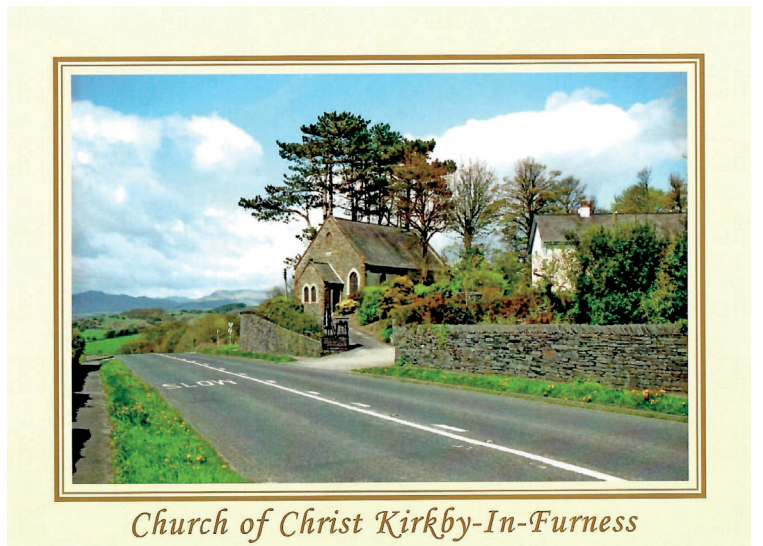


*Escomb Saxon Church*



*Church of Christ Kirkby-In-Furness*



*Abbotsford*



From 1985-2023, Dr. Jerry Rushford led groups of Christians on a literary and hymn pilgrimage across the British Isles. Hundreds of people have experienced this life-changing and deeply spiritual, transforming experience.

In 2023, Dr. Rushford invited Dr. D.J. Bulls, a well-respected worship leader, composer, arranger, publisher, and hymnologist (with a Ph.D. in Hymnology and Church Music History) to step into the position that Jerry so capably held for four decades. D.J. has taught courses in hymnology, music, and worship on the undergraduate and graduate level and serves as the Worship Minister for the Glenwood Church of Christ in Tyler, Texas where he lives with his wife and daughter.

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Dear Friends:

I hope you will consider joining me for what is sure to be a thrilling and rich pilgrimage across the UK as we encounter some very significant sites and people who shaped the fabric of the church's hymns and its history. Be assured that this is an experience you'll not soon forget. The songs, the sounds, and the fellowship shared as we sing our way through the UK will be a profound voyage you'll enjoy and remember for years and years to come.

In Christ Alone-  
D.J. Bulls

**Tuesday, June 3 – CHAWTON, HURSLEY:** Boarding our private motorcoach, we drive through the beautiful English countryside to the lovely village of Chawton where we enjoy a tour of Jane Austen's home. She lived there from 1809 to 1817 and wrote three novels and revised three others during her stay. Our journey will continue to the town of Hursley where hymn-writer John Keble lived for 30 years. We will be welcomed to England by members of Hursley Church, and we sing in the church and around John Keble's grave. A light lunch will be served in the church. There will also be an opportunity to tour the "Old Vicarage" where Keble lived. Then it's on to London to our conveniently located Rembrandt Hotel on Thurloe Place. We are staying in the heart of South Kensington and Knightsbridge and across from the Victoria & Albert Museum. Tonight we will have a wonderful dinner at the Rembrandt Hotel.

**Wednesday, June 4 – LONDON:** Following breakfast at the Rembrandt, we make a brief visit to Peppercorn University's London residence at 56 Princes Gate (a 2-minute walk) and we will sing in the library. When we leave 56 Princes Gate, everyone is free to sightsee London on their own. Options include boarding our motorcoach for a visit to the British Museum; staying in the South Kensington area and touring the Victoria & Albert Museum or shopping in famed Harrods Department Store; taking the Underground to Westminster Abbey and Churchill's War Rooms; or further on to Bunhill Fields to visit the graves of Isaac Watts and other hymn writers. We meet back at the hotel for an early dinner, and then board our motorcoach for a drive to London's theatre district where we have tickets for a performance.

**Thursday, June 5 – BRISTOL, STOW-ON-THE-WOLD:** Following a Full English breakfast at the Rembrandt, we exit London and drive west on the M4 to Bristol where we visit the Wesley Chapel Museum associated with the ministry of Charles Wesley. Bristol was the home of Charles Wesley for more than 20 years, and he wrote many of his 6,000 hymns in this city. It is thrilling to sing in the historic chapel, and the song leaders in our group will remember the experience of leading Wesley's hymns from the place where he first led them. We have lunch with members of the Bedminster Church of Christ and enjoy singing together in their church building. We will continue our journey to the charming villages in the picturesque Cotswolds. Our host this evening is the 16th-century Cotswold stone Manor House Hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh.

**Friday, June 6 – BOURTON, BUCKLAND, STRATFORD:** After a hearty English breakfast, we drive to nearby Buckland to tour Hillview Cottage, the English residence of LaGard and Ruth Smith. After a walk through the village, we will sing great English hymns in the choir of St Michael's Church. A brief drive brings us to Stratford-Upon-Avon where everyone will be free to have lunch on their own. After lunch we reassemble for a tour of the Shakespeare Centre. Following the tour, we walk through the streets of Stratford from the birthplace to Holy Trinity Church where Shakespeare is buried. Our host tonight is Alveston Manor House Hotel outside of Stratford. Before dinner we meet to sing in All Saints Church Billesley that was built in 1692.

**Saturday, June 7 – LLANGOLLEN, MOLLINGTON:** Our first stop today is in the tiny village of Astley to see the residence, church, and grave of England's greatest woman hymn-writer, Frances Ridley Havergal. We will sing her songs in the ancient parish church where her father served as Rector, and in the cemetery where she is buried with her parents. We will sing several of her hymns including "I Gave My Life for Thee"; "True Hearted, Whole Hearted"; "Is It for Me?"; "Lord, Speak to Me"; and "Take My Life, and Let It Be." Crossing the border into Wales our route takes us through Llangollen with its aged 14th century bridge over the River Dee (one of the "seven wonders of Wales"). Returning to England, we see two homes in the town of Mollington near Chester – "The Willows" and "Cross Looms House" – where Alexander Campbell was a guest in 1847. Our dinner and lodging tonight is in the 17th century Crabwall Manor Hotel in Mollington.

**Sunday, June 8 – THE LAKE DISTRICT:** Following our English breakfast on this quiet Sunday morning, we drive to England's scenic Lake District, a region of incomparable beauty and variety. Here we will assemble for worship with the Wall End Church of Christ in the village of Kirkby-in-Furness. Their lovely stone church building was constructed in 1876. After our time of worship and a luncheon with the congregation, we motor to Windermere and board a boat for the leisurely 30-minute cruise on Lake Windermere to Ambleside to meet our coach. Near Ambleside we tour Rydal Mount, the residence of England's Poet Laureate, William Wordsworth, from 1813 to 1850. This house contains many of the poet's personal possessions and first editions of his works, and the gardens and nature trails are spectacular. Our host this evening is the Old England Hotel in Bowness overlooking Lake Windermere.

**Monday, June 9 – ABBOTSFORD, EDINBURGH:** Our day begins with a glorious drive as we exit the Lake District, motoring through the north of England and into Scotland. Soon after crossing the border we visit Gretna Green. Near Melrose, we have a guided tour of Abbotsford, the residence of Sir Walter Scott from 1812 to 1832. Abbotsford is a shrine to the writer who drew worldwide attention to Scotland in his many novels and poems. Among the features of the house are the two-story library with its nine thousand volumes, the study where he wrote his novels, and the family chapel where we will sing. A light lunch is available at the café on the property. Then on to Edinburgh, Scotland's famous capital city, where we should arrive in time to stroll down Princes Street, one of the most beautiful avenues in Europe. Our host for the next two nights is the luxurious Principal Edinburgh (formerly the George Hotel), conveniently located one block from Princes Street.

**Tuesday, June 10 – EDINBURGH:** This entire day is free for everyone to explore this fascinating city on their own. Some may want to enjoy the pleasures of shopping on Princes Street or touring majestic Edinburgh Castle. Others may want to walk the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace. Other options include St Giles' Cathedral, John Knox's House, the Georgian House, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, and the National Museum of Antiquities. We reassemble for an early dinner at the Principal Edinburgh Hotel. Following dinner we will experience an evening of hymn-singing in the sanctuary of historic St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland adjacent to our hotel. Members from five or six Churches of Christ in Scotland will join us on this special occasion.

**Wednesday, June 11 – ESCOMB, DURHAM:** Before driving out of Edinburgh, we will sing in (or outside) the old Glasite Church of Christ which was built in 1835. It has recently been purchased by an art museum. Our journey today returns us to the north of England and to County Durham. In the little village of Escomb we visit one of the best-preserved Saxon Churches in England. It will be a thrilling experience to sing in this ancient church, built in AD 670, whose walls have heard every form and style of church music for over 13 centuries. From there we proceed to the university city of Durham. We stroll through the narrow streets of the old town on our way up to the majestic cathedral. Durham Cathedral, built between 1093 and 1133, is the finest Norman Cathedral in all of England. Inside the Cathedral is the tomb of England's most renowned church historian, the Venerable Bede. We will have an opportunity to attend Evensong in Durham Cathedral (5:15-6:00). Our host for dinner and overnight is the Durham Marriott Royal County Hotel.

**Thursday, June 12 – YORK, HORBURY BRIDGE:** After a delicious breakfast at the Marriott Royal County, we board our coach for the drive to historic York, the lovely walled city that has had such an active role in English history. We will stroll by York Minster and down some of York's fascinating maze of narrow streets, and there is a short time for shopping at Käthe Wohlfahrt's "Mulberry Hall" Christmas shop in the Stonegate. Lunch together is at the delightful Betty's Tea Room in Helensgate. In the early afternoon we drive to Horbury Bridge where Sabine Baring-Gould wrote "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Now the Day is Over." A photo stop opportunity is outside the small apartment where he wrote the hymns, and we can enjoy singing his hymns in St John's Church. Our host for the final two nights of our literary and hymn pilgrimage through the United Kingdom is the Hilton Northampton Hotel.

**Friday, June 13 – BRIXWORTH, NORTHAMPTON, OLNEY:** Today we sing at the ancient but very well-preserved Brixworth Saxon Church which was built in AD 680. Then on to the 300-year-old Castle Hill Church in Northampton where Philip Doddridge, author of "O Happy Day," preached in the 18th century. We sing in the sanctuary and in the vestry where Doddridge wrote his hymns. We have lunch with members of the Northampton Church of Christ and sing together in their building. From there we drive to the quaint market town of Olney where William Cowper and John Newton collaborated on the publication of Olney Hymns in 1779. After touring the Cowper-Newton Museum which is located in Cowper's former residence, we will see the "Summer House" where he wrote many hymns including "God Moves in a Mysterious Way." We can stroll past the "Old Vicarage" where Newton wrote "Amazing Grace" and other memorable hymns. We sing in Olney Church and in the churchyard around the grave of John Newton. Following dinner, we adjourn to a private room for coffee and cookies and a spirited reliving of our wonderful literary and hymn pilgrimage.

**Saturday, June 14 – HEATHROW AIRPORT:** Today is the last opportunity to sing together on our private motorcoach as we travel to Heathrow Airport to prepare for our flights home.

# TOUR CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

The tour cost is \$4,679 land only. Features included in the tour cost are:

**TRANSPORTATION:** Land transportation is by private motor coach.

**HOTELS:** Accommodations are in first class hotels based on sharing twin bedded rooms with private bath. Supplement for a single room throughout is \$1405.

**MEALS:** Two meals daily are included throughout consisting of English/Scottish breakfast and dinner.

**SIGHTSEEING:** All sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary is included with applicable entrance fees.

**TIPS AND TAXES:** Baggage handling tips at hotels and hotel service charges and taxes are included.

**NOT INCLUDED IN COST:** U.S. passport fee, personal and baggage insurance, tips to drivers, meals other than those mentioned above, items of a personal nature and any other items not specifically mentioned as being included. Tips to the drivers in the amount of \$115 will be included in the final statement.

**RESERVATIONS:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure space on the tour. Balance of the tour cost is due 120 days before departure.

**BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** During the land portion, tips for handling one bag are included.

**CANCELLATIONS:** After deposit and more than 120 days prior to departure, \$200 cancellation charge will apply. 120 days or less of departure, all monies paid are subject to forfeiture if the reservation is cancelled. Trip cancellation, travel accident and baggage insurance is recommended.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Tour prices are based on rates in effect on February 15, 2024, as well as on a minimum of 35 passengers. The final tour price is subject to adjustment up or down based on the actual currency conversion rates in effect on January 20, 2025.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** FOWLER TOURS LLC, and their representatives act solely as a booking agent for travel services and related products, and disclaim all other responsibility regarding the travel services and related products described above. Once a booking is obtained through FOWLER TOURS LLC any funds received by FOWLER TOURS LLC are sent directly to the actual supplier, who assumes all responsibility for providing the services and products purchased. FOWLER TOURS LLC and its officers, directors, employees and other representatives, will not be liable for the acts or omissions of suppliers, such as airlines, cruise lines, other transportation providers, hotels, and tour or ground operators; nor will FOWLER TOURS LLC or any of its officers, directors, employees or other representatives have liability for any loss, injury or damage (including consequential damage) to persons or property in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or products purchased. FOWLER TOURS LLC and the ground operators may make changes to the daily itinerary as deemed necessary for the safety and comfort of the tour members.

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