

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

May 2024 • Vol 56 No 5

Celebrating 85 years in Bristol



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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: 85 years celebration in Bristol; above: Bedminster congregation in 2023.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Thanksgiving in Bristol!

Thanksgiving in the Bristol congregation as **Zipporah Naomi Joy Snethen** gave her life to Christ on Sunday, 21st April, by confession and immersion into the Name.


Lord, the people praise you!

Jason Snethen

As they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and cried out to Peter and to the other apostles, "Men, brothers, what should we do?" Peter said, Change your hearts, and be immersed, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ into the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ... The ones who welcomed the message were immersed, and that day about three thousand souls were added. (Acts 2:37-40 McCord's Everlasting Gospel)

MILTON KEYNES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Cordially invites you to the:

ORDINATION OF ELDERS



10:00 am
5th May 2024

10 PLAISTOW CRES
MONKSTON PARK
MILTON KEYNES
MK10 9PN

RSVP: 07985205561 /
0778458915



What Must I Do to Be *Saved?*

House to House Heart to Heart
One HUGE mailing. Three million homes.

We are inviting every church of Christ in the world to participate in the July issue of *House to House/Heart to Heart*. This year's big issue will address, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" A Study of Acts 2:38.

Your congregation can order copies for just 20¢ (which pays for customizing and printing), plus shipping. Our minimum is just 500 copies. This is perhaps the most important issue we have ever sent. Let's tell the people in your community what to do to be saved.

Please respond by May 25. Simply call Matt Wallin toll-free at 1-877-338-3397 or email Matt@housetohouse.com.



www.HousetoHouse.com
House to House / Heart to Heart is a work of the East Ridge Church of Christ.



Celebrating 85 years in Bristol

The Bedminster congregation in Bristol is pleased to be celebrating 85 years of service to our community from our little chapel on St. Johns Lane. The congregation began in the 1860s, but through the faithfulness and commitment of the brethren in 1939 purchased our current church building as a tool for teaching the good news of Jesus.

We enjoyed a weekend celebrating our anniversary on 13th-14th April with thanksgiving for all God has done in Bristol.

On Saturday morning we had a lovely Sunday School reunion, welcoming back many from the community whom we have not seen in recent years – including some who came to Sunday School in the 1950s.

During the afternoon we worshipped and praised God together. We were pleased to welcome back Trevor and Pauline Williams who worked with the congregation in Bristol from 1996 to 2009. Trevor spoke and encouraged the congregation on Saturday afternoon and challenged us further during our Sunday morning worship.

We took a stroll down memory lane with Geoff Daniell, who is part of our ministry team, and has a



Bedminster congregation in 1940

long memory of the work of the congregation – from the first Holiday Bible Schools, film strip evenings, camps at Goblin Coombe, relief missions to Romania and Poland, community outreach in our local park days, annual Gospel Trail, a benevolent service called Love-on-the Lane, the beginning of the Seed and Fertiliser and Orphan projects in Malawi, mission trips to India, and Autumn Thanksgiving Outreach among other blessings God has seen fit to propose in Bedminster.

On Sunday local speakers spurred us on to consider the cloud of witnesses that precede us, the endurance that disciplines us, and the hope that inspires us. We concluded the weekend with an international fellowship meal which highlighted the twenty nations represented in the fellowship here.

My own relationship with Bedminster congregation began in 1998 and I have been privileged to see how God has grown his people in Bristol during the past 25 years. The face of Bedminster today looks quite different than it once did!

Many thanks to those from the Newport, Ilkeston and Brighton congregations for coming to celebrate with us.

Jason Snethen



Geoff Daniell



Trevor Williams



Fellowship meal



Matt teaching



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

A sad ending but hopeful beginning

There are many sad incidents in the pages of scripture. One of the saddest in my view is what Ezekiel recorded in chapters 10 and 11 of his vision.

In chapter 8 Ezekiel was taken in a vision to Jerusalem to the temple of the Lord. There he saw worship of almost anything but the worship of God.

“And he said to me, ‘Son of man, do you see what they are doing – the utterly detestable things the Israelites are doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see things that are even more detestable.’” (Ezekiel 8:6 NIV)

In the temple dedicated by Solomon to the worship of YHVH, the God of Israel and only true God, the elders were worshipping every kind of creature made, the women were worshipping the false god Tammuz, and the priests were worshipping the sun (Ezekiel 8:7-18). There were almost none left in the city of Jerusalem who were still faithful to God.

In chapter 9 God had the people who were faithful marked for protection while the rest would be slaughtered.

It is when we get to chapter 10 that we see that God is forsaking his city. God is depicted in what many refer to as his war chariot, a scene very similar to God’s throne

room in Revelation 4 only this one moves. God slowly left the temple and the city (read about this in Ezekiel 10:4, 18-19; 11:22-23).

There was no hope left for those in the city. They refused to listen to God’s word given through his prophets. God’s glory left the temple and the city, leaving it open for destruction.

But there was still hope. Although they would be sent far away into other nations to be in exile, God would gather them, bring them back and give them the land of Israel once again.

“They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.” (Ezekiel 11:18-20)

Although it was sad that it reached the point that God forsook the temple and his people, he would bring them back. But notice that there had to be a change. They needed an undivided heart and a new spirit. They had to be obedient to God and be careful to obey him.

Isn’t it the same for us? When we sin and refuse to change we withdraw from God. Because of our sin the fellowship is broken. In order to resume a relationship with God we must give up the sin so we can have an undivided heart. We must allow God’s Spirit to once again reside in us. And we must once again be obedient to what God has asked of us.

May we all seek to be faithful followers of our Lord and Saviour.

If you are in the northeast of Scotland, plan to be with us 7th-8th June as we complete our study of the prophet Ezekiel.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

Ezekiel
Aberdeen
393 George Street
Aberdeen
AB25 1EQ

Friday, 26th April 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 27th April 9.00am to 4.15pm
Friday, 7th June 7.00 to 9.00pm
Saturday, 8th June 9.00am to 4.15pm

Teachers: Patrick Boyns and Jon Galloway
www.britishbibleschool.com

Thought by some to be a difficult book, this module shows the writings of Ezekiel to be both clear and full of excitement, as well as very relevant to the work of mission today.

All are welcome to either or both weekends!
For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP?

King Joash was only seven years of age when he came to the throne of Judah. The temple under his wicked grandmother Athaliah had been left in a dreadful state. Under the guidance of the King's brother-in-law, Jehoiada, the high priest, raised funds for the repair of the Temple built by Solomon. After 27 years of fund raising nothing had yet been done by the priests so King Joash gave an order. 'The priests agreed that they would not collect any more money from the

people and that they would not repair the temple themselves' (2 Kings 12:8). So begins an account of getting the people in who knew what they were supposed to do.

Very often congregations feel that they do not have enough money to pay for repairs on their places of worship and so either a bad job is done or it is left undone. Perhaps congregations might think ahead, realising that repairs have to be made and it would be better to get professionals to do the work rather than Christians doing a poor

job. Sadly history repeats itself and it sometimes can work out more expensive for amateurs to work on property rather than a professional.

The story of the repair of Solomon's temple can be found in 2 Kings 12 and makes for interesting reading for those who are in leadership of congregations.

Trevor Williams



For many years Tony Spicer, who lives in Ipswich, has studied the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witness movement. For the past several months Tony and I have been in correspondence and I have asked him how we could get more information to people about this sect. Tony has assured me that it is very difficult to talk to this group as they are led by a government of people who believe they are appointed by God and so cannot be wrong.

Many of us have tried to talk to these people who seem to be everywhere but because of

the way they are taught it is difficult to break through their layers of indoctrination and false translations of Scripture.

To provide some help Tony has agreed that he will do his best to reply and assist in understanding anyone who writes to him asking questions about this movement. Tony's email is tonyspi@protonmail.com

Thank you Tony.

Trevor



A MILLION DREAMS

I sat listening to this beautiful song and it almost sounded like a hymn. I changed a few words and so I share it. I acknowledge the writers Benj Pasek and Justin Paul and thank them for producing such a memorable song and I hope that they will not be offended by my alterations. I do dream of seeing many people from all nations under Heaven giving their life to Jesus and being won for Jesus and living in glory.

“A Million Dreams”

I close my eyes and I can see the world that’s waiting up for me,
That I call my own, through the dark, through the door,
Through where no one’s been before –
But it feels like home.

They can say, they can say it all sounds crazy.
They can say, they can say I’ve lost my mind.
I don't care, I don't care, so call me crazy,
We can live in a world that Jesus made.

‘Cause every night I lie in bed;
The brightest colours fill my head.
A million dreams are keeping me awake,
I think of what the world could be.

A vision of the one I see,
A million dreams is all it’s going to take.
Oh a million dreams for the world we’re going to make.

There's a house that Jesus builds,
Every room inside is filled with things from far away.
The special things he, compiles each one,
To make us smile on a rainy day.

However big, however small, let me be part of it all,
Share your dreams with me –
I may be right,
I may be wrong.

I have some resources for working with youth and children including books on curriculum and lesson ideas, visual aids, activities, etc. I'd be happy to send these to any congregation wanting some support with their teaching youth and children. Please get in touch.

Jason Snethen
(07795 560990)

But say that you'll take me along to the world
you see,
To the world I closed my eyes to see,
I closed my eyes to see.
I closed my eyes and the one I saw was Jesus.

Trevor Williams

NOTICES

**NORTHAMPTON
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Spring Singing



**18TH
OF MAY
2024**

**TIME:
1PM - 6PM**

**SHADOWFAX DRIVE,
OVERSTONE LODGE NORTHAMPTON,
NN3 8DB**

Ladies Afternoon of Songs

Hosted by the ladies of Thamesmead

Saturday, 22 June 2024

11am - 4pm



A day filled with fellowship in song and praise. We will have congregational singing. Small groups, solos, and duets are welcome! Please let us know in advance if you or your congregation wish to prepare a song for the day.

'Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

Psalm 95:1-2

For more information contact:

Aisha - 07904 897551

Tina - 07773 786411

Joyce - 07886 613926

Thamesmead Church of Christ

40 Manor Close

London SE28 8EY



DOCUK & I'NTL Ladies Ministry

Presents

Sewing Session: Making a Skirt

Date: Monday, 6th May 2024

Time: 3.00 pm

Tutor: Hilary Richards

Items Required: Scissors, needle, thread, straight pins, measuring tape, chalk, button, a 6 or 8in zip & 1 yard of thick material.

Docuklm2021@gmail.com

Meeting ID: 681 623 4697 Passcode: DOCUKlm21

Notices



Building Effective Communication

In Churches
(Ephesians 4:29)

2024 in-Person Men's Workshop

Hosted and organised by
Church of Christ, Edmonton

Venue: 201A Bury Street, Edmonton N9 9JE

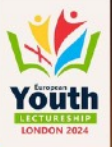
Date: Saturday, 13th July 2024

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Topics to be covered:

- 1) Practising effective communication within the church
- 2) Ways to improve decisions making in local congregations
- 3) Bringing the churches (Sister congregations) together to achieve common goals

Contact: Deacon Maxwell Adu-Yeboah - +44 7983 435054



CHURCHES OF CHRIST EUROPE

YOUTH

European Annual
LECTURESHIP

2024

Theme: *Be an Example*

26th-28th JULY '24

Speakers:
 BRD. LLOYD AGYEMANG (Edmonton, UK)
 BRD. EDWIN OFFIN (Cumbernauld, UK)
 BRD. CALUM HILL (Loughborough, UK)
 BRD. KODI KUSI-SARKODIE (Summer Lane, UK)

FEATURING
 Singles ENRICHMENT LONDON 2024
 Couples NIGHT LONDON 2024

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 Attendance Only **£60**

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 Lieutenant Ellis Way
 Cheshunt
 Herts EN7 5FB

Featuring: **LONDON MELODIES**

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18+

Online Bible Classes

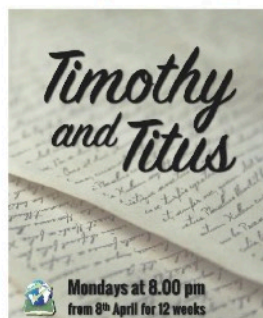
with the

British Bible School

For twelve weeks commencing
8th April 2024

www.britishbibleschool.com

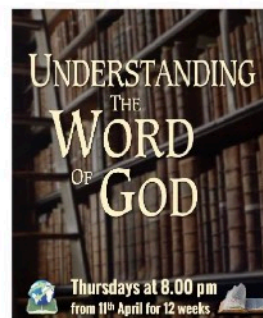
Mondays at 8.00 pm



Among the writings of the apostle Paul were a number of personal letters written to young men whose lives were devoted to the work of the mission of God. These letters not only offer insight into these working relationships, but also suggest plenty of important lessons for those working among the people of God today.

Presenter: John Griffiths

Thursdays at 8.00 pm



Any text, particularly any ancient text written in contexts far removed from our own, needs interpreting in order to be understood. To do so requires good practice in order to understand not only what it meant to those for whom it was first written, but also what it might mean for us today.

Presenter: Patrick Boyns

As advertised ...



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

All times = GMT +1



DIARY

May

5th – **Milton Keynes:** Ordination of Elders, 10.00 am. Venue: 10 Plaistow Cres, Monkston Park, Milton Keynes MK10 9PN. Contact: Bright Kyei – 07985 205561 or kyei.bright@outlook.com or 07778 458915.

6th – **British Bible School evening class:** “The Letters to Timothy and Titus” led by John Griffiths 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.

9th – **British Bible School evening class:** “Understanding the Word of God” led by Patrick Boyns 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.

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).

18th – **Northampton:** Spring Singing, 1.00-6.00 pm at Christian Fellowship Centre, Shadowfax Drive, Northampton NN3 8DB.

25th – **Livingston:** Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.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.

22nd – **Thamesmead (London):** Ladies’ Afternoon of Songs, 11.00 am-4.00 pm. Venue: Thamesmead Church of Christ, 40 Manor Close, London SE28 8EY. Contact: Aisha (07904 897551), Tina (07773 786411), or Joyce (07886 613926).

22nd – **Livingston:** Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

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

July

13th – **Edmonton (London):** Men’s Workshop – “Building Effective Communication”, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Contact: Maxwell Adu-Yeboah (07983 435054 or info@edmontonchurchofchrist.org.uk).

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.

27th – **East Kilbride:** Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

September

21st – **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.

October

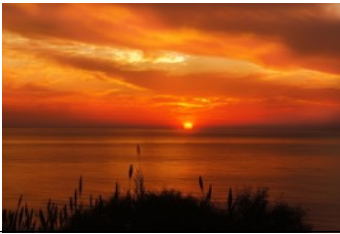
26th – **Liverpool:** Evening of Songs (6.00 pm-8.00 pm) at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. Contact Charles on 07359 750645 or cyankiah@hotmail.com.

28th-1st Nov – **British Bible School Residential Study Week** at Bassenfell Manor: “The Divided Monarchy”. Info and registration will be available at www.britishbibleschool.com. Contact: Patrick Boyns (pkb@britishbibleschool.com).

November

4th-12th – **Trip of a Lifetime:** Seven Churches Tour of Turkey. Info: ianstarrsturkeyitinerary.pdf. Contact: Ian Starrs: jes22ian@msn.com or 07960 150856.

23rd – **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.



THE FINAL WORD



The effects of smoking

The Prime Minister is attempting to take away freedom of choice by trying to ban smoking in society. He has pointed out that smoking kills 80,000 people in the United Kingdom every year and it causes one in four cancer related deaths. By banning smoking billions of pounds will be saved for our NHS.

It seems to me that smoking has had its day and it has not come too soon. Many people think that they are fine if they smoke, but it smells, it is expensive, it is harmful. And anyone who thinks that they can hide cigarette smoking only fools themselves – those who do not smoke can smell cigarettes on people as soon as they walk into a room. This for many is far worse than bad body odour.

Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer, says that cigarette smoking increases stillbirths, asthma, heart disease and premature death. Why do Christians still involve themselves with this sort of drug taking?

On 20th April the Wembley congregation hosted a seminar dealing with pancreatic cancer. The first cause of pancreatic cancer is smoking and, like the wages of sin,

those who smoke have to pay for creating cancer in their body. Sadly, people who smoke can offer secondary smoking to the people around them that can create asthma and various throat infections. I know that by experience having grown up in a family of those who smoked.

There are some who may feel that through the medium of the *Christian Worker* magazine that my opinions should not be broadcast to our brotherhood, but I know that smoking kills. My father smoked for years and he died in agony, diagnosed with cancer of the lung first of all, then cancer of the throat and finally cancer of the bone. My father-in-law could not attend our wedding because he had smoked all of his life and just three weeks before our wedding, he had a heart attack caused by smoking and had to remain in hospital. Six weeks after his 65th birthday my one and only brother died with abdominal aortic aneurysm caused by years of smoking.

You might say, 'well I've smoked all my life and I'm OK'. You may be all right today, but will you be alright next week or next year? I pray for my brothers and sisters that if they are involved in smoking in any way, shape or form –including vaping – please, please, remove it from your daily routine and offer your body completely as a living sacrifice to our Lord Jesus Christ, which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1). Please don't smell like a smouldering pile of compost anymore. If you are a long-term smoker, I know giving it up may be hard for you, but better to give it up voluntarily than to be forced to because you have cancer.

Trevor

