

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE



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Getting back to normal



Two elders appointed in Kirkcaldy

Ukraine refugee update

Thoughts on 'Marriage'

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Front cover and above: Ian Stars speaking at outreach meeting in East Kilbride



CONGRATULATIONS!

Elders appointed in Kirkcaldy

We had a great worship day along with the appointment of two elders on Sunday, 29 May 2022. Eric McCallum and Alan Moyes were appointed to be the shepherds of the congregation in Kirkcaldy. We were supported on the day with the presence of Mark Hill and Ian Starrs and are thankful for their help.

Alan Moyes



Celebration of Graham Fisher's life



When Graham passed away last year his wife Barbara wanted to have a celebration of his life but with Covid, winter, etc, it could not take place until now.

Barbara is inviting Christians, friends and family to remember Graham and share fellowship together in word and song on Thursday, 16th June, at 12:00. Lunch will be served.

If YOU would like to attend please contact Barbara on blfisher888@aol.com or (01296) 534774.

Would A. Spicer please contact the editor, Trevor Williams, on twilliams195@hotmail.com. I would like to talk to you about your writings. Thanks. Trevor.



Returning to normal post-pandemic

It seems years since we have seen our brothers and sisters from other congregations...largely because we haven't been able to get together! With the lifting of all restrictions throughout the UK we are once again able to start meeting with other people and enjoying fellowship together.

At East Kilbride we have just concluded our first outreach event complete with a campaign group from the United States working with us. Our group from a congregation in Ohio had been planning to come to work with us since 2020. Lockdown due to the worldwide Covid pandemic prevented them coming that year and the restrictions prevented them from being able to come in 2021. The third time was a charm!



As far as restrictions, getting into the UK had no restrictions at all. Returning to the USA just now requires a 'fit-to-fly' Covid test and certificate to satisfy the American authorities that they do not have Covid-19. Masks are no longer required on flights, making the travel more comfortable.

Although we have not yet worked out the way we want to approach outreach efforts, we were able to use the group to make contact with our community both through distributing leaflets and talking to people in the town centre. We continue looking for those who want to know more about Jesus.

In the evenings we had a series of outreach meetings on the theme "Removing Our Mask". Ian Starrs was our speaker and brought informative and encouraging messages looking at Bible characters who encountered Jesus but needed to 'remove their mask' and face life as it really is, acknowledging and turning from the sin in their lives rather than trying to hide behind a mask.

This was, to our knowledge, the first live public event held among congregations in Scotland since the lifting of restrictions. It was good to see so many from congregations reasonably near us to come out and support our effort. Having not seen each other for over two years it was wonderful to be together and be able to sing God's praises! Many commented



that it was just wonderful to be together again. Some travelled from a distance just to be able to be with Christians again. With everyone talking to each other it was difficult to get started or to lock the building in the evening. Having face-to-face fellowship has been missed and is so important.

There were also visitors to the outreach meetings. Good interest was shown in the message and we are praying that the seed that was planted will continue to grow.

We were also to have the first pot-luck fellowship meal since the restrictions have been lifted. This is something we have been longing to do, especially since the merger of the two congregations in East Kilbride last year. Ideally we would have begun with a meal together after our first worship time. The meal was a great success with more than enough food and a good time sharing together over such good food. We plan to once again make this a regular feature of our fellowship as a congregation of the Lord's people.

We could debate whether or not the restrictions and lockdowns were good – but that is debating something that cannot be changed. The question is what are we now doing and planning to do in the future. Are we making plans to continue reaching out to those who are not Christians as well as to provide times of encouragement and fellowship with other Christians? Having missed fellowship with others for so long let's be sure to take advantage of any time we have to get together as the Lord's people and to encourage each other as we live for Jesus.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of a congregation being in East Kilbride. As a result we are planning to spend time together around God's word to give thanks for God blessing us through these years and to look forward to the future with God. We are planning anniversary celebrations on 1st October with a day spent around God's word as we "Look to the future with God". If you can, join us for this momentous day in the history of God's people in East Kilbride.

We would encourage all to get back to what we should be doing as God's people. The 'new normal' may look a bit different than it was before the pandemic – as you can see from the photos our seating continues to have distance, but we are finding we like it that way, although they are getting closer together. Let's get back to organising times of encouragement and outreach.

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

2022

5th – 15th September

For further details please
contact Ian Starrs

email: jes22ian@msn.com



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Back in the classroom

We were delighted to be back on the road again as we conducted the first of our Study Weekends for 2022. On Saturday, 7th May, we returned to Northampton for the first of two weekends on the book of the prophet Ezekiel. The second weekend event took place a fortnight later.

Although we have developed a much greater presence online over the past two years or so, the joys and benefits of being in a classroom simply cannot be replicated in a virtual setting. So we were greatly encouraged to see those who came along and who clearly enjoyed what we had to offer.

Thinking of our Study Weekends, whilst we are planning more events, maybe you might be interested in hosting some weekends like this where you meet. We have a wide variety of modules from which to choose and we would be more than happy to have a conversation and help you decide what you would like us to teach.

These events are deliberately intended to be intense periods of study conducted over two weekends, relatively close together. Though they may not be everyone's cup of tea, those who attend these classes consistently appreciate the levels of teaching given and the knowledge and understanding they gain.

As disciples of Jesus, we have all committed to a life of learning the word of God – not simply for the purpose of gaining knowledge, but that together we might grow closer to God. That learning may happen in all sorts of environments, but it is a vital part of the life of the community of believers as a whole. Looking forward to whatever might lie ahead, it has long been a concern of mine that we be able to help teach others who might then be able to teach others also.

Our Study Weekends are just one way in which we aim to do this. When we think of who might be the teachers or leaders of a next generation, think also of how we might best prepare them for service in the word of God. If we can be of

service for now – then let's talk.

Thank you for your continued support of this work. May God bless us all in his service.

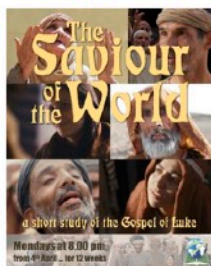
Patrick Boyns

britishbibleschool.com

Online Bible Classes with the British Bible School

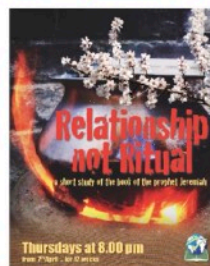
For twelve weeks commencing 4th April 2022

Mondays at 8.00 pm



The Gospel of Luke is the first of two volumes written by the most prolific writer of the New Testament Scriptures. In this study we will explore some central themes, meet a number of intriguing characters and consider its particular relevance for our own times. Jesus truly is the Saviour of the world. ...
Presenter: Patrick Boyns

Thursdays at 8.00 pm



Jeremiah pleads with the people to acknowledge their sin, turn from idolatry, and stop depending on the ceremonial rituals of law which are superimposed on their sinful ways. He emphasised then, as we should understand now, God wants relationship, not rituals. ...
Presenter: Mark Hill

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 ...
Quizmaster: Steve Whitehead



MARRIAGE

According to 'Coalition for Marriage', a charity supporting traditional marriage, the rate for people getting married hit a new low in 2019, whilst cohabitation rates continued to rise.

People are delaying marriage until later in life: the average age in 2019 was 34.3 years old for men and 32.3 years old for women. In 1969 the average age when getting married was 23.7 for men and 21.8 for women. These are the rates for male-female couples. Despite population growth the charity estimates that marriage rates are now only one quarter of what they were in the past.

The bad news for adults and children is that cohabitation, even cohabitation followed by marriage, ends in a much higher break-up rate. It leads to more children without a Mum and Dad.

Family breakdowns cost public funds £51 billion a year. This is a huge

figure and does not include emotional harms such as the knock on effect on achievement and well-being.

What do the scriptures say? Marriage is to be one man and one woman. Living together without marriage (cohabiting) is sexual immorality. I am fully aware that 1 Corinthians 6:9 and following deals with other sins as well. As people who claim to be the people of God, may we do our best to do what is pleasing to Jesus rather than what seems best for the individual.

Another major denomination has decided that it is right for single sex marriages to take place on their premises and to ask God to bless their union. The result of this is to divide their own fellowship and I believe mock the Scriptural, God ordained blessing of male and female in the marriage union.

I have yet to meet anyone who can prove from the Bible that the Almighty wishes to bless same sex marriages.

Once again I appeal to all congregations to be aware of this and to be ready for the day when our meeting places will be required to hold same sex weddings.

Trevor





UKRAINE UPDATE

We are having some success. Fourteen Ukrainians connected with congregations there have safely arrived in the UK to date and all is going well with them and their hosts. It has been an adventure for all getting to know each other, sharing a home together, learning the way we do things and getting sorted for all the benefits that the government and the councils are offering. Every day there is something new.

Language has not been too big a problem since one in each of the family groups has a little English and there is a lot of use on the 'immediate voice translation' mobile phone app. The weather has been good and so going out each day to discover something new or

see to registration with banks, doctors, schools has been easy; I am sure that the hosts have been tired with all the new activity in their days.

Not all of our refugees are Christians from one of the Ukrainian congregations but they seem to have settled into the Christian households well.



19th May was a special day for Ukraine: Vyshyvanka Day. This is when they wear their special heirloom embroidered shirts and blouses, wear flowers in their hair and celebrate their nationality. So six of the refugees from Shepshed came to Ilkeston and cooked all day to produce some typical Ukrainian food to share with the community. It was advertised and we hoped to attract other refugees in the town and those Ukrainians who live here. We had some from the community come along but no other Ukrainians came. However, the food was enjoyed, there was a presentation of slides and a lady whose parents were Ukrainian



Ukraine Update



to stay in Ukraine in their own homes even though they are in the line of fire, while some have gone as refugees to Germany or Poland. I am sure that those on the list who have not yet been linked with anyone will have had a letter from the government asking you to re-register and if you would be willing to take someone whose placement did not work out for them and they are now without a place to live. If you would like

brought several of the shirts and blouses to show. It was a successful evening.

In other towns support groups and drop-in centres have been found. They are eligible to apply to the local food banks if they want to buy and cook their own food; it is always comforting to have something like you would have at home and for the most part food that you have prepared yourself.

The number of applications has slowed down now but there are still six people in the process of filling in forms and getting visas to come to the UK. Several have changed their minds and have decided

to do this then go ahead; just let us know please and we will take your name from our list.

There will be no quick fix to this problem and if the fighting escalates again then we may get more applications to come. Please keep us up to date with your situation and decision about hosting refugees and hosting someone who is not yet a Christian.

For a new update on what is happening in Ukraine, Ivan Propupchuk has a report for May on YouTube – contact Trevor for the link.

Trevor and Pauline Williams

The Church and Same Sex Relationship

(Leviticus 18:22; Timothy 1:10)

Men's Workshop 2022 organized by Church of Christ Edmonton, UK

Speaker: Evangelist Michael Stuart
Canaan church of Christ
Trinidad and Tobago

Date	Saturday, 9th July 2022
Venue	Zoom (ID:816 2087 8660 Passcode: Workshop)
Time	10:00 – 16:00
Contacts	Bro Maxwell (079-8343-5054) Elder Charles(075-0668-9396) Elder Anthony(078-4732-1141) or email info@edmontonchurchofchrist.org.uk



APPEAL

HELP FOR PAKISTAN

Naeem Sabir and the Christians in Pakistan are in urgent need of financial help. They have lost support from America and from some congregations in the UK. They also face an unknown future due to a change of government in



Pakistan – we can only hope and pray that the new prime minister will protect Christians as Imran Khan did.

The Pakistani Christians are grateful for all the funding they have received over the years from British congregations and for continuing support from congregations and individuals.

Any and all help is gratefully received to continue the work of upholding and proclaiming the Gospel in that benighted land, especially by the Bible College graduates.

Any donations can be sent to:

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

Barbara Fisher



DIRECTORY UPDATE

AYLESBURY (BUCKINGHAM PARK)

Meeting place: Buckingham Park Community Centre, Jubilee Square, Buckingham Park, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP19 9DZ. (Please DO NOT send post to the Centre)

Send post to: 4 Peveril Close, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9UJ

Website: www.aylesburychurchofchrist.org

Sunday meetings: Breaking Bread 10.30 am

Midweek: For midweek Bible Studies, please ring.

Contacts: Steven Whitehead (01296) 682265 pondcott@aol.com

Alistair Whitehead 07403106031 Aliwhitehead1w@gmail.com

DIARY

June

2nd – British Bible School Evening Class: “Jeremiah – a short study of the book of the prophet Jeremiah”, 8.00 pm on Zoom, each Thursday during May, part of a 12-week series. Teacher: Mark Hill. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

6th – British Bible School Evening Class: “The Saviour of the World – a short study of the Gospel of Luke”, 8.00 pm on Zoom, each Monday during May, part of a 12-week series. Teacher: Patrick Boyns. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

10th – British Bible School: Monthly Quiz, 8.00 pm on Zoom. Quiz master: Steve Whitehead. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

11th – Stretford (Manchester): Saturday Gospel Meeting. Guest speaker: Jason Snethan. 1.00 pm for lunch, 2.00 pm for gospel message. Contact Pilonon: dr_mpraja@yahoo.co.uk.

16th – Buckingham Park (Aylesbury): “Celebration of Graham Fisher’s life”, 12.00 pm. If you would like to attend contact Barbara Fisher: blfisher888@aol.com or (01296)534774.

July

9th – Edmonton (London): “The Church and Same Sex Marriage”, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm on Zoom (Meeting ID: 816 2087 8660, Passcode: Workshop). Speaker: Michael Stewart. Contact: 07833 296396, 07908 725427, 07852 343010.

30th – Edmonton (London): Singles Enrichment Programme – “Christ-Centred Marriage”, 12.00-4.00 pm on Zoom (Meeting ID: 849 2443 9737, Passcode: marriage). Speakers: Patrick Boyns and Manny Ebong. Contact: Maxwell (07983 435054), Charles (07506 689396) or Anthony (07847 321141).

31st-5th August – Camp Tayside. Douglaswood Scout Camp, near Dundee. For more information and to register: camptayside.co.uk/register. Contact: Aubrey Boyns – a.boyns@gmail.com or (07502) 220902.

August

14th-19th – British Bible Camp: “Mapping Your Journey”. Viney Hill Christian Activity Centre. Cost for campers ages 8-18: £120. For more information and to register: camptayside.co.uk/register. Contact Jason (07795 560990) for details or to request an application form.

September

5th-15th – Trip of a Lifetime to the Bible Lands of Israel & Jordan. Contact: Ian Starrs (jes22ian@msn.com).

16th-18th – British Bible School: Weekend Family Retreat at Letton Hall, Norfolk. For details and registration: britishbibleschool.com.

October

1st – East Kilbride: 50th Anniversary meeting: “Into the Future with God”. Guest speakers: Patrick Boyns, Mark Hill, John Mooney and Ian Starrs. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

4th-6th – European Vision Workshop in Rome. Theme: “Those who were scattered”. Registration will open soon at: <http://www.sibi.cc/evw>. For further information contact Douglas Reeves: dreeves@sibi.cc

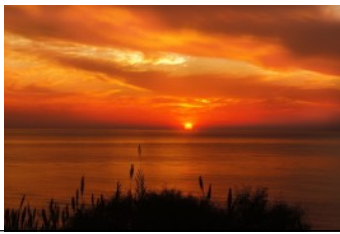
22nd-23rd – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

31st-4th November – British Bible School Autumn Study Week at Bassenfell Manor: “Gospel of John”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Steve Whitehead. Cost: £150 all inclusive. Further details and registration will be on our website soon, but make plans now.

November

25th-26th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship.





THE FINAL WORD



A Platinum Jubilee

Many readers of our magazine will be aware that our Queen, Elizabeth II, has reigned since 6th February 1952. She became Queen on the death of her father King George VI while she was on tour in Kenya.

This Queen has been the longest serving monarch in British history and the only one to have lived so long. The prayers of our National Anthem have been well and truly answered. We continue to wish Her Majesty well.

The inherited position of the Monarch may be discussed by some but it has been pleasant to hear from time to time of the Queen's own personal faith in Jesus Christ. It would seem she has tried to do her best and we say, "Thank you!" – especially in view of the many leaders in the world who mock the faith of Jesus.

Seventy years is a significant time and it made me think of the time the Jewish people spent in Babylonian captivity starting in 606BC and

concluding in 536BC. When the people came back and the new Temple in Jerusalem was being built there were those who had seen Solomon's original Temple and wept. Those born in exile rejoiced; they had never had a Temple to worship in.

Seventy years is also the general expectation of the length of life. Even with all the modern medical improvements a span of seventy is a blessing and not everyone is able to live that long. No one can choose the day of birth and no one knows when we shall leave this world.

Every Christian may expect the crown of life that is theirs by the divine right of Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the tomb. This crown will never perish but is given as a free gift from him who is King of kings and Lord of lords. We may not have been born into a special family or one that can boast of any fame or fortune, but while we are the children of the living God we have all that we need.



“God Save the Queen” – for God will save those who are of his own family. “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed on his name he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God” (John 1:12-13).

Trevor