

October 2021 • Vol 53 No 10

## BBS Letton Hall Family Retreat



**One new Christian!**

**Appeals and updates from  
the UK and around the world**

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Front cover and above: scenes from BBS Letton Hall family retreat



## 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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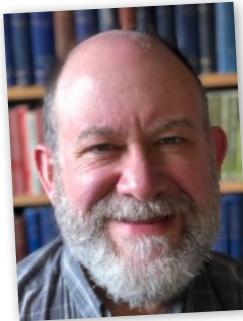
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All articles and news items should be sent to **Trevor Williams** by the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. Late items may be accepted until the 25<sup>th</sup>. Publication is the first day of each month.

To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to [jdgalloway@mac.com](mailto:jdgalloway@mac.com). Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – [twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk).



# MY PERSPECTIVE



Life  
returns to  
at least a  
degree of  
normality

## Getting back to normal

It is good to see life returning to at least a degree of normality. It has been good to worship each week with the Christians in East Kilbride and recently to resume our mid-week Bible class. It is good to be able to go out to eat and to visit in the homes of our friends and family. These were the part of life that we missed for too many months.

Perhaps this was driven home more at the British Bible School Autumn Family Retreat which was held a couple of weeks ago at Letton Hall in Norfolk. It was wonderful actually to be with so many we had not seen in person for almost two years. We saw how each other had changed – and how much the children had grown!

I think we all realise that life will never be what it was pre-pandemic. And in many areas most would agree that it is good that it won't be. Working from home is now a possibility for many and some businesses have now incorporated this into how they operate. We had heard for many years that this was how it would be in the future – perhaps the future has finally arrived! Face-coverings remain in certain settings – and perhaps they should have been here all along, like many countries do when colds and viruses are rampant.

Without a doubt this pandemic will have left its mark on our society. I hope that we value collective worship and fellowship with other Christians more than we did. I am thankful that we had the technology that allowed us to meet and study online – undoubtedly we should have figured out how to do this

long before the pandemic struck. But at least we now have it and are able to utilise it for the good of the Kingdom.

As we move forward to a new normality how do we face the future? Do we look longingly back at what we had pre-pandemic? Or do we see what more we can do now and learn the lessons of doing life 'different'.

When Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi he said this: *"But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14 NIV).

Paul was not tied to the past. He forgot what was behind him because what was important was what was ahead of him. He forgot his past failures. He forgot his past successes. These did not matter as he continued on his journey towards eternity with Jesus.

As we move forwards from the past year we need to do the same. No matter how we have felt about restrictions or how people didn't follow the restrictions we need to let it go. We can't allow that to hold us back as we encourage each other in our walk with Jesus.

We can't let the pandemic define us. Jesus needs to define everything about us. We need to press on together towards the prize for which God has called us heavenwards in Jesus the Messiah. Let us show those around us what true unity in him is all about.

Jon



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## New Christian in Liverpool

Please rejoice with us as **Reggie Oliver** submitted his life to Christ on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. Reggie was raised in Guinea, West Africa. He converted to the Church of England a few years ago. After studying the Bible with us, he came to realise his need for Jesus. Please keep him in your prayers as he begins his walk with the Christ.

Mike Glover



It is time for another confession, I had almost forgotten a book that is filled with history, love and hate, poetic emotion and sarcasm that cuts like a knife. The name of the book is *Jeremiah*. Not a book for a quick read, as it has long chapters, strange names, a lot of “son of”, but filled with thrilling encounters of a preacher who could hear the voice of God and challenged the greatest in the land.

Oh, I remembered Jeremy being put into a muddy pit and when his friend wrote out his message from God to the King, that his pages were cut off with a penknife and thrown into the fire. What I had almost forgotten when reading the text all over again was like reading the news of our own country. Everyone wanted to do what they wanted to do, they thought that doing what God

wanted was a load of rubbish. They wanted their own thoughts, their own actions and their own form of worship even if that was nothing more than worshipping a stick of wood.

I laughed when he referred to the religion of the day when he writes: “Like a scarecrow in a melon patch their idols cannot speak” (*Jeremiah 10:5* – well, that tells them! thought I to myself). But was saddened when I read that the land of Moab was like a broken pot that no one wants (*48:38*).

If you have not read *Jeremiah* before, give yourself a challenge, you will find a God of love and a God of wrath. It can stir the soul of the poet within you and make you sit back and think and then be thankful.

Trevor

# Out and about with the British Bible School



## Ever such a delightful weekend

There was something particularly special about this year's Autumn Family Retreat at Letton Hall in Norfolk. For many this was the first time in eighteen

months is the way in which everybody pitches in to make the event run smoothly – in just the way that families ought to be.

We enjoyed great mealtimes together, listened to a



months that they had been able to enjoy being in the presence of so many outside their immediate family circles, and to do so within the company of a yet greater family.

There were just over sixty of us who gathered together for the weekend, with ages ranging from not-terribly-long-having-arrived-in-this-world to some-even-older-than-the-rest-of-us. One of the delightful aspects of these increasingly popular



few teaching sessions, joined together in singing songs of praise and encouragement, played together in the splendid gardens and generally loved being a part of another very special weekend.

## It's time to Act

As we look ahead to November, plans are very much underway for our Autumn Bible Study Week at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District. The event will



Jesus continues to be taken across cultural boundaries throughout the world.

This event is ideally suited for any who wish to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the word of God – and certainly a ‘must’ for any who are leading in areas of teaching and sharing in the Word.

We thank you for your continued encouragement and support of this work. May God bless each one of us.

Patrick Boyns

[www.britishbibleschool.com](http://www.britishbibleschool.com)



be running from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and you can find full details on our website, along with a registration form. The total cost for the week is just £150 per person – probably the bargain of the decade.

We will be teaching our module on “Acts” which begins to examine this key New Testament book within the context of God’s purpose for mankind. The mission implications for the student are immense as the good news of



Three cheers for the beautiful fellowship that was enjoyed at Letton Hall this year. An absolute thrill to meet with loved ones in Christ that we have not seen for months, to make new friends, to laugh, to cry, to encourage, to console, to sing, to think, to eat, to wash dishes and do all these together because we love Jesus.

Thanks to the organisers, the cooks, the teachers, the clearer-uppers, those who looked after the little people and took mercy on the aged. Every now and again something special happens – it did at Letton Hall.

If you thought it was too far to travel, plan a longer venture and make a little holiday for yourself. Where else can you go for a deal like this?

Trevor Williams





## APPEALS & UPDATES

### WARMHEARTMALAWI

We established WARMHEARTMALAWI as a charity in 2007, allowing us to work with UK schools on education projects in Malawi. We initially worked with Davison and Keston Ndhlovu at Ekwendeni Church Primary School. For the past 7 years we partnered a village secondary school in Bulala, where Falawo Kanjinga, a preacher in Malawi, and his wife Lidesi oversee the girls' hostel.



Ruth Kamlawanga is in white the centre of the front row.

Ruth Kamlawanga, 21, says: "Our culture is that if a girl has reached 18 she must get married. Many people insult me by saying I am getting old and not get married, but because I know the benefits of school I don't want to be pulled down by their ideas. I want to be their role model." Ruth, from Mutu church, is one of our sponsored Higher Ed students on the final year of a Public Health Diploma course.

A big problem for girls who want a secondary education (open only to the top 25% or so in final "primary exams" around age 14), is that they may live up to 20 km (12 miles) from the nearest school.

In 2017, Rob Yates was the lead teacher of a 6<sup>th</sup> Form trip and stayed at the hostel

in Bulala. Rob contacted me in May, saying that he planned to run over 500 miles to raise funds for WHM and wanted a project. (He completed his challenge in August.) With Samson Chima, builder and preacher, as our contractor/project manager, we plan to build a hostel to accommodate 24 girls in Mbalachanda, right on the Zambian border. Currently these girls are sleeping in a classroom for four nights per week as it is too far to travel from home every day.

The "Guest House" will also be used in school holidays by Nick O'Donovan's dental team, and by visitors working with the school. The estimated cost for building this and an adjacent house for Samson Chima and his wife Lister is £13,000. Rob has currently raised over £5,000 with more expected towards his target of £8,600.

I am aware that UK churches are generally small and contribute massively to so many causes – one of the reasons we chose not to appeal through the CW for help on our previous projects. Nevertheless, if anyone would like to donate please contact me for details for bank transfers or send cheques payable to WarmHeartMalawi to Geoff Partington,



Samson & Lister Chima

## APPEALS & UPDATES

17 Brighton Ave, Morley, LEEDS, LS27 9LF. You can also contact me at 07806 478210 (inc WhatsApp) and [WarmHeartMalawi@gmail.com](mailto:WarmHeartMalawi@gmail.com).

Geoff Partington

### INDIA: BREATH OF LIFE

Breath of Life is one of the most satisfying relief works that we have been involved in during recent years. With your kind and timely help, we saved thousands of people from the mouth of untimely death and the impact it had, and gratitude expressed both by the individual and the family, is beyond words. The very disturbing pictures of people dying in hundreds due to lack of oxygen and the mass cremations all over India melted our hearts to cry out for an emergency help to buy Oxygen Equipment.

The response we received is beyond our imagination. Churches all around the UK and Singapore responded quickly. Even though the prices had risen sharply from the time we enquired to the time we actually bought the machines (we almost ended up paying double due to the huge demand and scarcity of the machines), we were able to purchase twelve high quality machines from five litre to ten litre capacity. Some of the machines were delivered from Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad, 600 km to 1800 km from Kakinada. We shared them with congregations and individuals in Vizag, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Kakinada areas.

A team of Christian doctors coordinated the allocation and maintenance of machines based on the patients' requirements. They said that not one of the machines had been idle since they were added to the inventory. As there was always someone waiting, they barely had time to disinfect the machines before they could be given to another patient. Our machines have mainly been used to help patients in rural areas where there were no proper medical facilities – rural places are often deprived of proper medical facilities.

Thankfully, the demand has slowed down from mid-July as the Covid cases have come down and more oxygen was made available by the government. Many countries around the world have joined in this fight for oxygen and helped India to breathe. Due to Covid restrictions and sensitivity, we could not take photos of all the patients. Out of all the patients whom we have helped with oxygen concentrators, either to reach hospital or to secure a bed with Oxygen Support, only two patients have died. The remaining have all recovered and been reunited with their families.



As an aftermath to Covid, Black Fungus cases are slowly raising in Kakinada area – since May 486 people have died due to Black Fungus. The injections being used to treat Black Fungus are about £70 each and a patient is required to take at least 16-20 of these injections. Under the #Breath of Life project we were able to join hands to help two patients get Black Fungus treatment.

As medical expert reports warn us about an imminent third wave of Covid in the months of October and November, we are getting ready to fight the battle again. We don't know how severe it will be this time. Vaccination is going on at full swing, our new medical facilities are added, so we are more prepared than before. One of the predictions is that children will be the most effected in the third wave. Whatever it is going to be, we must face it and fight it. We are getting

## APPEALS & UPDATES

ready with our medical supplies this time and are needing to acquire emergency medical supplies for children. We taking our medical team's advice and are contacting vendors for equipment specifically for children so that, if the situation requires it, we will humbly serve the community and our children.

#Breath of Life (#BOL) has certainly caused a visual and immediate tangible effect on the community and the families we served. After witnessing the impact of #BOL, Lord willing we want to make this as new arm of Bethsaida to serve people medically. Please pray about this new initiative. Once again thank you for all your prayers and support.

Joel Madiki and Tony Tyson

### PAKISTAN

Naeem Sabir is thankful for the recent help to buy Bibles, there is a constant need for more. He writes to tell us that they have had 43 baptisms and are working with some Hindu families.



Naeem has three children and is raising another three orphans whose parents were killed by Muslim neighbours. He continues to seek help for Bibles, orphans and for himself in an aggressive and difficult environment.

Trevor Williams



### PHILIPPINES

Last week, I turned 57. I am most grateful for this life spent serving with the Lord. After all, this is my 31<sup>st</sup> year in full-time service with the Lord's people.

Our community food pantry continues to thrive. By God's amazing grace, donations, both big and small, trickle in from the most unexpected sources week after week. My family and I are humbled to be able to serve the volunteers (my neighbours), the elderly, persons with disabilities, and undernourished children that benefit from the food pantry (now on its 24<sup>th</sup> week!).

In the past month, two of the elderly women we have served passed from this life. Nanay Vicky lost her battle with cancer while Nanay Menang died from diabetes complications. These are some of the people that this community food pantry is serving every week.

There is no telling when this lockdown will be over. The government keeps varying the level of strictness every fortnight. Right now, we still are

## APPEALS & UPDATES



Assembling food parcels in the Philippines

on a stricter lockdown where most businesses are still not allowed to operate. Thus, many people remain jobless and desperate for food.

We had another strong earthquake (magnitude 5.7 on the Richter scale) the other day. We were roused from our sleep at 1:12 am by violent rocking. Thankfully, we were spared from harm.

Many of the people I know in the congregation have had or are still struggling with Covid. Please remember them in your prayers. We have had quite a scare recently as quite a few of our neighbours were also infected. This dreadful virus is everywhere. Please be careful and stay safe.

Thank you for all your prayers. God bless you always.

Gigie Carranza

### MIKE NJIRU – KENYA

The Wimbledon congregation is appealing for funds to help a dearly loved brother in Thika, Kenya. The congregation in Thika is small and their facilities are very basic, using nearby rivers or local swimming pools to immerse people into Jesus.



Mike Njiru has developed Covid-19 pneumonia and because of the hospital difficulties the only way is to provide help is private care. The Christians in Wimbledon have raised 7,000 USD towards a cost of 30,000 USD.

This appeal goes out with a loving heart for help. Please contact Tawanda Nyamatore for more information or for details as to ways you can help – [nyamatore@icloud.com](mailto:nyamatore@icloud.com).



Christians in Thika

### SCHOOL IN ANAKAPALLE, INDIA

A congregation was started by the late Vinayanad Alamuri alongside a Christian School, the Good Shepherd English Medium School, Anakapalle, India. This is in an area of India which is 99%

## APPEALS & UPDATES

Children in the school play ground.



Hindu. Since then the school has grown in number to 440 achieving 95% passes in GCSE equivalent. 40 of the children receive free education due to their financial difficulties.

The school is the only Christian School in the area. The facilities are also used as a Bible study centre for preachers, promoting unity, scripture knowledge and evangelistic encouragement. Over the years great difficulties have been overcome and permanent buildings had to be provided to continue this work.

Local Christians took out loans to help the project along but because of the pandemic the school was closed for a whole year and finances have dried up leaving the whole project in the balance. There has been no Governmental help. Teachers have not been receiving wages and loans are not being repaid.

They have always tried to financially continue this work themselves but they now need help and appeal to British congregations to share fellowship with them. The Lewisham congregation is heading this project – one of the

Christians here, Kezia Alamuri, is the daughter of the founder of the school.

To receive more information please contact Kezia ([Keziah.kakios@gmail.com](mailto:Keziah.kakios@gmail.com)) or Sydney Lewis ([sydneysgl@aol.com](mailto:sydneysgl@aol.com)). Funds may be sent to Lewisham Church of Christ % 35 Bellingham Road, London SE6 2PN.

### DAUGHTERS OF CHRIST UK

This appeal is being put out by DOCUK ladies' ministry which was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We are at the stage of identifying, planning and structuring events and programmes for 2022/2023, God willing.

Calling all sisters of every and any career field, talent or hobby – your services are needed to help us deliver these events and programmes. No one is ever too old to learn or to teach – we need each other. If you have the desire but think you do not have the experience or the know-how to deliver, do not worry help is at hand.

Please email us at: [docuklm2021@gmail.com](mailto:docuklm2021@gmail.com) and you will be contacted within 24 to 36 hours. You can also visit the link below if you want to serve in any other capacity.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQdtp5RsOTNherixOa23s23rNV-4qxEx5bSqEnjI\\_UdOUipdg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQdtp5RsOTNherixOa23s23rNV-4qxEx5bSqEnjI_UdOUipdg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

In the meantime, please have a read of our mission statement.

#### Mission Statement

The Daughters of Christ UK (DOCUK) is a network of ladies across the UK who are dedicated to the edification, education, growth, empowerment, and encouragement of ladies in their service to God. DOCUK will render its services to all those who seek to access it, regardless of age, status, stages, race or state of womanhood they are in, to



Nursery class room

## APPEALS & UPDATES

enhance their spiritual development and enable them to grow closer to God.

### Aim:

- To provide the necessary support to enable every Christian lady to experience a life changing relationship with Christ and the brethren.

### Objectives:

- Plan and deliver events and activities that address the spiritual, emotional and mental needs of ladies and promote fellowship.
- To encourage, support, strengthen, and connect ladies within the 'church' community as they pursue a closer relationship with Christ in their lives and in their circles of influence.
- To create a safe space where ladies can share their challenges or needs in a non-judgemental and supportive environment.
- To support ladies in their quest to know and understand who God is.
- To make referrals where necessary according to individual needs.
- To be an ambassador of Christ displaying the fruit of the Spirit in our everyday interactions with others to reflect God's love, compassion, forgiveness, and truth.
- To provide any other services within its ability as requested.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Bernie Wells

### Lloyd Mansfield

Lloyd Mansfield, began visiting England around 1971, coming on a number of campaigns to Birmingham and elsewhere. Eventually he moved to the UK and worked with congregations in the London area. He then moved to Cambridge to help start a work there.

He also taught for at least a year at the British Bible School, presenting conscientious and thought-provoking lessons.

His wife Gail went to her reward in 2017. Lloyd passed from this life on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

-Trevor

### 25 UK LADIES RETREAT 2021 GETTING THROUGH WHILE YOU ARE GOING THROUGH 29-30 OCTOBER 2021



**Friday: 7pm - 10pm GMT**

**Saturday: 10am-3pm GMT**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8540976249?pwd=SnpodmRwejRWR2p5YUdBRGhGYk9GQT09>

**Zoom Meeting ID: 854 097 6249  
Passcode: sc2020**

**NB: The programme will cover adult themes and is suitable for ladies 16yrs and over**

**Come and explore the following topics with us**

In times of doubt: 'God is still in Charge'... so...'Be Still and know that I am God'. In times of anxiety, 'I lift mine eyes to the Hill from where cometh my help'. When all is said and done; 'I couldn't do it without Him'. We will also be exploring health issues with our panel of experts.



# FAMILY NEWS

## NOTTINGHAM (STAPLEFORD)

From time to time things occur in our world, things which tend to stop mankind in his/her tracks and we cannot ignore them. That applies to everyone, including Christians. We may feel as Christians that they have nothing to do with us, but we live in this world and the things that happen in our world will always have plenty to do with us. We cannot ignore them. They need our prayers – and sometimes they need more than our prayers.

This past several weeks we saw the situation in Kabul as planeloads of refugees were flown out of Afghanistan to a number of countries, including over 15,000 to Britain. It was heart-touching to see them virtually fighting to get on a flight, with whatever they could carry in a small bag or on their backs. They are now here and are ‘temporarily’ being housed mainly in hotels until suitable accommodation can be found for them throughout the country. They are rapidly running out of essential items that they desperately need. The second week of September the congregation at Stapleford in Nottingham did a (admittedly small) bit to try and help.

By chance (Does God work “by chance”?!), Bob and Jean Eckman’s daughter Samantha was staying with them a few days, helping to sort out ‘stuff’ in their loft. Among them were

suitcases. Bob and Jean had decided that they needed to cull the number of

suitcases they had and get them down to just the ones they needed and would use. Most of those that were unwanted were still in very good condition and their plan was either to take them to charity shops or sell them in a car-boot sale. Sam had another idea.

In her work with the NHS, she works closely with a charity based in Lewisham, south London. She had heard that this charity (Lewisham Community Hub) was trying to help some of these refugees that were in their area. They were desperately in need of two things: 1) ‘essential’ items such as children’s underwear and socks, etc., nappies, and sanitary items, and 2) suitcases, as many of the refugees had nothing to keep their personal things in until they were settled.

The congregation funded the purchase of all of the items that went into the cases, and on 8<sup>th</sup> September Bob took them down on the train to London. He met up with Sam at London Bridge station (Sam’s office is about a five minute walk away). The three cases were handed over to Sam who in turn took them to the Lewisham Community Hub on the Friday where they were gratefully received. They were delivered that evening to 120 refugees who were being temporarily housed in a bridging hotel in SE London. This 120 had received no support until then.

*“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you...a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’....The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me’”*  
(Matthew 25:37-40).

I am so proud of this congregation and all that it does to help people in need.

Bob Eckman



## NOTICES

**Mondays at 8.00 pm  
from  
27th September  
... for 12 weeks**

**The  
Gospel  
of Matthew**

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
QUIZ  
NIGHT**

**Fridays at 8.00 pm**

**All are welcome!**

**Thursdays at 8.00 pm  
from  
30th September  
... for 12 weeks**

All evening classes on Zoom. Links can be found on the BBS website (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>) and social media.

**Paul's  
Second  
Letter to  
Corinth**

**ACTS**

**British Bible School  
Autumn Study Week**

**Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District**

**Monday, 1st to Friday, 5th November 2021**

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All-inclusive cost: £150 per student

*This module begins to examine this key New Testament book within the context of God's purpose for mankind. The mission implications for the student are immense as the good news of Jesus continues to be taken across cultural boundaries throughout the world.*

For full details visit our website: [britishbibleschool.com](http://britishbibleschool.com)



# DIARY

## October

**4<sup>th</sup> October-13<sup>th</sup> December – British Bible School:** Evening Online Class – “The Gospel of Matthew” (taught by Jack Paton) each Monday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

**7<sup>th</sup> October-16<sup>th</sup> December – British Bible School:** Evening Online Class – “Paul’s Second Letter to Corinth” (taught by John Griffiths) each Thursday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

## October

**29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> – Peterborough:** Ladies’ Retreat on Zoom: “Getting Through While You Are Going Through”, 7.00-10.00 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8540976249?pwd=SnpodmRwejRWR2p5YUdBRGhGYk9GQT09> (Zoom Meeting ID: 854 097 6249 Passcode: sc2020). Contact: Marsha Erysthee ([merysthee1@aol.com](mailto:merysthee1@aol.com)).

**30<sup>th</sup> – Liverpool:** Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Steve Lusk, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or [cyanckiah@hotmail.com](mailto:cyanckiah@hotmail.com)).

## November

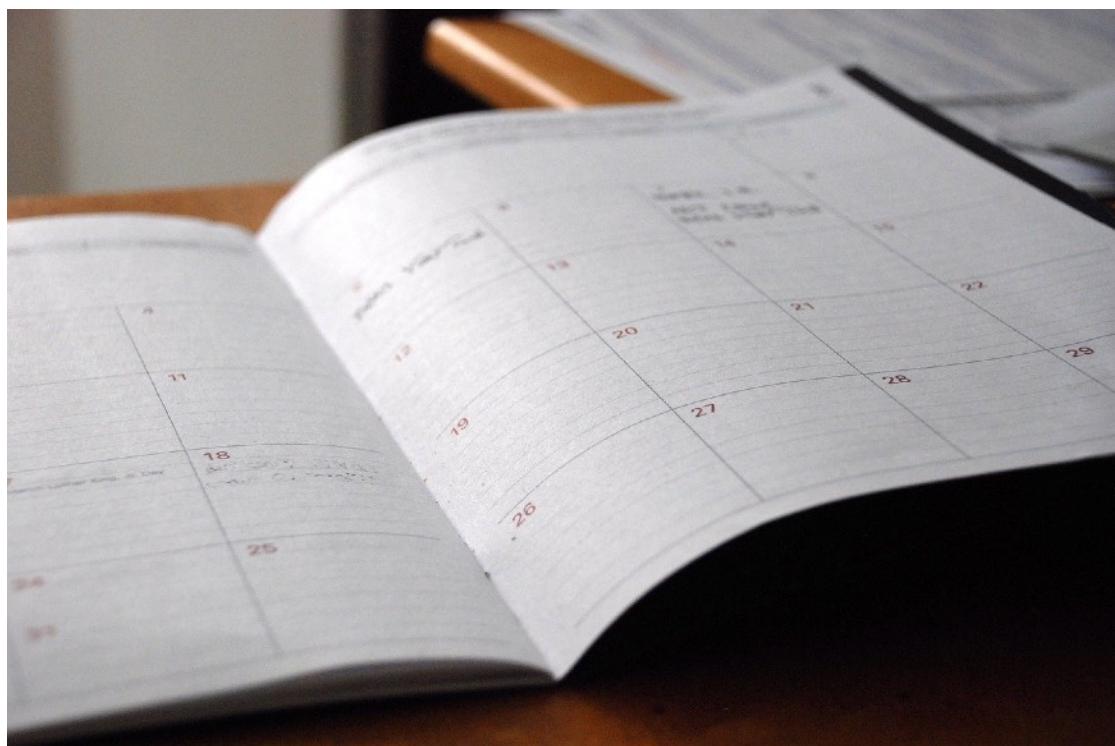
**1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – British Bible School Autumn Study Week at Bassenfell Manor:** Acts. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Mark Hill, and Jack Paton. Cost: £150 all inclusive. For further information and registration form: <http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2021>.

## December

**11<sup>th</sup> – Great Barr (Birmingham):** An Evening of Prayer and Psalms, 7.00 pm. Contact: Sola Adeosun ([sola.adeosun@gmail.com](mailto:sola.adeosun@gmail.com)).

## January 2021

**22<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> February – Trip of a Lifetime to the Bible Lands.** Contact: Ian Starrs ([jes22ian@msn.com](mailto:jes22ian@msn.com)).





# THE FINAL WORD



## Seedtime and Harvest

It happened in the spring – it does every year – this feeling inside every gardener to put dead looking seeds into the ground or visit the garden centre to spend far too much money on the hope that something good will come about. They want to be able to see a rainbow of colours from their windows; there is an inner urge to eat home grown vegetables because they are the only food stuffs that have real taste. For some there is a sense of mischief to have hanging baskets that could put Babylon to shame, to have a lawn fit for Buckingham Palace, to have flowers better than Chelsea, to have something to be proud of!

Of course there is everyone else who cannot understand this thrill, happy to look at what others have done but they have no desire to be involved in such activities. But the gardeners know all about it. The seeds are not dead; they are the promise of harvest.

Of course there are all sorts of harvests: vegetables, flowers, fruit, followed on by the making of jams, pickles, cakes in a

myriad flavours. Honey for the brave bee keeper, solace for the soul that worked the ground.

But there are other sorts of harvests entirely. Each year those in education take exams and there is a harvest of knowledge gained. The harvest of a marriage is the happy home and family. The harvest of training is a cup or a medal. The harvest of life is a home with Jesus.

Our eternal home is not prepared by us but by the greatest winner of all races, the greatest seed planter, the greatest victor of life, the one who looked death in the face and rose to conquer for the benefit of all.

Christians often think they are not good enough but we are not saved by works, even the best mankind can do. We are not saved by knowledge but by redeeming grace that lifts us up to realms unimaginable. We are not saved by anything we can imagine for God can do far more than we can think about or imagine. We are the harvest of God.



We go from the dry seed planted in divine love, watered with the tears from the cross and the warmth of the heart of God. We grow without our own understanding; what we see are imperfections, the warts of our failures. All the time we are nurtured for the greatest harvest, and the feast at the banqueting table of Heaven. Spring time and harvest, what a thrill.

Trevor