

Reflections



Bringing you news from the British Bible School

Spring 2019

So far this year ...

With our Spring Study Weekends now behind us, we are looking ahead to what is to be a full programme of events later in the autumn. We'll say more of that in a little while, but here's a look at how things have gone so far this year.

Family Retreat at Bassenthwaite

Beautiful scenery, delightful company, another full house .. our winter Family Retreat often seems more like a family reunion as so many keep returning year after year. But like other healthy families, we are always delighted to welcome new faces among us as we share together in the joy of following Jesus.

We hold our winter Family Retreat at Bassenfell Manor in the northern Lake District. It is a

splendid house in a beautiful location, overlooking Bassenthwaite Lake. It's also where we hold our annual Study Week each November.

The worst thing about the weekend is that it is far too short. Arriving on the Friday evening, we have about enough time to eat, reconnect with each other in the *Pilgrims' Retreat* and settle in for our stay.

Saturday starts with morning devotions in the lounge, followed by a hearty breakfast in the dining room overlooking the lake. We then enjoy a couple of teaching sessions in the conference room which this year were led by **Steve Whitehead** and a sample video lesson from our up and coming video learning project, *The Book Programme*. There are sessions and activities for the younger ones too, as one would expect at



Aubrey speaking at our Sunday morning session at Bassenthwaite

a family event, and this year there was tall tree climbing and abseiling to be enjoyed by those so inclined.

We keep Saturday afternoon free for local walking or visits to nearby places. Afternoon tea is served, followed a little later by dinner. One of the joys of the weekend is the camaraderie of sharing together in preparing and cleaning up after meals. It all adds to the family nature of the weekend.

Saturday evening activities have been varied and this year we enjoyed a round of games in which everyone of all ages had opportunity to join in. And then Sunday always comes around too soon. Following our morning devotions and breakfast, we shared together in simple communion with Jesus, before **Aubrey Boyns** led us in our final session for the



Most of our late winter Family Retreat family at Bassenthwaite in the Lake District

weekend. And a splendid job he did too. It is such an encouragement seeing so many willing to serve each other in so many different ways.

If you would like to be a part of a weekend like this, why not take a look at details for our Family Retreat in Norfolk in September. You'll see an advert below and details on our website. We'd love to have you with us.

Study Weekends

We live in an age of instant information where even the most obscure fact can easily be verified around the dinner table by use of the internet. We are surrounded by all sorts of knowledge and data through an abundance of devices we might have scattered about our homes. But in the big scheme of things, no learning experience can compare with the dynamics of a live classroom environment in which people interact with real people.

Along with this personal interaction, a classroom environment provides opportunities for better affirmation of truth and

understanding of concepts - both essential to the learning process - than might be gained through less traditional teaching models. This is why we see our Study Weekends as being such an important part of our work, along with our annual Study Week in November, where we can offer structured learning in line with our established curriculum.

This Spring we offered three modules in various locations within the UK. We have taken Ephesians to **Great Barr** in Birmingham, Galatians to **Northampton**, and Hebrews to **Aberdeen**. Each of these has been taught over two intensive weekends, about a month apart, by teachers with years of experience in both the word and the classroom. It would be very fair to say that those who attended were engaged, challenged and encouraged by these events.

If you are involved in teaching or presenting messages from God's word in any capacity, but have not yet attended one of our Study Weekends, please look at our 'Diary Dates' and join us at one of our events later this year.



Jack Paton presenting a session from our Galatians Module during a recent Study Weekend at Northampton

Diary dates ...

Study one of our Modules at our Study Events or come to our Family Retreats (more on website) ...

BBS @ ECW

Lancaster University

Walking with God

with **Patrick Boyns** and **Jack Paton**

22nd to 24th August 2019

Letton Hall Family Retreat

Dereham, Norfolk

'Stories of Jesus'

13th to 15th September 2019

East Kilbride Study Weekends

East Kilbride, Scotland

Ezekiel

with **Patrick Boyns** and **Jon Galloway**

26th to 27th October 2019

16th to 17th November 2019

Wembley Study Weekends

Wembley, London

Galatians

with **Bob Eckman**, **John Griffiths** and **Jack Paton**

1st to 2nd November 2019

29th to 30th November 2019

Morley Study Weekends

Wembley, London

Ephesians

with **Patrick Boyns** and **Mark Hill**

8th to 9th November 2019

6th to 7th December 2019

Bassenthwaite Study Week

Lake District, England

The Deliverance of Israel ~ Judges and Ruth

with **Patrick Boyns**, **John Griffiths**, **Jack Paton** and **Steve Whitehead**

4th to 8th November 2019

Bassenthwaite Family Retreat

Lake District, England

17th to 19th January 2020

Distance Learning updates

Our Distance Learning Programme has taken a little bit of a back seat in recent times whilst we have been focusing on other matters. There are a number of areas in need of improvement in order to make access more relevant in current times. As we continue to develop The Book Programme, we are looking at ways in which we might better integrate these two areas of our work without unnecessary duplication.

However, we are still receiving new applications and are very happy to say that we have a number of students who continue to be active with our introductory modules. One student who recently completed the first Module has now begun on the second, and a handful of new students have enrolled. Details are on our website, which itself is in need of a major overhaul - budget permitting!

Mobile library?

For quite some time now we have been in the process of



Patrick and Steve placing cleaned books in their new home

restructuring the workings of the British Bible School, and this process is now hopefully nearing some sort of completion. Long ago, back in 1979, the school began in Corby under the oversight of the leadership of the local congregation. In more recent times the school has become more independent, and has been run by a board of governors – all of whom have been actively involved in the work of the school.

The school will continue to be run in a similar fashion, though we are looking at ways in which we might become more accountable and even better representative of those whom we seek to serve. We ask that you might be mindful of these things in prayer, and look out for news of further developments.

One more noticeable change in recent times has been the slimming down and moving of the BBS library. Since the suspension of our residential programme a number of years ago, the library has been little used, largely due to its location. There was a need to move the books from where they had been living to a new location, whilst at the same time keeping hold of only those books which were likely to be useful.

Having significantly pruned the contents, most surplus volumes have been left for any who might yet wish to make use of them. A number are still available for purchase, and are being made available during our study events, whilst the core library has been cleaned and is now housed and being maintained at Northampton.

Students wishing to make use of our library now have better access to it as it now enjoys a new lease of life.

Click for details . . .

Walking with God

British Bible School @ ECW 2019

Thursday, 22nd to Saturday, 24th August 2019

- Offered in conjunction with the Fellowship Christmas Workshops at Lancaster University
- An opportunity to sample a part of one of our practical modules

ECW at Lancaster University
All modules cost £150 per student.
For more details visit our website: www.bbs.school.com

Personal faith and discipleship are important aspects of our lives... students will be encouraged to explore the concept of walking with God, and helped to assess their spiritual development and be offered practical help for the journey.

Autumn Family Weekend Retreat

Friday, 13th to Sunday, 15th September 2019
at Letton Hall in Norfolk

Stories of JESUS

... listening to the master storyteller

www.britishbible.school

THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL
(THE BOOKS OF JUDGES & RUTH)

British Bible School
Autumn Study Week

Bassenthall Manor, Bassenthall, Lake District
Monday, 4th to Friday, 8th November 2019

- Three full days of study and reflection away from the cares of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £190 per couple

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 messages in light of contemporary events and culture.

www.britishbible.school

Later this year ...

Plans are in full swing for what looks like another rather busy second half of the year. We have an expanded schedule of Study Weekends this autumn, along with our Residential Study Week in the Lake District and, of course, our Autumn Family Retreat in Norfolk.

More Study Events

Our **Study Weekends** are intended to provide short, but intensive and focused periods of Bible teaching. We aim to cover the essentials of one of the Modules from our Applied Biblical Studies course over two weekend periods, within a classroom environment. As part of a well-structured curriculum, there is also opportunity for students to gain credit towards British Bible School study awards.

A typical series of BBS Study Weekends will provide:

- ▶ Sixteen hours of classroom teaching
- ▶ Experienced teachers with many years devoted to studying Scripture
- ▶ An encouraging and challenging atmosphere of questioning and learning

Later this year we will be returning to **Wembley** in North London with our Module on the New Testament letter to the Galatians. We will be taking the prophet Ezekiel to **East Kilbride** in Scotland. And then we will be conducting our first classes in **Morley**, near Leeds, on Paul's letter to the believers in Ephesus. You will find dates above, and details on our website.

We are again rather excited about our **Autumn Study Week**

which is to be held at Bassenfell Manor, in the Lake District - the same venue in which we hold our Late Winter Family Retreat. This year we shall be presenting our module on: *The Deliverance of Israel* in which we will be studying the books of **Judges and Ruth**.

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.

This is an excellent opportunity to study one of our Old Testament modules forming part of our Applied Biblical Studies course. You can find full details on our website, along with a syllabus you can download. Students working towards a British Bible School award will receive five Module Credits upon completion of all given assignments.

Production filming

Work is continuing to progress with production of *The Book Programme*, though things have been somewhat held back due to the relocation of our library and building works at our 'film studio'. However, things now seem to be sorted and filming is due to recommence within a couple of weeks.

We would be very interested to hear from anybody, in any part of the country, who has interest in video production

work. We have need to expand our production team and though experience is always useful, we are very happy to provide on-the-job training. If this sort of thing appeals to you, then do please get in touch.



Study Week at Bassenthwaite

Thank you

To all those individuals and congregations who continue to help with our funding, we give you our thanks. Our outgoings continue to exceed our regular incomings, so we urge you to continue and invite others to help us whenever they might be able. Please get in touch to see how you can help.

We thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to remember the work of the School both in private and within your assemblies.

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