

Refresh • Reset •
Reignite

Two new Christians!

Improving our safe
guarding through training

News from the UK and
throughout the world

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Front cover and above: Retreat organised by Kirkcaldy elders at Balmule House, Fife.



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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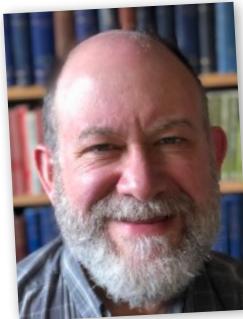
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To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



MY PERSPECTIVE



A look at Christians from the past and their influence

What do we learn from history?

Although history was never one of my favourite subjects in school, I was still fascinated learning what had happened in the past. I had one particular teacher when I was in the eighth grade (equivalent to 2nd year in Scotland) – he was fresh out of university and was very innovative in the way he taught American history. I learned to have an appreciation for history that has stayed with me.

I remember something Buddy Burns quoted when he was working with us in our early years at Castlemilk, “the only thing we learn from history is that we never learn anything from history”. Initially I disagreed with him, but the more I’ve thought about it the more I realise the truth in that statement. We don’t learn from history because we don’t know history.

The history of people returning to God’s word is one area that has fascinated me. The Americans point to Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone as the ones who pioneered this return to

following God’s word – and they did in the United States and were very influential. Then I moved to the United Kingdom where I discovered the names of many people that I had never heard: James Wallis, David King, Gilbert Tickle, Lancelot Oliver, Walter Crossthwaite, and many more. These men were very influential in the 1800s and 1900s among congregations in Britain and left their mark through their writing and publications. Over the past few years I have been able to acquire many of these books and publications. I also discovered congregations that predated the Campbells.

John Renwick concentrated research on Scotland and presented his findings to small groups, congregations, and students at the British Bible School. He published his research in a book detailing many groups of Christians striving to get back to God’s word.

I have wanted to compile some of this information into lectures. On Saturday

evening, 26th August, I am planning to present the first of these looking at an overview of the history of what happened in the UK. I hope to do more of these in the future and concentrate on some of the personalities from those eras. Join us online if you can!

Jon

Sparks Burst Into Flame

*A Story of Christians in the United Kingdom
in the 18th and 19th Centuries*

Another of our
Evening Online Lectures

Saturday, 26th August 2023 at
7.30 pm

Presenter: Jon Galloway

See website for details
britishbibleschool.com



Hosted by the
British Bible School





CONGRATULATIONS!

New Christians in Derby and Leicester

We are happy to share news of a first baptism for the Christians in Derby. Using the building and facilities at Leicester, all were overjoyed to welcome our new sister **Sarah Bessah**.

In Leicester thanks was given to God for our new sister **Miranda** who gave her life to Christ. Miranda came along a few weeks prior giving us time to share the message and encourage her to be immersed. Miranda arrived to give her life to Jesus supported by her daughter and son who attended for the first time. Welcome to our new sister in Christ.

We pray that both of these will grow as Christians.

Paul Hill



I have had a few enquiries for a fellowship/holiday in France next year. If the trip goes ahead, we shall stay at the retreat centre in the Mayenne area belonging to Jerry and Zoobie Jones.

Set in a beautiful area of countryside. The property has twenty bedrooms, craft rooms, games room, study areas, a chapel, and a huge library. The dining rooms are set out with elegance. The kitchen is large and well equipped, to keep costs down we will all share in preparation and clearing up.

No dates have been decided yet but we do need your input if you are at all interested. If we do not have enough people to go then we will proceed no further. Please let me know your interest. Thank you.

Trevor
twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk





Refresh • Reset • Reignite

During the month of July 2023, the Kirkcaldy congregation, with the help of Ian Starrs from Livingston, hosted a retreat covering the topic ***"Evangelism Through Discipleship: A Deep Dive into An Ancient Method in A New Time"***. We were again blessed to have the support of the Nolen Hills congregation from Nolensville, Tennessee. This is the second year that we have partnered with them. In 2022 they came over with a group and we were able to take them to visit congregations in Aberdeen, Livingston, and East Kilbride as well as

Kirkcaldy. This year they were also supported by Christians from Guntersville, Alabama and our thanks go out to them for their loving service.

The goal for this year was to have a time of encouragement, where some of the leaders of those congregations could come away from the everyday pressures and find a time to '***Refresh, Reset, and Reignite the fire***'. This residential Leadership Retreat was hosted at Balmule House near Dunfermline where those leaders from Aberdeen, Livingston, East Kilbride, and Kirkcaldy were invited to join us for three days to consider various topics including ***"How to share the Gospel with confidence"***, ***"Serving in the Gospel with confidence - Leading with Love"***, ***"Intergenerational discipleship: Filling the generation gaps"*** and ***"God's design for relationships"***.

Following on from the retreat, Kirkcaldy hosted a church-wide day at Balmule House on Friday, 14th July. Several local congregations were able to join with us on this occasion and we had another wonderful day of fellowship, of studying the Word, and praising God in song where our spirits were lifted, especially with the powerful rendition of the song '***Light the Fire***' which became our anthem for the week.





Some of the many positive comments when those attending were asked “*What worked well?*” were –

- “The setting, the love, the serving and the encouragement.”
- “The [helpful] information and guidance.”
- “The thought, the love, the caring and the desire to help us all work better for the Lord.”
- “Great location, the food, the lessons, the singing, the devos, the being with our brothers and sisters. I cannot thank you enough.”

On the Friday evening the Kirkcaldy youth came to Balmule House for a time of devotion, fun and games, and a sleepover! On the following day there was a family day (with BBQ) for the Kirkcaldy congregation, and this was enjoyed by everyone – a time to chill and chat in a lovely location.

Vision: To inspire the generations coming after us and re-ignite the fire in those who have served God faithfully in our congregations and communities for many years. That this work may continue with God’s help and that we can all join together as we strive to grow his kingdom in Scotland and throughout the world.

Eric McCallum & Alan Moyes

Observations of a participant

For many years several have been discussing how to reach the current generation who are now in the 20s and 30s. We didn’t know why but we did know

that what we had used in the past was no longer working. Those who attended the retreat were looking for something that would help us move forward. We knew the scriptures on the need to take the good news to those around us. But we were looking for better ways to apply this today.

The structure of the retreat was perfect in helping us find some answers. Following a 45-60 minute presentation around the dining room table we then had the same amount of time to discuss what we had heard. For one lesson the discussion lasted for three hours! The material presented definitely was helping us think through what we needed to do.

Two lessons in particular stood out to me: the first and the last. The first opened with “gospel astonishment → gospel community → gospel movement”. The point was that we need to have an astonishment, an excitement about what we have in Jesus. Without that, any gospel movement – taking the good news to others – is unsuccessful because we aren’t sold on what we are offering. Without ‘gospel astonishment’ we won’t build an effective ‘gospel community’.

The last lesson was presented from a business background but explained how there are characteristics in generations of people which affect the way they receive information. If we are using methods that were used in the 70s and 80s today they won’t be effective.

We hope this has been the beginning of a discussion that will continue for many years to come as we look at ways to reach those around us with the good news of Jesus.

Jon Galloway



August 2023



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Continuing leadership of God's people

Samuel was getting old. He had been one of the main leaders of Israel and a prophet of God for many decades. What would happen when he died and was no longer there? His sons weren't suitable to replace him; they had a reputation for taking bribes and perverting justice – they were all about getting profit (see 1 Samuel 8).

The Israelites looked at the nations around them. They all had kings! Perhaps that was their solution – to get a king. So they approached Samuel with this request. What they didn't realise was that they already had a king: God was their king! By requesting another king they were rejecting the kingship of God.

It wasn't that God was against the nation having a king. When he gave the law through Moses in the wilderness there were provisions – and warnings – to eventually have a king. But there was a stipulation: it had to be a king that God had chosen (see Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

They wanted a king "such as all the other nations have". God granted their request and

Saul, son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin was anointed by Samuel to be king.

The people were impressed with Saul: he looked like a king! He has a head taller than anyone else – there was no one like him. He looked the part.

Sadly, Saul was a disappointment as a king. When he found a young leader of the army in David, son of Jesse, he became jealous. Even though David became his son-in-law, he tried to kill him. He even took to role of priest to offer sacrifices to God when Samuel was late in arriving and refused to totally obey God. Because of this, he lost the kingdom and it went to another, this time one that was a man after God's own heart, one who would lead the people to follow God.

When David became king he began a dynasty that lasted for centuries and through which God brought his Messiah into the world. God was in control!

Like the Israelites, we can despair as leaders among the congregations get older. What are we going to do when they are gone? How will we cope? Who will lead? We fail to realise that God is still in control. We need to encourage godly men to become the leaders of God's people.

Join us in November to learn more about Samuel, Saul, David and Solomon as we study "The Kingdom of Israel" in the wonderful setting of the Lake District at Bassenfell Manor. Bookings can be made online at our website.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

British Bible School Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenthwaite, Lake District

Monday, 6th to Friday 10th November 2023

- 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 student

Jim McIlroy (Northern Ireland)

It is with great sadness that I wish to inform you of the death of my beloved father Jim McIlroy. He died peacefully in his sleep at the nursing home in the early hours of Monday, 26th June. He fondly remembered meeting many Christians throughout the UK.

His funeral was held in Bangor Co. Down on Friday, 1st July. The service was led by his nephew, Clark McIlroy, with eulogies from his son, Jamie, and two daughters, Joanna and Rosemary. Many Christians attended from congregations throughout Northern Ireland. Michael Keaney from Bangor led a beautiful prayer, with

readings from Stephen Seawright and Bruce Young from the Westway congregation in Belfast. Leslie McKay from Coleraine led the singing of "Psalm 23" and "Abide With Me".

A recent article in the *Christian Worker*, "The presence of absence" struck a particular chord with the family and provided some comfort during this time of grief. "When we leave this life, we leave behind memories that we probably do not know that we have even created." That is so very true. I have a childhood memory of seeing black and white copies of the *Christian Worker* lying on the coffee table in the living room at home. Dad was an avid reader over the years.

Jamie McIlroy

Bert & Isabel Surgeon (Glenrothes)

We marks the passing of our sister in the Lord, Isabel Surgeon on 14th June 2023 at the age of 79. Isabel survived her husband Bert by only a few months as Bert passed away in December, aged 88 years.

Bert and Isabel had been committed, active Christians at Glenrothes for many years. We miss both their fellowship and their legendary hospitality. We look forward to being reunited, confident in the knowledge of the resurrection to eternal life.

John Fraser

We received word this morning that **Andy Davies** from the Clarkston congregation in Glasgow passed away peacefully on Sunday night. He had been an active Christian for many years, initially at Castlemilk and then he helped to begin the Clarkston congregation in the mid-1970s. Our prayers are with his wife Jean, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We hope to have a more full write-up next month.

Jon Galloway

Guy Sandison, from the Brandon congregation, has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukaemia. He has had some rough days and needs our prayers. His wife, Rachael, writes: "I also would like to thank the many people who have kept Guy and our family in their prayers, thoughts and have sent their love, support and gifts to us during this time. Thank you." Keep Guy and his family in your prayers.

Trevor and Jon



FAMILY NEWS

KIRKCALDY

On Sunday 2nd July, Eric McCallum, one of our elders, welcomed **Jeanette Gouck** into fellowship with the Kirkcaldy congregation.

Allan Hughes

LEICESTER

New meeting place: When we purchased this property we returned it back to its intended use as a place of worship. This

attracted the attention of the mayor and the local council as we replaced a wall that had been removed by the former owners.



are now numbering around 30. We held our first youth day in July and young people from around the UK attended.

Each Saturday our teens meet for evening fellowship and spend time together, playing, singing, studying and bonding together.



New details for the Leicester congregation:

Meeting Place

Christian Meeting House
9 Sanvey Lane,
Leicester,
LE2 8NG

Sunday Meeting

Sunday Class (all ages) – 10.00 am
Worship and Communion – 11.00 am

Midweek

Wednesday Bible Class – 7.00pm

Contacts

Paul Hill (07804 653690)
Emmanuel Uwujare (07448 244849)
info@leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk

Website

www.leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk

Paul Hill

GLENROTHES

The saints in Glenrothes rejoiced in the celebration of our 50th Anniversary on 9th June, by dining together and sharing memories from the history of the Glenrothes church.

Family News

The Glenrothes church was established in June 1973 by Alex and Moyra Strachan. They were supported by many co-workers over the years from America, South Africa, Scotland and England. Alex and Moyra would have said that no-one associated with the church is any more important than anyone else, however, it was their dream which resulted in the Glenrothes Church and they were involved in every aspect of it until Alex passed away in 2018.

Over the course of fifty years close to 400 souls were saved through baptism. We give thanks to God that Christians are still striving for the Lord here as we look forward to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our community.

John Fraser



comments, and contributions from the participants. The speakers answered the questions to the admiration of the questioners. What is more, we have since sent all the resources which the speakers used in delivering their speeches to the participants who requested them.

In summary, the workshop was edifying and the organisers believe the questions, comments, suggestions, and contributions from the workshop will go a long way to spiritually uplift those who attended.

Ofori Dwumah



EDMONTON (LONDON)

On 8th July 2023, the congregation in Edmonton organised a workshop entitled: "Modernisation and Christianity."

The meeting was held on Zoom. At the peak of the meeting there were around 91 devices which joined the Zoom (the number of devices does not necessarily equal the number of participants as some families might use a single device or a single person may sign up to more than one device).

James Obeng from Edmonton was the main speaker. After the speaker was finished, the participants were broken into three groups, each assigned one subtopic to discuss within an hour. The subtopics for discussion were grouped into three:

- The Impact of Gender and Equality on Christianity (Gary Smith, Leicester)
- Modernisation and Parenting (Vincent Samson, India)
- Modernisation and Youth Engagement in the Church (Shadrach Appiagyei, Berlin)

Biblically, the topics were well researched and their mode of delivery was excellent. The well-developed topics generated lots of interests, questions,



AROUND THE WORLD

PAKISTAN



This blind man received his Audio Bible mp3 and is blessed because now he is able to listen the Bible. He is very thankful to all who support this programme. Many are waiting for their Audio Bible mp3.

This is the best gift you can give a person who can't read Bible for himself or herself. This life-saving gift is way to reach many souls.

We are thankful for your support and as that you remember us in your prayers.

Naeem Sabir

ALBANIA

Our work in Albania began in 1996 while we were living in Liverpool. We heard about the World English Institute material being used here to reach the people who had lived under an atheist communist dictator for forty-six years. After spending two weeks in Albania teaching with the WEI material, we saw the need for more teachers and I was asked to move to Tirana to head up the WEI program. We lived here for three years and then the Lord called us to Thessaloniki, Greece.

Starting in 2005, we began coming to Albania one month each year, which continued for fifteen years. In 2020, after much prayer and time spent raising necessary funds, Brenda and I moved back to Tirana.

Our mission this time is a little different. In addition to us both teaching WEI four days a week, another dream was made possible. There are thirteen churches of Christ in Albania. Our vision was to travel to each congregation every other weekend, to encourage the local preachers (all Albanians), and to encourage the Christians in each congregation. We always go on a Saturday, take the preacher and family to dinner and spend time with them. On Sunday, I offer to preach, if they so desire, and after worship, we take the preacher and family plus four to five of the local Christians to lunch. We rotate who we take each visit in order to eventually take everyone in the congregation and spend time getting to know them. We have been blessed to do this now for three years.

Even though we are trying to bless others, we are truly the ones being blessed. We have come to love all these families and are privileged to serve God as we try to serve others. We are also blessed each summer with campaign groups who join us in teaching WEI for two to six weeks. We have met and come to love many individuals who have the desire to come and teach the lost here in Albania.

Because of their history, most Albanians are completely ignorant when it comes to knowledge about God and the Bible. Brenda and I would encourage you to join in this short-term opportunity to teach those who are lost about Jesus using the World English Institute material. You are welcome to contact us for more information.

Wayne and Brenda Speer
(rwspeer1@yahoo.com)

Around the world

GREECE

On 27th June, Pauline and I travelled to Cenchrea for the 18th Omonia Church Family Retreat. The hotel is set in beautiful grounds near Ancient Corinth that we were able to visit once again.

The group at the retreat was made up of brethren and friends from Greece, America, UK, Russia and many from Ukraine. The need for various languages noticed as we fellowshiped together, taught with the aid of translators. We sang action choruses,

many of which I had learned in Sunday School years ago. It was a privilege to teach and lead singing.

We were thrilled that six ladies decided to surrender their lives to Jesus in the act of baptism, which took place in the sea at Cenchrea. These ladies had seen the change in the lives of their friends and relatives since they had become Christians and that change was the best sermon of all.

Trevor Williams

APPEALS

PHILIPPINES

Since graduating from the British Bible School many years ago Gigie Carranza has spent her life serving the people through organising medical missions, feeding the poor, hosting the local congregation in her home, and teaching local children the stories of Jesus.

Gigie like every one else is getting older and has now developed arthritis and it is proving to be very painful. She needs medical help to pay for injections which are very expensive – the costs for treatment right now will be between £700-£1,000. Is there a congregation or even an individual that can help this faithful sister? There is no NHS in the Philippines.

Gigie's email is helengie@yahoo.com or me (details on page 2).

Trevor Williams

PAKISTAN

Once again heavy rains and floods have destroyed many provinces of Pakistan including our area. Many villages and districts have been hit badly. Thousands of people have lost their homes and livestocks. They have no shelter, food or clean water.

We need your assistance and support for tents, food and clean water to drink. People are living are in open fields. We are praying that God will provide according to need. Please keep us in your prayers.

Naeem Sabir





SAFE GUARDING TRAINING AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE

Have you heard of Spiritual Abuse? If a survivor joined your congregation, would you know how to support them?

Safeguarding is a vital part of any congregation. When we wrote our safeguarding policy, we included spiritual abuse alongside neglect, emotional, sexual and physical abuse. I had a vague idea about what it was but when questioned about it, I felt it was not an area of safeguarding I knew enough about. So when I saw a course advertised on the 'thirty-one:eight' website, I knew I wanted to know more (<https://thirtyoneeight.org/>).

For those who do not know, 'thirty-one:eight' is a safeguarding organisation which advises churches and provides useful resources for safeguarding leads.

The course was on Zoom and along with delegates from different churches across the UK and Europe, Dad and I spent two evenings learning about what spiritual abuse is and how we can support survivors. After a long day at school (I am a primary school teacher), spending two and half hours was a challenge, especially about such a heavy topic. But the frequent opportunities to contribute in small groups made it easier.

The first three modules were focused on creating a healthy culture in our settings (there were not just churches represented in the course). "A healthy faith culture is one that provides emotional/psychological and physical safety. It offers guidance and accepts a person's right to choose."

We were challenged to rate how healthy or unhealthy our congregation was when it came to different characteristics: governance; listening; effective structures; managing power; modelling safe behaviours and communication.

During the second night, we looked at behaviours which would constitute spiritual abuse. The definition of spiritual abuse has to meet three criterion: emotional/psychological abuse; occurs in a religious context (this can include the home); and demonstrates unhealthy/harmful behaviours supported or justified by faith or holy texts. Various case studies were shared, including the nine o'clock service in Sheffield as well as scenarios which may happen in the context of a church.

Spiritual abuse in the context of a marriage relationship was also discussed and something I had not considered before attending the webinar. There is support for those who experience domestic abuse and Christian organisations who can advise the survivors as well as those supporting them.

The content was challenging and at the end of the course I felt I had more questions than when I started. If I am encouraging people to come to church, is that spiritual abuse? How can we practise biblical discipline without it becoming spiritual abuse? But the leaders of the course were very helpful and tried to answer my questions.

Thirty-one:eight have a variety of safeguarding courses which I would encourage you to look at. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we must strive to create a culture in our congregations which support survivors and act when abuse happens.

The course leaders made frequent references to Christ and how He responded to those he came into contact with. The Rich Young Ruler was given as an example of how we should present the gospel to others: present what we believe

Safe guarding training and spiritual abuse

the truth to be but allow the person to make a choice, just like Jesus did.

I would encourage you to look at the website and book a place on a training course If safeguarding is

not something you are familiar with, contact thirty-one:eight or I am happy to answer any questions.

Bethan Mentore

★ More Than Music ★ Workshop®

Is your congregation interested in improving their singing? Leaders, are you interested in improving your worship leading or song leading skills? Do you want to learn new 4-part acapella worship songs?

We can help your congregation by

- Encouraging 4-part a cappella singing
- Spur on your song leader and equip them with tools to lead
- Inspiring the congregation's members to sing. Everyone has a voice! God wants to hear them!
- Collaborate with other spiritual leaders

For more information on hosting and to discuss contact:

Alan Dod 07779 606568
Bernadine Wells 07904 303347

LOOKING UP TO JESUS

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September 2023

at Letton Hall in Norfolk

 www.britishbibleschool.com

Venue: Our new building at 9 Sanvey Lane, Leicester, LE2 8NG
All Welcome

Men's Day Spiritual Growth

Deflated? Coasting? Inspired? Find the keys to success

Saturday 28th October 2023, 10am-3pm

Gary Smith and Paul Hill (Leicester)
David Condor (Lubbock, Texas)

Plus introduction to the Leicester Bible Institute
by Mike Wilson (Lubbock, Texas)



Leicester Church of Christ

leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk
Email: info@leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk
Phone: 07804 653690 for more details

I have been given a few hymn books in English, Ukrainian and Russian. There are over 100 well known hymns. If this could be of use to anyone please let me know, there is no charge.

Trevor



DIARY

August

3rd – **British Bible School** evening class: “Hosea” taught by Jon Galloway each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

4th – **British Bible School** quiz night: a light-hearted, educational Bible quiz hosted by Steve Whitehead, the first Friday of each month from 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the quiz can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

5th-12th – **British Bible Camp**: EPIC – the Greatest Fish Story Every Told. Location: Lockerley Water Farm, E Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey SO51 0LW. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990 or Britishbiblecamp@gmail.com).

5th – **East Kilbride**: Family evening, 6.30-9.30 pm with a group from Freed-Hardeman University.. Contact: jdgalloway@mac.com.

7th – **British Bible School** evening class: “Romans, part 1” taught by Jack Paton each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

19th – **East Kilbride**: Barbecue and Devotional Evening, 3.00 pm. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

26th – **Bristol**: Sunday School Teacher Training Day, 9.30 am-4.00 pm. RSVP to Jason (07795 560990).

26th – **British Bible School** online lecture: “Sparks Burst Into Flames” presented by Jon Galloway, 7.30-8.30 pm. Links to join the lecture can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

September

2nd-3rd – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend, 9.30-4.00 on Saturday; Bible class and worship on Sunday. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

9th – **Reading**: SongFest – “Songs of Hope and Joy”, 1.30-6.00 pm. Lunch will be served plus time for children’s songs and fellowship. Venue: Crescent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, RG6 4HB (ample parking on site). Please send in numbers for catering purposes. Contact: message4heidi@outlook.com.

15th-17th September – **British Bible School Autumn Family Retreat** at Letton Hall: “Looking Up to Jesus”. Registration on our website: <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/letton-hall-family-retreat-2023>.

30th – **Kirkcaldy**: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com) or christianwoman@btinternet.com.

October

7th-8th – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study Weekend, 9.30-4.00 on Saturday; Bible class and worship on Sunday. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

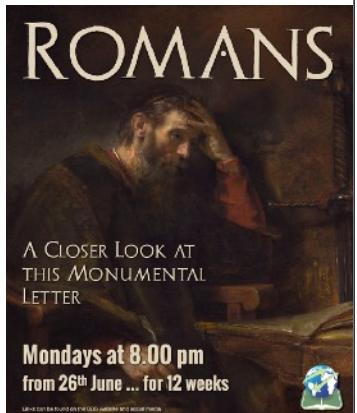
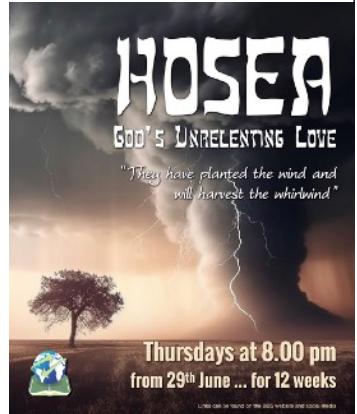
27th-29th – **East Kilbride**: Joint Gospel meetings, guest speaker: Mark Hill. Friday: 7.00 pm at Clarkston (Busby Memorial Hall), Saturday, 7.00 pm, and Sunday, 11.00 am at East Kilbride. Contact: Jon Galloway (jdgalloway@mac.com).

28th – **Aughton**: Family Fun Day, 1.00-3.30, and Gospel Meeting, 4.45-6.00. Contact: Mike Glover (07879 444267 or mike97glover@gmail.com).

28th – **Leicester**: Men’s Day – “Spiritual Growth”, 10.00 am-3.00 pm. Speaker: Gary Smith, Paul Hill, David Condor and Mike Wilson. Contact: info@leicesterchurchofchrist.co.uk or 07804 653690 for more details.

November

6th-10th November – **British Bible School Autumn Study Week** at Bassenthwaite Manor: “The Kingdom of Israel.” Further details and registration can be found at <https://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/upcoming-events/autumn-study-week-2023>.





THE FINAL WORD



Pride
marches
on...



There is a whole list of events celebrating sexual diversity across the world. One of the great symbols is the six coloured rainbow flag which we see everywhere in the UK. Many of us see this as a mockery of the rainbow that we associate with the flooding of the earth in the days of Noah and given as a symbol of God's love and hope for the future.

Every sort of sexual difference seems to be celebrated and is now financially supported by banks and other institutions. What is not celebrated is traditional, scriptural marriage of one man and one woman. It seems as if everyone can do or be whatever they like. Young and old are being caught up

in a theory that everyone can express themselves in whatever way they wish. Freedom of expression is a wonderful gift but can also be abused into heartache

and disappointment. What looks good and fun and sexually appealing can destroy relationships and create misery for generations.

Sadly, many Christian groups are caught up in this frenzy of thrills and pleasure and forget that 'Jesus is our wisdom

from God – that is our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:30-31).

The thrill of the gospel should be that we become more like Jesus. 'The Christian has died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?...We have been baptised into the death of Christ...to live a new life' (Romans 6:1-4). It is all too true that many do want a new life, but only to do what they want and not what Jesus wants. This certainly is pride and that which goes before a fall. How many have been hurt by drugs or harmful sexual activities? Many want to find themselves in these sorts of relationships only to discover that what they found out about themselves was something they did not want to be.

The sound and colour of 'Pride' can be a thrill for many young people discovering their own bodies and emotions. These events and everything associated with it can send unexpected thrills to the mind and body. It will seem that Jesus is far away and not part of a real life – but still he calls us to follow him and for all to take up their cross and go on the journey of life with him. Glamour, glitz and thrills may last for a moment but are only for a moment. Many have wanted fame and fortune only to be destroyed by it.

Let me encourage our congregations to teach the church the danger of stepping into the world of 'pride'. We may not like the necessity of being blunt, but the world has no problem with offering everything to our young. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and our pride must be in Jesus.

Trevor