

November 2022 • Vol 54 No 11



**East
Kilbride
celebrates
50 years**

Two new Christians!

Ukraine update

**The Lindisfarne Gospels in
Newcastle**

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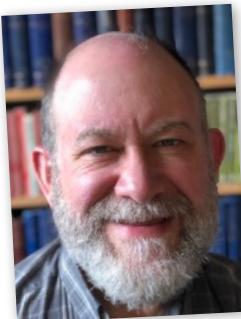
To receive *The Christian Worker Magazine* as a free pdf, send your e-address to jdgalloway@mac.com. Professionally printed copies are available at cost. Please contact Trevor for details – twilliams195@hotmail.co.uk.



Front cover and above: East Kilbride 50th Anniversary



MY PERSPECTIVE



We
have
been
busy!

Normality is good

It has been quite a number of months since I have needed to write something from 'my perspective'. It isn't that I had nothing say (if you know me, you know that isn't the case), but with congregations getting back to normal there have been so many events to report on. In fact, there was so much last month that I finally had to call a halt to adding anything that came in late due to a lack of space!

But isn't that a good problem to have? Christians organising events and getting together, advertising them in these pages, and then reporting on what happened. Plus the appeals that go out have been very successful and it has been good to hear about the good things that have gone on throughout the world.

I attended Royce Limb's funeral last week and saw so many people I had not seen for quite a while. The comment was made that despite the reason for getting together, it was good to be together! Even the reason was a good reason: to celebrate the life of a brother in Christ who had gone on to his reward (we hope to have an article on Royce in the near future).

I think one thing the lockdowns due to the pandemic caused us to realise is that we need each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Not being able to attend anything for so long has caused a longing in so many of us to spend time once again with our Christian family.

At East Kilbride we have had a number of events on during the past few months, all of which have been well attended. From outreach meetings to devotional evenings to our 50th Anniversary and even gatherings

for someone becoming a Christian, it has been good to get together with other Christians. At all of these people seem to stay and stay. I get the impression that we have missed each other!

Even though we live a bit off the beaten track now, we have people coming to visit each week, often staying over. And its good to have people around once again.

When we read what the first Christians were devoted to, we find being with each other was important.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42,46-47 NIV)

Yes, they were concerned about Bible study, prayer, and remembering Jesus, but among all of that was *fellowship*. Being together and sharing their lives. And notice that initially they were together everyday, both in the temple courts and in each other's homes.

Did you notice the result of all of this? People were being added to their number *daily*! I don't think that is a coincidence. If people see that we not only care about God's word but that we also care about each other, they are going to want to be part of that.

Let's restore the enjoyment of time spent together as Christians.

Jon



CONGRATULATIONS!

More Rejoicing in Northampton!

It is with great joy we can let you know about two souls added to the Kingdom. On Saturday, 1st October, **Debo** and **Azarat Abegunde** put on Christ in baptism!

Having come along as visitors for a while they came to the conclusion that only Jesus could take away their sin. We welcome them into our family.

Mark Hill



Ukraine Update

Through the generosity of our brothers and sisters in the UK, we have now been able to bring 34 people to join us here and we hope they will each be blessed. Thank you to everyone who is hosting – your generosity is praiseworthy.

The CW fund continues to help Ukrainians in need through individuals and congregations. One Christian family in Ukraine has been bombed out of their home twice; the first time in the initial invasion a few years ago and again recently. They are now in Poland and have been helped by the brethren there. We recently sent £1,000 to help set up their home once again. What a blessing we could help and their thankfulness is beyond words.

Please pray for peace.

We also have some extra copies of the New testament in the Ukrainian language. Please let me know if you would like a copy and these can be sent to you.

We continue to have requests for hosts to house Ukrainian refugees. With the latest onslaught there are still families who want to escape. Please let me know if you are able to help ASAP.

Trevor Williams



East Kilbride celebrates fifty years

It was in 1972 that a group of Christians began to meet in the Scottish new town of East Kilbride. Fifty years later the congregation continues to try to reach those living in this town of 75,000 people with the good news of Jesus.

Fifty years of existence is not something to take lightly. How many congregations in recent years have started only to close several years later? But how to best mark this milestone?

Rather than applauding men the congregation decided that the best way to celebrate this day was to praise the one who has blessed us all these years. We, therefore, planned a day of praising God through singing and through proclaiming his word. This was reflected in the theme “Going Forward With God”. We have only reached here by God’s grace and we will only be able to move into the future if God is with us.

The decision was made to develop a programme of lessons that are vital to every generation of Christians. In 1947 the congregation at Argyle Street in Hindley used these four lessons as a gospel meeting during their Bible School – they were brought by Andrew Gardiner, Frank Worgan,

Tom Kemp, and Albert Winstanley. These were published in a book: *Forward! Back to Jerusalem*. In 1991 similar lessons were delivered by Joe Nisbet, Albert Winstanley, Frank Worgan, and Philip Partington. These were published in a book entitled *Important Bible Themes*.

The date was set for 1st October (we hoped that all restrictions due to the pandemic would be gone by this time). The congregation worked together to organise the day, making sure there was sufficient food for all who attended, ensuring that our building was clean and tidy with sufficient seating, putting the programme together, and setting out the tables. There were over one hundred who attended on the day from at least fourteen different congregations.

Ian Starrs began our day of study and celebration with a lesson on “God”. He was followed by John Mooney speaking on “God the Son”. In the afternoon Patrick Boyns directed our thoughts on “The People of God” and Mark Hill concluded the day looking at “The Word of God”. These are important Bible themes that are important to our faith as Christians – we need periodic reminders. We are planning to put together an e-publication of these lessons.



Ian Starrs

The two evangelists at East Kilbride, Jon Galloway and Alex Gear, both spoke briefly at the beginning of each half of the day. Jon spoke about the plan for the day while Alex talked about the merger of East Kilbride and West Mains last year.

We were also blessed to have *Solus* with us for the day. They presented programmes of spiritual songs, being the first time they had sung in public for several years. They also sang for the 25th anniversary of the congregation.

Being able to take a day out of our busy schedules to concentrate on God's word and fellowship with Christians is a blessing that we can all too easily take for granted. For many, this was the first time they had

been with Christians from other areas in many years. The only complaint I heard was that the lessons weren't long enough!

It was Gordon Shields and Jack Strachan, along with their families, who moved into East Kilbride and began worshipping God and reaching out to those who lived here. Initially they met in homes and later they were able to use Blacklaw Primary School. A building was constructed and opened in the late 1970s. Many became Christians during those years.

There have been many good Christians who have worked with the congregation in East Kilbride, and we are thankful for



Mark Hill

all they have done in faithfully proclaiming God's word.

May we all continue to uphold God's word as we live our lives for him, as we reach out into our communities with the good news of Jesus, and as God continues to give the increase to our local groups of Christians. As much as we often remember one or two people who have been involved in a congregation, we realise it takes all of us working together, with God's blessing, for a group of Christians to thrive.

May God bless our efforts to reach out to those around us!



John Mooney

Jon Galloway

November 2022



BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

As this publication is being distributed, we will be beginning our Autumn Study Week at Bassenfell Manor in the northern Lake District. Classes don't actually commence until tomorrow (Tuesday, 1st November) morning, so technically you could still come and join us! We're looking forward to having a slightly larger class than last year and to exploring the beauty of the Gospel of John.

And speaking of Bassenfell Manor, our Mid-Winter Family Weekend Retreat will be taking place there from Friday, 13th to Sunday, 15th January 2023. Bookings will be opening soon, so please keep

your eyes open for updates and get your names in as soon as you can.

Our Autumn Family Retreat at Letton Hall was a joy to behold! It was our largest event of its kind to date with a total attendance of 77 aged from 0 to somewhere possibly in excess of 77! Each year these events become more like 'family reunions' – delightful times to reconnect whilst always welcoming newcomers into the family.

And as I write, we have just concluded the first Study Weekend which we have held in over two years – since the beginning of the imposed restrictions. We spent a splendid weekend in East Kilbride, looking at the first part of the Old Testament book of Judges. We will be back there at the end of November, Lord willing, to conclude this module, and we look forward to seeing any who are able to join us.

We continue to host our weekly Online Bible Classes and air our regular weekly 'Something to think about' on YouTube. As time goes by our YouTube channel is slowly filling up not only with our weekly thoughts, but also with recordings from a number of our online sessions.

We are thankful to all who continue to support this work in any way, and certainly encourage others to come on board as they might be able. May God bless you, and may we be found to be useful in his service so that Christ might continue to work through us to bring salvation to those lost in this life today.

Patrick Boyns
britishbibleschool.com

Learning by the Lake

Mid-Winter Family Weekend Retreat

Friday, 13th to Sunday, 15th January 2023
at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District

www.britishbibleschool.com



FAMILY NEWS

ILKESTON

24th September saw our little chapel packed out with Christians and friends holding a coffee morning on behalf of MacMillan nurses. £260 was raised as a ‘thank you’ for their invaluable work.

Trevor Williams



Coffee morning in Ilkeston

BIRMINGHAM: PERRY BARR

A new congregation has been started at Perry Barr, Birmingham. If you are visiting our area, please come by and meet us.

Nana Manu Frimpong

CHRISTIAN VISION WORKSHOP

Over 120 Christians from Churches of Christ met in Rome 4th-6th October in a beautiful time of fellowship. Many were from Albania and Romania and reports were shared about the problems congregations have encountered over the past several years due to Covid and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Christians came from Europe, Asia, the United States, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom.

We sang, we prayed, we read the scriptures and we talked. It was so thrilling to catch up with Christians we had met before and those we had heard

of, those we did not know and those whose language we could not speak but because of our joint love for Jesus we communicated and laughed together.

From our side of the world two went from Ireland, two from Scotland and two from England. The invitation had been given to so many more through the pages of the CW. Perhaps if this event happens again more will be willing to go. It was well worth the effort.

As many stayed over a few extra days to make a visit of the city of Rome, they met with the local congregation on Sunday morning. Their small but pleasant meeting place was packed and we all sang in Italian. They blessed us and we know we blessed them, reminding them of our world wide fellowship.

Trevor Williams

PERRY BARR CHURCH OF CHRIST

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EVERY SUNDAY 11:00 AM - 13:00 PM

BUSES COMING TO PERRY BARR:

51,7,52,11C,11A,33,907



*ROMANS 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
The churches of Christ greet you.*

**CONTACT NUMBERS: 07482006001,
07428827872, 0730802701**

Family News

British Bible Camp 2022



78 campers aged 8 to 18 from across the UK attended our second year of British Bible Camp at the Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre, near Gloucester, back in August. The on-site activities run by the site were orienteering and the climbing wall, which tied in with this year's theme of 'Finding the Way'.

The week was yet again jam packed with beautiful singing, insightful classes, lively activities and of course delicious food.

We had use of the local church which adjoined the main site for our assemblies, which featured "Nora the Explorer", along with her "Backpack" and "Map", to guide us through the theme all week. Not forgetting "Swiper", whose character was played by the Camp Director! The stunning church gave wonderful acoustics for our campfire time too, since we weren't allowed campfires due to the extremely dry weather conditions.



Some of the fun games that were played included 'man hunt' and 'capture the flag', there was even fights with socks filled with flour as well as a massive water fight!

The main reason for camp is obviously to have plenty of opportunities to learn from and study the Bible, get closer to God and grow deeper in the Christian faith. The counsellors and teaching staff delivered high quality lessons throughout the week, and many of the campers were even able to confidently recite the memory verse by the end of the week (Proverbs 4:26-27).

As well as getting closer to God, some wonderful friendships were made during the week, and many people were also reunited with old friends who they hadn't seen for a long time.

We hope to see both old and new faces joining us for British Bible Camp 2023, which will be "Epic: the greatest fish story ever told", based on the story of Jonah.

Details for 2023, including price will be released soon. For any further information about British Bible Camp please contact Jason on 07795560990.

Lydia David (on behalf of the British Bible Camp)



Proverbs 4:26-27 (ESV)

**Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.
Do not swerve to the right or to the left, turn your foot away from evil.**

It is time to update our directory!

It has been called to our attention that our directory is out-of-date, with congregations no longer meeting (and not letting us know). Many who are listed as contacts have outdated e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

We try our best to keep our online directory up to date. Could someone in each congregation please check your entry in the online edition and e-mail us any corrections? The online directory is located at:

www.churchesofchrist.co.uk

Many thanks!

Trevor & Jon

churchesofchrist.co.uk

Churches of Christ

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Overseas Mission Visitors Cont: Church Directory

- Churches of Christ in England
- Churches of Christ in Northern Ireland
- Churches of Christ in Scotland
- Churches of Christ in Wales
- Churches of Christ Republic of Ireland
- Others
- Register A New Church Profile
- Update An Existing Profile

Are you looking for a new church family to learn and worship with?
would love to know more about you and your family.
Join us this Sunday for worship!
We have thousands of congregations worldwide for your convenience.
If you are in the UK or Ireland, click on church directories to find a church near you.
The churches of Christ welcome you.

This is the official page for the Christian Worker magazine published by congregations of Christ in the UK.
Editors are Trevor Williams and Jon Galloway. Web designer: Emmanuel Uwujare.



UKRAINE UPDATE

We are doing well in spite of the war. Our work with orphans is slowly returning to normal. One of the orphanages where we helped rebuild the bomb shelter is already housing children again. So far there are not many children there, only 45 (previously there were between 120 and 250 children). So I have started visiting there again to talk, play and preach God's Word. I visit three times a week and work with three different age groups.

The refugees from eastern Ukraine are starting to feel at home here – many have found jobs and have found schools for their children. It is nice that these people have started to wonder how they can be useful to us and how they can help.

Since the beginning of the war, we stopped running the service offline and ran it online. And since the beginning of September we have resumed meeting live with people in our area. In mid-October I plan to begin a youth ministry at our local congregation to meet more young people from our neighbourhood.

About our needs. A projector and one of the printers at the orphanage burned

out. The projector is used for the children to watch films, video lessons, etc. There are a total of three printers in this boarding school. So they are asking for help to buy a projector and one printer. Also, each visit I spend about 1200 UAH (£1 = 38 UAH) on food for the children (tea, sandwiches, sweets). I plan to buy a table-tennis table for our church facility – this will be handy for playing with the youth as well as sitting at it together and having a class. Clothes and shoes have been provided for the children so far. We would be happy to accept any help as possible.

We all want peace and desire a quiet and measured life. And we are sure that we are getting closer to it every day. I trust God and believe he is in control!

The children who left Ukraine are still in Germany. They will be returned only after the government declares peace plus one month of silence. But children from other regions come to Kyiv – Dnipro region, Sumy region, Kherson region.

Because of missiles and drones, all of Ukraine is unsafe...so children will be here in Kyiv for now. As I wrote in the report earlier, the children have a bomb shelter where they are staying for when there is shelling. I don't know if you can call it safe, but it's better than no shelter. This orphanage not in the city but on the outskirts of the city in the forest, so I hope it's a more safe place.

Thank you very much for the funds sent and we thank all the brothers and sisters who are involved in the lives of Ukrainian orphans. Thank you for your care, prayers and support.

Ivan Prokopochuk





APPEALS & UPDATES

AFRICA MEDICAL PROJECT

I received this email from the son of a patient who has benefited from a defibrillator implant during my recent trip to Nigeria. God be praised!

Julius Donkor

Department of Fisheries,
University of Port Harcourt,
Rivers State, Nigeria
12th September, 2022

Church of Christ, United Kingdom.

Through,

Brother Julius Donkor.

Church of Christ, United Kingdom.

Sir.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I am super excited to write and appreciate all the members of the Church of Christ in the UK for the free pacemaker given to my mother to resolve her low heart beat challenge.

My mother, madam Chidinma Naa had a low heart beat rate of as low as 32 to 35 beat per minute and this destabilised her stability. As we rushed her to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Rivers State Nigeria, Dr. Edafe, the cardiac medical personnel in charge informed me of the Church of Christ Charity organisation from the UK. He introduced me to Brother Julius Donkor who took time to brief me on the benefits of the facility (pace maker). Indeed I was super excited and eventually a surgery was successfully carried out on my mother which raised her heart rate to between 50 and 52 beat per minute. This has stabilised my mother's health status since then and as such we her children are all grateful to God for this free donation that saved my mother's life.

This indeed is the Lord's doing in that presently, as a lecturer in Nigeria, the Federal Government of Nigeria is using the weapon of hunger to punish us in that we have been on strike without salaries for the past six months now due to the poor funding of University Education in Nigeria. So, if not for this free donation, my mother would have passed on and as such again we say thank you and God bless every member of the church of Christ in the UK in Jesus' name. Amen.

Best Regards,

Dr. Barikpoa Uedeme Naa

Lecturer, University of Port Harcourt

+234 8037781164 (barikpoa.uedeme-naa@uniport.edu.ng)



THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

From 17th September until 3rd December, the Lindisfarne Gospels are on loan from the British Library to the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Lindisfarne Gospels contain the four gospel accounts of Jesus and were created in 700 AD at Lindisfarne Priory on Holy Island, off the Northumberland coastline. They were written in Latin, as most religious texts were in those days. The presence here in the northeast of England is therefore a rare treat.

I visited this exhibition, arriving when the art gallery opened.

The first room was what they called “an immersive digital experience” – basically a film about the legends of Cuthbert and a reference to the Viking raid on Holy Island in the tenth century.

Near the beginning of the exhibition, was a time line of early Christianity, as they see it, from AD 400 to 700. *It was good to see that they were using AD, instead of the politically correct CE.*



This main part of the exhibition was what they say: “*a stunning selection of early medieval treasures brought together from across Britain, representing both personal and collective religious experiences in the 8th century.*” A number of these treasures consisted of stone crosses as well as the gospels themselves and other books. Each treasure was explained with a description. There was also information about what these gospels were, as well as the man who

wrote and illustrated them: Eadfrith, a monk and Bishop of Lindisfarne. It took him ten years to complete the work.

The next section was described as “A selection of paintings, drawings and photographs will further explore how art and spirituality have developed in the centuries since the Lindisfarne Gospels were created.”

By contrast with the first part of the exhibition, this room was brightly lit and not in semi-darkness (I assume the lack of light was to protect the books and other artefacts). One of the works was created during the pandemic, showing that even today people yearn for spirituality, if only they would look for it in the right place.

All in all, it was an interesting window into the local past of North East England and what was practiced as Christianity then. If you are in Newcastle whilst this exhibition it is on, it is worth a visit, as well as a wander around the rest of the Laing Art Gallery.

One reflection I have: some petition for a permanent return of these gospels to this area, but how many of these petitioners take time out to read more accessible copies of the gospels or other parts of the Old and New Testaments, in Bibles available from bookshops, Amazon, or just the text from online Bibles?

The Exhibition continues until 3rd December – you are advised to book a time slot online. Alongside the Laing exhibition, there will be a supporting exhibition at neighbouring Newcastle City Library.

Graeme Stickings



ARE 'MEN'S MEETINGS' SCRIPTURAL?

For many years 'men's meetings' to discuss the work and plans of a local group of Christians have been used in many congregations, in many ways operating as the authoritative voice within the assembly. The question has to be asked are these meetings scriptural?

It is very true that we would acknowledge the leadership of Elders whose godly position is to pastor the flock of God and teach the scriptures. Their function is not how to care for buildings but for the spiritual welfare of the individual Christians under their care in the congregation. As many assemblies do not have appointed leaders the idea of the brothers gathering together to discuss a whole range of plans and ideas has arisen to the exclusion of the sisters. We have to ask ourselves, does this coincide with the thinking of the Bible?

Because someone is male does not mean they have some superior position among God's people – if anything they should develop the servant attitude more.

Within congregations we find an abundance of sisters who are Biblically knowledgeable, are faithful in all things and are generous in time and personal finance. But they are excluded from being involved in planning the direction of the congregation.

We must ask ourselves: is it right for an inexperienced male to be able to offer his thoughts in a meeting and a long time sister unable to offer her thoughts? Paul writes to the Romans (16:1-2) '*I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant (literal translation = deaconess) of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.*'

It is far better to have a congregational meeting when both brothers and sisters can share together in the development and growth of the assembly.

Trevor Williams





DIARY

November

1st-4th November – British Bible School

Autumn Study Week at Bassenfell

Manor: “Gospel of John”. Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Steve Whitehead.

5th November – East Kilbride:

Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Song leader: Jim Murray; Devotional thought: David McCready. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

25th-26th – East Kilbride: British Bible School Study Weekend: “Settlement of Canaan – a study of the books of Judges and Ruth”; teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Jack Paton. All day Saturday and Sunday class and worship. For details see our Facebook page or website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

December

3rd December – East Kilbride:

Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Song leader: Edwin Offin; Devotional thought: John Welsh. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

10th – Great Barr (Birmingham): “Evening of Prayer and Praise” on Zoom, 7.00 pm. Zoom ID: 879 9050 1513; password: 484833. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com)

January 2023

10th – Great Barr (Birmingham): “Evening of Prayer and Praise” on Zoom, 7.00 pm. Zoom ID: 879 9050 1513; password: 484833. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com)

20th-22nd January – British Bible School Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor. Register at our website soon: www.britishbibleschool.com.

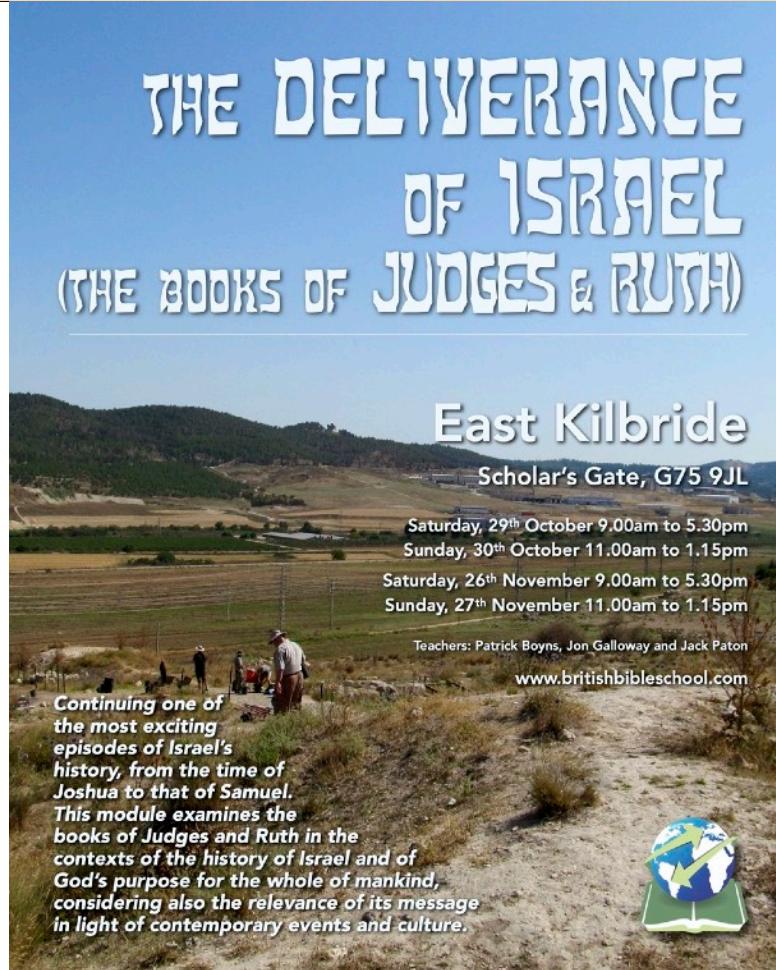
21st January – East Kilbride: Devotional Evening, 7.00 pm. Song leader: Alan Moyes; Devotional thought: Ian Starrs. Contact: christianwoman@btinternet.com.

February

10th – Great Barr (Birmingham): “Evening of Prayer and Praise” on Zoom, 7.00 pm. Zoom ID: 879 9050 1513; password: 484833. Contact: Sola Adeosun (sola.adeosun@gmail.com)

March

25th – Brandon: Ladies’ Day. Contact: Rachael Sandison (rachael_sandison@hotmail.co.uk).



The poster features a blue header with the title "THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL (THE BOOKS OF JUDGES & RUTH)" in white, serif capital letters. Below the title is a photograph of a landscape with rolling hills and fields under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, several people are gathered near a small structure labeled "Scholar's Gate". To the right of the photo, the text "East Kilbride" is written in large, bold, white letters, followed by the address "Scholar's Gate, G75 9JL". Below this are four lines of event details: "Saturday, 29th October 9.00am to 5.30pm", "Sunday, 30th October 11.00am to 1.15pm", "Saturday, 26th November 9.00am to 5.30pm", and "Sunday, 27th November 11.00am to 1.15pm". Further down, it says "Teachers: Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway and Jack Paton" and the website "www.britishbibleschool.com". A small globe icon is in the bottom right corner. A green box on the left contains the following text:
Continuing one of the most exciting episodes of Israel's history, from the time of Joshua to that of Samuel. This module examines the books of Judges and Ruth in the contexts of the history of Israel and of God's purpose for the whole of mankind, considering also the relevance of its message in light of contemporary events and culture.



THE FINAL WORD



Who is this?

Pauline and I have safely arrived in Perth, Australia, to make an extended visit to see our two older sons and their families. In the midst of political turmoil, here, there and in a variety of other places around the world our oldest grandson was anxious for us to see one of the Aussie gaffs. At the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth the local commentator had been telling who everyone was as they entered Westminster Abbey. Without anyone else around, and guarded by police vehicles, one lady stepped out of a large car along with a man and she walked in a determined way towards the doors. The commentator did not know who she was and suggested she was some sort of minor royal only to add later that it was the then British Prime Minister. No one over here recognised her.

Now it is not up to me to make political comments – I am quite sure our readers are more than capable of doing that –

but I have found the past couple of months to be very sad for the United Kingdom and would encourage our brothers and sisters to mention by name our King and new Prime Minister in prayer. If we do not pray then we cannot see the answer to our prayers.



One of the thrills of being a Christian is to know who we are. The apostle Peter tells us that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people belonging to God (1 Peter 2:9). We do not need to have commentators wonder who we are: our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. In addition to this, we are also royalty and priests of God. We need no crown or fancy robe to identify us for we are marked with the blood of the Lamb of God. We have been washed in Christ, sanctified and justified in his name and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

God can take the poorest of the poor and change them into the richest of people, sometimes with physical wealth but always with the riches of his unfailing and unending grace. He can make the unloved the centre of a loving family. He lifts up the fallen and makes strong the weak. He can wake the sleepy and give the heart of a lion to the frightened.

When we walk through the gates of Heaven to the reception into glory, no one will say, 'who is this?' No one can suggest that we are minor royals. They will call us, for we are known by title and by name. We shall walk with the mighty into the arms of The Almighty.

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord God. You have raised us up to be your people; you have made us what we are. Hold us tight with loving arms, speak tenderly to our ears and reassure our hearts. We honour you and we love you. Amen

Trevor