



The irony of 'social distancing'

One of the blessings of this past year and a bit has been the opportunity to engage with a wider audience, both at home and abroad. It is somewhat ironic that this has been the result of lockdowns and social distancing, but such has been the extraordinary effect of online conferencing.

The familiarisation of the masses with the phenomenon of online conferencing facilities has certainly been a significant and positive aspect of these past twelve months. Admittedly they may not be everybody's cup of tea – nor even accessible to all – but they have enabled many to take part in activities which might otherwise have been prohibitive.

So as we look ahead there are now so many more opportunities to serve, even beyond this current crisis, and we look forward to meeting the challenges they present.

Regular events online

We have decided to continue offering two weekly Online Bible Classes – one on Monday evening and another on Thursday evening. We are about to finish classes on the *Post-exilic prophets*,

taught by **Mike Glover** and **Jon Galloway**, and on the *Gospel of Mark*, taught by **Mark Hill**.

From the beginning of July we will have **David Chapman** with us teaching *Fire on the Mountain* ... a series of twelve lessons from the Law of Moses. And then on Thursday evenings **Patrick Boyns** will be teaching *Lessons on the mountain* ... a series of twelve lessons on the teachings of Jesus from Matthew 5–7. Both classes will be held on Zoom at 8 o'clock.

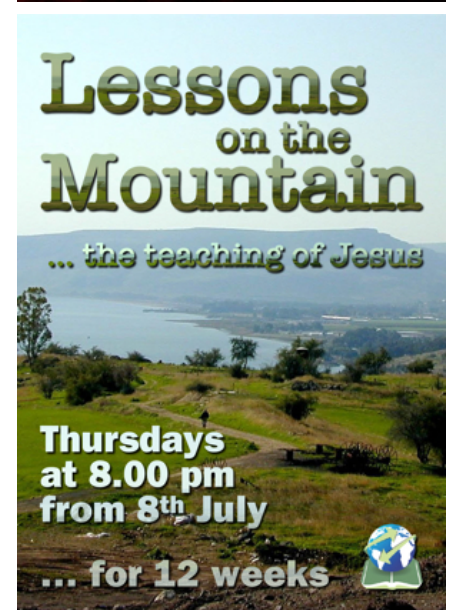
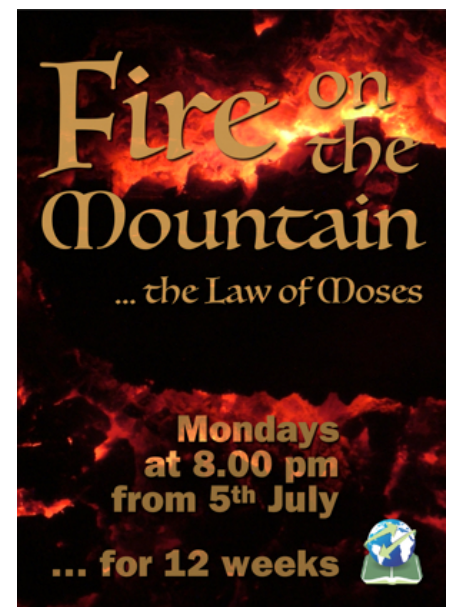
We will also be continuing with our weekly Friday evening Bible Quiz at the same time.

Evening Lectures Online

In addition to our regular weekly online events, earlier in the year we began to host some one-off Evening Lectures Online on Saturday evenings, once every two months. They will be on a wide variety of subjects – many of which are not necessarily associated with other material being presented through our curriculum – and will be presented by both regular and visiting speakers.

Our first Evening Lecture Online event was in January and

was on: "The Bible in the British Museum". **Patrick Boyns** took us on a virtual tour of the museum with pictures and explanations of numerous artefacts illustrating aspects of the Biblical narrative. We were delighted to see so many attend this first event, and as a significant number were unable to gain access we decided





Some of those attending our first Evening Lecture Online in January

to rerun this event the following month.

Our second event was in March when **Jon Galloway** presented an illustrated lecture on: "Fossils and the Biblical Record". This included a viewing of a number of fossils which he had collected over the years.

Then in May, **Jack Paton** presented a lecture on "War and Warfare in the Bible" in which the theme was traced through the Scriptures, moving the battle from the physical to the spiritual realm as Christ leads his people to victory.

Virtually in Germany

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.



Where we should have been in February

Looking ahead...

Although we plan to continue offering regular Online Bible Classes, Sunday Morning Messages, and occasional Evening Lectures Online, we are now hopefully arriving at the position where we can more fully resume other regular face-to-face activities. As much as many of us have grown quite used to activities online, the opportunities to once more share physical space together cannot come soon enough.

Plans for our Autumn Family Retreat at Letton Hall, in Norfolk, are coming together and bookings are already open. We still have spaces available for this family friendly event, so do please see our website for more details.

Looking ahead to a little later in the year, we are making plans to return to Bassenfell Manor for our Autumn Study Week at the beginning of November. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a week together in a beautiful corner of our land, with other like-minded students, as we explore the New Testament book of Acts. Again, do please read more of this on our website.

Diary dates ...

Letton Hall Family Retreat

Dereham, Norfolk

17th to 19th September 2021

Bassenthwaite Study Week

Lake District, England

Acts

*with **Patrick Boyns, Jon Galloway, Mark Hill and Jack Paton***

1st to 5th November 2021

Graham Fisher (1941-2021)



We've had to say "Farewell" to a faithful brother and a good friend. Graham Fisher, who died on 30th March 2021 aged 79, was a long-standing friend and supporter of the work of the British Bible School and, more recently, a governor.

As editor of the *Christian Worker* from 1987 to 2014, Graham was always ready to make space for news from the British Bible School and over the years was able to help many graduates by publicising their appeals. We can think of those in Ghana, India, Malawi, Pakistan,

Philippines, and no doubt elsewhere who are grateful for the funds they have received thanks to the *Christian Worker*. Graham was also a faithful personal financial supporter of the School as he shared our desire to make the word of God better known both among believers and to those who have yet to meet Jesus.

Graham was a regular visiting teacher at Corby, coming in to lead a one-day workshop on Jonah as part of the Old Testament curriculum. He was guest speaker at the 2004 graduation ceremony.

While we will miss his meticulous attention to detail and his willingness to think outside the box, we know his contribution to the work of the British Bible School and to the people of God, both nationally and internationally, will not soon be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his widow Barbara and their children Sarah and Arthur.

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Thank you

Thank you to all who continue to help with our funding. Our outgoings continue to significantly exceed our regular incomings, so we urge you to continue and we invite others to help us whenever they might be able.

You might like to look at our website for details of how you might become a *Friend of the Bible School* by making a monthly contribution to our work. 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.

Trusting the Teacher
... taking him at his word

Autumn Weekend Family Retreat

Friday, 17th to Sunday, 19th September 2021
at Letton Hall in Norfolk

www.britishbibleschool.com

From Eden to Egypt

A British Bible School Applied Biblical Studies Module

The student will be introduced to the importance of Genesis as the foundation document of the Scriptures, placing it in its context and showing its relevance to God's purpose. This module will trace God's dealings with mankind until Israel's exodus from Egypt.

- Two hours each Tuesday
- Enrolment required
- Additional assignments
- Personal tuition
- BBS certification

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm
Online from 21st September 2021
... for 12 weeks

www.britishbibleschool.com

ACTS

British Bible School
Autumn Study Week

Bassenfell Manor, Bassenhwaite, Lake District
Monday, 1st to Friday, 5th November 2021

- Three 10 days of study and reflection away from the clutter of life
- Delightful accommodation, good food and decent company
- All inclusive cost: £150 per student

This module begins to examine the key New Testament book within the context of God's purpose for mankind. The mission implications for the churches are immense as the good news of Jesus continues to be taken across cultural boundaries throughout the world.

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