

## **BSTS Conference – Brewood, Staffordshire – 26/27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**By Brenda Benton and Lynne Kowalski**

The BSTS UK Conference in Brewood, Staffordshire was a great success. About a quarter of our UK members attended the two-day event along with members of The Reverend Phil Moon's welcoming congregation at the beautiful and historic St Mary and St Chad's Church. It was the brain child of Pam and Phil Moon who kindly invited the BSTS to present a mini conference on the back of Pam's two-week Shroud Exhibition. Pam's exhibition enhanced the conference in a unique and powerful way and this beautiful old church was the perfect venue. The BSTS Management Team and all who attended send our heartfelt thanks to Phil and Pam for all their hard work in making this event happen.



The Conference ran for two days and highlighted that, for many, events such as this are the only contact people have with fellow Shroudies so this was an ideal opportunity for our members to come together and get to know each other. It was such a blessing to meet face-to-face with so many of the people we've come to know via email during the past few years. We welcomed many BSTS Members and members of the public from all over the UK, Scotland, Wales, Yorkshire, The Midlands, Merseyside, Derbyshire to name but a few. It became very apparent during our time together that there was a strong sense of belonging in this large Shroud family.

David Rolfe started the proceedings on Thursday evening with a thought-provoking talk followed by a Q&A. Friday saw Michael Kowalski speak about the C-14 dating. Andrew Willie shared his observations about some of his favourite books in his personal

Shroud library. Michael Woodward spoke of his experience in studying for a postgraduate certificate in Shroud Studies. Pam Moon gave a relatable historical talk on the Ukraine Army of the eleventh century and its significance to the Shroud. Joanne Bywater gave a moving personal testimony whilst Dr Andrew Husselbee, along with Pam Moon, provide their insights into some of the anatomical features and bloodstains visible on the Shroud. Justin Robinson spoke with great authority on the accurate representations of Shroud features that are found on two Byzantine coins from his own personal collection. The event concluded with an update on the BSTS given by David Rolfe, Brenda Benton and Lynne Kowalski before the Right Reverend Canon Bruce Gillingham closed the meeting with a very moving prayer.

Our membership now covers seventeen countries worldwide and we recruited seven new members during the Conference. The event has been filmed and our members will have access to watch these presentations via our 'new' updated website which will be launched soon. The feedback we received on the day was extremely positive and we'd like to thank those of you who emailed in with constructive, supportive feedback. We intend to organise more of these events in the future and your feedback and suggestions will certainly be helpful when planning our next conference.

Through our Membership and Facebook Page, it has become apparent that the BSTS is building a network of people who are passionate about the Shroud. Indeed, we recently heard that two of our members from the USA, who are both Shroud speakers, met at an event and during their conversation realised they were both members of the BSTS. We love to receive your testimonies which could offer encouragement to someone who is just setting off on their Shroud journey. So, if you are happy to share your story on the BSTS Facebook page please contact either Lynne on [outreach@bstsnewsletter.com](mailto:outreach@bstsnewsletter.com) or Brenda on [circulation@bstsnewsletter.com](mailto:circulation@bstsnewsletter.com).



The Shroud has deepened or even reawakened the faith of many people, whilst others with no spiritual belief have been inspired to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ after gazing upon the face of the Shroud. Jesus left His Story on the Shroud and although researchers are doing an important job of uncovering evidence of its authenticity, your story might just be something which can bring more hope and reassurance to many.

## Here are few of the comments we received

*“The two-day meeting and exhibition at Brewood was a very satisfying event. There were several excellent papers, and all seemed to touch on important but less well-known aspects of the Shroud itself and its history. Without wishing to single out any particular contributions I should mention two papers. One by David Rolfe concerned his new documentary film, “Who Can He Be?” now available on Google [[www.whocanhebe.com](http://www.whocanhebe.com)] The second was a history paper by Pam Moon giving us an insight into the historic perspective as seen in the Orthodox church. She showed some pictures that she believes have been misidentified’ and which she believes actually depict some important events in the history of the Shroud. She has drawn to attention the fact that a lot of the history of the Shroud occurred in Orthodox regions that are principally outside the church in Europe and not normally part of our perspective.”*

*The meetings were held in the beautiful church of St Mary and St Chad’s in Brewood. In addition, on very open access, there was an overwhelming, full-size high-resolution photograph of the Shroud in the greatest detail. A great blessing was that the delegates were provided with excellent and substantial refreshments at every interlude in the proceedings.”*

Dennis Mannix

*“The conference was absolutely brilliant and being there meant so much to me. More than anything I felt enthused to continue with my Shroud presentations here in Scotland. I gave a presentation last night at St. Ninian’s Church and was able to highlight the significance of the Byzantine coins as presented by Justin. I’m hoping to secure more talks further down the line.*

*Also, I dedicated the talk last night to David Rolfe as, having watched the documentary ‘Who Can He Be?’, I wanted the audience to go online and stream the new release. What a magnificent film!”*

Henry Creechan

*“I became a member after attending the Brewood conference what a great exhibition and with superb talks; I’m looking forward to seeing David’s new film ‘Who Can He Be?’. It was also great to have brilliant fellowship with everyone there, what lovely people*

*Any doubts I had about the Shroud are gone, now I know it is our Saviours’ imprint on it. Once again thank you.”*

Steven

*“I recently attended the Shroud of Turin exhibition in the company of a friend. I personally had only a passing interest in the Shroud but I found the Exhibition very interesting and thought-provoking. The lecture from David Rolfe on day 1 and the varied presentations on day 2 gave an all-round view of where Shroud study currently stands.*

*Although some of topics covered were for the real student, I still found the whole presentation interesting and would recommend it to anyone with an enquiring mind.”*

*Steve Price.*

*“I cannot express how much of a blessing your event has been to me, my family and friends. It was like being in heaven surrounded by believers with a deep faith in Jesus. The Shroud was brought to life by your excellent group of speakers. Through their personal testimonies and scientific insight all doubts of authenticity in the Shroud vanishes. Please thank them all for me.”*

*(Name withheld)*

*“I found the conference extremely uplifting. I had never before doubted the carbon dating. I am so glad I came and had my eyes open to the truth of its authenticity with all that means for us all. Thank you all for the warm welcome!”*

*(Name withheld)*

*“It was amazing to be in the presence of wonderful spiritual people on Friday.”*

*Maria*



Some of the conference presentations were captured on video for the benefit of BSTS members who were unable to attend. These will soon be available to view via the [www.bstsnewsletter.com](http://www.bstsnewsletter.com) website.