

March 2025 • Vol 57 No 3

PRAYER

Cumbernauld Men's Day



CONTENTS

- 3 CONGRATULATIONS
 - Three new Christians in Northampton
- 4 CUMBERNAULD MEN'S DAY 2025
 - An exploration of 'together'
- 6 BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES
 - Where is the evidence?
- 7 AT REST
 - Sheila Moyes (Kirkcaldy)
- 8 FAMILY NEWS
 - New meeting place for Great Barr
 - Shepshed Youth Day
 - New congregation in Southampton
- 9 AROUND THE WORLD
 - Update from Malawi
 - Opportunity in Wiesbaden (Germany)
 - Philippine accident update
 - Poland looking for short-term workers
- 11 DIARY OF EVENTS
- 12 THE FINAL WORD
 - The perfection of love



EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION

The Christian Worker Magazine is published monthly as a news magazine for Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom. The first issue was published in January 1969.

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

5 Aklins Lane, Netherburn, Larkhall ML9 3FH

Treasurer: Jenny Sparks

Website:

Header Design: Kevin Nicholson

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianworkeruk

Previous Editors: Albert E. Winstanley (1969-1973; 1980-1987); Robert C. Eckman (1973-1980); Graham A. Fisher (1987-2014)

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

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



Front cover and above: Cumbernauld Men's Day

CONGRATULATIONS!



Jayden, Alisha and Scovia

New Christians in Northampton!

After befriending their neighbours, Greg and Debbie Contell have been engaged in discussions and studies with the family. Already having a strong faith in Jesus, they came to the conclusion that they needed to obey all of the gospel and so were baptised on Sunday, 23rd February.

We welcome the family of **Scovia**, her son **Jayden**, and daughter **Alisha** into God's family here in Northampton

Mark Hill

Liverpool Young Adult Fellowship Weekend
Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th April 2025
Arrival Saturday 5th 10:00am-10:30am

**Influencer or Follower?
Which ONE are you?**

Ages: 18+



Address: Liverpool Church of Christ, Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QH
RSVP to Bro. Rexford by email on rboahen@outlook.com or through Eventbrite link

Wembley Church of Christ Ladies' Day

**Women of the Bible:
Our True Influencers**

Saturday 10th May 2025

10am-3pm

92 Barnhill Road

HA9 9BS

RSVP: Anne Airebamen-07415135166





Cumbernauld Men's Day

Hebreews 13 says “Let brotherly love continue” and once again Cumbernauld Men’s Day 2025 delivered in that. It was an enriching and uplifting day with brothers of all ages from all over the country coming together once again to sing praises to our God, hear from his word and to lift each other up in brotherly fellowship – a day where our souls and bodies were truly fed!

There were over 40 men present rekindling old bonds, strengthening current ones, and forming new relationships. The theme for this year was “Together” with the passage of the day being Acts 2:42, from which we had four speakers to give us fantastic lessons.

The day started off as always with the feeding of the body with delicious crispy bacon rolls and a cup of coffee or tea. Then it was time to feed the spirit. We were led in song by Adam Barr and with one voice praised our God in song.

Our first lesson of the day was by Charles Takyi from the Cumbernauld congregation. He taught us about being “Together in Doctrine”. His message was powerful and direct and set the bar high for the rest of the speakers. He conveyed

to us the importance of having the same doctrine taught irrespective of where we are in the world and emphasised how “important being together is to God.” His lesson was followed by our first break session of the day with tea, coffee, muffins, doughnuts, and a time of fellowship.

We then headed in for the next session where we were led in song by Edwin Offin and given a very uplifting and encouraging lesson titled “Together in Fellowship” from Mark Hill, an elder at the Northampton congregation. His message was





simple: “‘Church’ is now our culture”, emphasising the need for us to build each other up and to use our differences for the benefit of each other.

It was then lunchtime and the ladies from Cumbernauld did not disappoint, with a range of homemade soups, sandwiches and sausage rolls topped off with a wide array of desserts – our bodies were filled! Thank you so much to the efforts made by the ladies to make days like these a huge success.



In our next session we began with singing led by Charlie Clark – although young he led songs as if he had been leading for years. Our third speaker of the day was Graham McDonald from Cumbernauld, who had a great lesson standing in for Charles Yankiah who, due to a family emergency, couldn't be with us. Graham delivered an inspiring message titled “Together in Life & Worship” where he focused on the life we now have thanks to the sacrifice God made for us and how that should reflect in our worship of him because, as Graham put it, “We now have peace with God.”

We then had our final break of the day where the special home bakes and tray bakes came out for us to enjoy with another time of fellowship.

In our final session where we were led in song by Brian Buchanan and given a very powerful and



thought provoking lesson Leigh Halliday, from the congregation in Stirling, entitled “Together in Prayer.” His message to us emphasised the power of prayer and the importance of praying for each other. He left us with the final thought and question of the day “Does our ‘fellowship’ devote themselves to the prayers?”

What an great day this was. We're thankful for Graham McDonald in organising this day each year, to the Cumbernauld congregation for hosting the day, for the ladies who provided the food and served us, for the lessons presented by our speakers, for the men that led in songs and prayers, and for all who attended making this a day one to remember. It truly was a day where we let brotherly love shine!

Edwin Offin





BRITISH BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES

Where's the evidence?

We seem to be constantly bombarded with information seeking to undermine our faith in God and his word. I recently saw an article in which a person said they believed in Darwin's Theory of Evolution because of the evidence that backs it up. Really? The Bible seems to be constantly undermined as just being a product of people long ago trying to prove the importance of Israel or to justify worshipping the God of Israel.

The constant assault on God is undermining the faith of many Christians, including our young people. As Christians we need to be prepared to give an answer for what we believe (1 Peter 3:15-16).

Over two weekends in Northampton, and later in the year in East Kilbride, Jon Galloway and Mark Hill will be showing that the evidence actually backs the existence of God and Jesus and that the Bible is more than a product of men. During the first weekend (15th-16th March) time will be spent examining evidence for the existence of God and Jesus and the reliability of the

Bible. The second weekend (29th-30th March) will concentrate on Genesis 1-11 as well as what the Theory of Evolution says, showing that Scientific Evidence backs what the Bible says. This will be repeated in East Kilbride on 23rd-24th August and 6th-7th September. You would be most welcome to be a part of either of these weekends of study – we anticipate there being stimulating information and discussion that will build us up in our faith.

Other study weekends are also being planned for Aberdeen and Wembley on other Biblical topics and texts.

British Bible School Study Weekends are designed to give more in-depth study on Bible texts and relevant topics. Time is provided not only for teaching but also for discussion. Come along to a study weekend near you or contact us if you would like to host one at the congregation where you are.

Jon Galloway
britishbibleschool.com

Christian Apologetics

Examining evidence for God, Jesus and the Bible
Examining the Theory of Evolution in light of the Bible & Science

GENESIS

The beginning
1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
3 And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.' 6 Evening and morning, the first day.

Northampton

Shadowfax Drive NN3 8DB

Saturday, 15th March, 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday, 16th March, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Saturday, 29th March, 9.00am to 4.30pm

Sunday, 30th March, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Teachers: Jon Galloway & Mark Hill



A British Bible School Applied Biblical Studies Module

All are welcome to either or both weekends
For more information please visit our website or look for us on Facebook

Sheila Moyes 17th September 1933 - 24th January 2025 (Kirkcaldy)

Born at The Walk in Dysart to Walter & Margaret (Meg) McDonald, Sheila was the last of six children – five girls and one boy. Raised in a Christian family, Sheila was immersed for the forgiveness of her sins as a young woman at the Rose Street congregation in Kirkcaldy. Her *love* for the congregation was obvious through her years of service in various areas: Sunday School teacher; the women's meeting group where she also served as treasurer; and active in visiting.

When she left Viewforth High School she went straight to work at Allen Lithographers as a book binder. Later she worked in a record shop in Markinch as well as in various cleaning jobs.

Sheila first cast eyes on Ian Moyes when she was only 14 and it was *love* at first sight, but everyone said, “*To young!*” But five years later they married on 2nd March 1954 in Rose Street, Kirkcaldy. Her bridesmaid on that day was her life-long friend, Anne Brown. Ian and Sheila set up home in Markinch, then Massereene Road, Kirkcaldy, and finally Woodlands Walk, Dunnikier Park, Kirkcaldy. From there Sheila moved to the Barrogil House Care Home after having some falls.

Amid all this they were blessed with three children: Alan, Derek, and Diane and the rest of the clan whom she dearly *loved*. In addition to her three children there was their spouses: Ruth, Vivien & Wayne; her grandchildren Yvette, Aaron, Euan and Kerin; and their spouses: David, Lauren,



Emily and Ryan; and her great-grandchildren: Finlay, Alfie, Scarlet; Florence, Noah; Amelie, Hallie; Harrison and Marley. Family was core for Sheila.

Sheila spent over three years at Barrogil House Care Home who did a great job looking after her. A quote from some of the staff at Barrogil – “I wish we had forty Sheila’s”. When Sheila was being taken out of Barrogil by the funeral director all the staff formed an ‘Honour Guard’ along the passageway right to the front door – amazing!

The service at the crematorium was led by Ian Starrs and was well attended and “The Dash Poem” was read by her granddaughter Yvette O’Neil. Another poem in the hymn sheet contained this line “What matters is how we live and love.” The recurring word about mum was “LOVED”.

She *loved* good food; she *loved* family caravan holidays; she *loved* to talk to people when out; she *loved* to visit people or have people in her home; she *loved* singing; she *loved* knitting; she *loved* shopping; she *loved* her

An Opportunity to Explore the Meaning of Life

wee sayings. When you have love and kindness – from a mother, a gran, a great-gran, or friend –and that person is no longer, there it's hard.

Jesus' first disciples experienced that sad feeling, too, when Jesus told them he was leaving this world and about to die – not peacefully, but on the cross as a sacrifice for their (and our) sins. John's Gospel records Jesus saying to them: "sorrow has filled your hearts" (John 16:6) because he is going, and they couldn't follow at that time. But Jesus also said to them: "Let not your hearts be troubled..." (John 14:1). And then, "...you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22).

What Jesus was leaving them with hope and joy. Where they were troubled and had sorrowful hearts,

there was also joy because of hope in Jesus. This is not the common hope of chance happening, but the Biblical hope of confidence. He told them, "...I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:3). This is the hope, the confident expectation, of the disciple, the follower of Jesus (then and now). And that's Sheila.

But great as all of the things she loved in life may be, above all she had *love* for her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This was marked by her commitment to him at a young age and evidenced throughout her life. Now she has that joy in its fullness – and she would want that for everyone.

Alan Moyes



FAMILY NEWS

GREAT BARR

Our new meeting place is below:
Beacon Church Hall, Collingwood
Drive, Birmingham B43 7JL.

Our Sunday studies now start at 12.15 pm and worship starts at 1.15 pm.

SHEPSHED (LOUGHBOROUGH)

Sola Adeosun

On 8th February we held our Youth Day. Calum Hill (Loughborough) presented an excellent lesson on the "Parable of the Good Samaritan" (see photo on page 10).

Young people came from Bristol, Leicester, Loughborough, Northampton and from our own

congregation. The food was brilliant and we are thankful to those who prepared and served it.

We are grateful to Simon Hardy for arranging and organising the day. Thanks should also go to those adults who brought their young people from

SOUTHAMPTON

different congregations.

Stephen Woodcock

New congregation –

Attendance: 25 (including children)

Meeting place: St Marys Leisure Centre, 118A St Marys Road, Southampton SO14 0BL

Contact: Francis Asante

(Kyeremehasante24@gmail.com)

Trevor Williams



AROUND THE WORLD

MALAWI

We are almost one month old in the New Year (at the end of January) and as we reflect back and look forward what God has in store for us in this year, we are reminded of the need to remain faithful and in total submission to him. Last year God graciously blessed us through your prayers and support as many souls have been saved and the faith of the brethren has been rekindled due to numerous activities like gospel meetings, seminars, Sunday worship and youth retreats.



Prior to the youth meeting we had baptisms in local congregations where lost souls wanted to enter the New Year with

new life by accepting Jesus as their personal saviour. The youth were revived and it was interesting to see how happy they were to learn that they are leaders today, not tomorrow, as they have many roles to play. They were encouraged to put God first in everything they do – in education, marriage or entrepreneurship as God's people need to become self-reliant rather than asking for aid now and again. I joked with them that if they work hard they will reverse the trend as they may be able to be sending aid to Britain or America.

You know what problems and challenges we have in Malawi but your support and prayers makes us strong and faithful as God takes care of our needs through you but we also realise the need to work hard. We are now in a lean period as most Christians are engaged in farming despite the erratic rains. Keep us in prayers so that we may have good rain for a better crop yield. Many families have been hit hard by hunger but I encourage the Christians here that hard work for our families and the Lord's people will make our body and faith strong.

May God open more opportunities in this New Year that will allow us to continue to serve better.

Davison Ndhlovu



Around the World

GERMANY

The congregation (Gemeinde Christi) in Wiesbaden, Germany has an apartment in our church building, which is currently available. We would appreciate a Christian or a Christian couple to live there and to be part of our congregation. The apartment has two rooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Contact us for more details.

Monika Meyer
monikameyer55@googlemail.com

PHILIPPINES ACCIDENT UPDATE

Some of the Christians involved in the mini-bus accident in the Philippines are still needing medical care but they have the funds now to help out. A huge thank you too the British congregations for sending a total of £5,700 – I am always amazed at the generosity of the Christians in this country!

Trevor Williams

AN OPPORTUNITY IN POLAND

Christians in Poland are looking for singles and couples to help the congregations with teaching English. They have some accommodation that can be rented. There is a structured programme to follow but they need extra helpers for short-term mission work. Who will go?

Let me have your name and contact details and I will pass them along.

Trevor Williams

Loughborough Youth Day



Brandon Church of Christ
Ladies Day

Planting Your Spring Garden

Saturday 15th March 2025

10AM - 4:30PM

Brandon Church of Christ,
68 London Road, Brandon,
Suffolk, IP27 OEL

Contact & RSVP: Marie O'Donovan
marieodonovan2703@gmail.com
07545 119486

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
Newport Ladies Day

Faithful Hearts, Fearless Lives

Speakers: Ana Crowell and Annlea Pitts

What to Expect:

- Biblically based Lessons
- Songs of Praise
- Prayer with One Another
- Lunch and Teatime will be provided

Where:

Newport Church of Christ
Riverside & East Usk Road
Newport, Wales NP19 7AG

MAY 3 9:30AM-4:30PM

Please email how many people will be coming to:
np197ag@hotmail.com



DIARY

March

1st – **East Coast Gospel Meetings**: Kirkcaldy, 7.00 pm; speaker: Joe Scobbie. Contact: Alan Moyes (alan.J.Moyes@gmail.com).

3rd – **British Bible School** evening class: “Titus and 2 Timothy” led by John Griffiths each Monday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks on Zoom. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

6th – **British Bible School** evening class: “Isaiah” led by Patrick Boyns each Thursday, 8.00-9.00 pm, for twelve weeks on Zoom. Links to join the class can be found on the BBS social media and website: www.britishbibleschool.com.

15th – **Brandon**: Ladies’ day – “Planting Your Spring Garden”, 10.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact & RSVP: Marie O’Donovan (marieodonovan2703@gmail.com or 07545 119486).

15th-16th & 29th-30th – **Northampton**: British Bible School Study weekends. Module: Christian Evidences; teachers: Mark Hill and Jon Galloway. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com or marks@uwclub.net.

April

5th – **Kirkcaldy**: Social Day, 1.30 pm. Venue: Hayfield Road Community Centre, Hayfield Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 5DG. Contact: Allan Hughes (allan580@virginmedia.com). As the venue has limited numbers, there are no longer spaces available.

5th-6th – **Liverpool**: Young adult fellowship weekend – “Influenced or Influencer? – Which one are you?”, Ages 18+. Arrive 10.00-10.30 am on Saturday at 1 Picton Road, Waterloo, L22 8QH. RSVP to Rexford (rboahen@gmail.com) or use the link.

May

3rd – **Newport**: Ladies’ Day – “Faithful Hearts, Fearless Lives”, 9.30 am-4.00 pm; speakers: Ana Crowell and Annlea Pitts. Contact/RSPV: np197ag@hotmail.com.

10th – **Wembley (London)**: Ladies’ Day – “Women of the Bible: Our True Influencers”, 10.00 am-3.00 pm. Contact/RSPV: Anne Airebamen (07415 135166).

June

7th – **Northampton**: Youth Day. Contact: Mark Hill (marks@uwclub.net).

14th – **Thamesmead (London)**: Ladies’ Afternoon of Songs, 11.00 am-4.00 pm. Contact: Sarah Dod (the_dods@hotmail.com).

28th – **Bristol**: BibleFest – A day of Bible Quiz on the book of Acts, Fellowship, Activities, Prizes. All are welcome. Contact: Jason Snethen (07795560990).

July

4th-11th – **Camp Heatherbell**: Theme – “Transformed.” Cost = £185. Venue: Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee Lodge, Blairgowrie. Contact: Adam Barr (07889 631218), Graham McDonald (07748 787744), or email info@campheatherbell.org.uk for more information or to request an application.

12th – **Edmonton (London)**: Men’s Workshop. Contact: info@edmontonchurchofchrist.org.uk.

25th-27th – **Edmonton (London)**: European Youth Lectureship – “Remember the Creator in the Days of Your Youth”. Venue: St Mary’s Church of England High School, Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt, EN7 5FB. Speakers: Liam Bates, Blessen Opoku, and Joshua Agyeman. Contact: Joshua Agyeman (07780 917590).

27th-1st August – **Camp Tayside**: Contact: Aubrey Boyns (07502 220902 or a.boyns@gmail.com) for more information or to request an application.

August

3rd-8th – **British Bible Camp**: Theme – “Building on the ROCK.” Ages: 8-18. Camper applications open on 10th February. If you would like to apply, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/KnpmGjBMyS>. We are already taking staff applications. Anyone 18+ wishing to apply as a member of staff, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/kzVs9Jcdwm>.

Contact: Jason Snethen (07795 560990).

23rd-14th & 6th-7th September – **East Kilbride**: British Bible School Study weekends. Module: Christian Evidences; teachers: Mark Hill and Jon Galloway. Contact: study@britishbibleschool.com or jdgalloway@mac.com.

October

4th – **Loughborough**: 184th Anniversary Meeting, 6.30 pm; speaker: John Griffiths; refreshments to follow. Contact: Jason Hill (j.hill147@hotmail.co.uk).



THE FINAL WORD



The perfection of love

Fifty years ago, I was a student at North Ireland Bible School in Belfast. It was a time of six hours a day lectures, six hours of homework plus time for lesson preparation, as well as being involved with my family as a dad and husband. Those who went through the same programme will remember times when we heard bombs going off and shootings, sometimes in the streets as well as the occasional burned-out lorry in the road because of 'The Troubles'. It was sometimes hard to keep focussed on spiritual matters. However, our beloved teachers pushed us through the courses and sources of their material. As I remember, only once did I have a strong disagreement with what was shared and that was to do with 1 Corinthians 13:10 – '...but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears'.

I had always been taught that when a text is taken out of context it becomes a pretext, and I believe that is the correct way we should interpret scripture. When we look at the passage from verses 1-8, we note that seven times the emphasis on the discussion is love. Chapter 12 deals with various spiritual gifts and lead us to the most excellent way of all, that being love.

The theme of chapter 13 is developed in noting that some spiritual gifts may be stilled or even pass away (v.9), particularly when as grown-up and developed Christians we become adults in love. That love is the love of God and Christ's love in us and – dare I say it – love for God's people, the church. This all comes to a conclusion in verse 13 with these beautiful words: 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'.

We must ask ourselves: 'what is the passage talking about other than love?' Yet in class, all those years ago, we were told that when perfection comes the imperfect will disappear means when the New Testament is completely written, all spiritual gifts will disappear. Sadly, this has been reiterated in various places, and I am sad. The scriptures which we all love, and respect were not completed nor universally scattered for several centuries and even now we only have translations for our own use.

So why am I upset about the teaching. First, the whole passage is talking about love – eight times it tells us what it is talking about. Secondly, God's people cannot exist without love – when this spiritual gift is absent the body of Christ is starved of the very essence of the gospel: 'for God so loved the world'... 'Love one another as I have loved you'. Love is the basis of forgiveness and if ever there was a group that needed love it was the Corinthian assembly.

When love is removed as priority we are left with a book of history and guidelines. It is only love that can fill the hearts of mankind, that can bring tears to eyes of the penitent. Love is not only the basis of family and society, but also the essence of The Almighty; it is the reason why God created the Heavens and the Earth and why God, in the form of the Incarnate God, hung on Calvary's cross.

We place great emphasis on baptism but unless we are baptised to join ourselves with Christ in his love, we are not really baptised. It is all of love, from Heaven to us and from us back into the arms of God. Here is love vast as the oceans – may it never be diminished.

Trevor