

# the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

September 2020 • Vol 52 No 9

**Ideas for  
resuming  
collective  
worship**

**Three new Christians!**

**New BBS online classes  
announced**

**A view of Capernaum - the  
town of Jesus**



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Front Cover & above:  
singing in British  
Sign Language in East  
Kilbride



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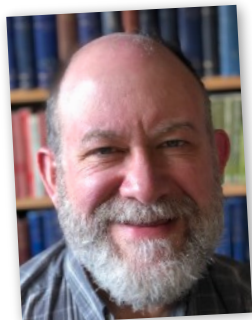
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# MY PERSPECTIVE



Despite  
restrictions  
there are  
ways to  
enjoy  
fellowship

## Ideas for resuming collective worship

As congregations resume worship together in person, there are both good and bad aspects of the restrictions we are living under. On the positive side is that we can be with other Christians and chat together, even if it must be from two metres away. But some are missing singing to the point of going back to online worship. And some congregations are too large to be able to socially distance in their meeting place.

I read a couple of articles in *Christianity Today* during this past month which talked about resuming worship. One talked about what people were missing in worship. What they found was that singing wasn't what was missed most, but fellowship. Being with other Christians, sharing their lives, and praying together for specific needs were what this article discovered most people missed. (You can read this article here, keeping in mind that it reflects an American denominational experience: <https://tinyurl.com/y67pgsxu>).

Keeping both of these points in mind, that of missing singing and missing fellowship, here are some suggestions that might help ease our transition into the 'new norm' for worship that is part of our life.

As worship must be 'different' make the time of worship different than what we were used to. Rather than playing recordings of hymns where we would normally have sung, why not have someone read lyrics to the hymn or even one of the psalms? Have someone talk about the words and what it means to them. Use the lyrics to Psalms and

hymns as a time of contemplation and interaction rather than just listening to someone else singing.

Allow time for socially distanced fellowship. The advice in Scotland is "once services are complete, worshippers are encouraged to move on promptly". Rather than insisting everyone head out of the building immediately, at East Kilbride we allow time for people to exchange greetings while they gather their belongings and clean the chairs where they were sitting. Although people don't remain long they do have time to speak to others (of course this can be done in the car park without face coverings but still socially distanced). There are ways for fellowship without breaking the guidelines.

One congregation which meets in a hired hall that is not yet open is encouraging Christians to meet in small groups on Sunday. Although there are restrictions on the number of households and group size, it does allow for fellowship and breaking bread together.

Face coverings are required in worship, they are important, and for now they are here to stay (you can take it off to have the Lord's Supper). Here is a good article about this in regards to worship: <https://tinyurl.com/y395lyw9>

I would encourage those who have not yet begun to meet to find ways they can meet for worship, even if it isn't the entire group, to encourage each other as we live for Jesus in what are challenging times.

Jon



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## A new birth in Bristol

We would ask you to keep **Mary Tomas**, in your prayers. On Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, she was baptised. We rejoice that we have a new sister in Christ.

Robert Daniell



Diane Scott

## A new Christian in Newcastle

We are delighted and give God the glory for adding **Diane Scott** to his body by being baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> August at Cullercoats Bay, North Tyneside.

Please keep our sister in your prayers as she begins her new life as a Christian and that God will be Diane's guide, support and encourager through her life. Also pray for the congregation in Newcastle, who will be by her side, as we all walk that journey.

Graeme Stickings

## Another added to Jesus' body in London Edmonton

The Lord added to his body as **Michelle D. Boateng** was immersed into Christ for the remission of her sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August. We pray that she will have a long and faithful service of our Master.

Samuel Ofori-Dwumah



Michelle Boateng

## Books available

Joe Daly has Multiple Myeloma Stage 3 and has decided he would like the books he has collected over the past 50 years to be distributed to those who can use them. I have no personal knowledge of just what the books are at the moment. Anyone interested in receiving the books would need to collect them from their home in Birmingham. As I understand it the books are being offered free of charge.

We encourage brethren to remember Joe and his wife Angela as they go through this difficult time. Contact Joe on [Sybil4joe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Sybil4joe@yahoo.co.uk)

Trevor





# BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

New  
online  
classes  
to  
begin  
next  
month

## Real events in real places

There are some events that simply cannot be replicated online, and others that really shouldn't even be attempted. Our Autumn Family Retreat fits into the former category and has become another casualty upon the heap of non-events for 2020. Under the current climate it was simply not possible to go ahead with the event at this location for this year, but we have already made a provisional booking for 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – so there's a date for the new diary.

It is a very trying time for those who run the residential facilities that we use for various events, and we do well to remember them in prayer, along with so many other people and things. However, we are delighted that we are able to go ahead with our Autumn Study Week at Bassenthwaite Manor in November this year, and places for that are already filling up.

We will be getting together on the afternoon/evening of Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November for three full days in the Book of Acts, departing for our homes on the morning of Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. Accommodation is in a spacious venue, with separate bedrooms for each participant/household group, and more than sufficient space for socially distanced studies and dining.

If you would like to be a part of this, then please do let us know as soon as possible. We will have limited spaces available, beyond those already taken, and you can book directly through our website. The all-inclusive cost for this event is just £150 – a bargain at twice the price!

## New online classes

We are coming near to the end of our second twelve-week round of online weekday classes and have plans for another round commencing Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. All are welcome to join us for any or all of these classes which are held through Zoom, details of which will be made available on our website and on social media. The programme for the next twelve week round is looking like this:

	Class	Teacher
<b>Monday, 8.00 pm</b>	The book of Psalms	John Griffiths
<b>Tuesday, 8.00 pm</b>	1st Corinthians	Jack Paton
<b>Thursday, 8.00 pm</b>	The book of Hebrews	Patrick Boyns

More recordings of previous class presentations are being made available online. These can be found on our YouTube channel, along with an archive of our Sunday Morning Messages. We are continuing to broadcast these also, as many are still unable to meet physically with their local groups and are finding these useful.

## Thank you

We are so very thankful for so many opportunities to continue doing our bit during these difficult times. We are thankful for the love and faith of the people of God in this land, and beyond. And we are thankful for those who enable us to continue with this work, including those who have recently become Friends of the Bible School – our new support community. Thank you,

Patrick Boyns  
[britishbibleschool.com](http://britishbibleschool.com)



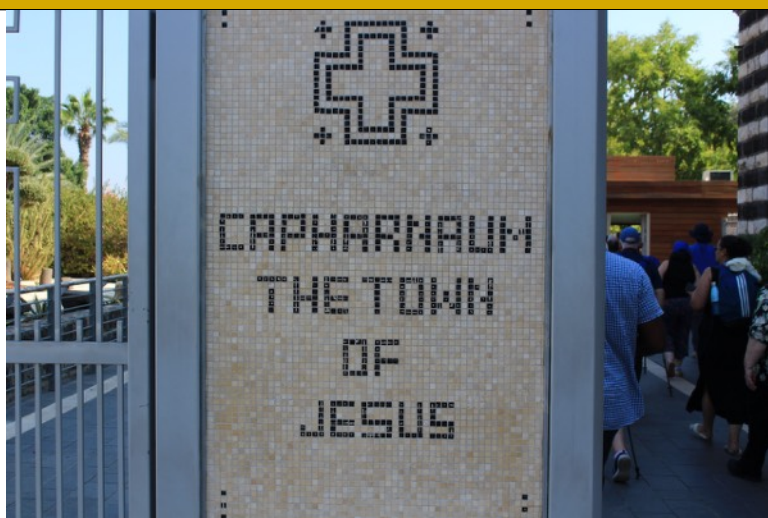
# A view of the Bible lands

## The town of Jesus

A highlight of both of our trips to Israel was visiting Capernaum – or, as the Greek spelling indicates, ‘Capharnaum’. I can remember during our first trip the anticipation of entering into the town where Jesus spent so much time.

The site which first catches the eye of most who visit is the synagogue which is on the left as you walk – and the extensive amount of foundations of first century homes that have been excavated. But first, the synagogue.

The synagogue does not date to the time of Jesus. Although that may initially be disappointing, you quickly realise there is more to this than meets the eye. Although the white synagogue was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the foundation it sits on is that of the



synagogue that was built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century – the synagogue that Jesus would have visited!



It was the practice when building a new synagogue to build it on the foundation of the previous synagogue. Even though the structure that is above dates from a later, more affluent, time, it would have been the same size. In the photo of the foundation (left) and that of the uncovered houses (above) you can see that the main building stone of the 1<sup>st</sup> century was basalt, the local stone of the area, which is black. The white synagogue was built of imported limestone. There is also an outdoor display of decorative stone from the





## A view of the Bible lands



basalt synagogue so you can see some of what the first synagogue would have been like.

Although many think of synagogues as 'Jewish church buildings' they functioned more as community centres, the place where the village would gather for any number of events including the Sabbath gathering.

Even though the synagogue was what first caught my eye, our first visit in Capernaum was to a structure identified as 'Peter's house' (centre photo). It, of course, has a Roman Catholic chapel built over it to protect it. Although I really do not think we could know which house was the one Peter lived in, you can see a little bit of what the houses in the first century would have looked like.

I was very impressed with the amount of the village that has been uncovered through archaeology. Excavations have taken place not only in front of the synagogue but pretty well all around it. Even though you cannot walk through the ruins and have to gaze at them from a fenced off path, it was still thrilling to spend time looking at the homes

and streets, seeing the doorways into the houses as well as the doorways in the homes, and then try to imagine what it would have been like when people lived in those homes. Of course the homes would probably have had more than one level which would have made the narrow streets quite dark despite the bright sunshine.

Capernaum sits on the edge of the Sea of Galilee, making it an ideal place for fishermen to live. The Sea of Galilee is lower today than it would have been at the time of Jesus, which means that the lake would have been a bit closer to the village. On our first visit

it was a rainy day and we were able to see what the Sea of Galilee was like on a 'mildly' stormy day – with winds strong enough to blow my sodden cap off of my head! We saw breaking waves on the lake and couldn't help but think of the storms recorded by the writers who recorded Jesus' life.

This is definitely a 'must see' for visitors to Israel.

Jon Galloway







# A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot...a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4-5 NIV)*

**Bristol** has had its fair share of joy and sorrow, all in the same week.

On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, we held a funeral service for our brother, **Bemvindo Tomas**. He was only 20 years old and passed away suddenly on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July. He was a wonderful young man, and will be missed by everyone.

Although the death of someone so young is tragic, the family and congregation are comforted that he is now with his Father, and claiming his reward. Please keep the Tomas family in your prayers at the difficult time.

We would also ask you to keep his sister, **Mary**, in your prayers. On Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the day after the funeral, she was baptised. We rejoice that we have a new sister in Christ.



## ACTS

### British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District  
Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £150 per student



To finish off the week, on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, **Mackenzie Masih** and **Daniele Garner** were married at our chapel. Although they may not have had the celebration they were looking forward to because of the current restrictions, this was a joyful time for them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers as they start their new life together.

Robert Daniell



# AT REST

## Peter Acquah (Erdington, Birmingham)

We wish to announce with deep regret and sorrows, the death of our beloved brother, Peter Acquah who died on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> August at Stoke-on-Trent.

Peter left behind a wife, Lawrenda, and two little children who deserve our care and support, both practically and spiritually. We know we cannot fill the gap left by our brother but I am sure you will agree with us that our support will go a long way to ease the stress, anxiety, sorrow and anguish caused by the death and sudden loss of Peter.

The funeral will take place on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a short burial service at Fenton Cemetery, Vivian Road, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3JG at 10.00 am. This will be followed by the main funeral at Gracefields Chapel, Lower Foundry Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5HF. The Zoom Link for the funeral: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82943814837> Meeting ID: 829 4381 4837.

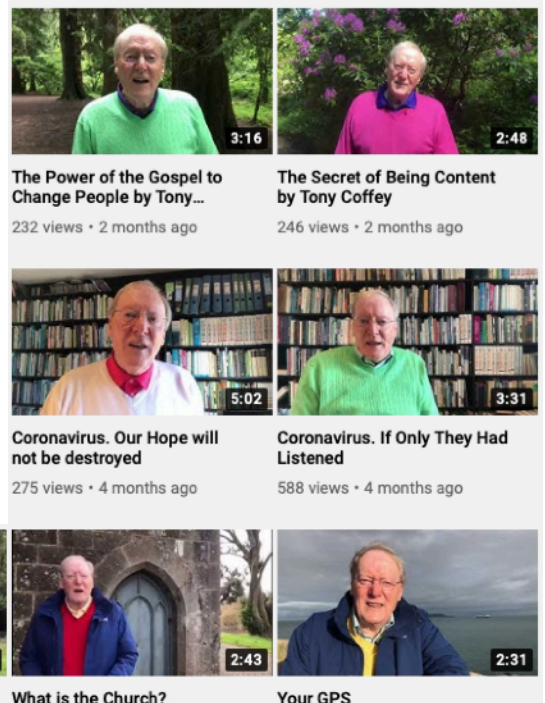
We kindly invite our brothers and sisters to join us, as we mourn with our sister and family.

Philip Danquah

### Short Video Thoughts

For the past two years I have been making short videos on biblical subjects. Each video is 3-4 minutes long. You may want to share these videos with your friends or post some on Facebook. You can access these videos by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2ol2glq>

Tony Coffey  
Dublin



*Many thanks to everyone who replied to our enquiry on the back page of last months CW. We look forward to having more people tell us what they think of the CW and how we can improve the magazine. Tell us what you think, even if you do not like it.*

Thanks  
Trevor



# Building Bridges

## ***A report of the 2020 Men's Open Forum hosted by the Edmonton congregation***

As a follow-up to what was discussed in last month's men's lectureship, the Edmonton congregation hosted Men's Open Forum on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, with the theme: "Building Bridges (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)."

### **The Programme**

The programme consisted of contributions, questions, and answers. There were four panelists: Anthony Appiagyei and Charles Banin from Edmonton, and Kunle Orekoya and Greg Contell from Northampton. These were some of the questions that were discussed:

- What are the causes of conflicts and splits in congregations?
- Should we take sides when there is a problem in the church?
- What practical steps can be taken to support Christians whose behaviour creates a problem in congregations?
- In what ways can we strengthen the relationship between congregations?

### **Contributions and Answers**

At the end of the forum both panelists and participants agreed that the church is made up of human beings and that problems among us are inevitable. What matters is how to solve problems and conflicts amicably in order to bring unity. Below are some of the suggestions:

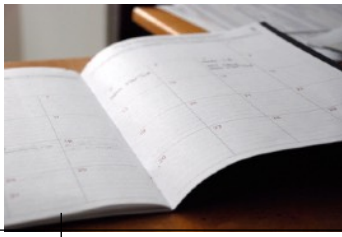
- Building bridges requires us to understand the task at hand. We need the right mindset and commitment to

deal with problems. Congregations must promote the nurturing of faithful and committed Christians to ensure mutual ministry.

- In most cases conflicts occur when unspiritual men try to lead the Lord's body and take spiritual decisions. Leaders must be grounded in the word and that all decisions in a congregation should be informed by the scriptures preceded with prayer.
- When there is a conflict nobody should take sides. All should go to the scriptures. Apply what the scriptures say, otherwise your decision becomes opinion. We need to recognise that the church is God's spiritual ark of safety. Furthermore, most disagreements come from using scriptures but what is lacking is uniformity of interpretations. For example, one of the contributors mentioned a church splitting which was based on quoting from Acts 15:36-41.
- We must build on the foundation of Christ. We are his household, built together and in constant fellowship with him. Everything we do or say must be borne out of love, peace, humility, unity and long-suffering.
- Every individual is different. We must embrace our differences for the benefit of the church. After all, Christ breaks down our differences. As Christians, we should see each other as God sees us. Nehemiah 2:17 is relevant to us. We should always be more proactive and remember that if we fail to promote unity, disgrace will befall the church of God.

Samuel Ofori-Dwumah





# DIARY

## September

5<sup>th</sup> – **Great Barr:** Online Fellowship Day – “Devotion to the public reading of Scriptures”, 10.00 am. Readers: Mark Hill, Paul Hill and Martin Huburn. The zoom details are as follows – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6992148369?pwd=K2QwN1hNQW5jeXVObjRPdWNiMTkxdz09> [ID: 699 214 8369; Password: 484833 Contact: Sola Adeosun ([sola.adeosun@gmail.com](mailto:sola.adeosun@gmail.com)) or Martin Huburn ([martin\\_huburn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:martin_huburn@hotmail.co.uk)).

## November

2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> – **British Bible School:** Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor, near Keswick; module: “Acts”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Mark Hill and Jack Paton. Contact: [study@britishbibleschool.com](mailto:study@britishbibleschool.com).

## **European Events Calendar**

### September

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – **Central European Faith Talks.** 6.00 pm BST. Speaker: Charles Rix. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82375801720?pwd=SzMmUkJKRjVCEWQ4czZNSkg2aUthdz09> Password: Jesus.

### February 2021

15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> – **Gemünden, Germany:** Advanced Bible Study Series.

## Calling Teens and Twenties

We are looking for younger Christians who would be keen to help *The Christian Worker* magazine to connect with their generation. We need input to develop a medium that will interest younger people in being more active in local and national congregational activities and report on them for a greater readership. We are looking for those who are interested in desktop publication, writing, and anything that will help the CW develop for a younger audience. We are open to ideas.

Congregation leaders: if you have young people who would be interested in this, encourage them to write to me.

Trevor  
[twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk)

## A TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO THE BIBLE LANDS OF ISRAEL & JORDAN

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup>  
2021

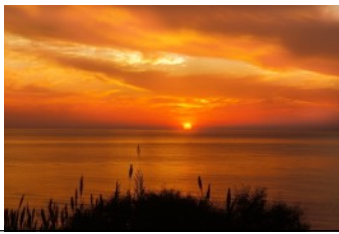


If you are interested in joining us please contact  
Ian Starrs for further details  
[jes22ian@msn.com](mailto:jes22ian@msn.com)



See also the CW article on our last trip

<http://www.churchesofchristco.uk/content/pages/documents/1575143383.pdf>



# THE FINAL WORD



For those  
returning  
to  
education

Congratulations to all our young people who are starting back to school or at least some form of education, from playgroup to university. We hope that you have a wonderful year filled with laughter, energy and experience. Life will be different now compared to what it used to be. You may have to learn in different styles but look on it all as an adventure in finding ways to use your brains and preparing for life in all its variations.

Do not worry too much about the struggles ahead. The runner has to stretch and strain to join the race. No one succeeds in life without learning what they are doing first of all. When I left school and went to Catering College I learned you can't make cake without breaking eggs. (Just try not to get the shell in there!)

Jesus had a real love for younger people. When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead he immediately told her parents to feed her; you see she was twelve years of age and he knew how hungry twelve year olds can be (Mark 5:43).

Jesus also rebuked the apostles because they pushed children away from him. He was going nowhere until he gave those

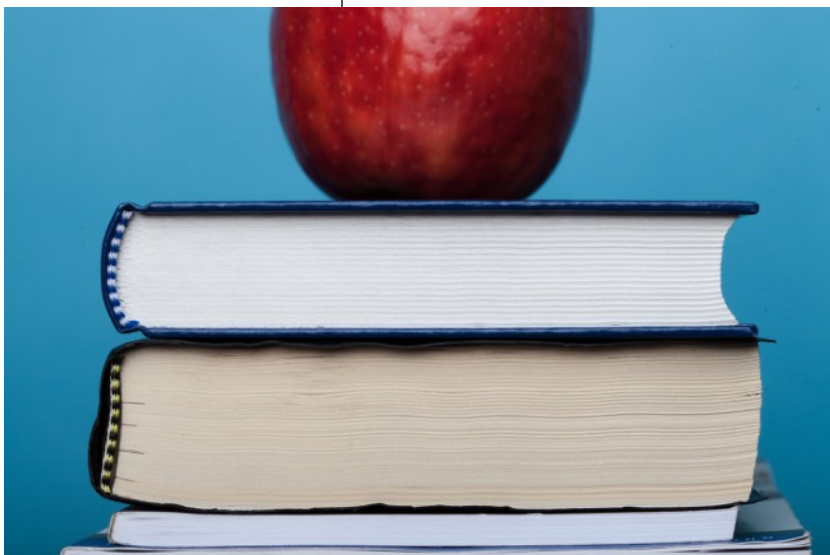
little people hugs (Matthew 19:13-15). I think every adult would have liked to have been hugged by Jesus – I know I would. Sometimes adults forget that they should remain just big kids.

I want to encourage our young people to be the best they can for themselves but also for Jesus. All through the Bible young people are called to serve the living God: Joseph, Samuel, David, Josiah, Daniel, John the Baptist.

Put the Spirit of God deep into your souls and live life with Jesus as your best friend. Run the race of life with blessings of Heaven in every fibre of your bodies. Live in the victory of the empty tomb knowing that Jesus rose from the dead. Be proud of being a Christian.

And to our teachers, we send you our hearty thanks for the extraordinary ways that you taught during lockdown. Thank you for rearranging the norm into something extra special. We appreciate your inventiveness, your dedication, your service to do what you believe in. We all expect the next academic year to be complicated, but you are doing the best you can, not only for the pupils you teach but for Jesus. Your gifts of teaching are a blessing from Heaven.

Trevor



Heavenly Father,  
we bring to you all in education,  
those who learn and those who teach.  
Bring calm where there is concern,  
joy where there is stress.  
And we pray that your Word, the Bible,  
may become an open book leading many to you.  
Amen