

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

February 2024 • Vol 56 No 2

BBS Bassenfell Family Retreat



CONTENTS

- 3 BBS BASSENFELL FAMILY RETREAT
"Up on the Mountain"
- 5 "ARE WE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OR
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH?"
article by Trevor Williams
- 7 FAMILY NEWS
▪ Kirkcaldy announces Social Day
▪ New congregation in Lincoln
- 8 APPEALS
▪ Urgent appeal for Pakistan
- 9 SEVEN CHURCHES TOUR PLANNED
▪ Trip of a Lifetime
- 10 NOTICES
- 11 DIARY OF EVENTS
- 12 THE FINAL WORD
The Right Hand of Fellowship



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: Bassenfell Family Retreat

BBS Bassenfell Family Retreat



On Friday 19th January a little over sixty people from around the UK travelled to meet together at Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre in the Lake District. The occasion was the annual family retreat hosted by the British Bible School. The beautiful countryside and grand manor can only ever add to the special time we had together.

Our theme is always around Jesus and this time it related to “Up on the mountain”. On arrival Friday evening time was spent refuelling with some nice food and getting acquainted or reacquainted with each other. Prior to breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning any who wanted could meet together for prayer and reflection. Then when those who have been busy in the kitchen announce it is ready, we enjoy a hearty breakfast together.

The adults spend the morning studying and discussing scripture together. During that time the children and youth do their own thing. This year the youth prepared, acted and filmed a video relating to the topic. Being “Up on the mountain” it was decided to film Noah and the Flood! The more astute of you will realise the flood water covered the mountains and the ark came to rest on a mountain providing us with a link.

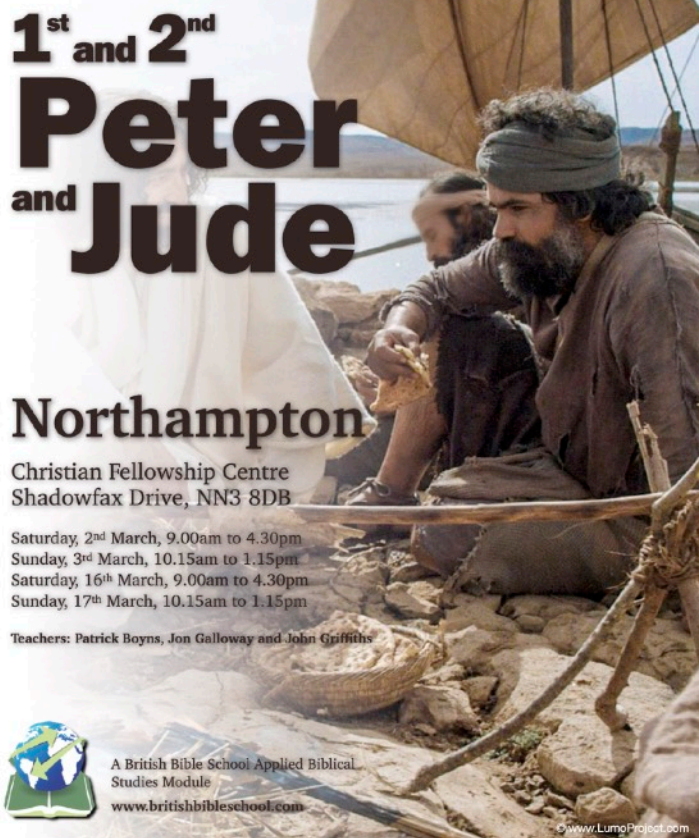
On Saturday afternoon time was free for everyone to spend how they wished. Some went into Keswick, some found local coffee shops to sit and chat in, and those who could cope with the wind and rain went for a walk. Indoors there were board games and the like, copious amounts of tea and coffee to drink over a chat, and even the opportunity for a nap. Scones with jam and cream were served around 4.00 pm for any who wished to enjoy afternoon tea. Once everyone had returned or woke up it was time to eat a lovely roast dinner and enjoy some very nice desserts.

Our evening activity consisted of several popular games and competitions. Teams of six went from room to room participating in the likes of Pictionary, Taboo, Pin Moses to the mountain and others. It was great fun with a lot of laughs enjoyed.

On Sunday after a good breakfast, we had a time of worship and celebrated the Lord’s supper together. After a short break it was time for the presentation of the Blockbuster Noah video by the youth. It was very entertaining whilst carrying with it an important message of God’s love yet sure judgment.

All present helped to make this a wonderful weekend of spiritual encouragement. Thanks go to those who spent much time cooking, cleaning up, teaching lessons and who provided the activities – they have our gratitude. Every person assisted in some way not just to the whole group but in individual conversations which were an encouragement as well. Sadly, next year Bassenfell Manor needs to be completely rewired, meaning it will not be available for a few months at the beginning of the year. We look forward therefore to a retreat there in 2026. In the meantime check the British Bible School website for details of our retreat at Letton Hall in Norfolk in September.

Mark Hill



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.LumoProject.com

Online Bible Classes

with the *British Bible School*

For twelve weeks commencing 8th January 2024

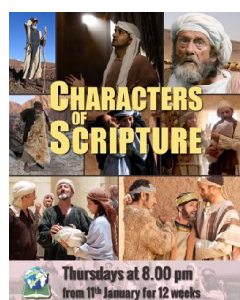
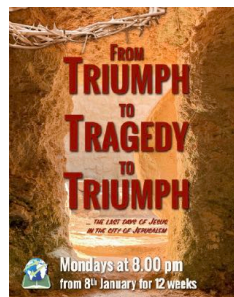
Mondays at 8.00 pm

From Triumph to Tragedy to Triumph

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 so-called trial. The betrayal, the humiliation, and the agony of all that led to his execution upon a Roman cross are well documented by the writers of the Gospels, all of whom lead us from the triumph, through tragedy to the triumph of the tomb in which no body lay.

The rest is history, our history – so join us on a journey of discovery.

Presenter: Mark Hill



Thursdays at 8.00 pm

Characters of Scripture

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.

This series will be brought to us by a number of different presenters, sharing with us characters which have been of particular interest and significance in their walk with God.

Join us on our journeys as we are introduced to both new and familiar faces, each one sharing with us something of their story – the story of God and us.

Presenter: Various

Usually 1st Fridays at 8.00 pm (check social media)

Bible Quiz Time!

Some light-hearted, educational, entertainment! This really is for everyone - nothing too testing (promise!).

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. We'd love to present these personally, but under the circumstances this is a little tricky ...

We will generally hold this every first Friday, but please check online.

Presenter: Steve Whitehead



ARE WE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH?

We have been privileged to visit several countries to share in fellowship with Christians and to minister the Word of God there. We are always thankful for that fellowship; it is usually encouraging, and we always meet loving and kind brothers and sisters. But I am anxious for those churches under the banner 'Church of Christ'.

It is easy enough to refer to Romans 16:16 but I wonder if someone chose to call themselves the 'Church of God', according to 1 Corinthians 1:2, what would everyone else say? I well remember when we built the chapel in Northampton we called the premises 'The Christian Fellowship Centre'; we did that because we firmly believed that the people and not the building was and is the church, the body of Christ. Yet wherever I go I see the name 'Church of Christ' on signposts or places of worship where we meet.

In the 1800's some of our chapels were named, such as Hope Chapel in Kentish Town, London. Many also simply had some brick work above the front door stating 'Christian Meeting Place' or words to that effect. The Summer Lane congregation in Birmingham had engraved on the communion plates 'A Christian Church', in no way referring to a denomination but noting that we are Christians only. This phrase from the pulpit was often used, that 'we are Christians only but not the only Christians'. What has happened over my lifetime is that Churches of Christ seem to have become 'The Church of Christ Church'.

In my role as editor of the *Christian Worker*, I often get e-mails asking for where the church of Christ is in this town or that. Knowing of no organised congregation I usually refer them to our website, www.churchesofchrist.co.uk, to look to see where places are meeting that chose to include themselves in the list.

Some who have come from other countries to the UK have not necessarily enjoyed the fellowship offered by existing congregations and have formed churches more to their own liking either in language or traditions. Sadly, this does not always bode well for fellowship with other congregations. This could result in a wedge being driven in to the point where one group can feel itself superior to another, often believing that they are more scriptural than others.

Somewhere around 1964 much was written in the magazine that circulated



Are we the Church of Christ or the Church of Christ Church?

around the congregations in the UK at the time discussing the number of containers for the fruit of the vine that could be on the Lord's Table. As I remember, the discussion could be vitriolic and as a young Christian I found it to be weakening for faith. Of course, at the same time, it was the fashion for teen boys to grow their hair as long as they could or dared, before getting in trouble with the church leaders and being told that hair was for a woman's glory. Then the sisters were being told off because they started to wear trousers and were told they looked like men so they were in the wrong. These things come and go, but when we start to make proclamations, we start to step outside of the revealed Word and make the Church of Christ Church.

Of course, those congregations which refer to themselves as Churches of Christ often have their own flavour. Across the world there are those who say children's Bible classes are wrong, that eating in the place of worship is wrong, that multiple cups are wrong, that having anything but a loaf of bread on the communion table is wrong, that using alcoholic wine in communion is wrong. Every time we make declarations like this, we make creeds, and we must note again that we have no creed but the Bible. There are of course many groups who believe in the authority of The Bible, but their practises and teachings are very different from ours.

I remember our late brother Graham Fisher reporting that many congregations tell of baptisms for the remission of sins yet failing to mention anything about the receiving of the gift of The Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:38. Of course people could argue that it is not the words that are said at the time of baptising that is important but the act itself. The assumption for the individual may be true, and we all learn more about baptism after becoming a Christian than beforehand. Yet it is wise for those leading baptismal services to declare fully what baptism is all about. The purpose is important.

It is not that we are members of the 'church of Christ', used as a title, that is important, but rather

that we are servants and followers of Jesus and by grace are part of the fellowship of believers. There may well be some variations in practise by different congregations. I remember when we moved to work with the church in Bristol, I had one letter from a 'brother' who objected to me taking off my jacket in service even though I was very warm. He also did not like the way that I broke the communion loaf into smaller pieces. At the time the front row consisted of older sisters with very shaky hands who had difficulty passing the plate along let alone trying to break off a piece of bread for themselves. They found it helpful to have the bread broken into pieces so they could take a piece, while our brother at the back did not.

The Apostle Paul wrote, 'We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.... For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends' (2 Corinthians 10:12,18).

So, what am I trying to get at, as someone might say? The name 'Church of Christ' is not a noun, it is not a title; it is an adjective, a descriptive word. The church belongs to Jesus, it is his body. 'This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 3:6). We should not become a denomination but remain simply Christians.

I would like to say more but at least I hope that if anyone even reads this, they will think about what I am trying to say. Thank you.

Trevor Williams



FAMILY NEWS

KIRKCALDY

The congregation in Kirkcaldy are delighted to announce that our annual social event will be held on 11th May at 1.30 pm at our meeting place within Hayfield Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy.

Unfortunately due to limitations placed upon us by the local council, we are only able to offer a limited number of spaces (90) which will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Allan Hughes

LINCOLN

I would like to bring to your notice that a congregation has commenced fellowship in Lincoln.

Meeting venue:
Queens Park Community Hub
South Park

Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN5 8EW

Contacts:
Abraham (07760 979718)
Bismak (07425 741639)

Worship time:
Sundays 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Abraham Kennedy

With a younger group of retirees in many congregations right now I have been thinking that we could possibly do a number of things together to help churches in the UK or overseas.

What do you think, any ideas? Let me know.

Trevor

**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

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



APPEALS & UPDATES

URGENT APPEAL FOR NAEEM IN PAKISTAN

We are still short the £200 a month we used to get from Tony Styles. 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

I am wondering if some of our readers would like to share their thoughts on the following? I am increasingly reading from emails or Facebook that someone has prayed for a blessing such as restoration of health and because the prayer that they asked for has been answered the way they want, they then say something like: 'God is good' or 'thanks be to God' or praise be to God. Yet when the prayer is not answered the way the person wants, there is never a comment and no praise to God is given.

Do we only praise God when we get what we want?

Please let me hear from you. Thanks!

Trevor



House to House Heart to Heart




Come Home

A special issue for inactive members of churches of Christ

Fallen away. Inactive since Covid. Moved and never found a new congregation.


Our communities are full of once-faithful brothers and sisters. We miss them. We love them. Let's work together to win them back. For the first time, House to House has an issue to reach former members. Contact us before April 4 to send the issue: An Invitation to Come Home. Call us toll-free at 1-877-338-3397 or email matt@housetohouse.com.



CHURCHES OF CHRIST EUROPE YOUTH European Annual LECTURESHIP 2024

Theme: *Be an Example*

26th-28th JULY '24



Speaker: BRO. EDWIN OFFIN (Cumbernauld, UK)
Speaker: BRO. CALLUM HILL (Loughborough, UK)
Speaker: BRO. KOFI HUSI-SARHODIE (Summer Lane, UK)
Speaker: BRO. LLOYD AGYEMANG (Edmonton, UK)

EARLY BIRD
Accommodation & Attendance £180
Attendance Only £60

HOST: EDMONTON CHURCH
Lieutenant Ellis Way
Cheshunt
Herts EN7 5FB

Featuring: LONDON MELODIES LONDON MELODIES

18+

For Enquiries Please Text +(44) 7780 917590

SEVEN CHURCHES TOUR PLANNED

Dear brothers and sisters,

Since 2013 we've been travelling to the Bible lands of Israel and Jordan and found these trips to be truly faith building experiences.

You can read what those who have joined us on these tours previously have said in the Christian Worker Magazine (See [CW December 2019](#)

(d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net) or [CW October 2022](#)

(d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net)).

On this occasion we will be visiting the Bible Land of Turkey. It's striking to note that it was *to* the residents of this land (ancient Asia Minor) that thirteen books and letters of the New Testament were written. That's nearly half of the New Testament. Additionally, some of the others were written *from* this region. Notably the gospel of John and the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

There are also other biblical links to present day Turkey. For example, all three of Paul's main missionary journeys were through this land, with the first journey almost entirely in Turkey. Paul grew up in Tarsus, a strategic, bustling, commercial city, world-renowned for its school of philosophy, along the southern coast of Asia Minor. Timothy was from the city of Lystra, in the province of Galatia, which is in Turkey. The early church of Antioch (now in present day Turkey) is where the followers of Jesus were first called Christians.

So, it's to this region that we invite you to accompany us as we tour in November 2024. We would love for you to join us on this trip.

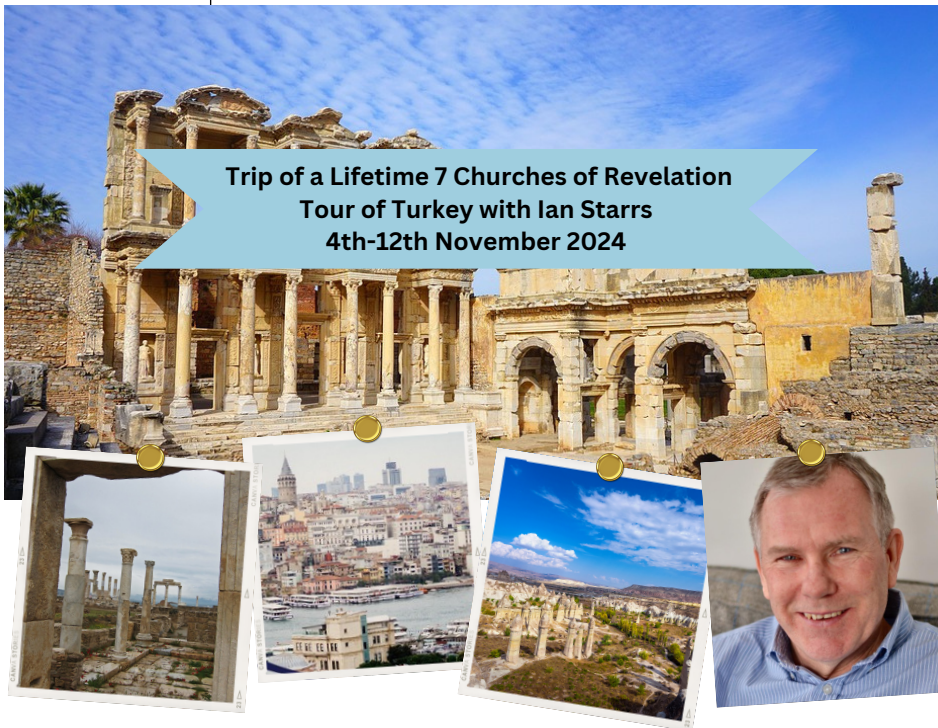
If you would like to join us, please contact me and I will forward the booking link to you.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.

We look forward to travelling with you, and God bless you.

Ian Starrs

Email: jes22ian@msn.com
Mob: 07960 150 856



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
- Pummukale
- 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



NOTICES

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.

★ More Than Music ★ Workshop®

Is your congregation interested in improving their singing? Leaders, are you interested in improving your worship leading or song leading skills? Do you want to learn new 4-part acapella worship songs?

We can help your congregation by

- Encouraging 4-part a cappella singing
- Spur on your song leader and equip them with tools to lead
- Inspiring the congregation's members to sing. Everyone has a voice! God wants to hear them!
- Collaborate with other spiritual leaders

For more information on hosting and to discuss contact:

Alan Dod 07779 606568
Bernadine Wells 07904 303347





DIARY

February

1st – **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.

2nd – **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.

3rd – **Cumbernauld:** Men’s Day: “The Resurrection”, 10.00 am. Numbers needed to help with catering. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

5th – **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.

19th-25th – **Gemünden, Germany:** Advanced Bible Study Series I and II, Keynote Speaker: Jeremy Barrier. Contact: Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

24th – **Liverpool:** Young Adults Day (10.00 am-4.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Rexford: 07538 563751 or nanadomfeh6@gmail.com.

29th-3rd March – **European Ladies’ Retreat.** Contact: Bernadine Wells (BERN.WELLS@hotmail.co.uk).

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. All day Saturday and Sunday morning worship and class. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

2nd-3rd – **Northampton:** British Bible School Study Weekend. All day Saturday and Sunday morning worship and class. 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.

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

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.

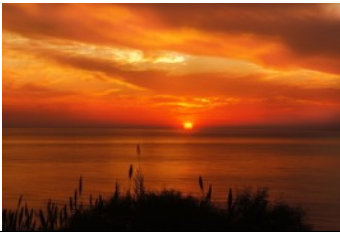
June

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 'right
hand of
fellowship'
(Galatians
2:9)

Recently I was in an assembly where no one knew Pauline nor me. We were welcomed at the door by having a newsletter put into our hand but no other comment. We went and sat down on a pew about halfway down the aisle, in touching distance of anyone walking past. No one talked to us. I resisted doing what I normally do and just push myself forward shaking hands and smiling at people I may or may not know. We sat and wondered if we were just being ignored or overlooked or unwanted or in someone's seat. We sat and looked for someone to say, 'hello'. No one did.

We went through Bible class; we went through worship. There were people at the other end of the long pew, perhaps we should have shuffled along and introduced ourselves. We didn't – and they didn't. We sat. The service was as

we expected: singing, preaching, praying, communion. It was not until the last prayer was said that the congregation suddenly came to life. They stood, they talked, but no one came to us, no one shook our hand; the aisle was filled, but no one looked our way. Finally someone came past and said, 'Are you a visitor? – so am I!' Eventually I could stand it no longer and went over to the young man who had led the singing and thanked him for his service. I had to shake someone's hand.

As the crowd eventually thinned out, we started to talk to one or two, but the handshakes seemed a long way off. I wondered if it was not done in that church or was it the remnant of covid? Why did they not shake my hand? It felt for a little while that I was a stranger in a different sort of church to the ones I knew.

In fact, we were strangers, no one knew my name, no one was looking out for us – we were outsiders even though we believed the same thing. We realised then just how important a handshake is – and a smile of welcome. It reminded me that the visitor to that meeting was not as important as the regular attenders. It reminded me that when in my own familiar place of worship the unknown person, the guest, may be there with a broken heart, or a need to see the face of Jesus in the worshippers. At the very least they may need a handshake.

A handshake costs nothing, is something anyone can do, and yet can be a great start to sharing the message of love that we see in the gospel of Jesus.

Trevor

