

the Christian Worker MAGAZINE

October 2026 • Vol 58 No 10



Livingston
celebrates
40 years

Two new Christians!

More Christian Evidences

**Appeal for Sahiwal Bible
School**

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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.



Front cover and above: Livingston celebrates forty years



Kernels from Corinthians

Are we mature or infants?

We were young we would often talk about being 'grown-up'. We would be asked, "What do you want to do when you are grown-up?" We recognised the need to 'grow up' and become a person who did something.

What about us spiritually? Do we recognise the same need to 'grow up' and become mature Christians? This was a problem that Paul was concerned about amongst the Christians in Corinth. They thought of themselves as spiritual people, even super-spiritual people because of the miraculous gifts they had. But notice what Paul said to them.

"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere human beings?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-4 NIV)

Rather than being spiritual – or even super-spiritual – Paul said they were worldly and just like everyone else. They were not living by the Spirit because they had not given up their worldly standards. In these few verses he gave three characteristics of those who are not mature, spiritual Christians.

They could not handle in-depth Bible teaching. He compared them with infants who still needed milk and couldn't handle solid food. They had been Christians for many years yet were still only wanting the basics.

Christians can be like this today. Many – and from my experience most – Christians don't want more detailed Bible study. I say that because of the numbers who come to Bible study compared to those who come to worship. It could be that what is being offered doesn't meet what they need. Or it could be that they just don't want anything beyond the basics. If we want to become mature Christians we need more comprehensive Bible teaching.

A symptom evident in Corinth, showing that they were not mature, was how they were acting: they were jealous and quarrelled with each other. Those in the world love to argue over anything and everything. People are jealous of anyone who has something that they don't have. But followers of Jesus can't be this way! Our relationships must be based on Jesus and the peace that he gives us.

An obvious sign that they were immature was their splitting into factions and following the teaching of various Christians rather than that of Jesus. I shudder when I hear about people who hold a particular viewpoint simply because a teacher holds the same. Don't we realise that teachers can be wrong? Why not simply follow Jesus and what he taught and revealed to us?

Are we mature or infants spiritually? Are we content with not growing to be more like Jesus? If so leave your Bible on a shelf, gathering dust, but if you want to grow to maturity in Christ, you must spend more time in his word.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

New Christians in Wembley!

We are pleased to report two of our young people were recently baptised. On Sunday, 28th June, **Jairo Wanasen** and on Thursday, 17th September, **Jesse Yariga** were both immersed into Christ. We rejoice with them and their families and pray for their spiritual growth.

John Griffiths

Online Bible Classes with the *British Bible School*

For twelve weeks commencing 21st September 2026

Mondays at 8.00 pm

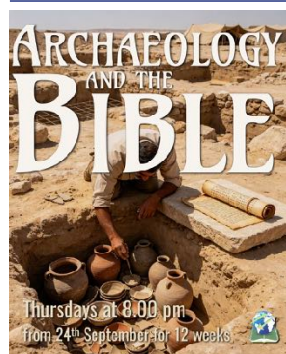
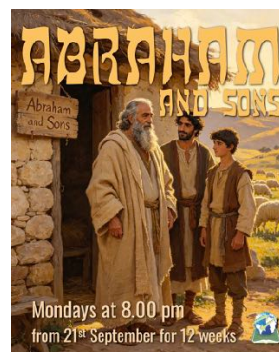
Abraham and Sons

Abraham is one of the most significant characters in the pages of Scripture. It is to him that God gives the promise, and through him that the promise begins to be fulfilled – the blessing of all nations.

Until his appearance in the Biblical narrative, mankind had been walking further away from God, but once Abraham enters the story we see the way back to God beginning to be made clear. Even now, in Christ, we are spoken of as being children of Abraham as we walk with God by faith.

This study will explore his story as recorded in the book of Genesis ...

Presenter: Mark Hill



Thursdays at 8.00 pm

Archaeology and the Bible

Much of our knowledge of the ancient world, in which the story of God is set, has come to us through archaeological exploration. This has taken many forms, over the past couple of centuries or so, and involved many remarkable discoveries.

In this round of classes we will explore some of the history and processes of archaeology, look at some practical examples, and consider some significant findings illustrating a number of episodes from the Biblical narrative, always recognising the primary authority of Scripture.

Presenter: Patrick Boyns

Also: weekly podcast on YouTube

This is a growing collection of 'Thoughts' aired on a weekly basis, each one lasting around 20 minutes. From various presenters, each episode stands alone and is generally based around a passage of Scripture – aimed to give us something to think about.

These are pre-recorded and then 'premiered' at 10 o'clock each Sunday morning on our YouTube channel, where they remain accessible. See weekly link published on our Facebook page.





Livingston celebrates 40 years

The Livingston congregation celebrated a milestone weekend on 12th September as members, visitors, and friends gathered to honour 40 years in their current building and 44 years of outreach within the Livingston community. Around 100 people attended, including congregations from across the UK and a couple from the USA, Christians from the past returning to share memories, and visitors from the local area.

The anniversary was a warm and uplifting success, filled with the kind of fellowship and joy that has

defined the congregation's work for more than four decades. Attendees enjoyed heartfelt singing, a shared lunch, and plenty of time to reconnect. Many took "trips down memory lane," with many photographs from over the years and reflecting on the congregation's beginnings, its growth, and the countless lives touched through its work in the area.

A highlight of the day was a lesson delivered by Ian Starrs, whose message encouraged and inspired those present, reminding them of the enduring value of steadfast faith and community.



Throughout the celebration, the atmosphere was one of gratitude — gratitude to God for His blessings over the years, for the past, for the people who built and sustained the congregation, and for the ongoing work in Livingston.

The congregation expressed sincere appreciation to everyone who attended, supported, and contributed to the event, noting that the turnout and enthusiasm were a powerful encouragement for their continued work in the community.

Wendy Montgomery

Livingston 40th anniversary celebrations





BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

BBS events

Weekend Family Retreats

Letton Hall is a splendid Georgian stately home. Built in the late 18th century and set in the midst of the Norfolk countryside, it has been the home of our Autumn Weekend Family Retreat since 2018. With plenty of room to run around outside, and spacious room inside, it has been an ideal site for families and friends, new and old, to meet together and enjoy the company of those of like faith.

For various reasons numbers were slightly lower this year, but those able to be with us had a splendid time together. We sang, listened, chatted, served and ate together – all the things which one enjoys doing during a weekend such as this.

Our Weekend Family Retreats are always themed around the life and teachings of Jesus, and this year's theme was: "I Am with You Always". We generally have three group sessions over the weekend, some free time, and plenty of opportunity to encourage one another and get to know of ways in which God is working in our lives.

Our Mid-Winter Weekend Family Retreat is coming up in January 2027. This we hold at

Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District and bookings for this event will be open very soon. Please see advert elsewhere, and also details on our website.

Autumn Study Week

But before then we will be holding our annual Autumn Study Week, also at Bassenfell Manor, and we still have spaces available for this. We will be gathering there on the afternoon/evening of Monday, 26th October, and departing on the morning of Friday, 30th October. Our module for the week will be "The Synoptic Gospels" and you can expect some very thought provoking and informative sessions.

This falls within what is for many the autumn half term week so some may want to bring younger ones, and though we have no planned activities for them they can certainly be accommodated. For more details please see our website or get in touch with me.

Online Bible Classes

We have just commenced a new round of Online Bible Classes each Monday and Thursday evenings. These are open to all, whenever you might choose to join us. We

currently have classes on "Abraham and Sons" and "Archaeology and the Bible". Please see social media and website for more details.

Thank you for all who are involved in this work, and may God bless us all in his service.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com





More Evidences for God and Creation

In August and September two weekends were spent at East Kilbride learning more of the evidences we have for God and Creation. This was a follow-up series of lessons from those presented last year.

These programmes of study have been planned and put together by Jon Galloway and Mark Hill. Both have been studying in these areas for many years, as well as teaching congregations and groups of young people.

When we began to present these last year we realised there was not enough time, even with fourteen lessons spread over two weekends, to answer all the questions people have. We were asked to have more and to look at those areas we weren't able to cover in the first series of studies.

Once again in our first weekend of study we presented lessons dealing with evidence for God, Jesus and the Bible. Time was spent looking at the problem of suffering, who Jesus really was, Jesus' resurrection, Bible prophecies, whether or not there are contradictions in the Bible, the miracles that are in the Bible, and how we can understand the Bible.

During the second weekend we returned to looking at evidences for Creation and the problems with the Theory of Evolution. Lessons were presented on dating methods and what they indicate about the age of the Earth, the necessity of Adam being real for the Bible to make sense, and what is wrong with what is often presented as the human fossil record. Even if Genesis 1-11 were removed from our Bibles, we still wouldn't get rid of the Creation and the Flood as information about these are found throughout scripture – and even from the teaching of Jesus. Time was spent looking at what evolutionists admit is the “Queen of Evolutionary Problems”. We ended with



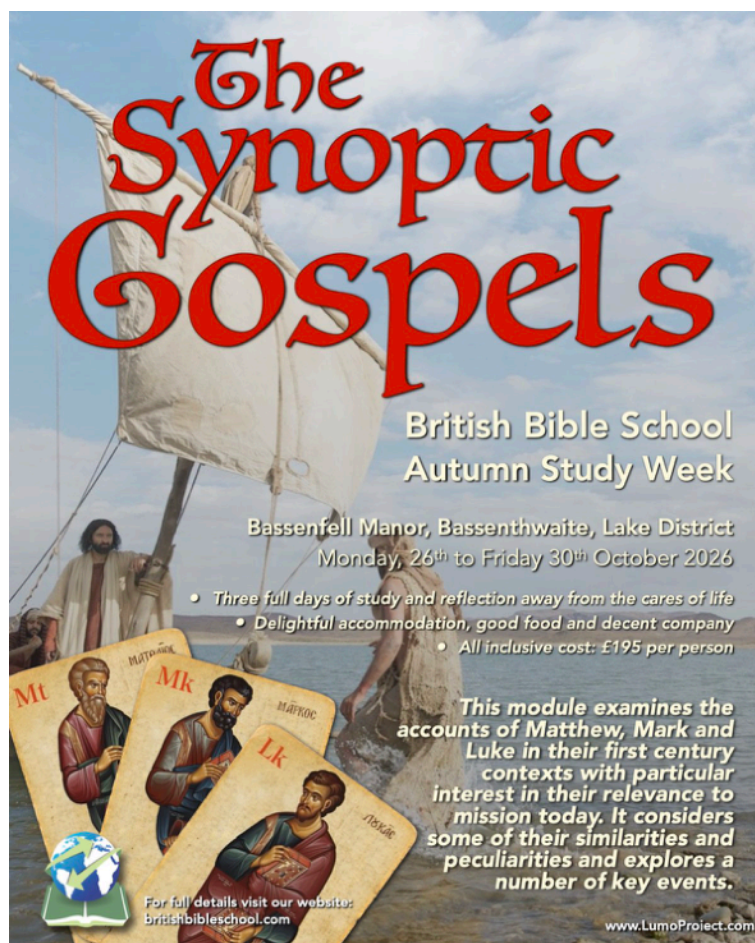
two summary lessons, one looking at the options we have concerning how life began and the other asking the question: "Is there evidence of God in your life?"

Attendance once again was good with seventeen attending each weekend (not counting the two teachers). There was good discussion during and after the lessons, which continued for several weeks.

These lessons are designed to help Christians be confident in what the Bible says about God, Jesus, and Creation and not to be too technical. Several commented that it was good to be reminded of these things and that the lessons helped them.

This series will be presented at Shepshed in October and November. Sadly the Lewisham and Stapleford congregations have needed to postpone their weekends studying the first series until the New Year. Several have expressed interest in these being presented at their congregation – if you would be interested in Mark and I coming to you in 2027, please contact me (jdgalloway@mac.com) and we will start working on a date to schedule these.

Jon Galloway



The Synoptic Gospels

British Bible School
Autumn Study Week

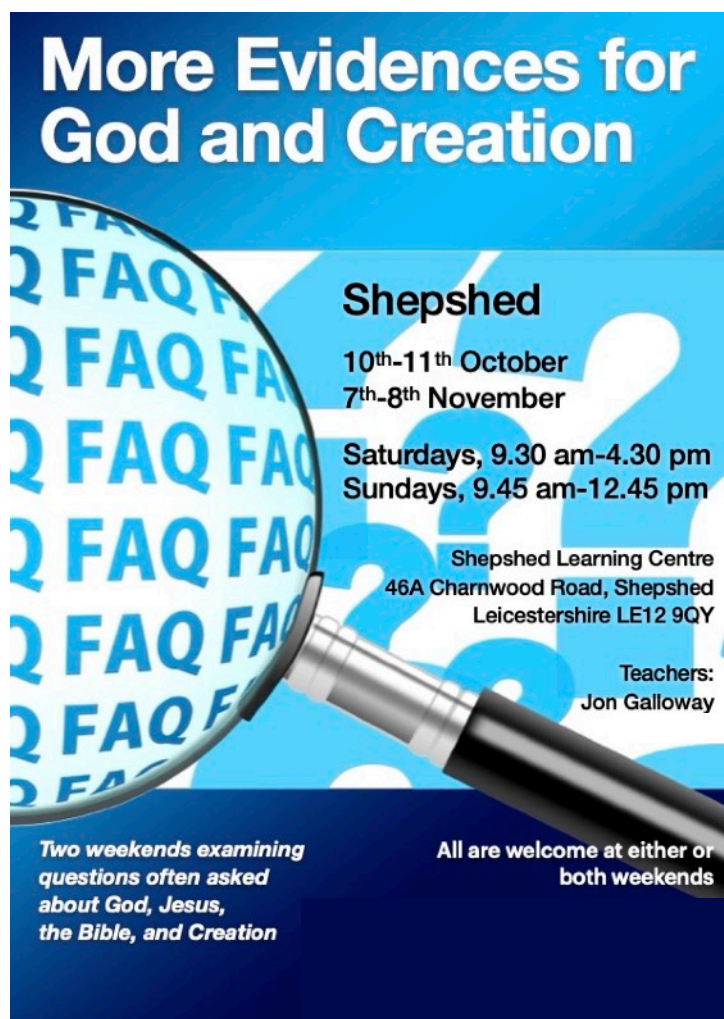
Bassenfell Manor, Bassenhwaite, Lake District
Monday, 26th to Friday 30th October 2026

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £195 per person

This module examines the accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke in their first century contexts with particular interest in their relevance to mission today. It considers some of their similarities and peculiarities and explores a number of key events.

For full details visit our website: britishbibleschool.com

www.LumoProject.com



More Evidences for God and Creation

Shepshed
10th-11th October
7th-8th November

Saturdays, 9.30 am-4.30 pm
Sundays, 9.45 am-12.45 pm

Shepshed Learning Centre
46A Charnwood Road, Shepshed
Leicestershire LE12 9QY

Teachers:
Jon Galloway

Two weekends examining questions often asked about God, Jesus, the Bible, and Creation

All are welcome at either or both weekends



"And I will give you rest"

Mid-Winter Family Weekend
Retreat

Friday, 15th to Sunday, 17th January 2027
at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District

www.britishbibleschool.com

Eleanor Pirie

Buckie

1938- 2026

Eleanor's first love was God. This isn't to say she didn't love her family – she loved them very much. But for her as a Christian, God was first. I have no doubt that she became a wonderful wife, mother, and granny, because she would have been a wonderful wife anyway, but the fact that she was in Christ and she loved God made her even better. I am sure this is how Eleanor would like to be remembered most of all.

She cared for people so much that even in the few days left to live, and being pumped full of painkillers, she would ask, “the bairns fine now?”; “are they fed?” – she was always concerned for the well-being of others before herself. Yet, it was the one closest to her that mattered the most.

Then there was Bill – she loved Bill very much and missed him dearly when he passed away. It was the Lord Jesus who was first in Eleanor's life, and that was complimented by Bill's love for the Lord. Like two peas in a pod. When asked after the death of her Bill, “do you not get lonely?” She remarked, “Lonely! I'm never lonely. I've always got the Lord with me.” This faith in our Lord Jesus was evident throughout her life. It's remarkable that near the end, that never changed.

The outlook, attitude and the faith is exactly the same. **I'm fine.** There was with Eleanor a calm assurance, or rather, as the hymn writer Fanny Crosby puts it, a “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine.”

When in her last few days it became obvious that Eleanor may not make it through the night, her daughter Lynn would say goodbye



by saying, “I'll see you tomorrow mum, if not tomorrow then I'll see you and dad in heaven” – on her last lucid night you could see, Eleanor's face light up and simply said “oh, that'll be great”.

Eleanor was born on 23rd March 1938 as Helen Jane Innes Hunter, along with her twin sister Ann, to Sammy and Pearl Innes Hunter in Belfast. A few years later Margaret arrived, and eventually, much to everyone's surprise, Rae joined the family after they had moved to Cullen in 1952.

Eleanor was baptised around 1950/1951 at Berlin Street in Belfast before the family immigrated to Scotland. A few years later in 1956 she met Bill Pirie and the next year they were married. Their first child, Ruth, was born in August of the following year. Two more children were to follow, Lynn born in 1962 and Hunter in 1965.

With the passage of time her children married, and Eleanor and Bill became grandparents to Yvette, Louise, Alana, Aaron, Billy, Samantha and Emma. Eleanor and Bill took great delight in spending time with all of them. She was proud of all of her grandchildren and considered each one

At Rest

special. It was no different with their great-grandchildren.

One of the things that stood out most about the Piries was their hospitality. So many people were welcomed into their home and made to feel part of the family. Their hospitality stayed with people long after they left. It was something she learned from Granny Pearl, and it became one of the defining characteristics. Some of the warmest memories their children have is of a full house, full plates, and full hearts.

Eleanor had a quiet way of making a difference in people's lives. She became the first woman in Moray to be invited to join Victim Support and dedicated several years to helping others through difficult circumstances. For her service, she was awarded a medal by Princess Anne. She rarely spoke about it, but she was quietly proud of what she had achieved.

How do we sum up a life like Eleanor's? A life full of faith. A life full of service. A life full of hospitality. A life full of family. We are thankful for Eleanor's love, faith, strength, generosity, guidance, and the countless memories she has left us all.

Bruce Cheyne (son-in-law) and Hunter Pirie (son)
from the Eulogies at her funeral service

GREEN HUT
A CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING PLACE IN STRET FORD

THE WAY JESUS THE TRUTH THE LIFE

LUNCH → **ADDRESS** → **DISCUSSION**

DATE & TIME
SAT, 10TH OCT 2026 01:00 PM

YOU'RE INVITED

The Green Hut
538 Kings Road, Stretford
M32 8JT

www.stretfordcoc.org

QR code with text: SCAN ME

ACAPPELLA MINISTRIES PRESENTS

Praise & Harmony SongFest

Join us for a Praise & Harmony Weekend!
Come experience passionate worship led by Keith Lancaster!

Location:
Newport, Wales

KEITH LANCASTER
President of Acappella Ministries

Food & refreshments from: 4:00pm
Worship: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday 17th October

www.acappella.org

Field of Refuge
Women's Renewal Retreat

HIGHER GROUND

Rise

"He lifted me out of the pit... and set my feet on a rock."
— Psalm 40:2 —

11-13 JUNE 2027
FRIDAY - SUNDAY

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING
A peaceful setting with breathtaking views

£260
Includes private en-suite room and all meals

DEPOSIT REQUIRED
A non-refundable deposit of £78 is required to secure your place.

Worship Bible Study Fellowship Prayer Quiet Reflection

A weekend to renew your heart, mind and spirit.

TO REGISTER OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION:
Fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook
Field of Refuge Women's Renewal Retreat

Come ready to rise higher in Him.



FAMILY NEWS

STRATFORD (LONDON)

Following our maiden meeting, which aimed to open up and carve out time to deliberate on the outcome of our recently held Annual London Lectureship in June, themed "Collaborative Church Planning", we invite all churches to provide the planning team with two or three representatives from their congregation.

Each representative should complete this form with their own details.

<https://forms.gle/T878fVfkWy9hrJ618>
Collaborative Church Planning - Church Representative(s)

We will add all representatives to a WhatsApp planning group to facilitate future deliberations on our collaborative efforts. Our initial proposed deadline for submitting all congregation representatives is **15th October**. We will add any late submissions to the WhatsApp group.

May the good Lord capacitate us and strengthen our heavenly resolve, as we seek to serve Him ever so diligently.

Note: We do not intend to breach our understanding of Church Autonomy. This is only an effort to do all things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Stratford congregation



CW DIRECTORY UPDATE

AYLESBURY (HAMPDEN SQUARE)

Number of Christians – 19

Meeting place – The Fairford Leys Centre,
Hampden Square, Aylesbury HP19 7HT

E-mail –
churchofchristaylesbury@gmail.com

Sunday Bible class – 9.45 am

Worship – 10.10 am

Fellowship meal (last Sunday of the month) – 11.15 am

Contacts – Kevin & Jane Nicholson (07940 021917)



APPEALS & UPDATES

PAKISTAN – Sahiwal Bible School

The brethren in Aberdeen have, for a number of years, contributed to the support of Naeem Sabir and the work in and around Nawab Town, Sahiwal, Pakistan.

Part of this work involves the training of the next generation of Christians to take the gospel message further afield in Pakistan. This has been an ongoing and successful effort but has been severely limited by the lack of sustainable funding.

We have met with Naeem on a Zoom call and sought some answers to help us develop a clearer understanding of this work. We are keen to help but believe it is something that needs to be shared with other congregations and individual Christians to spread the load. Our sister Barbara Fisher has faithfully coordinated support for Naeem and the work in Sahiwal for many years and kindly took part in our discussion with Naeem.

We'd like to share a summary of the information we have, to paint a picture of this opportunity to spread the gospel in Pakistan.

Naeem's Story

Naeem was born into a Christian family and his Dad, who died in 2019, was also a preacher in Pakistan. Naeem obtained a Masters University degree in nutrition and dietetics. He then studied for two years at the British Bible School, showing himself to be a brother of great integrity, and graduated in 2003 serving as an evangelist since then.

He is married with three sons, one of whom is studying to become a doctor. We also learned from Barbara that, during a time of persecution a few years ago, they took in three children whose Christian parents had been murdered.

All those we've spoken to who have met and dealt with Naeem speak very highly of him.

Pakistan

Pakistan's population is 97% Muslim. Naeem reckons that the government generally tries its best to maintain peaceful coexistence between different faith groups but of course there are sometimes fanatical groups and individuals who cause problems.

Those who identify as Christian face some degree of backlash in every field of life, every day! They are often falsely accused and suffer discrimination. When we spoke of these challenges Naeem said, with a smile on his face, "We are not afraid, we consider it a privilege to suffer for the name of Christ"!

The Church

Every week Naeem travels by motorbike, within a thirty mile radius, to three smaller congregations or groups of Christians based in Muslim communities in and around the city to visit and work with these Christians.

Naeem says that only around 3% of the brethren are well educated. The majority are oppressed and restricted to work in more menial occupations such as masons, care workers, labourers, cleaners, etc.

The congregation in Nawab has two elders (names were given) with 150–180 attending worship. There are 48 sister congregations nearby – elders have been appointed in all of them! 90% of the preachers working with these congregations are graduates from Sahiwal Bible School!

Financial Matters

There is no regular support for the school! Some support has been provided via the World Bible Institute's small extension programme. This has provided enough funds

Appeals

for two-day classes. However, Naeem's personal connections are with brethren in the UK not the US so he's reaching out to us for support.

Sahiwal Bible School

What is being done at present?

Currently there are ten students but they are limited to running classes two days each week (Wednesday and Sunday evening). After class food is provided for students. They try to accommodate as many as they can. Some students stay in the church building. Local students travel each day. They then go back to work with their own congregations.

Future plans

The vision for the school is to have a 3-year programme. Each month students would spend 15 consecutive days in classes, then go back into their congregations for 15 days to carry out field work with their local preachers. They would then come back for the next session of 15 day classes. This will provide a mix of tuition and practical experience until graduation and would continue each month for 3 years until graduation. At that point they would go back to their own congregations and work to start new congregations.

Naeem has provided an outline of the course curriculum which we'd be happy to share.

Estimated Costs

The costs (assuming 10 students) are £112.50 per student per month for 15 days (electricity, water, food, tea, accommodation, workbooks and tuition) –



this pattern will repeat each month for three years. This then works out at £1,350 per student per year (£4,050 for the three-year course).

Appeal

We are writing on behalf of Naeem and the Christians in Pakistan for congregations or individuals to join with us in supporting this work. Perhaps this could be by taking on full or partial support for one student over the three-year course.

The congregation in Aberdeen is willing to coordinate and manage financial support coming from UK brethren and ensure those providing support are kept updated with regular reports.

None of us from Aberdeen have visited Pakistan or have any other direct knowledge or experience of the situation there other than the regular reports provided by Naeem. If you have any knowledge or experience which might be relevant, please get in touch with us.

Please contact:

David Murray
dgmsem@gmail.com
+44 7850 029091

David Murray

GHANA PACEMAKER UPDATE

Amazing achievement! Thanks to generous donations from individual Christians and congregations across the country, we have raised **£6,760** in just a few months, making this possible. The mission is now planned for 6th–11th December, during which 25 or more patients will receive pacemakers and ICDs (implantable cardioverter defibrillators), while valuable skills are shared with the local team.

Thanks again for making it possible to change the lives of these 25 or more people in Ghana.

Julius Donkor



DIARY

October

1st – **British Bible School** evening class: “Archaeology and the Bible”, presented 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.

2nd-4th – **Brandon**: Young Adults’ Weekend: “God’s Chosen Messenger”. Venue: Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre, Shadwell, Thetford IP24 2R. Ages 18-40. Price: £40 per person. Contact: Tapi O'Donovan (07933 279091 or tapitaruvinga@gmail.com).

3rd – **East Kilbride**: Devotional Evening, 7.00-8.00. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

5th – **British Bible School** evening class: “Abraham and his sons”, presented 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.

10th-11th – **Shepshed**: Study Weekend – “More Evidences for God, Jesus and the Bible”, Saturday 9.30 am-4.30 pm, Sunday 9.45 am-12.45 pm (lunch to follow), presenter: Jon Galloway. Contact: shepshedcoc@outlook.com.

10th – **Stretford (Manchester)**: Special meeting – “Jesus, the Way, the Truth, the Life”, 1.00 pm (including lunch), at The Green Hut, 538 Kings Road, Stretford, M32 8JT. Contact: www.stretfordcoc.org.

12th-16th – **Kirkcaldy**: Marriage Retreat. Venue: Balmule House, Kelty, Fife, KY12 0RZ. Cost: £80 per person. Contact and register: Alan Moyes (alan.j.moyes@gmail.com or 07774 607483) or David Chapman (david@d4d.me or 07984 149633).

12th-16th – **Gemünden, Germany** – Fall Conference: “The Book of Job”, speaker: Lance Hawley. Cost: €150, Zoom: €20. Contact and register: Don & Cindy Roehrkas (donancindy@aol.com).

17th – **Newport**: Praise & Harmony Songfest with Keith Lancaster, 4.00-8.00 pm (with food and refreshments). Please let us know numbers attending. Contact: np197ag@hotmail.com or Heather (call or text 07812 070877).

24th – **Liverpool**: Evening of songs, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

26th-30th October – **British Bible School Residential Study Week** at Bassenfell Manor: “The Synoptic Gospels”. Cost: £195 per person. Register at <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2026>. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com.

November

7th-8th – **Shepshed**: Study Weekend – “More Evidences for Creation”, Saturday 9.30 am-4.30 pm, Sunday 9.45 am-12.45 pm (lunch to follow), presenter: Jon Galloway. Contact: shepshedcoc@outlook.com.

7th – **East Kilbride**: Devotional Evening, 7.00-8.00. Contact: east_kilbride_coc@outlook.com.

21st – **Liverpool**: Gospel meeting, 6.30 pm, at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH. Contact: Charles Yankiah (cyankiah@hotmail.com or 07359 750645).

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.

December

5th-6th – **Nottingham (Stapleford)**: “The Land of Jesus”, presenter: Jon Galloway. Contact: bbobeckman@aol.com.

January 2027

15th-17th January – **British Bible School** winter family retreat – “And I will give you rest”. Booking information on website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

February

6th – **Cumbernauld**: Men’s Day – “Jesus, Name Above All Names”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm (breakfast at 9.20); speakers: Mike Glover, Charlie Harding, Patrick Sullivan, Pelumi Owolabi. Contact Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

June

11th-13th – **Field of Refuge Women’s Renewal Retreat**: “Higher Ground – Rise” at the University of Stirling. Cost: £260 (£78 non-refundable deposit to secure your place). Contact or book your place: fieldofrefuge@hotmail.com.



THE FINAL WORD



Dementia

For some time, a group of older people from a variety of churches in our town have gone around to visit some of the residential homes of older people. A short service of hymns, Bible readings and prayers are said and sung for about thirty minutes. Sometimes, some of the people are fast asleep – even with me singing! Sometimes there are some who like to sing with us – they receive a hymn sheet but are often at the point where they can no longer read but they know the words and sing.

I sometimes think that after we have left the home the residents may not remember our visit, but that does not matter because while we are there the years can roll away and they can sing hymns which they learned and have an opportunity of worshipping the Lord God.

None of us know how our later life will be. In visiting these homes, we have met some who are years younger than myself and a good many that are a similar age. We all know that either our bodies will wear out or our minds will. Dementia can become part of the rich and famous as well as the poor and humble. We can try as much as possible to keep our minds active, eat a careful diet, be physically active and generally look after ourselves – and undoubtedly that can help but it is not foolproof. It has been sorrowful of late to hear of famous people who have

passed away and the problems they had with dementia.

Like pain, which I wrote about in the CW recently, the Bible does not have a great deal to say about dementia, but when we read about the aged there are words of encouragement. Of course, when we can give our lives to Christ in our earlier years there is every evidence to suggest that our later years will echo our earlier life. I well remember a visitor to our meeting saying of one rather grumpy older Christian that he would have been a grumpy young man. It would be good for congregations to make every effort to make sure that our older Christians are looked after as well as possible – who knows, before much longer you may be the one who needs to be helped!

Instead of writing out the whole verses of scripture let me encourage a short Bible study about age. These scriptures could be read and considered.

1. Job 12:12
2. Proverbs 16:31; 20:29
3. Psalms 37:25-26; 71:18; 78:1-4; 92:12-15
4. Ecclesiastes 12:1-7
5. Isaiah 40:31; 46:4
6. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17
7. Titus 2:2



Holy God, granter and preserver of life, hear our prayer. In our youth we must learn much – for some this is easy and for others it is a struggle. As we age it seems as if our minds must make so many decisions and we can become confused. We ask for help for those who are developing dementia and grant them peace. For those who have members of their families who are confused we pray for patience, gentleness and kindness. And may the peace which passes all understanding be our portion. Amen.

Trevor