

Christian Evidences in Shepshed

Is God real?



British Bible School

EVENING CLASSES

Part-time studies in a classroom setting on a

Monday - at a congregation near you

2 WEEKENDS

There is a line with

column - important

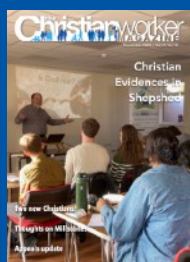
Two new Christians!

Thoughts on Millstones

Appeals update

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Nearly there?



Front cover and above: Christian Evidences weekends in Shepshed



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.

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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.



MY PERSPECTIVE



Do we want peace?

The world longs for peace. We long for peace. We pray for peace. And sometimes it seems peace is within our grasp.

The recent ceasefire has been welcomed by the world, yet we wonder if it will really hold. Can there be peace in the countries of the Middle East. Even the current cease-fire keeps being broken, yet this time they continue to return to it.

What about the conflict between Ukraine and Russia? Will there ever be peace? We were privileged to spend two weekends this past month with the congregation in Shepshed where there is a Christian family from Ukraine. Although they desperately long to get home they have no illusions that peace is coming soon. It was eye-opening to hear the husband pray during worship about the need for peace in their land.

It seems that war and conflict have characterised humans since the beginning. Of the original family, one son killed another. They were not at peace. When we look back just over one hundred years we see conflict and war going on almost continually: The Great War, World War Two, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam conflict, the Argentina crisis, the Gulf War and the second Gulf War – and the list goes on and on.

What makes it even worse is when Christians are not at peace with each other. Yet this is what Jesus wants amongst his people. In fact the blessing he gave when he first appeared to the disciples and apostles after his resurrection was *“Peace be with you.”* When Paul wrote his letters he included the common Christian greeting:

“Grace and Peace.” Perhaps we should make that our greeting, too!

Peace is part of the fruit that God’s Spirit produces in our lives. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law”* (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV). Did you notice what goes with peace that would help maintain peace? – forbearance, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. If we have those traits in our lives they will help us to be a person of peace.

What does this say about someone who doesn’t have these traits? As these are produced by the Spirit then we have no evidence that the Spirit is in their lives.

When Paul talked about the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ he also talked about the ‘acts of the flesh’. When we read through that list (Galatians 5:19-21) we see that these are the very opposite of how a Christian is to live. These traits – hatred, discord, jealousy, rage, selfishness, factions, envy – are those who eliminate peace. But how often have we seen these in Christians?

Do we want lives of peace or lives of discord and disunity? It all depends on how we are living. *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other”* (Galatians 5:24-26).

Do we want peace? Then we need to get rid of envy and keep in step with the Spirit.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

Good news in Edmonton!

We bring you good tidings from your fellow Christians in Edmonton, hoping and trusting that all is well with you.

It is with great joy that we share wonderful news! On Sunday, 20th October, **Daniel Sefa Boateng** and **Kirsty Adwoa Adobea** made the heartfelt decision to dedicate themselves to the Lord, marking a significant milestone in their spiritual journey. Please pray for them as they begin this part of their journey as part of God's family.

Samuel Ofori Dwumah

Daniel Boateng



Kirsty Adobea



Four Videos on 'Mary' by Tony Coffey

Mary, the Mother of Jesus (1)

<https://youtu.be/gGjhAWbMX8c>

Jesus, the Son of Mary (2)

<https://youtu.be/n10oRUclLtq>

Mary Sees Jesus Die (3)

<https://youtu.be/CmXRz68WE1s>

Mary, Chosen by God (4)

<https://youtu.be/leMCMP3FtPQ>



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Evidences in Shepshed

Two encouraging weekends of study took place in Shepshed during October as we looked at Evidences for God and Creation. These are part of what the British Bible School is developing and teaching as a resource for congregations in this country.

During this past year a few of us were discussing what it was that Christians needed in this country and especially our young people. As the schools and media constantly bombard us with information that is supposed to show that belief in God and the Bible is outdated, we felt that presenting lessons on evidences for God, Jesus, the Bible and Creation might be useful. Jon Galloway and Mark Hill set out to create two weekends of study (fourteen lessons) that could help in this area.

We discovered very quickly that there is much more information than we could cover in fourteen lessons! We decided what was best to include and have presented these lessons to three congregations this year and those from other groups who came along, as well (many thanks to Patrick

Boyns for filling in for Mark in the most recent study weekends in Shepshed).

With the enthusiasm these lessons have generated we were asked if we could do more on other topics of Christian Evidences. To that end, Mark and Jon put their heads together and came up with another series of fourteen lessons as a follow-up to the first – the three groups we presented the first series to this year have all asked for the second series next year. In addition, five other congregations have asked that we present the first series for them, with others also expressing interest.

We are excited to see people enthusiastic about learning about the evidences that are there for God and creation and also the flaws in the theory of evolution. Mark and I are planning to be at five locations during 2026 and are currently working out dates when these can take place. Contact us if you would like this series of lessons presented to your congregation as well and we will plan for it in future years.

In the meantime there are other good Bible studies to be utilised. The next is the residential study week at Bassenfell Manor beginning on Monday, 3rd November – there are still space for a few if you would be interested in joining us.

We are planning other study weekends to take place during 2026 involving other teachers and other studies – contact us if we can be of help in your area.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com





FAMILY NEWS

EVANGELISM IN EDMONTON

The Christians in Edmonton dedicate the month of September each year to evangelism. This initiative is designed to spread the Good News and offer the message of salvation to the community.

Throughout September, the Christians here actively participate in teaching and sharing the gospel with those around us. The focus is on reaching out to friends, family and neighbours, encouraging them to learn more about Jesus and the hope he brings.



On the final Sunday of September, we invited our friends and family to join us for a special time of worship. During this gathering, we provided spiritual nourishment through the word of God. After the meeting, we continued our fellowship by sharing a meal together, further strengthening our bonds as a community.



Trevor & Pauline Williams

The day began with heartfelt worship and we were honoured to have Trevor Williams as our guest speaker. The 'Friends and Family Day' was well attended with 154 present.

Samuel Ofori-Dwumah

EUROPEAN VISION WORKSHOP

Wroclaw, Poland, October 2025

At this year's event the Brits had the largest attendance, and everyone went back home encouraged. Wroclaw, an ancient city, was a pleasant place to visit and easy to get there by plane. We stayed in a nice hotel with very good food and within easy walking distance of our venue – we were able to enjoy history going back at least a thousand years. The whole purpose of the event was to have fellowship with Christians from Churches of Christ around the world.

We met Farshad and his wife from Iran who encouraged us by his work with the Farsi-speaking people. If you know of any using this language this would be a good contact to make (farshad.shirazee@gmail.com). We also met Albert from Egypt who told us about being interrogated for three hours by Islamic police – all because he was helping people. Under Egyptian law Christians are not supposed to discuss their faith with Muslims.

From Ukraine Dmytro shared his work in various areas including dealing with crisis, taking food into the country and dealing with refugees. He noted eight forms of love: 1. Mania – uncontrollable passion for oneself; 2. Ludos – which requires a one-sided benefit from others which can stop when help stops; 3. Pragma – grows with time for long time relationships; 4. Philautia – learning to accept and love oneself; 5. Eros – love for the external including all five senses; 6. Storge – encouraging that people should be understood, involves time for other people; 7. Phileo – connecting people together perhaps through interests; and 8. Agapa – Sacrifice for our mission, the highest unconditional and selfless love.

Family News

Stas Kuropiatnykov, also from Ukraine, enthusiastically shared gospel service with us, noting that we must rise to the occasion because we know that our Redeemer lives. Stas has visited the UK to try to encourage those who have moved here from Ukraine. Whilst at home he tried to help the thousands of refugees.

Annabelle Dawidow gave a fascinating talk about the history of Poland. Rob Hindman, working for Christ in Slovakia, encouraged us in our prayer and having the right mindset. Albert Cook, a missionary in Bucharest, Romania, encouraged the group with the programme known as 'Lads to Leaders'. This course for younger people helps to develop their potential to stand up and speak, to read publicly, to develop in just about every way with fun and purpose. It is obvious to many older people that our younger generation seem attached to their mobile phones and struggle to hold a conversation. The church needs to go beyond this thinking and help its youth to challenge themselves to be more than they think they can be. In a world of opportunities, Christians can help in ways that society cannot. Details of how to develop this programme can be shared.

With encouragement and challenges from our keynote speaker Mark Blackwelder, sweet fellowship, singing and praying together, our time was well spent and happy memories developed.

Next year's workshop will be held in Buchrest, Romania, at the Hotel Sir Royal from 29th September–2nd October 2026.

Here is a challenge for even more Brits to attend and share with our European Christian family. Our British congregations can and should encourage others.

Trevor Williams



Christians from the UK at the European Vision workshop

Israel following the Exile

**British Bible School
Autumn Study Week**

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenhwaite, Lake District
Monday, 3rd to Friday 7th November 2025

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £180 per person

The period following the exile in Babylon saw the Jews returning to their homeland in continued fulfilment of God's promises. Here we examine the literature and evidences associated with that period.

For full details visit our website:
britishbibleschool.com

Raymond Glendinning

20th August 1953–27th September 2025

Raymond Glendinning, a 1981 graduate of the British Bible School, passed away recently in America.

Originally from Northern Ireland, Raymond and his wife Lorna were immersed into Christ in 1972. After graduating from the BBS he served the congregation in Skelmersdale for seven years until moving to America in 1989. There he worked with congregations in Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Missouri.

He suffered health conditions, particularly with his feet. Following retirement from full-time work he preached and taught classes often at churches within easy driving distance of Springfield, Missouri, while a member of the Sunset Church of Christ. With time health complications made driving difficult, and Lorna and then daughter Emma became his chauffeurs. Lorna passed away two years ago.

His obituary can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/raymond-glendinning-obituary?id=59673706>.



You can view his memorial service at Sunset in Lubbock, Texas, on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEW_-hkCqp4.

Thanks to Grant Finlayson for informing us about Raymond's passing.

Trevor Williams

Dale Miekle

Eastwood

Our brother Dale Miekle passed away on 20th October leaving his wife Clare and teenage children Nathaniel and Elspeth.

A faithful and gentle servant of Jesus he developed cancer of the liver and was terminally ill for over a year. Remarkably he carried on working and providing for

his family until just a few months before his passing.

For those who wish to contact Clare please write to 38 Saucemere Drive, Newark NG24 4HR

Anthony Warren

John Tomey

Aylesbury

September 1934–October 2025

John was born in September 1934 on Willow Road, Aylesbury, one of four siblings. His early years were shaped by the challenges of wartime Britain. With his father away for most of the war, John took on responsibilities from a young age, working on a local farm while the family lived at Broughton Crossing.

After the war, John continued farm work until he was called up for National Service, which he spent largely in Germany. A gospel campaign in Ireland, alongside Charlie Tweedie and Len Channing, led to a life-changing encounter with Norah, whom he later married in a chapel in Bierton, as the congregation then had no building of its own.

In the late 1950s, John and Norah became part of the Aylesbury congregation, where they remained faithful supporters throughout their lives. They raised two children, Ken and Helen, and John became a pillar of the church community. In the 1970s and 1980s, he worked closely with the youth, organising camps and weekend retreats, and later served as an elder, contributing in many ways until ill health limited his involvement.

In 1963, John left farm work to start his own gardening business, which he ran successfully until retiring in 1999. He and Norah enjoyed many happy years of retirement together until her passing in 2016.

In 2021, John moved into Hampden Hall Care Centre, where he was cared for with kindness and respect. His sense of humour and warmth



endeared him to the staff and fellow residents. Despite increasing frailty in 2025, John remained cheerful and passed away peacefully due to old age on Monday, 6th October, at the age of 91.

John was known for his warm personality, quick sense of humour and a distinctive Bucks accent, which remained with him throughout his life and was a cherished part of his identity. He had a beautiful singing voice and a deep love for hymns, which brought comfort and joy to many. His Sunday evening devotionals were a memorable time of quiet reflection and heartfelt worship. We shall greatly miss hearing him sing and pray during times of worship.

John's life was marked by service, love, and quiet strength. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Jane Nicholson



THE MILLSTONES ARE PILING UP

"In the first century AD, Jewish households commonly used millstones for grinding grain, a practice deeply embedded in daily life. The most primitive form was the saddle-quern, consisting of two stones: a large, heavy 'nether' stone made of hard lava or basalt from the Hauran region, which was hollowed slightly to resemble a saddle, and a smaller 'upper' or 'rider' stone that was rubbed back and forth over it by hand. This method was used for grinding grain, including manna, as mentioned in Numbers 11:8. These hand-mills were essential household tools, and their importance was such that taking a millstone as a pledge for a debt was prohibited, as it deprived a person of their means to prepare food.

"By the first century a more advanced form of mill, influenced by Greco-Roman technology, was introduced. This larger mill featured an upper millstone shaped like two hollow cones, which was turned by an ass, and is referred to in the New Testament as the 'great millstone'. This type of mill was used for larger-scale grinding and represented a significant advancement in milling technology." *[from AI-generated historical information]*

"Now he said to the disciples, It is inevitable: for offences not to come, but woe to him, through whom they come! It is beneficial for him if a millstone rotated by a

donkey encompassed around his neck, and he has been tossed into the sea, rather than that he should offend one of these little ones" (Luke 17:1,2). Matthew gives a broader context in chapter eighteen, when Jesus used a child to illustrate the humbleness and trust those who believe in him should have.

The saddle-quern millstone was far too small for Jesus to use to illustrate his warning to anyone who causes such ones to stumble and the sea near the shore too shallow, so he mentions the deep sea.

While a child was used as an illustration, it does no disservice to Scripture to ponder on how actual children are being lead astray from God's order of creation and the establishment of family.

Because of their impressionability and lack of experience that comes from maturity, adults would shield children from seeing or hearing things that would cause them distress or confusion. In many places those days are gone! What young children are being taught in education establishments these days would cause many a teacher long dead to "turn in their grave." There seems to be a concerted effort, on the part of some who have gained authority, to destabilise society in what ever way gains popularity in some circles. Since adults, at least those whose knowledge and wisdom is well grounded, are able to see through many of the tactics used to influence changes in society, what better way to achieve success by influencing the next generation, too young to know the difference to challenge an agenda.

Be it child or adult, no matter who is involved in attempts to influence them; to wipe away God's influence over how humanity should live; the millstones are piling up!

A. Spicer



Great millstone in Korazim, Israel



APPEALS AND UPDATES

CW APPEALS UPDATE

I asked Jenny Sparks, our *Christian Worker* treasurer, for an update on what had gone through our account. Many thanks to everyone who sent in and this is what we sent out.

Since November last year we have sent:

Philippines (bus accident) – £5,700

Philippines (school bag appeal) – £800

Myanmar, India – £4,000

Trinidad – £300

Lungster in Malawi (medical help and corn grinder) – £250 and then £120

Zimbabwe – £100

Pakistan – £100

Ukraine (several donations over the year) – £2,850

Total = £14,220

That's a lot of money! God is good and provides where there is need and its wonderful to know we play a small part in it. Many thanks to everyone!

Trevor Williams and Jenny Sparks

The Bible in Fifty Words

God made,
Adam bit,
Noah arked,
Abraham split,
Joseph ruled,
Jacob fooled,
bush talked,
Moses balked,
Pharaoh plagued,
people walked,
sea divided,
tablets guided,
promise landed,
Saul freaked,
David peeked,
prophets warned,
Jesus born,
God walked,
love talked,
anger crucified,
hope died,
love rose,
Spirit flamed,
Word spread,
God remained.

NOTICES

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2025
10-4:30PM

Teachers Workshop

FOR BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS OF ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE

Speakers:
Margaret Griffiths (Wembley)
Bethan Mentore (Wembley)
Jason Snethen (Bristol)
Lori Knight-Barker (Lewisham)

Is Sunday School important today?

How do I plan a Bible Class for different ages?

How do I engage my learners?

How do I include students with additional needs?

The opportunity of teaching preschool children

For more information, contact:
Crystal Holder -
07951668739
crystal.lap.holder@gmail.com

Newport Church of Christ
1 Riverside, Newport NP19 7AJ

Livingston Church of Christ INVITES YOU TO OUR YOUTH DAY

He is

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
10 AM TILL 8 PM
AGES 10+ WITH AN ADULT

PLEASE SEND NAMES, AGES, & FOOD REQUIREMENTS TO:

AMINAKABALO316@GMAIL.COM
BY SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

CHURCH OF CHRIST LIVINGSTON, GARDEN PLACE, ELIBURN, LIVINGSTON, WEST LOTHIAN, EH54 6RA

Double Honour Retreat for 2026

Free rest and respite week for couples who are Christian workers in southern Normandy, subsidised by Double Honour Ministries.

The next retreat will be
23rd-26th March 2026.

All accommodation and meals included.

\$150 towards travel.

Visit the Double Honor website for details.

<https://doublehonorministries.com/retreats/>

La Maison de Perrine website:

Faithworks-lachapelle.com

Note: if you would like to attend the 2026 retreat in France, please let us know. You will not be able to reserve online until the New Year, but at least we can put you on the list.



Notices

MILTON KEYNES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Cordially invites you to....

SONG FESTIVAL & FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND
20-21 December 2025

FREE ENTRY
FREE REFRESHMENTS

JOIN US FOR 2 DAYS OF:

- UPLIFTING MUSIC
- FELLOWSHIP
- FUN ACTIVITIES

DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

 **Monkston Community Park**
10 Pimlico Court, off Plaistow
Crescent, Milton Keynes, MK10 9PX

Register

RSVP: 07483 893786 / 07305 384832

READING
Song Fest

'Sing to the Lord a new song!' - Psalm 96:1

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026
1:00PM - 6:00PM

Reading Church of Christ, Crescent Resource Centre,
Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, RG6 4HB

FOOD PROVIDED!
Please inform us of any allergies or dietary needs.

Please let us know your numbers for catering purposes.

RSVP: readingchurchofchrist@gmail.com

Free parking on site.

UNITED KINGDOM BIBLE INSTITUTE

The United Kingdom Bible Institute is the result of a dream and a desire to help prepare more Saints for service in the Kingdom of God. It is a cooperative effort between the Sunset International Bible Institute, Green Lawn Church of Christ - both in Lubbock, Texas, and Paul Hill, church planter from Loughborough, England.


UKBI
UKBI.UK

UNITED KINGDOM BIBLE INSTITUTE

 www.ukbi.uk
mike.ukbi@gmail.com

WHO WE ARE

Formerly the Leicester Bible Institute

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." - Ephesians 4:12

The United Kingdom Bible Institute (UKBI) is a Christian training program based in the UK, designed to help believers grow spiritually and serve more effectively in their local churches. In partnership with the **Sunset International Bible Institute**, UKBI offers accessible, high-quality Biblical education.

What We Offer:

- **Flexible Learning:** Study from anywhere in the world, at your own pace.
- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** 40 Bible and ministry courses, typically completed in 2-3 years.
- **Multi-Format Instruction:** Includes video lectures and occasional in-person sessions.
- **Recognition:** Earn a Certificate of Completion from UKBI upon graduation.
- **TUITION FREE**

Our Mission:

To equip Christians, especially those in the United Kingdom, for leadership and service within the body of Christ. Whether you're a church leader, teacher, or simply eager to grow in your faith, UKBI is here to support your journey.



DIARY

November

1st – Newport: Teachers Workshop, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, at 1 Riverside, Newport NP19 7AJ. Contact: Crystal (07951 668739) or crystal.lap.holder@gmail.com.

3rd-7th November – British Bible School Residential Study Week at Bassenfell Manor – “Post-Exilic Israel”. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

10th – British Bible School evening class: “Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah” 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.

13th – British Bible School evening class: “Following the Master” 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.

8th – Ilkeston: Youth Day – “Rooted” (Colossians 2:6), 10.00 am-4.00 pm, at Adam Street, Ilkeston. Contact: Aaron (07538 400250) or Jenny (07526 542565).

15th – Livingston: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm, at Garden Place, Eliburn, Livingston EH54 8RA. Contact: info@churchofchrist.co.uk.

29th – Stratford (London): Marriage Enrichment – ‘Before and After I say I Do’, 7.00-9.00 pm. Zoom details – meeting room: 8540976249, Passcode: sc2020. Contact: 07934 731219 or 07852 343010 3 or 07979 096293.

29th – Livingston: Youth Day – “He is”, 10.00 am-8.00 pm (for ages 10+ accompanied by an adult), at Garden Place, Eliburn, Livingston EH54 8RA. Please send names, ages, and food requirement to: aminakabalo316@gmail.com by 16th November.

29th – British Bible School evening lecture by Mark Hill: “The world was ready for Jesus”, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

December

20th-21st – Milton Keynes: Song Festival and Fellowship Weekend. Venue: Monkston Community Park, 10 Pimlico Court (off Plastow Crescent), Milton Keynes MK10 9PN. Register at: 07483 893786 or 07305 384832.

January 2026

5th – British Bible School evening class: new class led by Patrick Boyns 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.

8th – British Bible School evening class: “In the Beginning...” (Genesis 1-11) led by Jon Galloway, 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.

Diary

15th-17th – British Bible School Winter Weekend Family Retreat. Venue: Bassenfell Manor, Cumbria. For more information and to book a place visit our website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

31st – British Bible School evening lecture by Patrick Boyns,, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

February

16th-22nd – Gemünden, Germany: Advanced Bible Study Series – Tuesday-Friday ABSS I, Friday-Sunday ABSS II. Contact: abss.gemunden@gmail.com or Paul Brazle (brazle.paul@gmail.com).

March

28th – British Bible School evening lecture by Mark Hill, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

May

30th – British Bible School evening lecture by Steve Whitehead: “Esther”, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

June

20th – Reading: “Song Fest” from 1.00-6.00 pm at the Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 4HB. Food will be provided, please let us know of any allergies. For enquiries please email: readingchurchofchrist@gmail.com.

July

25th – British Bible School evening lecture by Jack Paton, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

September

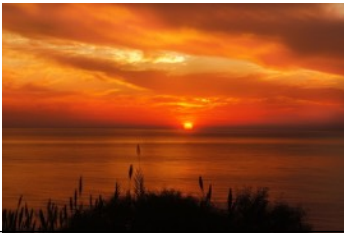
18th-20th – British Bible School Autumn Weekend Family Retreat. Venue: Letton Hall, Norfolk. For more information and to book a place visit our website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

26th – British Bible School evening lecture by John Griffiths, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

29th-2nd October – European Vision Workshop in Romania (details to be published soon).

November

28th – British Bible School evening lecture by Jon Galloway: “Influential Christians from the Past”, 7.30 to 8.30 pm on Zoom. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.



THE FINAL WORD



Nearly
there?

For many of us it seems that the new year is only just beginning, but now suddenly the end of the year is in sight. Some of us shall say 'good riddance', while others will look on this year as a special year, one to remember and revel in.

Over the next two months many will flutter about spending for presents. Some will join in the celebration of the Gunpowder Plot whether we want to or not. Some will celebrate the early days of America when nations freely moved in and took over the land and have a Thanksgiving meal. Parents will hear the cry as their children want this or that toy for Christmas, whilst grandparents consider how much should go into an envelope in place of a proper present. Then, after eating too much, we can enjoy the great noise of BIG BEN as another year is born into our calendar.

I rather like the Christmas malarky. The celebratory meals with friends and family, hearing from people that we have not seen for years but we find they are still with us. I love the Christmas carols and the telling of the old story that Jesus came to earth. God came to us and for us. I like it at our annual Toy Service when, instead of bread and wine, our communion table is covered with brand

new toys that Christians and friends bring to be redistributed to families in the area who are having a tough time. We do not know where they go but they go with our love and prayers.

But most of all, I love, once again, reading the prophecies of the coming of Jesus. Great chunks of our New Testament are quotes from the Old Testament. For hundreds of years God was planning to visit his creation and in the form of Jesus to live and to die for mankind. The plan was carefully made and set in motion to allow the foolishness of creation to be guided from generation to generation.

To see slowly, almost imperceptibly, the revealing of God himself, through love and mercy, to forgive and renew divine promises. The anxious Israelites were given manna in the wilderness. We read in Psalm 78:23-25, 'Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. **Men ate the bread of angels;** he sent them all the food they could eat.' The bread of angels was the great gift. I have only recently thought about this, that manna was the bread of angels.

You may be nearly there in your preparations for various festivities but let me ask you, are you ready to meet Jesus? Have you been through the waters of baptism? Do you celebrate each week in bread and wine at the Saviour's table? Are you making plans, for this year, for next year, to be bold in your love for Jesus, or are you waiting until the last minute? Are you nearly there?

Father God, you are always ready to receive us – thank you. Help us to be received by you. Amen.

Trevor

