

the Christianworker MAGAZINE

March 2021 • Vol 53 No 3



ABSS Online

2021

Tonia
Evgeny Voronkin
Articles from David Ferguson and Colin Hinde

Archive photo identified

Updates from Pakistan, India and Philippines

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Front cover: ABSS online; above: snow is gone and the land returns to normal



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

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Editor-in-Chief: Trevor Williams

twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk

(0115) 837 6895

195 Hickings Lane, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8PJ

Production Editor: Jon Galloway

jdgalloway@mac.com

(07906) 060618

4 Broughton, Valleyfield, East Kilbride G75 0JU

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website: Emmanuel Uwujare

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

UK Congregation Directory Online: www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

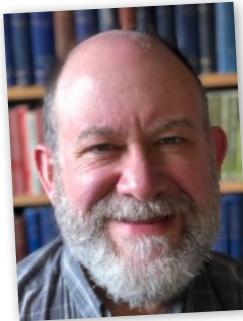
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MY PERSPECTIVE



The UK
prepares
to come
out of
lockdown

Moving towards normality...again

It is difficult to believe how our lives have been changed in such a short period of time. It was a year ago this month that we went into our first lockdown and we discovered what it is like to live during a global pandemic.

It was with joy that we heard the Prime Minister – and the First Minister in Scotland (and their equivalents in the other devolved nations) – announce that lockdown would finally start easing within a couple of months. Our current lockdown has only been since the beginning of year, but by the time ‘stay at home’ restrictions are lifted (at least in Scotland) we will have been locked down for another thirteen weeks. One fourth of 2021.

Although there is talk of ‘normality’ once again, I get the impression that there won’t be much normality for the rest of the year. It will be a slow easing of restrictions as the vaccines roll out and the virus is driven to manageable levels. Many I am sure will be disappointed that all restrictions aren’t taken away immediately.

But will we really go back to ‘normal’? – at least normal as we were living just thirteen months ago? As I reflect on the past year, what we have had to live under is not something I would have wished for anyone. But there are good changes that have come about, many that I hope will stay with us.

There are the obvious ones that may affect how we operate as congregations. Most of us now know how to have online meetings. I know at East Kilbride the plan is to be able to

have our worship each Sunday online so that those who live a distance and are unable to get in or those who are not well can ‘join’ in our time of worship. We might not have contemplated this just over a year ago but now we have learned it is quite simple. Having lessons on YouTube or FaceBook is now something we can utilise to expand our teaching.

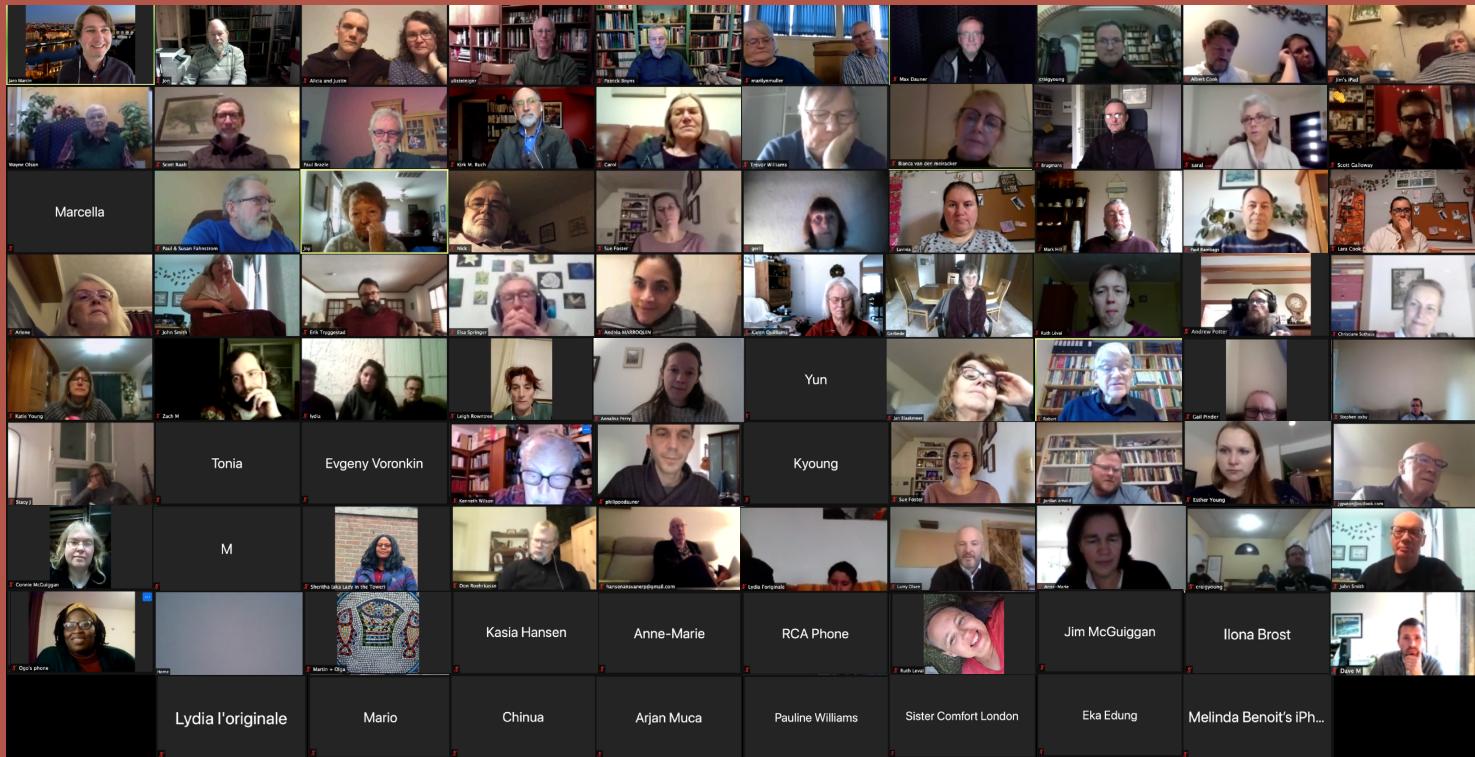
Many now work from home. The care company my wife works with as a trainer has moved a large part of their training to online. The result is that many will be able to continue working from home. We always heard that this was the future – perhaps the future has finally arrived!

Many people struggle with change. Many like life to be the way they have become used to and changes such as we have had to live through create stress in their lives. We are hearing more and more about how the pandemic has affected people’s mental health.

But in all the changes we live through, there is one constant we can always rely on – and that is Jesus. The writer of Hebrews expressed it this way: “*Jesus the Messiah is the same yesterday, today, and forever*”.

The world is constantly changing and the world-wide pandemic has brought with it even more change. But we can rely on Jesus not to change. He will always be there. His Word will not change either – what it says today it will say tomorrow. This is something we can rely on – always.

Jon



ABSS 2021 – Online

Although we weren't in Gemünden, it was wonderful to see so many from across Europe – and the world – for the annual Advanced Bible Study Series. Due to the travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, we were all able to sit in the comfort of our own homes, study the Bible together, and catch up with Christians around Europe.

The format to the normal ABSS was similar, but different. It was similar in that the day began with a devotional and lesson and there was 'free time' until classes resumed in the afternoon. It was different in that allowance was made for people working and rather than five or six classes per day there were only four.

Our morning online began at 8.00 am for those in the UK (9.00 in Europe, our normal starting time for ABSS). We began each day as we always do with a short time of devotion, this year led by Robert Limb from Paris.

The first (and only class) of the morning was led by Jaro Marcin from Prague, Czech Republic. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings he led us in a study he entitled "Lessons learned from the Teacher (Qoheleth)". He used the text of Ecclesiastes interwoven with his own growth as a Christian to illustrate what this book

still speaks to people today and can be effective in leading people to know more about Jesus. (Tuesday morning was an orientation and introduction session for the week.)

The afternoon sessions began at 3.00 pm with Patrick Boyns representing the British Bible School. He led us in a look at "The Prophet Ezekiel". Not being able to cover the book in four sessions, he introduced us to Ezekiel and his times and concentrated on a few themes found in this vital book of the prophets.

The session which followed at 4.00 pm was led by Craig Young, who works with Chrétiens en Mission in Marseilles, France, a training programme for French-speaking Christians and serves as one of the shepherds at the Chapelle de Fuveau congregation. In his lessons he walked us through the book of Ephesians, concentrating on "A Unity Beyond All We Could Ask or Imagine".

After a break for our evening meal, Todd Olsen from Oklahoma City led two evening sessions and then a session on Saturday morning entitled "Two Tools and a Ready Answer". In these lessons he contrasted the answers given by the religious and philosophical systems around us to the questions of human existence with what we find in God's word. He concluded Saturday

morning with a session entitled, “Why did Jesus Come in the Flesh, and What Does That Have to do With Melchizedek?” The sessions on Saturday were part of ABSS II.

In addition to the study sessions, the usual evening activities were also able to be held. On Tuesday evening there was a time of recommending good resources, both books and online sites. Wednesday there was a surprise guest speaker from Canada. And Thursday evening we enjoyed the traditional ‘Gemündener Follies’ – a showcase of talent (or lack thereof). Most ‘acts’ this year rather than being live were submitted via video clips. It was a very enjoyable time compered by our own Patrick Boyns. This

was followed by the annual Doyle Key Memorial Ice Cream Bash – only everyone had to provide their own ice cream. It was enjoyable chatting on Zoom with others while eating ice cream.

Although not quite the same as being in person, it was a good substitute and has whetted our appetite for next year’s Advanced Bible Study Series. If you have never been, why not plan now to travel to Germany next February for a week of encouraging fellowship and good Bible study? The cost for the week is usually just over £100 plus your own travel costs.

Jon Galloway



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Many thanks to all who responded to the 1949 photo taken at Hindley from last month – those who had a few names and those who had many of the names were very helpful. We have now identified everyone in the photograph except for one – if anyone knows who he is do let us know.

We have another photograph to include soon with even more people in it. I don’t think we have identified any in that photo yet but we are hoping with your help we will be able to do so. Look for this in the coming months.

Jon Galloway



Back row from left: 1. Lewis (Louis) Murphy; 2. Bill Richardson; 3. Frank Worgan

Centre row from left: 1. Tom MacDonald; 2. Albert Winstanley; 3. Len Channing; 4. Bill Hurcombe; 5. Glenn Wallace; 6. ? ; 7. Geoffrey Lodge

Front row from left: 1. Teddy Morgan; 2. Fred Day; 3. Stephen Winstanley; 4. Leonard Morgan; 5. Walter Crosthwaite; 6. Willie Steele; 7. Tom Kemp; 8. Eric MacDonald



A SQUEAKY WHEEL

It was another day of furlough and I was quietly studying. Suddenly the silence was broken with a very loud squeak, squeak, squeak. Now I knew it was not me as I was sitting down in front of the laptop. These days I tend to go creak, creak, creak when I move around. On looking out my living room window I noticed one of my neighbours pushing an old wheelbarrow from which he was throwing salt onto the pavement to clear the snow which had fallen during the night. On went my jacket and shoes and face mask. I grabbed a can of WD40 from the cupboard and went down to offer him some lubricant for his rather disagreeable screech. I mean, is there anything more annoying than a squeaky wheel or a creaky door hinge? He did refuse my offer of lubrication as he found the squeak comforting.

There is an old proverb which says, “The squeaky wheel gets the oil” and is used to convey the idea that the most noticeable or loudest problems are the ones most likely to get attention. The origin of the squeaky wheel metaphor is unknown, but its current form is attributed to American humorist Josh Billings who is said to have popularised it in his putative poem “The Kicker” (c. 1870) –

*I hate to be a kicker,
I always long for peace,*

*But the wheel that squeaks the loudest,
Is the one that gets the grease.*

Now, I must admit this current lockdown has been more difficult to endure. My get up and go has got up and gone. I miss meeting with the saints in Newtongrange. I will even admit – I miss work. I also concede that I have struggled with my faith over the last few months. I have spent a lot of time reading, and in the production of the church magazine. Prayer has been a lifeline and it may seem at times to God that I was being like a ‘squeaky wheel’.

In Luke 18 we read of a widow’s persistent request to the judge for justice against her adversary. This might have made her sound like a ‘squeaky wheel’ as well, but with that dogged diligence she got the result she needed. Luke explains that Jesus told this story to teach us the need to pray continually and not to give up, even if it appears that the answer to our prayer is delayed.

God is certainly not an unjust judge who must be harassed before He responds to us. He is our loving Heavenly Father who cares about us and hears us when we cry to Him. Regular, determined prayer draws us closer to Him. Sometimes it may feel like we are squeaky wheels, but the Lord welcomes our prayer and encourages us to approach Him with our cries. He hears us and will come to our aid in ways that we may not expect.

All we need to do is quietly bring our personal petitions continually before God and walk with the One who already knows our needs. Remember: don’t give up. We need to learn to trust God and wait patiently for His response because He hears our prayers.



A SQUEAKY WHEEL

*As the Master prayed in the garden lone,
Let your prayer be made to the Father's throne,
If you seek His will, He will answer you,
Are you trusting still, have you prayed it through?
(William C. Poole)*

David Ferguson

[We have asked a number of Christians to write encouraging articles for the Christian Worker as there are few activities to write about. Look forward to reading more in the coming issues. –Jon & Trevor]

David is a Christian who meets with the congregation in Newtongrange, Midlothian. He produces a magazine entitled The Newtongrange Nourisher which is now in its 23rd year of publication in its current form. If you would like to receive a copy, either electronically or in paper form, contact David with your details – david.ferguson58@hotmail.com.



AT REST

Kenneth Ross Butcher (Newport)

14th July 1944 - 4th December 2020

The Christians meeting in Newport are saddened by the sudden loss of our dear brother Ken on 4th December 2020. For many years Ken and Annette made the journey from Bridgend to Newport, enduring delays and traffic jams, to worship with the congregation on Sundays. We appreciated their dedication and it was always a delight to see them. Ken became involved in helping in our worship. He had a good knowledge of the Bible, having studied when he lived in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He shared what he had learnt in our Bible classes and, although initially he said he was not a preacher, he preached often, encouraging us in our faith. Ken and Annette have known personal tragedy and suffering, yet throughout such unbearable experiences their faith and trust in God has always been steadfast, and in this they are a great example to the rest of us.

On the eve of his own death Jesus comforted his disciples when he said, “*Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go*

to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:1-3).



Ken will be missed by Annette and his family and friends, and by his brothers and sisters in Christ who worshipped with him and enjoyed his fellowship. But joy transcends our sorrow, for we are sure that those who die in the Lord are truly blessed. For the faithful Christian death is not a tragedy but a triumph: “*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth.’ ‘Blessed indeed’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them!’*” (Revelation 14:13)

Please keep Ken’s widow Annette and family in your prayers as she deals with life without her husband of many years.

David Winstanley



APPEALS & UPDATES

INDIA

Good Shepherd English Medium School Anakapalle

Good Shepherd English Medium School was established by Vinayanad Alamuri in the year 1978 at Anakapalle, India. Gradually the school developed in quality and became a highly reputed Central English Medium School. A small congregation of the Lord's people also began to worship in one of the classrooms.



In 1988 the school received provisional affiliation from the *Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations* and in the

year 2000 it was given permanent affiliation. In 2014 the school received the Prestigious International School Award from *British Council*. Every year the school has been achieving 100% results in 10th class Board Examinations.

Each academic year the school provides free education for forty children of preachers, teachers and local Christians who could not afford to send their children. The congregation has constructed their own permanent church building where more than 150 Christians join

to worship the Lord each week. They have also helped other congregations in Thummapala and Mushidiwada.

In 2006 we began a *Preachers Fellowship* where 100 preachers from different areas gather for Bible study every month. This has encouraged many other congregations who have started new congregations in towns near them.

In 1991 the school leased land and constructed temporary sheds as well as purchasing a small tract of land. In 2000 we were asked by the local government to construct permanent buildings so we constructed the ground floor of our school building. In 2010 we were asked to vacate the site where we had temporary sheds, so we had to construct a permanent building for the school and the congregation by taking loan from banks.

As there is religious discrimination in our society and there is no support from other communities to come forward to help in giving loans for small interests. We have overcome all these struggles because of continuous prayers.

Currently there are 440 students from Nursery to 10th Class (GCSE), 40 teaching staff and 13 non-teaching

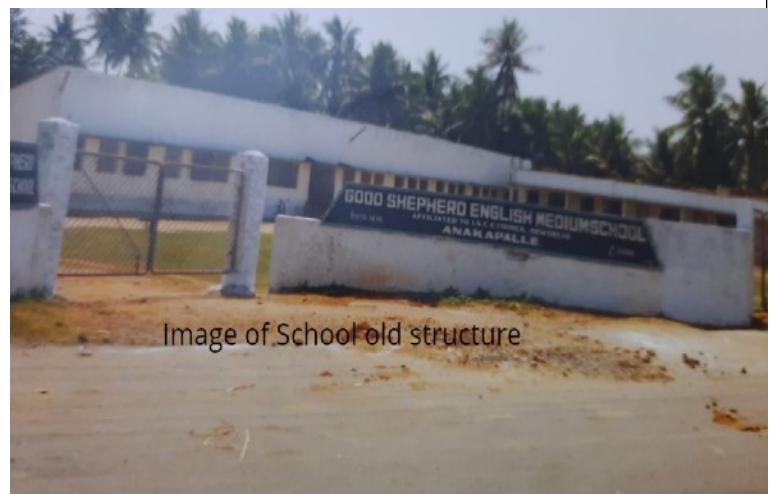


Image of School old structure

APPEALS & UPDATES

staff. Each month we are paying interest on the loans we had to take out to build the buildings as well as pay regular expenses of employee's salaries, taxes, electricity bills etc. Due to the high interest rate we are unable to balance our income and expenses. Up until now we have managed to pay the high interest rate through the income from school fees.

During this pandemic the school was completely closed for nearly six months, and there is no support from the Government. After reopening the school most of the children could not pay their fees. But the expenses are the same.

Our father's dream was to establish 100 congregations in different places; to train 100 preachers; to start a care home as there are many older people in the congregation and no one to look after them. Our desire is to fulfil these ambitions and to continue the school and serving God.

Our request: We, the children of Alamuri Vinayanad, are looking for financial assistance from individuals and congregations to ensure the future of the school.

For further information feel free to contact us:

Paul Dharmadas Alamuri
Church of Christ, Anakapalli, India
Contact Mobile No: 00918790418223
Email: pauldharmadas1975@gmail.com

Lydia Grace
Church of Christ, Rajahmundry, India
Contact Mobile No: 00919393429407
Email: lydiagracealamuri@gmail.com

Keziah Laura
Lewisham Church of Christ, U.K
Contact Mobile no: 07856909186.
Email: keziah.kaki05@gmail.com

PHILIPPINES

The Cumbernauld congregation were able to send \$4,000 to help with Typhoon Ulysses. £3,195 was provided by churches and brethren from across Scotland toward the appeal. So far, 200 souls have been added to the Lord in addition to the repairs that were done. God does amazing things and we rejoice to know the amazing people through whom He works.



Thank you for helping make a difference in so many lives.

Graham McDonald

This is on top of nearly £5000 sent via Gige. Well done to all our British brethren.

Trevor Williams

Acts Study Video's If you are studying Acts or you know someone who might be interested in studying Acts then you may find something helpful in the lessons.
I do not have all the answers but I have heard most of the questions and so I try to be useful in dealing with the text.
Here are some of the questions I look at:-
The question of God's amazing plan for the redemption of mankind through Judea, Samaria, to the ends of the earth?
Did Jesus fulfill prophecy and truly become King of Kings and Lord of Lord's
Did Jesus manage to establish His kingdom or did He fail?
Did the 120 or the 12 receive the Baptism of the Spirit?
Do we all receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
Was it a language or babble one of the gifts the Spirit gave?
Is salvation all of God or do we play a part
by responding in some way to the grace of God?
What is involved in the redemption of man,
both from God's perspective and mans?
Are we saved by faith alone?
Does the Holy Spirit indwell a Christian?
How fast did the Kingdom of God expand?
Was Saul saved on the Damascus road?
Was Cornelius saved when he and family received a gift of languages
Did Peter preach a different message of salvation than Paul?
They are all on my You Tube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF410_UtKqd514EUKITW7Jg/videos
<https://www.facebook.com/Graeme-Bible-Resources-111596180225734/>

Send me an email graemorr@hotmail.co.uk
For a more concise You Tube Links to Acts lessons
Every blessing Graeme Morrison UK



WE ALL NEED HOPE

It is difficult to look back at the past twelve months without wondering where did it go. 2020 took us all by surprise. We thought Covid-19 would last a few months at most. Most of us did not realise that it would last a year and still we struggle with the effects of Covid-19.

In the past year Jane and I have never watched so much TV – with Jane being on the shielding list there seems to be little else to do with the restrictions imposed on us. Politicians speak of light at the end of the tunnel in reference to vaccinations which we are all encouraged to get in the hope that we can get the better of this pandemic.

Even if we do not agree with everything they say, as Christians we need to acknowledge that they are in the positions they fill by the authority of God, as we find in Romans 13:1-5. We should trust that they are appointed for our benefit and well-being.

Covid has brought out the best of mankind and also the worst of mankind. People go the extra mile and help others without thought of reward because they see a need and it is the right thing to do. Sadly others see an opportunity for profit and gain using Covid as an excuse to rip people off or use the government systems for gain by means of deception and lies.

Occasionally we have seen people shine through adversity. People like Captain Sir Tom Moore who did amazing things which sprouted from a small idea with humble targets and yet he achieved great things. He was not the only one. Others were inspired by his achievements and achieved great things in their own right.

But Covid does not respect man, woman or child. On the morning we learnt of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore the

news presenter concluded “We all need hope and light in our lives”. How right he was, although I think he was not speaking of the same hope we have as Christians with the true light of Jesus Christ but rather he was referring to the light that Captain Tom seemed to endear on those who came to know him during this extraordinary year we have just endured. Many gave glowing tributes including Boris Johnston who said “He became not just a national inspiration but a beacon of hope for the world”.

Our true hope is found in our saviour.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:3-7)

The true light is Jesus as we read in John 8:12 – “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

I struggle to understand how people cope without God in their lives. We all need light in our lives, we all need hope for without hope we are lost. May God keep us safe during these unprecedented times whilst we wait patiently for our salvation through Jesus.

Colin Hinde



Colin became a Christian in Northampton. After graduating from the British Bible School he and his wife Jane moved to Scotland to work with the Lord's people in the Glasgow area. They live in Alexandria and are with the Clarkston congregation.



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Continental Conferencing

For a good number of years, the Bible School has been represented at the Advanced Biblical Studies Series (ABSS) held at Gemünden, Germany, each February. A number have made the journey across the Channel each year to spend the best part of a week with fellow students of the Master at the relatively remote location about 25 miles northwest of Frankfurt.

Not only is this a useful time of group Bible study, but it is also a splendid opportunity to make and nurture healthy relationships with our brothers and sisters living across the European continent. We may well have left the EU, but we are still a part of Europe and these ties are most precious.

With travel restrictions as they remain throughout the continent, the event was hosted online this year with a somewhat reduced programme over the five days. Paul Brazle of Antwerp did a splendid job of putting together a workable schedule

enabling a number of speakers each day, on a variety of subjects.

Even though there was nothing like the same atmosphere and opportunities for interaction and excursions – to say nothing of opportunities to serve one

another throughout the week – it was delightful to be together in a virtual fashion online, and to see so many familiar faces. A number of new faces were introduced to the event, so maybe next year, back at Gemünden, we might look forward to an even bigger reunion.

Evening Lectures Online

We mentioned last time conducting the first of our Evening Lectures Online on: “The Bible in the British Museum” – an event which we reran in February due to the large numbers wanting to attend. We are now looking forward to the second of these events which we plan to present towards the end of March – again online.

This time Jon Galloway will be presenting an illustrated lecture on: “Fossils and the Biblical Record” on Saturday, 20th March. Fossils are a tangible link to the history of the earth. But how do they fit within the Biblical record? Why do we have fossils? How are they formed? And what mechanism could there be within the pages of Scripture that could account for their existence? You can find full details on our website, along with the link to access the session.

Do please follow us on social media and take a look at our website to see if there are any ways in which we might be of service to you at this time. We are so very thankful for all who continue to support the work we are doing – both in prayer and through regular donations.

May God bless us all in his service,

Patrick Boyns

britishbibleschool.com

Fossils and the Biblical Record

British Bible School
Evening Lectures Online

Saturday, 20th March 2021 at
7.30 pm

All are welcome

Presenter: Jon Galloway

Hosted by the British Bible School



AROUND THE WORLD

PAKISTAN

We received photos of some of the recent immersions in Pakistan by Naeem Sabir. We pray God's blessing on his continued work for the Lord.



Recently after fasting, praying for the Christians in the UK, and worship they enjoyed a lunch together.



WORLD CHURCH FAMILY NIGHT

'The church is a wonderful family', was the conclusion of a zoom meeting attended by members of Churches of Christ across the world. Organised by

Roy Graneau from the South Edmonton congregation in Canada reports were given from the Caribbean, South America, North America, India, Europe, Canada, Africa and the UK. Starting at 1.00 am UK time on Saturday, 9th January, Christians met for over three hours telling what is going on in their various parts of the world. The enterprise was far too big to give many details about the size or progress of the congregations but it gave a flavour of what is happening in various places. It was not meant to be a population count but a look into the growth or not of the gospel.

Those churches generally known as Churches of Christ have no headquarters but we love to know how our brothers and sisters in Christ are doing and through the medium of the *Christian Worker* we endeavour to promote that feeling and knowledge. In the UK there are approximately 80 congregations with about 2,500 Christians. Some of the congregations are thriving while others are hanging on by a thread. This is a similar case among assemblies in Europe. The wealthier nations are not open to the gospel of Jesus; the fields do not seem "white unto harvest". There are faithful men and women who love the Lord and are endeavouring to be faithful to simple New Testament Christianity and through their love the story of salvation will still go out.

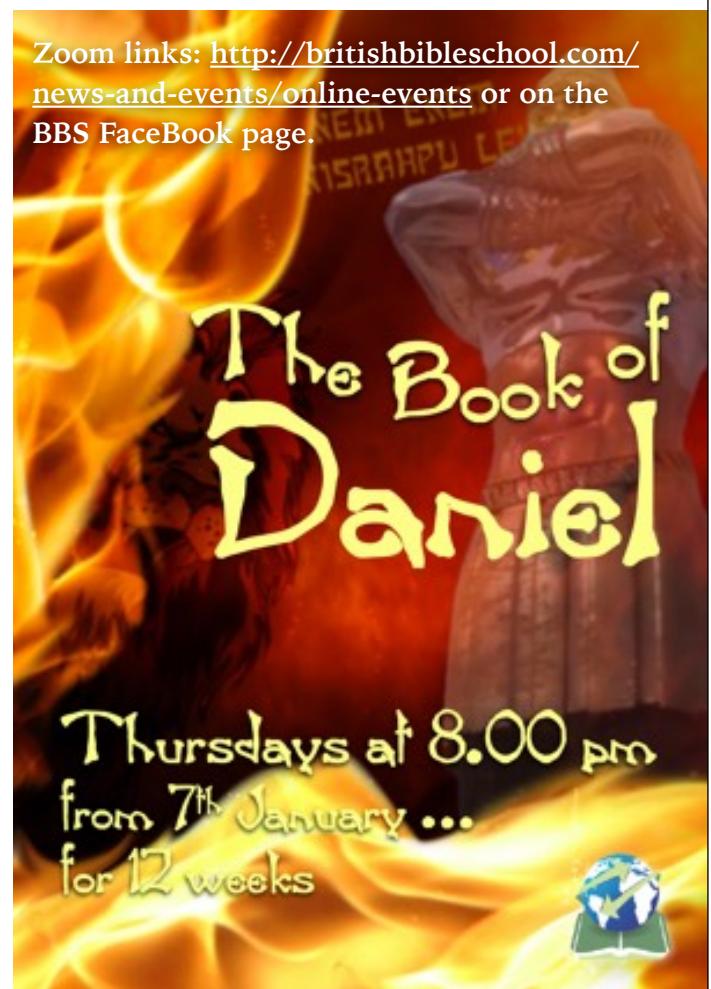
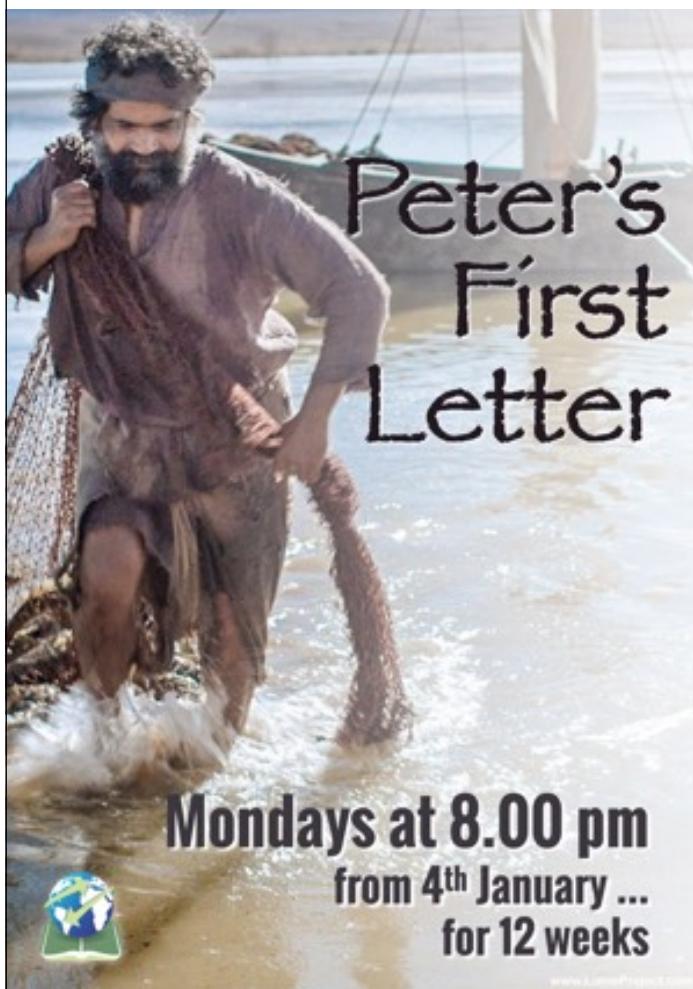
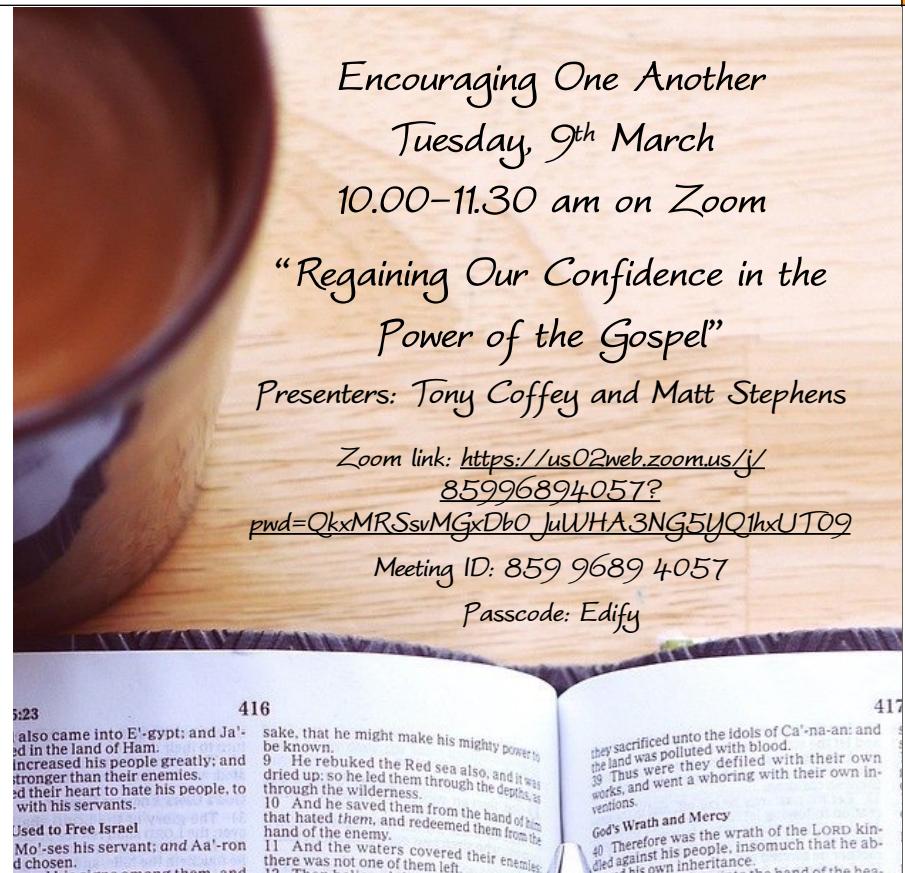
One of the places that amazed me most of all was the report from the Caribbean. I had never thought about how many churches we are in fellowship with in so many islands but we were told that there are approximately 600 congregations with over 27,000 Christians. The most surprising was Cuba with 200 churches

AROUND THE WORLD

and 6,000 Christians. Many of us will remember when Cuba was dominated by communism and its teaching and was very much a no go area.

There are many places to evangelise and many are working hard for the Lord. We must all do our part to encourage others and help with prayer and finance where ever possible. Good things are happening because the Holy Spirit of Jesus is still working in the hearts of many peoples. If there is anyone who would like to know more about the meeting or the contacts we made please do email me.

Trevor Williams





DIARY

March

1st-22nd – British Bible School:

Evening Online Class – “1 Peter” 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>).

4th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “V” is for ‘Vigilance’” (Nehemiah 6), presenter: Mark Hill, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

4th-25th – British Bible School:

Evening Online Class – “Daniel” taught by Jon Galloway, each Thursday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

6th-7th – Great Barr: Bible Seminar – “Love and Forgiveness”, teacher: Patrick Boyns. Saturday: 10.30 am-4.00 pm; Sunday 11.00 am-1.15. Zoom Meeting ID: 879 9050 1513; Passcode: 484 833. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com).

11th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “The People and the Book” (Nehemiah 7), presenter: Jack Paton, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

18th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “Amazing Grace!” (Nehemiah 9), presenter: Michael Gaunt, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

19th – Liverpool: Evening of Songs – “Psalm 34:1”, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

20th – British Bible School: Evening Lectures Online – “Fossils and the Biblical Record” presented by Jon Galloway, 7.30 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events/evening-lectures-online>).

25th – Cumbernauld: Winter Words – “After we say ‘Amen’” (Nehemiah 10), presenter: Alex Gear, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

27th – Liverpool: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), presenter: Mark Hill, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

29th-14th June – British Bible School: Evening Online Class – “Mark” (taught by Mark Hill) or “Malachi” (taught by Mike Glover), each Monday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details ([http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events](http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events)).

The advertisement features a logo of three stylized human figures in blue, green, and yellow forming a circle. The text "Church of Christ Leicester" and "Presents:" are in bold black. Below this is the title "Men's Spiritual Leadership Series 2021" in a large, elegant script font. In the center is a photograph of a compass rose on a map, with a keychain and a small yellow sticky note overlaid. The sticky note contains the following information:
Each Thursday evening,
beginning February 4th
8pm-9pm
Zoom ID: 840 6781 5690
Password: Lead2021
Join us on Zoom!

DIARY

April

1st – **Cumbernauld**: Winter Words – “The shout heard ‘round the world!” (Nehemiah 11-12), presenter: Jon Galloway, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

1st-17th June – **British Bible School**: Evening Online Class – “Mark” (taught by Mark Hill) or “Malachi” (taught by Mike Glover), each Thursday at 8.00 pm. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events>).

8th – **Cumbernauld**: Winter Words – “Standing by our promises” (Nehemiah 13), presenter: Ian Starrs, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 7328 3069; Passcode: Nehemiah or <https://www.facebook.com/CumbernauldChurchOfChrist>. Contact: Graham McDonald (graham@gmcd.net).

24th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speakers: Peter Bain, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

27th – **British Bible School**: New Online Extension Programme term – “Parables”. Enrolment required. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/biblical-studies/online-extension-programme>).

May

22nd – **British Bible School**: Evening Lectures Online. Please see British Bible School website for details (<http://britishbibleschool.com/news-and-events/online-events/evening-lectures-online>).

29th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Graeme Morrison, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

June

11th – **Liverpool**: Evening of Songs – “Psalm 34:1”, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

19th – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Graham MacDonald, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

26th – **Liverpool**: All Day Fellowship – “Make Your Calling and Election Sure” (2 Peter 1:10), 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Three lessons, songs, quiz, congregation updates. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891 262910 or cyankiah@hotmail.com).

July

31st – **Edmonton (London)**: Singles’

Enrichment Programme, 3.00-10.00 pm, ages 18 and over. Theme: “Crossing Over From Single Life to Married Life – Get it Right”. Venue: Zoom. Registration is required – contact: churchofchristedms@gmail.com, Lloyd Agyemang (07833 296396), John ‘Nana Akwasi’ Asiamah (07908 725427), or Yaw Duodu (07462 080692).

31st – **Liverpool**: Gospel Meeting – “Finding God” (Matthew 11:28-30), speaker: Tommy Stone, 7.00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID: 970 213 6444. Contact: Charles Yankiah (07891

Singles’ Enrichment Programme

- ▶ Date: 31 July 2021
- ▶ Venue: Edmonton Church of Christ on Zoom – contact to register and get details.
- ▶ Time: 3.00 pm-10.00 pm
- ▶ Target Group: 18 years or above. Those who will turn 18 before/on 31 July 2021 are also eligible to register.
- ▶ There will be speakers from two sets of couples: a younger couple and an older couple
- ▶ THEME: CROSSING OVER FROM SINGLE LIFE TO MARRIED LIFE - GET IT RIGHT
- ▶ REGISTRATION
 - ▶ All who are interested in attending the programme are required to register their interest. Registration and attendance are free. To register, contact one of the following:
 - ▶ Email: churchofchristedms@gmail.com
 - ▶ Lloyd Agyemang - 07833296396
 - ▶ John ‘Nana Akwasi’ Asiamah - 07908725427
 - ▶ Yaw Duodu - 07462080692
- ▶ Closing date for registration: 31 May 2021



THE FINAL WORD



New
beginnings

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation'. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Congregations have gone through a time when things were just not what we wanted them to be. Plans, events and just the normal things of life have been put on hold. But now there is a road map ahead we need to get ready. What does your church want to do most of all? Perhaps it may be just to see everyone again, or to have a good sing or to know we are safe and well. Are we planning to move forward or backward?

Are we ready? Are our buildings ready? Do our places of worship look clean and happy or musty and drab; if they were a restaurant would we want to eat there? If not, can we expect people to feed on the Word of God there?

Are we ready for worship? Do we expect the same pattern of service, with the same people doing the same things, saying the same things, in the same way? Many of our children zoom out of meetings that are always the same; many of our adults sleep during the lesson.



Why? Is it insufficient preparation by the preacher, is it insufficient prayer time by the church? Preachers need to make sure they are well prepared, do not give the people a lecture but show them the love of Jesus in your heart, so they may have it in theirs.

Are we ready for visitors? I expect you are praying for new people to visit your congregation. Does everyone look out for visitors or are they ignored? The most important people in our meetings are the visitors, they are our guests let them see Jesus.

If we are in Christ we are a new Creation but does Jesus want you in his Church? No doubt about it but we have to be able to let Jesus Re-create us. That means change. Some of our churches are sleepy hollows; they need to be alive with the Spirit of God. Sometimes it seems as if we left Jesus in the meeting place and get back in touch with him on Sunday mornings. Jesus is alive and wants to live in his people; He has a need to live in his people. The sacrifice on the cross was not for a comfortable social group

but for those who struggle daily, trying to understand the spiritual life. It is in the heart of mankind to seek a greater good and the love of God. Are you ready for the new beginnings?

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me,
Cast me not away from your presence O
Lord,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me,
Restore unto me, the joy of my salvation,
And renew a right spirit within me."*

Trevor