

Dear Friends,

June 2018

Open Study Weekend 8th and 9th June

After the early lecture with John Saunders on *Joshua*, Trustees, friends and visitors joined the students for the rest of the day on both the Friday and the Saturday. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Michael Haykin was unable to take his lectures at the last minute, and so an adapted programme was devised. We are grateful to the men who lectured, at very short notice.

Malcolm Watts took the first of these lectures on *The Felt Presence of God*. He highlighted our need of the special presence of God in addition to His general presence: those times when the Lord draws close so that it is like a foretaste of glory, a touch of Heaven upon earth. We should "Wait on the Lord" (Ps. 24:14) and seek Him for this.



Hywel Roberts then spoke on *The Reformed Faith in the Public Domain*. He highlighted how Christianity has provided us with a rich heritage in the spiritual, moral, cultural and political life of our country, which is being eroded at this present time. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Ps. 33:12) and, as the Lord's people, we should stand for our faith, presenting a God-centred view that is rooted in His sovereignty.

Roland Burrows then took the two afternoon lectures on *An Overview of British Church History*. He covered two thousand years in two hours! He emphasised how privileged our country has been. Many godly men have influenced life in our land since the gospel first came in the 1st century, some being martyrs for the faith. The history of Britain really is 'His-story' of how the Lord has preserved and blessed our nation. We need to pray that God will come again in these desperate days.



On the Saturday, Malcolm Watts lectured on *The Life of John Calvin*. He showed how John Calvin was a man who used all his abilities for the work of the gospel and faithfully stood for the great biblical truths. He laboured for the glory of God. We need such men in these days.

Dewi Higham's first lecture was on *The History of Revivals in Wales*. He showed how Wales has been blessed with many revivals, times of divine visitation when the Spirit of God was poured out upon the land. He talked of the men who God raised up as leaders in such times. There is a real need in the land at present; we should pray that God will come again in revival power.

Dewi Higham's second lecture was on *Prerequisites for Revival*. He emphasised that revival is a sovereign act of God, but there are conditions and promises laid out in Scripture. He outlined these by speaking on "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14). This challenge comes to us all.

Malcolm Watts took the final lecture and spoke on *Encouragement in God*, using "David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (1 Sam. 30:6) as his text. He talked about 'A Great Distress' and how the people of God will experience distress and difficulties in this world. Yet, like David, we have 'A Great Comfort', knowing that God

is sovereign, and His providences never cause us needless grief for His people are precious to Him. God is a living God: we should look to Him, turn to Him and encourage ourselves in Him.

We trust that the students and all who heard the lectures were blessed, challenged and helped by them.



Further news

In the last update letter, we mentioned that the Seminary had gained approval from the Co-operative Bank to open a Seminary bank account. The account details are as follows:

Bank - The Co-operative bank

Account type - Community Directplus

Sort Code - 08-92-99

Account Number - 65852280

Account Name - Salisbury Reformed Seminary

This is now in use and Richard Clarke, the Seminary Treasurer, is overseeing our financial affairs.

Thank you for your support, we greatly appreciate it. Please continue to pray for the work at the Seminary, that it will all be for His honour and glory.

Yours through free grace alone,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm H. Watts".

Malcolm H. Watts

If you no longer wish to receive update letters about the Seminary, please inform the Administrator using the above contact details.