway. Contact: David Murray (dgmsem@gmail.com).

22nd – **Liverpool**: All Day Fellowship (10.00 pm-4.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

29th – **Shepshed**: Fellowship Day. Contact: Stephen Woodcock (stephen.woodcock@hotmail.co.uk).

July

26th-28th – **Edmonton (London)**: Youth Lectureship – “Be an Example” (including a Singles’ Enrichment programme and Young Couples Night); ages 18-35. Early bird price (until 31st March): £60 for attendance only and £180 for attendance and accommodation. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/european-youth-annual-lectureship-tickets-741443757237>. For further information text: 07780 917590.

THE FINAL WORD



The Paper Clip

Most of us have used paper clips for years and never really looked at them. They have a fine smooth surface which is bent into two concentric circles. They can now be coloured and in various sizes, but what is their origin?

In the Middle Ages pages would have a small hole made to join them together, with some sort of ribbon or twine. Then in the late 1800's people in various parts for the world including Norway, England and America started to design pins either with square or rounded edges, which eventually resulted in a paper clip that we recognise and use without thinking. They are there ready to be used, they are low maintenance, but when needed they do the job that is necessary. They receive no thanks, but they hold the paper together. They seek no praise, have no qualifications other than they are there to be used. Just like a true Christian.

It is almost easy to delve into deep theology, discussing the meanings of Hebrew or Greek words, but what is far more important for the Christian is to be ready to do our job at a second's notice, to serve well and do it without thanks. There are some that think themselves of some importance, who enjoy promoting themselves or their thinking, but far more important are those who love the

Lord Jesus Christ and their brethren and do their best to hold everyone together.

There are some in congregations who can lead and motivate but there are far more who can hold on to people, encouraging them and loving them to be part of the body that we call the church. These spiritual clips hold on tight, never letting the people of God go. They will do everything they can to bind people together in unity and in the beauty of the Saviour.

These spiritual paper clips are of all ages, men and women, old and young. They are there to be joined together with others and may not even know it. They may be the cause for which events are planned, but they are there and hold others together. Sometimes they are the encouragers who try to share their love for others. They are the people that clear up after others have left the chapel and have gone home. They are there because they want to be, who would not dream of being elsewhere. They are there early and leave late, generous in giving and kind in their emotions. They are there when things go wrong and help keep matters together. They are servants of Jesus, fulfillers of faith, open-hearted, lovers of good, gentle in words. They are the glue that holds congregations together. They are spiritual paper clips keeping all the corners tightly together. May God bless them even though they may not be recognised.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the servants in the church who do not know that they serve – they do it naturally because of their love for you. Help us to be the paper clips that hold others together, that you may lead us all on our journey to you. Amen.

Trevor

