

## Belfast Conference 2021

We, like many others, needed to make alternative plans for our annual conference this year, and moved to an online event. We missed genuine face-to-face contact and the warmth of in-person fellowship – but going online did offer us the opportunity to invite speakers from further afield, and cast the invitation to attend to a global audience. We were delighted that Craig Jones (Toronto) and Ira Williamson (Trinidad) were able to join us live on Zoom to deliver to us what had been given to them by the Lord. Their preparation before (and with) the Lord, was evident. Glory to God!



Craig spoke to us about *taking root downward, and bearing fruit upward* (referencing Isaiah 37:31). The two are related – taking root downward into the word of God will organically lead to bearing fruit upward. Craig showed us an example in Ezra, who set his heart to study the Law of the LORD and to do it,

and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel (Ezra 7:10). This talk can be accessed at: <https://youtu.be/OF7RwGUiIki>



Ira took us, initially, to Genesis 22, as Abraham and Isaac journeyed to Moriah, noting the repeated phrase “they went both of them together” (24:6, 24:8). Ira led us through a very precious meditation of Father and Son walking together toward Calvary, united in the great purpose of redemption. This can be accessed at: <https://youtu.be/xnMhVQ1vILk>

Steve Seddon had also prepared a wonderful video for us on the saints in Myanmar, which was enjoyable, encouraging and also provided a basis for informed prayer. However, given the recent military coup in Myanmar, and to help protect our brothers and sisters in that country, we have decided to

withhold the link to this video. We’re sorry to disappoint any who would have liked to see the video, but believe this is the wisest course of action at this time.

It was a real joy to see so many join us from around the world, and see faces of friends old and new. We thank the Lord for blessing on the day by the hand of Craig, Ira and Steve, and continue to pray that the words spoken will teach, reprove, correct and train listeners.

On behalf of Belfast Assembly  
 Stephen McCabe; Ian Lockhart;  
 Gareth Andrews



## What’s in a name?

**Names and genealogies in Scripture are important and interesting; although at times they may appear rather monotonous, they are recorded for a purpose.**

In Matt. 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 we have recorded names such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob which we are familiar with, but others like Tamar, Perez and Salmon are less well known. Yet these names are important as part of the royal family line. “Tamar begat Perez... Salmon begat Boaz by Rahab... Boaz begat Obed by Ruth”, and from that family line came Jesse and David the king followed by Solomon whose mother was Bathsheba. As the family line continues we come to Eleazar, Matthan and Jacob. “Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ” There are several seemingly unimportant names in this genealogy - some of them being foreign

women, not of Israel by birth; yet these women are included in the Messiah’s ancestry. We know from Scripture that some of these women had immoral and idolatrous past lives yet God included them in His plan to bring salvation to the world.

Tamar’s son Perez was born as a result of her harlotry. His father Judah was one of the sons of Jacob who went with his family down to the land of Egypt. On his deathbed, Jacob prophesied that a king would come from this family line, Gen. 49:10. The fulfilment of this is seen in Ruth 4:18. Ruth, a Moabite by birth, and Boaz a descendant of Rahab a harlot, were the great-grandparents of king David. The remarkable thing was that God used these women to perpetuate the Messianic line; women of foreign descent and with tarnished histories who were ancestors of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What does this tell us about the God whom we serve? With that same grace He welcomes less than perfect people like us into His family.

In 1 Tim. 1:16 Paul gives young Timothy the reason why Christ was born. The purpose for His coming into the world was that sinners could be saved. Paul said “I am the chief of sinners, but for this reason I obtained mercy that in me Jesus Christ might show all long suffering as evidence to those who are to believe in Him for everlasting life” Paul experienced God’s mercy, and the same mercy that we receive through salvation may be the means by which someone else can believe unto eternal life. That should be a great encouragement to all of us; if you think your life cannot be useful in God’s plan, think again!

Lewis Milligan (Armagh)

**WEST OF SCOTLAND SPRING CONFERENCE**

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
at  
6.00pm

**Speakers**

**Stephen McCabe [Belfast]**  
**Stephen Hickling [Birmingham]**  
Hymn-singing interlude [15 minutes]  
**Ira Williamson [Trinidad, Colorado]**

This conference will be available on Zoom  
ID: 820 0119 9003  
Passcode: 610623  
Please connect by 5.50pm  
to ensure an on-screen window.



## SEARCH FOR TRUTH

radio broadcasts



**23 January – 24 April**

**Europe**

Listen live **online** @ [www.twr.org.uk/live.htm](http://www.twr.org.uk/live.htm) **Saturday**  
18.50 and **Sunday** 06.50.

You can also listen to Search for Truth in the UK on **Sky**  
**Digital** channel 0138 (11.390 GHz., ID 53555) and on **Freesat**  
channel 790 & on Freesview 733, **Saturday** 07.30  
and **Sunday** 06.45

**Malawi**

**Sunday** on TWR Malawi FM Network at 06.45 local time

**South Asia**

**Thursday** to South Asia at 14.30 UTC (25m band SW,  
11825 kHz.) on Reach Beyond – Australia

**Zimbabwe & Mozambique**

**Saturday** on TWR Swaziland at 18.00 UTC (1170 kHz  
MW) and **Friday** on TWR Malawi at 08.30 local time on  
DStv155

Check out <http://searchfortruth.podbean.com/>  
for Search for Truth podcasts

Accompanying books available to buy from:  
**Hayes Press, The Barn, Flaxlands,**  
**Wootton Bassett, Swindon, Wiltshire**  
**SN4 8DY, UK** [sft@churchesofgod.info](mailto:sft@churchesofgod.info)

# For Prayer Ministering Brethren

(March and onwards)

**Gbenga Fagbenle**

I am currently working in Kubua Assembly in Abuja. I arrived here on 5 February and will finish on the 25th (DV) I am here with a Gospel worker, Godwin Ariwodo, who will be working in the Assembly until the end of March 2021. My ministry to the Assembly started on 7 February on the Quadrant of Fruitfulness broken into four parts (1) fruitfulness (2) Secret of fruitfulness (3) Covenant of fruitfulness and (4) Harvest of fruitfulness. We are trusting the Lord to bless His words in our hearts.

**Lian Za Nang (James) and SB Khupboih**

For the coming month we want to visit Khumnuai and Suangphei Assemblies. We are looking forward by prayer and especially to have peace in our country in these difficult days.

**Geralde Magasura**

I'll be continuing to work in Malabog.

**Tony Nemi**

With the current Covid-19 pandemic restricting gathering, I have by God's grace been working alongside other members of The Capacity Building Committee of the Western District - a committee charged with the responsibility of planning and executing programmes on behalf of the District, such as Leadership Training Programmes (LTP), District Elders every January, Study Programmes, Devotional Study Programme, and one whole week Disciple Teaching Programme. The Committee has taken advantage of the current communication innovations to power its programmes through the Zoom platform, whereby connecting other Assemblies outside Nigeria, i.e. Ghana, Kenya and Liberia to participate on-line in the programmes. We are grateful to God for such opportunities in the season of the time we are in today. In the month of March, the Committee will be working towards the forthcoming Leadership Training Programme for implementation. And thereafter, I hope to be with Ojo Assembly from 21-28 March for a time of ministry of the word.

**Lawrence Onyokoko**

I will be working in Liberia.

**Karl Smith**

In addition to what are now my 'normal' lockdown activities, I hope to speak via Zoom at Kilmarnock and Canada's Cultiv8 event and to write for NT.

**Brian Tugwell**

One of the happy spinoffs of lockdown has been my being able to spend nearly a year in my home Assembly. That's a first! It's been a special pleasure to serve alongside my fellow overseers in Liverpool. I am also happily keeping in touch with Indian Assemblies and friends, along with Faith School and Nambikkai Illam.

**LIFT UP**

I LIFT UP  
MY VOICE  
FOR THE  
**HILLS**

TO YOU  
I LIFT UP MY  
**SOUL**

LET US LIFT UP  
OUR HEARTS  
AND HANDS TO  
**GOD**

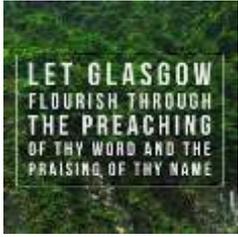
I LIFT UP MY HANDS  
TO YOU  
FOR THE  
**SANCTUARY**

LIFT UP  
YOUR  
**VOICE**  
FOR  
**STRENGTH**

IF THEY FALL, ONE WILL  
**LIFT UP**  
THE  
**FELLOW**

Fellowship Week of Prayer 18-24 April 2021

## Online Convention in Glasgow



For our West Scotland District event on 1 January, Zoom online was chosen since we were keen to have the fellowship that the medium can offer. We were delighted to have about 80 screens taken as the first hymn began and 100 for the first speaker, with every District in the UK represented and several from round the world. We had excellent advice from Ian Lockhart and the Armagh model, but it was a learning curve for all planners. Swindon recorders let us have two multi-talent hymns. Michael Johnston skilfully added PHSS. words and staff for 'Loved with everlasting love'. Warm thanks also to so many choosing to make the opening of the word, praise and fellowship their event on New Year's day. We were pleased to see younger and older together. Our three speakers gave heart-warming and searching messages, and helped us run to time.

**Tom Palmer** (Cardiff): 'Three words from Jer. 29:11—Increase, Peace, Ignore'. God's plan was judgement for ignoring God's law and warnings; but prosperity if they confessed and truly sought Him. Ways to increase spiritual life, and numbers attending in the Churches; a route to true peace; ignoring 'false prophets' not in line with the word.

**Jo Johnson** (Buckhaven): A full study of David's dealings with Amnon and Absalom. Lessons from neglect of family; self-indulgence leading to adultery and murder. Repentance brought forgiveness, and while God's judgement was fulfilled, mercy tempered it in the birth of Solomon, the king chosen by God to build His house (2 Sam. 12:24-25; cp. 1 Chr. 28:5-6).

**Tony Jones** (Aberkenfig): The hymn says, 'I am His, and He is mine'. 'I am His' implies the love that aims to understand the other person. Eph. 1:11-14—A seal for our comfort; to remind us we are God's possession, His heritage in us. 1 Cor. 7:21-23: 'Do not become slaves of men,' bound by their fears, or too anxious to witness. Col. 2:14f. 3:5, 12—summed up as 'Put on



**Wedding**

Jaya Prakash married Sowmya on 11 January at Podagatlapalli.

*Brian Tugwell*



**Mary Kerr - Ayr Scotland**

Our beloved sister Mary celebrated her 90th birthday recently. In normal circumstances, there would have been a family gathering to celebrate this wonderful achievement. Sadly, due to current restrictions this wasn't possible and only eldest daughter Vivien was able to visit on the day. This photo of them both was taken at home on Mary's birthday. Despite her tragic accident 20 years ago, Mary very rarely misses a gathering of the saints here in Ayr, as well as other gatherings of God's people as occasion permits. She is a real inspiration to us all. Nevertheless, she very much needs our prayers as does her dear husband John, who lovingly and diligently cares for her.

*Ken Robertson; Willie Stewart*

## Blessed around the Word at Renfrew Convention



For our digital event on 2 January we settled for a pre-recorded video in our 'Churches of God - West Scotland' channel on Youtube. Besides Phil Brennan who adapted to the demands of recording his address on video, we had a new opportunity to invite two speakers who could rarely visit Scotland in person in midwinter. Our speakers each rose to the challenge with appealing and instructive talks. We were greatly encouraged to see that 83 viewers assembled for the live premiere, and that others in their households could watch with them or join later. The number watching was visible on screen, giving a sense of engagement. Thank you also to those who sent appreciation of the programmes on both 1 and 2 January; to Bryan Robertson who prepared and sent out posters to Scottish Assemblies by mail and email, and to 'Intelligence'; to Chris Gault and Ross Osborne for production of a quality video, with input from YFR's international singers and musicians. To date 479 have viewed, with various levels of interest. May the Lord continue to bless the work of all contributors.

A guide to the ministry—

**Craig Jones** (Toronto): 'Incense—the Fragrance of Christ'

**Phil Brennan** (Buxton): 'What God has joined—Christ and the Churches'

**Ira Williamson** (Trinidad, Colorado): 'The Presence of God in the Omnipresence of God'

We commend a revisit to any of these talks or the whole experience, using this link -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waHP7eh8YIE>

Scripts or notes can be downloaded or printed from the OneDrive link below the screen. You may have to click or tap 'Show more'.

*L. Burgoyne; M. Archibald*

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church of God in Melbourne



On 19 September 1914, shortly after the outbreak of World War 1 in July, Sidney Rupert Cowley (SRC) boarded the White Star Line SS Ceramic at Liverpool bound for Melbourne. He was being transferred by his employer to New Zealand where in 1928 he, his parents and two sisters were to live at 156 Antigua Street, Christchurch as New Zealand nationals. By 1925 he was one of four overseers in Christchurch, New Zealand, along with James Weir and the two original overseers, brothers James and Robert Brown. The Assembly in Christchurch was established in 1906, after James Brown had immigrated from Broxburn, Scotland. His brother Robert and his wife followed him shortly afterwards.

SRC returned to the UK on several occasions, and on 7 August 1929 he boarded the SS Homeric in Southampton to return to New Zealand via New York, on his

way to being transferred to Melbourne in the state of Victoria in Australia. When he arrived in Melbourne, he contacted five isolated saints who had lived in the area for up to 19 years, and with the support of overseers in New Zealand he set about establishing a Church of God.

The Church of God in Melbourne was planted on 25 January 1931. The Assembly initially comprised SR Cowley, his two sisters Ethel Sarah (1881-1972) and Hilda May (1891- 1958), Thomas (1880-1957) and Sarah Clewes (1887-1974), John Irwin (1860-1936), his wife Elizabeth (1873-1933), and Mrs. Wood. James and Robert Brown had arrived in Sydney from New Zealand on 17 January 1931 and travelled by train to Melbourne for the planting, and purposed returning to their home Assembly in Christchurch on 19 February.

The Assembly met that day in a room at SRC's home in the Glen Iris district of Melbourne. Later that year, the Assembly moved to a rented large hall that could accommodate some 200 people.

SRC was born in Hereford in 1884 but spent his early years in Derby, being added to the Assembly there. He was employed by the Nycander Yeast Company in Melbourne, a firm that manufactured yeast and vinegar and was responsible for the iconic Skipping Girl vinegar sign in Abbotsford.

Thomas Clewes and Sarah Ellen Rigby were married in Wigan in 1907 and emigrated to Australia in 1925 from Haydock Assembly in Lancashire, England.

John Irwin had been widowed and was married to Elizabeth Reid in Edinburgh in 1897. Together with their six children from both marriages they came to Melbourne around 1916 from Broxburn Assembly in Scotland, remaining faithful in isolation until the planting of the Assembly. They travelled 25 miles each way in an open market truck every Lord's Day to the Remembrance.

By 28 April that year there were further additions to the Assembly, now numbering 20 and comprising 8 brethren and 12 sisters. Soon after the planting John and Ruth Tipping, John Vergers (1890-1955) and his wife Christina Johann Vergers (née Van Gelder 1892-1954) and their daughter Annie Vergers were baptised and added to the Assembly. The Vergers lived in an adjoining farm to the Irwin family in the village of Wonga Park, some 20 miles from Melbourne. Ruth Tipping was one of John and Elizabeth Irwin's daughters. The Irwin's influence also extended to two of their other daughters, and their husbands - William Johnson and Raymond Harrison - were amongst the first to be baptised and added to the Melbourne Assembly. Annie and Mary Irwin had been in Fellowship in Scotland, but both married unbelieving husbands and had experienced years of sorrow. When the Assembly was planted, they started to attend the Gospel meeting and also brought their husbands. Both were saved, William through his daughter Jean whose Bible he had been reading, and Annie and Mary were restored to the Fellowship.

On 8 February 1931 the Church of God in Sydney was planted with 9 on the roll, four brethren and five sisters. Robert Alexander Thomson Pearson (1904-1972) from Belfast and his wife Marion Bunting (1903-1990) had moved to live in Sydney some time earlier. They were joined by a young brother, Robert William Megaw (1902-1961). Also with them were Tom Kirkpatrick and his sister Agnes, who in 1936 married RW Megaw. RW Megaw had been employed by WJ Lennox of Armagh prior to coming to Australia in 1925, and was saved in the Newry Road hall in the year he left Northern Ireland. Brother Peacock and his wife were also numbered in the Assembly at planting. In 1942 Tom Kirkpatrick married Margaret Mary May Fullerton (1920-1997), the daughter of Thomas





William Fullerton (1898-1984). T W Fullerton was also from Armagh and moved to New Zealand in 1925, before moving to Melbourne in 1936.

Australia suffered badly during the period of the Great Depression of the 1930s, which began with the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and rapidly spread worldwide. Unemployment reached a record high of around 30% in 1932. During this period, the Hawke's Bay earthquake occurred in New Zealand on the morning of 3 February 1931 killing 256 and injuring thousands, but all those in the Christchurch Assembly, some 700 miles away, were spared. Later that year Robert Brown was again

travelling by sea to Australia to be with the young Assemblies there; however, it pleased the Lord to call him home on 25 September 1931 whilst in his sleep; his body was buried at sea.

John Irwin was called home in 1936 at the age of 76. Having taken the Gospel meeting on the Lord's Day before, he passed away on the Thursday. In all weathers he was always to be found handing out invitations to passers-by and to those sitting in the park near to the hall.

On 16 November 1944 Sidney Rupert Cowley was called home after a period of illness, aged 60. His motto in life since his early days in Derby was "saved to serve."



The 1950's saw further losses for the Assemblies. John Vergers was called home on 26 April 1955, just seven months after his wife Christina. Both originally from Amsterdam, Holland, they had suffered the tragic loss of their 3½-year-old daughter Dorothy in their home in Wonga Park in 1928. However, three of their six remaining children and one granddaughter were in the Assembly in 1955. James Brown was called home on 4 December 1955 in Christchurch, while Thomas Clewes was called home aged 77 on 3 October 1957.

For a number of years there were two Assemblies in the wider Melbourne area. In 1959 a new Assembly to the east of Melbourne was planted in North Croydon with 18 saints meeting at Dorset Hall. Some 40 saints were by then in the Melbourne Assembly that met at the Gospel Meeting Room at Windsor Station. On 29 June 1961 RW Megaw, one of two overseers in North Croydon, was called home suddenly on his way to work. He was 59, and his daughter Helen had been married just a few weeks earlier. North Croydon Assembly ceased in 1964 and in early 1967 the Melbourne Assembly relocated to a new meeting place at East Ringwood Community Centre Hall with 36 on the roll.

On 27 December 1972 Ethel Cowley, aged 91, was called home, the last of the Cowley family in the Fellowship.

On Saturday 26 May 1973 Melbourne Assembly met for the first time in its newly erected meeting place; Eastfield Gospel Hall was constructed by W H Fullerton on land purchased in Croydon South, where it continues to meet. Two of the original members of the Assembly were in attendance that day. On 11 July 1974, Sarah Ellen Clewes was called home aged 87, the last of those on the roll at the planting of the Assembly.

In 1979 a Church of God in Bundaberg was planted over 1,100 miles from Melbourne. The Church of God in Sydney ceased on 28 December 2003 after 72 years and the Church of God in Christchurch, NZ ceased on 29 April 2007 after 101 years; but, by God's grace, the testimony in Melbourne continues.

Chris Sutton



## At home with the Lord – Cam Ramage, Hamilton, Ontario



**After a prolonged period of illness, our dear brother Cam Ramage passed away on the afternoon of 2 April 2020, surrounded by his family.**

Cam was a loving father, grandfather, brother and a friend to everyone. He also loved the Lord Jesus Christ, coming to know Him as his Saviour at an early age and being added to the Assembly in Hamilton as a young man. He served Him in many different ways and, being passionate about youth work, Cam loved to serve at Mount Forest Camp as a camp counselor and maintenance man during kids and teen weeks, as well as participating in many other youth programs.

You could always count on Cam, together with Marg, being there. We are so glad that this was so, because Cam was someone who lit up the room when he walked in and made everyone feel at ease and welcome. He always had a smile on his face and always managed to make everyone laugh with his wonderful sense of humour. This proved to be invaluable to him as in April 1998 he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The initial prognosis was not good and yet, time after time, subsequent test results confounded expectations. He handled it all with much grace, humility, and faith that God was in control and would look after him. God did just that and blessed Cam with 22 more wonderful years in which he seized every opportunity to tell of his Saviour, and relished every opportunity to join with his fellow saints. To Cam, each ministry, each prayer time, each Remembrance, each event was 'the

best' and he really meant it!

He will be greatly missed by his loving family and many friends, including many across the Fellowship who no doubt met him and Marg at a number of YFRs, which they loved to attend, or perhaps at Camp Baldy, Colorado. Cam was indeed a 'one-off' and his passing leaves a hole in our Assembly and in our District that will never be filled; but we thank God for him, his service and his example.

Cam is survived by his wife Marg of almost 51 years, daughters Lisa Ramage and Leanne (Ray) Speers, son Michael (Sarah) Ramage, brother Thomas (Marjorie) Ramage, and his beloved grandchildren Keaton, Ashlynn, and Declan. We continue to lift them up in their great loss. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, a small private funeral was held, attended by 9 family members and conducted by Jonathan Thomas. Unfortunately, the intended memorial service has not yet proved possible due to ongoing limits on the numbers able to gather.

*John Anthony; Bruce Archibald*

## At home with the Lord – Jane (Jean) Johnson, Kilmarnock, Scotland



**Our much loved sister Mrs Jean Johnson, aged 93, was called home on 13 January.** Her health had been declining for a while and she spent the last few months in hospital. Along with thousands of others it was very difficult for the family to visit their mother because of Covid restrictions, and this was quite distressing.

Jean Christison was born in 1927 in the gardener's cottage on the Milton Lockhart estate in the Clyde Valley near Carluke, Lanarkshire, her father Peter being the head gardener. Her three brothers were also born there. There was no electricity in the house and the family endured much hardship. Her parents were devout Christians who attended the Assembly in Crossford, so the children grew up in a godly home. Her mother, Elizabeth, died before Jean was 12, which was a real blow.

Jean was saved in her teens and was baptised and added to Crossford Assembly at 17. She had a desire to share the Gospel with others and when Harry King was visiting she later wrote "He took us round various villages giving out gospel leaflets. We would go to places like New Lanark, Waterloo and Kirkfieldbank." During the war, Italian POWs came to work in a nearby field and Jean got the job of sewing up the filled potato bags!

Jean said the happiest days of her life were when she married John in 1956. They had five children – Jo, James, William, John and Elisabeth - all of whom embraced God's salvation. They set up home in Greenock, later moving to Kilwinning, Galston and finally Dunlop from where John and Jean attended the Church in Kilmarnock.

In 2008 John was called home but Jean continued with her leafleting, personal witnessing, meeting friends and neighbours and enjoying the community spirit of the village, but she was never happier than meeting for the Breaking of the Bread which was the highlight of her week. She had a deep love for her Saviour; she loved the saints and the saints loved her. The family regularly kept in touch, which was a great comfort to Jean.

Latterly Jean became quite deaf and she struggled with her hearing aid. Mobility also became an issue as she had to use a wheelchair, but she was determined to be present at the Remembrance!

At the funeral service in Cedar Hall, Greenock, the numbers were capped at 20 due to Covid. John Black (evangelist), James Johnson and Ian Lithgow spoke movingly of Jean. John read 1 Peter 3:3-4 and Ian read Isaiah 43:4, both Scriptures so appropriate to her. James reminded us of her love of singing which was reflected in the hymns chosen for the service. At the grave John Black (Auchenfoyle) reminded us of the Lordship of Christ in Jean's life, and accordingly she had lived life to the full. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

*Len Burgoyne; Andy McIlree*

The Johnson family would like to express their appreciation for the many cards and messages of sympathy and memories which friends have sent them, following the home call of their mother. It has been a comfort to know that mum was loved by so many.

## At home with the Lord – Peter Ernest Turner, Liverpool, England



**After a very long illness Peter Ernest Turner (Liverpool) passed into the presence of the Lord on 14 January.**

Peter was born on 24 May, 1942, the eldest of thirteen children born to Jean and John Turner of Birkenhead. Peter came to trust the Lord Jesus as his Saviour at North West England Camp and was baptised and added to the Church of God in Birkenhead in June 1956.

In his early life he spent some time in London before returning to the North in 1965. On 9 September 1967 he married Angela Canning from Halifax. They have two sons, Adam and Simon.

Peter originally trained as a nurse and had a few jobs, including working for his father at his foundry. However, for most of his working life he worked at Vauxhall Motors in Ellesmere Port. Unexpectedly, about 28 years ago, Peter suffered a brain haemorrhage which left him quite disabled. Angela has cared for him diligently over all this time.

In 1995 Peter and Angela relocated to the Isle of Arran where they enjoyed the calm and peace of that remote island and where they were numbered with Kilmarnock. There they experienced rural life in amongst the nature and scenery that they loved so much. Peter was also very fond of birds and animals and while on Arran he belonged to an ornithology group. They used to watch otters and seals in the surrounding waters. They returned to North West England in 2004.

Transferred to Liverpool when Birkenhead Church closed in 2018, Peter and Angela were unable to gather with us because of Peter's deteriorating condition over recent years. Despite his suffering he maintained an active and unwavering faith in the Lord. An example to us all!

He will be missed by Adam and Jane and by Simon and Sue and by his grandchildren Amy, Ryan, Emily, Jack and Ruby.

At Peter's funeral, Simon gave a tribute to his Dad and Dave Webster spoke about Peter's faith. Although not blessed with good health Peter was blessed in other ways. 'Blessed are those...whose hope is in the LORD their God. (Psalm 146:5).

*David Webster, Graham Schleyer*

## At home with the Lord – John Hunter, Bathgate, Scotland



**With a measure of sadness and loss we report the homecall of our brother John McRae Hunter on 20 January, at the age of 82 years.** Although John had been receiving treatment for heart issues, he contracted Covid which developed into pneumonia and hastened his passing.

John, together with his wife Betty, were transferred here following the closure of Coatbridge Assembly in 2016, and being well known to us all fitted in to all the Assembly gatherings. His well-thought-out hymns at the Remembrance will be missed.

On a wild, wintry February afternoon his funeral took place under the lockdown restrictions in place in Scotland. At the funeral parlour where immediate family were present, a short service was held which included the reading of two hymns which John had previously requested, PHSS 262 and 416. A brief resumé of John's life prepared by daughter Ruth was read by Robert Fisher who also added his personal tribute. Scriptures read and referred to were Phil. 1:23, 2 Tim. 4:6 and John 14:1-6.

Due to the inclemency of the weather, Karl Smith gave a brief address to the larger gathering of extended family, neighbours and invited friends. Karl spoke of the fact that the real John was not in the grave but with his Lord in the glory, and gave a short but poignant Gospel message.

Please remember our sister Betty as she now adapts to the loneliness of widowhood. John and Betty were married by the late Harry King in October 1963, and most of their

service was in Coatbridge. Well known in Scotland, they came to be known in a wider sphere due to their involvement at early YFR gatherings when they were part of the catering team, so some folks will remember them from those times.

John's testimony is on page 83 of 'At the Cross - 100 Personal Testimonies'.

*RH Fisher; RB Fullarton*

## At home with the Lord – Ruth Sherlock, Newcastle, England



**Our dear sister Ruth Sherlock passed away on 13 January, aged 96.** She has completed a long and active life during which she helped many people. The Gospel featured prominently in her upbringing in Southport. She would talk of her father running the Sunday School, and later of cooking at the camps. Ruth was in various Assemblies in North West England, and then in Leicester for many years.

About 20 years ago Ruth came to Northumberland to care for her daughter and grandchildren. It was soon after her husband Jim had died. The circumstances meant she was some distance from the hall in Newcastle but Ruth did not let that stop her getting to all the meetings. She would drive the long distance and sometimes bring her neighbours along with her to special Church events. Ruth was so good at keeping in touch with people, volunteering for community activities including meals on wheels. Less than a year ago she was arranging for a group from the Assembly to sing hymns to the residents of the home for the elderly where she lived. We shall remember with affection Ruth's liveliness and enthusiasm.

The current circumstances meant that the funeral was restricted to family and close friends. Please pray for Ruth's son David, his wife Pam and other family who are in Manchester and London.

*John Stoner; Peter Stoner*

# Special focus

# Notice Board

We are aware that due to COVID-19, events are cancelled; however some may happen via online methods.

## March

- 06 Midlands District Overseers
- 06 South East District Event 1
- 12 Midlands Sisters' Weekend (Holthorpe Hall) **Postponed**
- 27 North America CULTIV8 (Hamilton, Ont.)

KEY:  
DySGu - District Study Group, S. Wales  
SOH - Sisters' Open House  
MFC - Mount Forest Camp  
YC - Young Christians  
YPM - Young Peoples' Meeting  
TTT - Ten to Thirteen

## Text for the Month

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus  
Philippians 2:5 ESV

**'And there is Salvation in no one else,**

**for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.'**

[Acts 4:12]

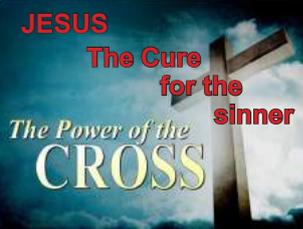
## A Message of Hope in Kilmarnock

With our Assembly hall closed these posters broadcast a silent yet powerful message that Jesus is the answer to every foe.

*"I see the poster and the message is very helpful. God comforts us during these dark days. Thank you very much. It's my luck to make friends with you. Every time when we pass by the Church we feel warm and remember the happy moment together with you all. It's my excellent time in Scotland."*

This came as a text message from our friend Numin Liu. She is from China and is here teaching Mandarin at a local school. Daughter Xinran is with her while her husband is at home. We feel the Lord has been drawing Numin to Himself in small steps. Please pray for them.

*Len Burgoyne; Ian Lithgow*



**CORONAVIRUS**  
a word with a clear meaning  
**FEAR**

**THE WORDS OF JESUS**  
"Peace be to you"  
John 20:19.



**A WORD FROM GOD**  
in this present turmoil  
"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near"  
Isaiah 55:6.

## Your Local Contact:

in<sup>+</sup>telligence

Editors:  
Steve Peers & Guy Elliott  
40 The Spinney,  
Brackla, Bridgend, CF31 2JE  
Email:  
editors.intelligence@gmail.com

Published by Hayes Press  
The Barn  
Flaxlands, Royal Wootton Bassett  
Wiltshire SN4 8DY  
Tel. 01793 850 598  
www.hayespress.org