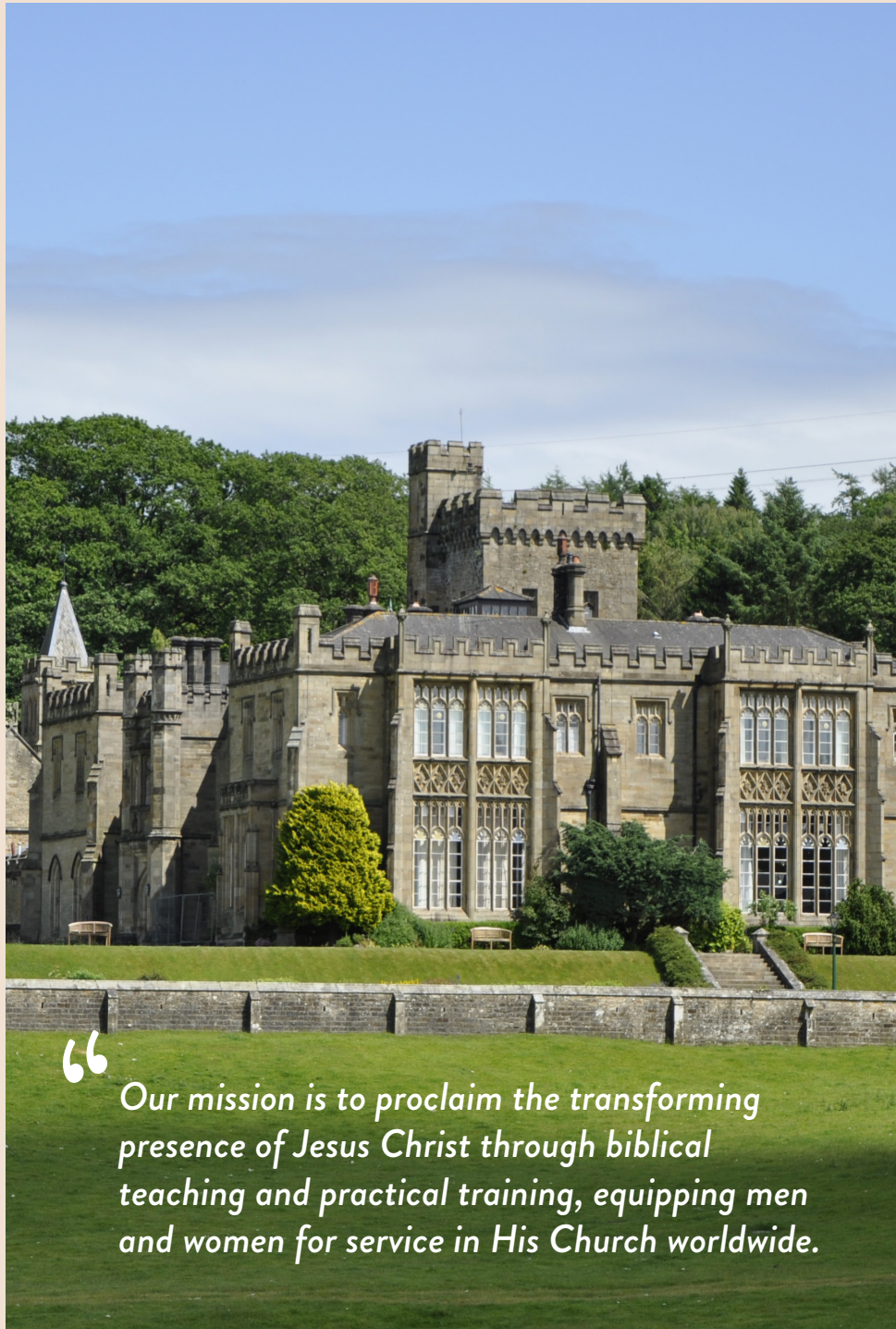


Autumn / Winter 2022

# CAPERWRAY NEWS





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*Our mission is to proclaim the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through biblical teaching and practical training, equipping men and women for service in His Church worldwide.*

## WELCOME MESSAGE

# SAME, BUT DIFFERENT

This summer marked the 75 year anniversary of when the first holiday guests arrived at Capernwray Hall. Ever since then, guests, students and visitors have not only marvelled at the beauty of the Hall and its surroundings but have experienced the life-transforming presence of the Lord Jesus. While buildings, programmes and people have changed over the years, our mission remains to "proclaim the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through biblical teaching and practical training, equipping men and women for service in His Church worldwide".

This summer we re-united with our wider Torchbearer family and celebrated the rich legacy that was started by the founders, Major and Mrs Thomas (page 8).

Charles Price, guest speaker and former Bible School Principal, shared his reflections on coming back to Capernwray this summer and his experience over the

years. "The message hasn't changed, in its truthfulness at the heart of the gospel, nor in its centrality to the ministry of Capernwray" (pages 18-19).

We also look forward to sharing some exciting news and updates in and around Capernwray (pages 6-7) and introducing our new Serving and Leadership Training (SaLT) programme - a journey we have recently started with 12 wonderful Ministry Assistants (pages 16-17).

As we carefully navigate remaining faithful to our mission while exploring new ideas and changes over the upcoming months and years, it is our prayer for ourselves and you that "we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Stephanie Schönmann  
**Editor**

**4 CLOSER**  
Summer holidays 2022 review and a reminder to not drift away

**6 NEWS AND UPDATES**  
Looking back over the last 6 months

**14 WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT**  
A devotional from one of our holiday guests



**16 MEET OUR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS**  
Serving as leaders



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

# SUMMER DAYS, DRIFTING AWAY

Another summer has ended at Capernwray Hall and I am very grateful to God for the guests and staff who made this summer significant and helpful to many.

Summer 2022 started at the Hall with the International Staff Conference on Thursday 23rd June. Our guests, colleagues, fellow workers, friends and families from other centres were gathering as we usually do every 4 years for fellowship, teaching, updates and refreshment. After that week we welcomed returning and new guests to weeks for families, adults and teenagers. Thank you to all who were able to join us. Without meaning to show favouritism it was GREAT to be able to welcome back teenagers to our International Youth Weeks this summer, plus some (who had missed out on their last teens week in 2020 and 2021) to IMPACT for 18-25's. Seeing you all here was a great encouragement to us in the 75th year of holidays at Capernwray. Welcome back!

Our final holiday of the summer - Men's Weekend - finished on Sunday 4th September. Through all of these weeks we started, finished and spent some time around one word. CLOSER.

It is encouraging and sobering to think that after only approximately 40 years since Jesus left this earth His followers had to be made aware that they were at real risk of drifting away from the truths of who Jesus

is. They were instructed to pay CLOSER attention to what they had heard.

**“FOR THIS REASON  
WE MUST PAY CLOSER  
ATTENTION TO WHAT WE  
HAVE HEARD. THEN WE  
WON'T DRIFT AWAY.”**

HEBREWS 2:1

Whether you were able to join us here at Capernwray in the summer or not, please remember that many before us have been reminded that hearing the truth is a great start, but these truths are not ornaments, but orders. Orders from the One who knows us better than we know ourselves (because He made us) that must be obeyed if we do not want to drift away.



**Dogie Roy**  
Holidays and Events Manager





## UPDATES

### NEW GYM

On 18th July 2022 we started building a new gym in our basement, which was finished mid-September just in time for the start of Winter Bible School. As students invest time to learn about God and experience His transforming presence, we want to give them the opportunity to get into a good rhythm with an active healthy lifestyle alongside their spiritual journey.



### BBC SONGS OF PRAISE AT CAPERNWRAY



BBC Songs of Praise including presenter Katherine Jenkins came to visit Capernwray. They captured moments of both Bible School and Holidays and filmed several interviews with staff, guests and students. The programme was aired on 14th August 2022. Some of the interviews can be watched on the 'BBC Songs of Praise' Facebook page.

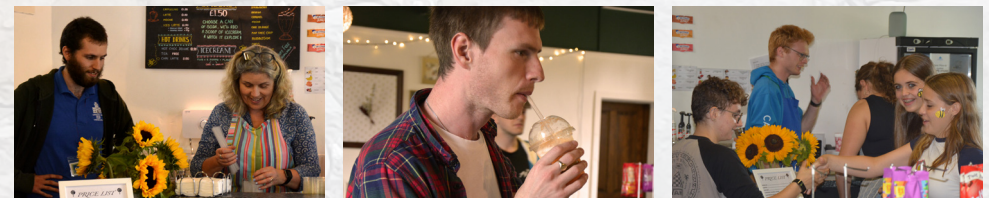
### STEPPING STONES



Our estates team has installed a lovely new addition to the 'loop walk' by the river Keer for our guests and students to enjoy!



### BEEHIVE RE-OPENS



We re-opened the Beehive coffee shop to our summer holiday guests and Bible School students. Many of you will have fond memories of this place in the Courtyard area. We have refurbished the room and added some new milkshake creations to our selection of old favourites.



## NEWS UPDATE

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INTERNATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE 2022



After 5 years, we were able to reunite for a staff conference week with our international Torchbearer family here at Capernwray in June 2022. The week included meetings, teaching, reports from our different centres and lots of fun activities - with the goal of getting closer in friendship and mission as a fellowship, and closer individually with our Lord Jesus.



## WELCOMING NEW STAFF

We are delighted to announce that we have had some new members of staff joining the Capernwray team over the past few months. Please pray that they would settle into their new roles and be a blessing to all as they begin to serve in the Torchbearers ministry and use their gifts:



Bijou Stewart joined the Dining Hall team temporarily from September to November 2022.



Charlotte Coe rejoined us as Bible School Admissions Officer after her maternity leave.



Glendon McGowan is our newest chef in the kitchen.



James Lawrie joined our staff team in January 2022 as our IT, AV and Health & Safety Assistant.



Lydia Stones recently joined us as a part-time Receptionist.



Naemi Ellershaw rejoined our Dining Hall team on a part-time basis after her maternity leave.



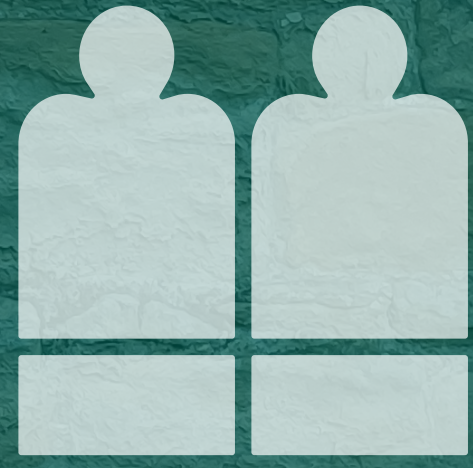
Naomi Massey joined our Dining Hall team on a part-time basis.



Samara Earl has been appointed to the role of Administrator, Service and Leadership Training (SaLT).



Stephanie Schönmann joined the team in Spring 2022 as our Marketing and Design Coordinator.





## SAYING THANKS AND GOODBYE

We have recently said goodbye to Matt Holderness, Marketing and Design Coordinator, who was on staff for 12 years. We have also said farewell to Kallie Derksen and Cait Snowden, who both temporarily covered for Charlotte as the Bible School Admissions and Administration Officer. Please join us in giving thanks for all the vital work that they have contributed to our ministry. Please also join us in praying that they would be blessed in their next season of life and in everything they do away from Capernwray!



Matt Holderness



Kallie Derksen



Cait Snowden



## TRIBUTES



SUE GILMORE

Sue Gilmore was called to be with the Lord on 14th July 2022. We give God thanks for her life and celebrate her faithful witness, particularly over nearly 30 years of ministry on staff here at Capernwray prior to retirement. She will be missed by so many, but she is now with the Lord, which is better by far - to God be the glory.

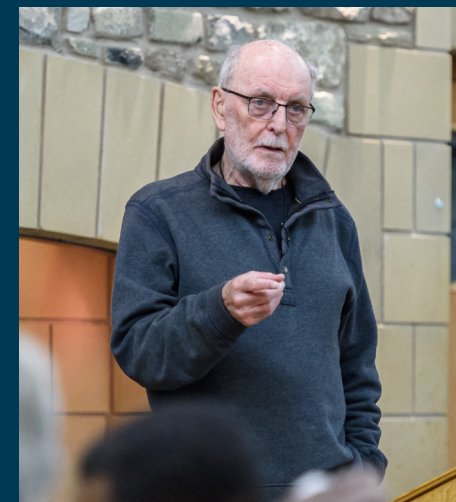
The funeral and thanksgiving service was held at Capernwray and was led by Ian Ellershaw.

The service can be watched here: <https://bit.ly/suegilmore>

STUART BRISCOE

On 3rd August 2022, Stuart Briscoe went to be with the Lord. For us at Capernwray and throughout Torchbearers there is a deep sadness at his going, yet a deeper joy in knowing he is at home. How grateful we are for what he meant to us all through his godly character, Christ-centred life and clear preaching based on thorough study of the Scriptures.

His Memorial Service was live streamed by Elmbrook Church and can be watched here: <https://bit.ly/stuart-briscoe>



“

*Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.  
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

*Hebrews 13:7*



## CAPERNWRAY STORY

# WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Anyone who knows me knows Capernwray is a pretty special place to me. I holidayed here as a kid; I studied here, I worked summers here and now I get to take my little crew here on holidays.

I love this place but more than that I love what God does in and through it. For me it's a place to exhale, a place to learn, a place to make memories, a place to laugh, a place to grow, a place to reset, a place to dream again, and a place to lean in to hear more from God. I can't tell you how ready I was for the exhale that this holiday was about to bring. If I'm honest I was tired, a little worn out - my tank was needing a good top up that's for sure and I was so ready to hear God speak afresh.

I think more than ever it's vital that we push back all the noise, all the distractions and position ourselves - to reset our posture towards Him. It's not about location - as God can speak anywhere - it's about our posture.

“

**SEE WHAT GREAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD! AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!**

1 JOHN 3:1

Sometimes we are so distracted with life, work, ministry and everything in between that we miss what He is trying to say because it's distorted through the noise and busyness of life or worse still we can't hear Him at all.

**“WE NEED TO DISCONNECT IN ORDER TO CONNECT WITH THE ONE WHO LOVES US.”**

I got a sense that today there are others who are tired, a little worn out still running but perhaps with an “emptyish” tank. I want to urge you to tuck yourself away even for a few hours to reposition your posture.

We need to disconnect in order to reconnect with the one who loves us and yes that will mean turning off your phone for a while, sit with Him, abide in Him and begin to feel the Father's heartbeat for you again.



And in that moment as you turn your gaze towards Him and look full in His wonderful face just imagine Him cupping your face in His hands - like that of a parent to a child and looking right into your eyes and whispering into the very depths of your heart reminding you again of whose you are and the promises He speaks over you.



**Victoria Gordon** kindly gave us permission to print her Facebook message. She has longstanding connections to Capernwray and came as a guest with her family to a holiday in Summer 2022.



HOLIDAYS  
FOR ALL  
AGES

“

*Being part of a Christian community like this happened regularly for me as a student through Christian Union events and meetings. At the parent stage of life this doesn't happen so much, so this has been a real blessing for our family.*

- Summer holiday guest 2022

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Book your 2023 holiday today:  
[www.capernwray.org/holidays](http://www.capernwray.org/holidays)





## OUR NEW 'SERVING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING' (SALT)

We are excited to be launching our new Ministry Assistant volunteer programme, SaLT (Serving and Leadership Training). Our SaLT programme is a one-year opportunity that provides experience and training for developing Christians to live, serve and lead well in all walks of life.

We are committed to training and equipping men and women for service in His Church worldwide. The SaLT programme is a

wonderful chance to discover and develop your giftings and have the opportunity to be actively involved in helping us prepare and run every aspect of our organisation.

Please pray for us as we begin this new journey with 12 wonderful Ministry Assistants. If you would like more information on the programme, please visit the website or email [volunteers@capernwray.org](mailto:volunteers@capernwray.org).



**Matt Wraight**

is our Male Dean of Students and Ministry Assistant Coordinator.



**Samara Earl**

joined the staff at Capernwray in 2022 as Administrator for the Ministry Assistant programme.



Apply now for September 2023:  
**[www.capernwray.org](http://www.capernwray.org)**



### MEET OUR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

(From left to right): Carys Lunt, George Goldsmith, Esther Brooks, Dave Gradwell, Brooklyn Davidson, Logan Ross, Abbie Danielson, Shanti Adair, Caleb Karch, Carlee Cleveland, Skye Valentine, Jake Patterson



## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

## AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

From the late 1970s, throughout the entire decade of the '80s and into early '90s I led the holiday weeks at Capernwray Hall.

Back in the day we had around 13 summer weeks, two at Easter and two more over Christmas and New Year, so I estimate I personally led more than 175 weeks, with something close to 25,000 people attending those weeks. I led, sat in, or preached at around 1700 meetings, and looked after umpteen visiting speakers.

What a privilege to be back to speak at the first 'Escape to Capernwray' week of summer 2022, after an absence of 22 years (apart from one a few years ago), 60 years since I first attended a teen week as a twelve-year-old boy, and 45 years since I first led the summer weeks.

What has changed? The physical buildings have expanded during those years, to include the beautiful rebuilt Conference Hall, the new Kitchen and Dining Hall, the Sports Hall renovated from the old swimming pool, and the more recent swimming pool. There is a zip line, go-carts (pedal variety), large

stepping stone crossing of the river Keer which runs through the property, and other smaller areas of change and improvement. The bureaucracy of legal obligations has increased in line with national obligations, all to the good of course, and with its beautiful and fairly isolated location, Capernwray must be one of the safest locations around.

## "WHAT HASN'T CHANGED? THE TRUTHS FOR WHICH CAPERNWRAY STANDS."

What hasn't changed? The truths for which Capernwray stands. The twice daily exposition of the Scriptures, pointing people to the Living Christ and all the resources available to us in Him to live life as God first created us to live, and then, because of the Fall, redeemed us by the sacrificial death of Christ, to indwell us by His Spirit, equipping us for lives of usefulness.



The message hasn't changed, in its truthfulness at the heart of the gospel, nor in its centrality to the ministry of Capernwray. It is for this reason that guests flow through the doors of Capernwray Hall, hungry to know more, eager to soak up the ministry of the Word of God, anticipating

When these objectives cease to be a priority, and people cease to hunger for truth, the doors of Capernwray will close. But I predict that is not going to be for a very long time! Perhaps not until the Lord Jesus comes back.



leaving the place renewed in the Lord Jesus Christ. This was the goal from the beginning of Capernwray's ministry, 75 years ago, when the first summer conference took place in 1947.



**Charles Price**

is a guest speaker and our former Bible School Principal. You can listen to his teaching by downloading the 'Charles Price Ministry' app.



MORE  
THAN  
STUDY

“

*I had no idea when I applied just how much my life was going to change, or how strongly the Lord was going to lay His claim on my heart. This has been the best, hardest, most challenging and most beautiful season of my life.*

- Bible School student 2021/22

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Find out more and apply here:  
[www.capernwray.org/bible-school](http://www.capernwray.org/bible-school)





MORE  
THAN  
STUDY

MORE  
THAN  
TRAINING

# ARE YOU READY FOR 2023?



*September - March / April - June*

## BIBLE SCHOOL

Join the adventure of Bible School at Capernwray alongside students from all over the world. Be equipped, challenged and encouraged as we study God's Word, have fun together and (re-)discover the transforming life of Christ working in and through us.

Choose from our 22 week Winter School (September - March) and our 10 week Spring School (April - June) - or why not book both?



*September 2023 - August 2024*

## SERVING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Our 12 months of training is aimed at developing Christian leaders in all avenues of ministry.

It is a chance to serve and grow, where you can learn more about your giftings and learn to live, serve and lead well within every area of life.

Apply now for September 2023 - August 2024



## GIVING

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The last two and a half years have undoubtedly been a difficult time financially for many organisations globally. We praise God for keeping our doors open to receive guests and students.

As an organisation we have seen our site go from being empty for almost 6 months, to having 60 students for Winter Bible School in 2020, then 75 students for SBS in 2021, followed by 95 in Winter Bible school in 2021 and then 110 at Spring Bible School in 2022. This is all against a backdrop of pre-pandemic numbers of 155 students for Winter Bible School and 115 for Spring Bible School.

### THE TIMOTHY CAMPAIGN: Fundraising £1m+

Our costs are rising and we are having to increase our fees. However, our heart's desire is to make Bible School as accessible to as many students (Timothys) as possible. We want to establish a Timothy Student Sponsorship Fund of at least £0.5m to provide the most extensive financial support to students who need it most. In addition, we have some covid-related debt to clear (£350k) and a desire to start investing again in our infrastructure (bedrooms, windows, Beehive, etc.).

Over the same period our holiday conference numbers have gone from zero in 2020, to approximately 700 in 2021 and are currently looking like 1350 for 2022, versus a more usual number of 2200 guests over the year.

This has certainly put acute pressure on the ministry's finances with a loan taken out to help support working capital and has left us needing to solely trust in God (which is not a bad place to be).

In all of these challenges we thank God for all he has done during these years in terms of bringing people to Capernwray and transforming lives. We thank Him for all that he has provided and not least the amazing gifts we have received over these years. We have seen so many amazingly generous monthly donations, one off gifts and legacies left in wills and we are truly thankful for so many supporters of the ministry. If you would like any further information then please visit [capernwray.org/support](https://capernwray.org/support) or email [michael.gregory@capernwray.org](mailto:michael.gregory@capernwray.org).



**Michael Gregory**  
Finance and Facilities Manager



# PRAY WITH US



We are grateful for all the people who regularly remember the work, staff, guests and students in prayer. We are giving thanks for His provision of guests and voluntary workers to successfully run the Summer holiday programme. We are also thankful for a fantastic group of engaged and committed students in our Winter Bible School.

At the moment we have a number of specific needs for you to bring before God:

### Bible School

- Continue to pray for Bible School, that the students would deepen in their relationship and service of the Lord Jesus and the staff would be blessed as they minister to them.
- Pray that God would keep sending students, particularly male and especially from the UK.

### Holidays

- Pray that we will continue to have an opportunity to impact people's lives and that Jesus is known through what we do.
- Pray for wisdom, as we navigate and explore ideas and holiday programmes that run alongside Bible School.

### Staff

- Pray for short and long term voluntary workers to join us for our Bible School and holiday programmes.
- Pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen and protect our staff and voluntary workers.
- Pray for the new Members of the Board of Trustees.





HOLIDAYS  
FOR ALL  
AGES

“

*Coming to Capernwray is  
the highlight of my year.*

*- Summer holiday guest 2022*

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Book your 2023 holiday today:  
[www.capernwray.org/holidays](http://www.capernwray.org/holidays)










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