

Term Plan 1 –School of the Bible

Date	Speaker	Subject	Topic Outline
19 January	Kevin Roy	The changing patterns of baptism in the early church	By the second and third century the simplicity of apostolic baptism had developed into quite an array of baptismal practices – delayed baptism, emergency baptism, death-bed baptism, and more. The baptismal act became an elaborate ritual spread over several days. Baptism was regarded as regeneration and fierce debate raged over the question as to whether post-baptismal sin could be forgiven.
26 January	Renton Tailbot	Ecclesiastes	Study of Ecclesiastes
2 February	Kevin Roy	27 Books of the New Testament	Written by the apostles and their companions in the first century, these books circulated around the early churches. Initially, there was some confusion about the exact number of books that should be received as being apostolic and inspired. Complete consensus was reached in the third or fourth century. The so-called ‘Apostolic Fathers’ were excluded, and the Gnostic gospels were never even considered.
9 February	No School of the Bible		
16 February	Kevin Roy	Who were the Gnostics	Various Gnostic movements presented a major challenge to the early church. They claimed to be Christian but rejected the OT and the incarnation of Jesus. Their teachings were decisively rejected by the early church leaders for obvious reasons
23 February	Dr Sam	Interpreting the Old Testament	Helping believers to understand and correctly interpret the Old Testament
2 March	Kevin Roy	Was the early church Jewish or Christian?	The earliest church was almost entirely Jewish and the term ‘Christian’ had not yet been coined. Through the mission of the apostle Paul the church quickly became majority Gentile. Jewish Gentile relations have not been good over the last 2000 years, but are better now, and we pray that the Jews will be grafted in again by faith to the ancient olive tree of God’s believing people.
9 March	Dr Sam	Interpreting the New Testament	Helping believers to understand and correctly interpret the New Testament
16 March	Kevin Roy	Atheists, cannibals, incestuous rebels!	The early Christians experienced persecutions, first at the hands of the Jews, and then later at the hands of the Roman authorities. The records of these martyrdoms are a noble testimony to the faith and endurance of many of the early Christians, and make inspiring reading to this day.
23 March	Dr Sam	Interpreting the book of Revelation	Helping believers to understand and correctly interpret the book of Revelation