

The Seeker

February

2011

The church magazine for **St Mary the Virgin, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew and St Rumbold's, Pentridge**

Who's who?

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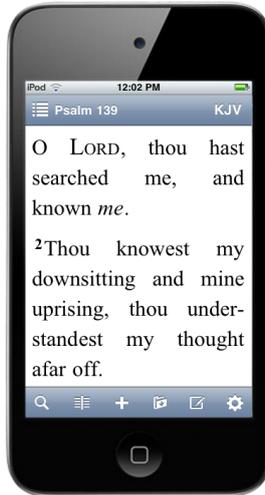
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King James Bible Happy 400th Birthday!

In this issue of *The Seeker* we're taking a closer look at one of the most significant translations of the Bible ever made – the King James Bible.

Read King James Bible for 'big picture' – archbishop

A 400-year-old Bible translation could help people see the “big picture” at a time of financial or job pressures, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said.

In a New Year address recorded for the BBC, Dr Rowan Williams called on people of all faiths - or even none - to rediscover the King James Bible. He said the edition still had the power to surprise and shock its readers, and provided a context for their lives. This would be vital to a “big society”, as envisaged by ministers, he added.

A new translation of the Bible was proposed at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at Burntisland in Fife, attended by King James VI, in 1601. It was commissioned following the Hampton Court Conference in 1604 - by which time James had become James I of England - and was published in 1611. Known as the Authorised Version, it went on to become the dominant edition in the English-speaking world and remains in widespread use.

'Story of universe'

Four hundred years on, its version of “the story of the whole universe” could feel “quite remote”, the primate acknowledged. “You may be the sort of person who feels you can make sense of your own story in your own terms,” he said. “Or you may feel there's only one big story and that's about money and whether I have got a job tomorrow and whether my children can afford higher education.”

However, for people to make sense of their lives, the archbishop said it helps have a strongly-defined story in the background that tells us that we all matter.

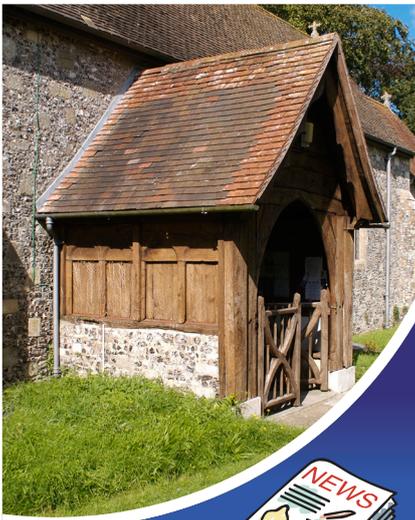
“Whether you're a Christian or belong to another religion - or whether you have nothing you'd want to call a religion at all - some sort of big picture matters,” he says.

“If we are going to talk about a 'big society', that will need a big picture – a picture of what human beings are really like and why they're so unique and precious.

“This year's anniversary is a chance to stop and think about the big picture – and to celebrate the astonishing contribution made by that book 400 years ago.”

This article was first published on the BBC Website

www.handleychurch.org.uk



Any Pentridge and Woodyates news for The Seeker to Maureen Swan on 01725 552561

Any other news to the Vicarage, please.

Outward Giving

In November we gave all the collection from the Service of Remembrance to the Royal British Legion. In December we gave all the collection from the Christingle Service to the Children's Society. In January we gave £200 to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, which assists repairs to Dorset churches of all denominations and gives guidance for other grant aid from a wide range of donors. In February we shall give £200 to the National Churches Trust which aims not to encourage churches continual use and embellishments as centres of local community.

FROM THE REGISTERS



The funeral of Betty Frances Mary Weeks took place at St Mary's on 13th December 2010.

The funeral of Mary Peach took place a Poole Crematorium on 12th January 2011.

The funeral of Frank Charles Stone took place at St Mary's on 13th January 2011.

Did you know?

About 50 Bibles are sold every minute. It is the world's best-selling book. Some 1 billion copies of Bibles have been sold.

The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek.

Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible, and lions 55 times, but domestic cats are not mentioned at all.

The Bible is the world's most shoplifted book.

The oldest almost-complete manuscript of the Bible still existing is the Codex Vaticanus, dating from the first half of the 4th century.

The word "Christian" appears only three times in the Bible: Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16.

The 66 books of the Bible is divided into 1,189 chapters consisting of 31,102 verses. The Old Testament has 929 chapters, the New Testament 260 (King James version).

The King James Old Testament consist of 592,439 words consisting of 2,728,100 letters and the New Testament 181,253 words consisting of 838,380 letter (total 3,566,480 letters).

The longest line in the Bible is Esther 8:9 – 89 words, 425 letters.

The longest word in the Bible is Maher-shalal-hash-baz: Isaiah 8:1.

The shortest verse in the NIV Bible is John 11:35: "Jesus wept."

The longest book chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119, the shortest is Psalm 117.

There are 594 chapters before Psalm 117 and 594 chapters after it (King James Version), making it the center chapter in the Bible.

Psalm 113:1-2 are the center verses of the Bible (King James Version) – two verses because there are an equal number of total verses: 31,102.

The word "Lord" appears 1855 times in the Bible.

The word "God" appears in every book except Esther and Song of Solomon.

Almonds and pistachios are the only nuts mentioned in the Bible.

Dear Friends



Don't Know Where to Start?



The Bible can seem rather daunting if you are not familiar it.

It is divided into two sections, the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament tells of the creation of the world and all its peoples, and the struggle of God's People that ensue. There are histories, stories, poems and prayers – and it is important to know what sort you are reading. Read the first few chapter of Genesis and decide if it is intended to be a science lesson or a poem about God. Then go onto the Psalms, right in the middle of the Bible. This is a collection of songs. Look up Psalm 23 and Psalm 139.

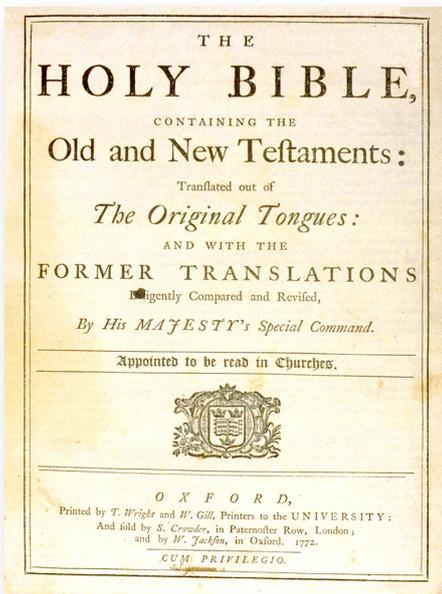
The New Testament, which is a smaller section towards the back of your Bible, tells the story of Jesus and the Early Church. The four gospels that begin this Testament are four different 'takes' on the story. Mark's Gospel is like a newspaper, eager to tell us what happened next. John's Gospel was written much later and is a reflection on what has happened. Its opening lines (read at every Carol Service) deliberately echo the words of the beginning of the very first book, Genesis. The Acts of the Apostles shows the Church moving from Jerusalem to Rome. It is a dramatic story. Enjoy.

Your Friend and Vicar, Mel



Need a lift to Church?

Please ring Paul Skinner on 01725 552785 and we should be able to arrange transport.



Celebrate 400 years of the King James Bible

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Psalm 139 v13-18 (King James Version)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1 v1-3 (King James Version)

It has been described as the single most important publication in the whole of history, and a series of events is underway to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Published in 1611 it took a new king from Scotland to hammer out a Bible in English that endured.

'It is one of the first British things to be made,' said Glasgow-born Neil Macgregor, director of the British Museum and fresh from his work on A History of the World in 100 Objects. 'It was made by the whole island to be used by the whole island.'

Now it is used by the whole globe. The last Harry Potter book sold more than 44 million copies - the Bible has sold between 2.5 and 6 billion copies, depending which survey you read.

But the Authorised Version, as it is also called, was not the first translation into English and it wasn't the last; it was the first to be authorised for use within churches. And what we are familiar with today is not exactly the text published in 1611. There have been hundreds of changes in vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation.

There have also been a few famous mistakes in different editions. One version is known as the Vinegar Bible: The printers didn't know what a vineyard was and so, instead of having the parable of the vineyard, they printed the parable of vinegar.

One big problem in 1611 was that the authorities assumed a Bible in English would be accepted by everyone. In fact

there were still areas of the country where English was not widely spoken, such as Cornwall; let alone the traditionalists who must have been furious to lose their Latin text in the face of this modern innovation.

The worse version has to be one from 1631, a reprint by the Royal Printers Robert Baker and Martyn Lucas. They missed out the word 'not' from the 7th commandment, so it read 'Thou shalt commit adultery.' Robert Baker and Martyn Lucas were fined £300, which is equivalent to about £35,000 today, and had their printing licence withdrawn.

The version we read today is the version revised by Benjamin Blayley in Oxford in 1769, and quietly adopted by printers.

Even the typeface is important. In 1611 it was set in black gothic type. Words not in the original Hebrew or Greek (but needed in English to make sense of the meaning) were inserted in small Roman italics. The idea was to make them look suitably subsidiary in importance. However, today we tend to use italics to emphasise words, and so this printing can give the opposite impression to that intended.

The King James Bible Trust is running a series of events this year to celebrate this anniversary. If you have access to the Internet, they are building up a collection of readings on YouTube by actors, sportsmen and women, politicians and ordinary people like you and me.

The Bible was written over many centuries by some 60 different authors. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Common Greek. These were the languages of their times. Later the Bible was translated into Latin and can now be read in almost every language in the world.

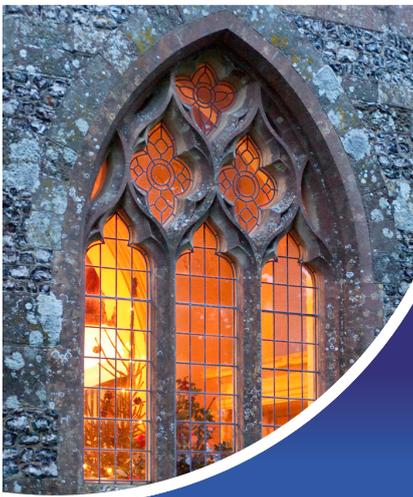
There is an enormous amount of scholarship involved in making the translations as accurate and accessible as possible. One of the problems is that Hebrew and Greek are much more subtle languages than English, and so every translation will lose something of the original. On top of this, the meanings of words change all the time, so there is constant scrutiny to make sure that we read the Bible today as it was originally intended.

Around our churches in Sixpenny Handley, Pentridge and Gussage St Andrew we use a range of translations to help us get deeper into God's word, depending on the context of the service or situation. Different translations can make us see familiar words afresh: Familiar translations can be like meeting an old friend. And it was the King James Version of 1611 that brought the greatest book ever written into our lives like never before.

Adapted from an article on the BBC Website.

St Paul's – Sunday 20th March

Once again we welcome a team from St Pauls' Church, Salisbury, who will lead our Informal Service on Sunday 20th March.



Bible Study

As we hope you see from The Seeker, the Bible is THE Book! Read it and understand more in good company on a Thursday evening once a month. Phone Heather Trish (552843).

Midweek Holy Communion

Join us for a gentle service in St Mary's on the second Wednesday of the month at 11.30pm, followed by coffee.

Come and meet friends

Drop in! – to the Post Office Coffee Shop on the first Wednesday of the month from about 11 o'clock for a coffee and chat with the vicar.

Soup Lunches £2 – Good soup and company on the third Wednesday of the month and during Lent in the Vicarage. Come along from 12.30 for a great meal for only £2, with profits going to the Trussell Trust in Salisbury.

Fellowship Group – Meeting every Tuesday (except during Lent) for chat, laughter and biscuits, some talk around serious themes and sometimes a takeaway! Phone Paul Skinner (552785).

Men's Group – A beer and a chat usually on the last Thursday of the month. Phone David Lockyer for details (552492).

Mothers' Union – Tea, company and a good talk, usually on the second Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.45pm. Phone Sheila (553133) or Mary (552041) for details.

Join us for February and March 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES	St Mary the Virgin Sixpenny Handley Informal service includes children's time			St Rumbold's Pentridge	Gussage St Andrew	
	9.30am		11.00am	6.00pm	11.15am	9.30am
Feb 6 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Feb 13 th	MP		Informal	HC	#	HC
Feb 20 th	HC	(10.30am)	Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Feb 27 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC	#	HC
Mar 6 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	HC	#
Mar 13 th	MP		Informal	HC	#	HC
Mar 20 th	HC		Informal	Evensong	MP	#
Mar 27 th	MP		Inf & HC	HC	#	HC

HC = Holy Communion | MP = Morning Prayer | SofP = Songs of Praise | # = No service

Ash Wednesday (St Mary's)

Wed 9th Mar 11.30pm Holy Communion
7.30pm Holy Communion & Ashing

Baptisms at St Mary's

Sun 27th Feb 11.00am Baptism of Albert Moralee
Sun 27th Mar 11.00am Baptism of Reuben Smith

Mothering Sunday – 3rd April

We shall be welcoming children, staff and parents from Sixpenny Handley First School to our Mothering Sunday Service at 10am in St Mary's.

February 2011

Updated weekly on our website

Tues 1st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 2nd	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
	7.30pm	Leaders' Meeting, the Vicarage
Tues 8th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 9th	10.30am	School Praise Assembly, St Mary's
	11.30am	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Thurs 10th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union, Music in Prisons
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Wed 16th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches, the Vicarage
Thurs 17th	7.15pm	Bible Study Group, 16 High Street, Sixpenny Handley
Sat 19th	10.00am	Wedding Preparation Day, the Vicarage
Tues 22nd	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
Thurs 24th	7.30pm	Men's Group

March 2011

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Tues 1st	7.30pm	Fellowship Group, Supper at the Roebuck
Wed 2nd	11.00am	Drop in to chat with the Vicar in the Post Office Coffee Shop
	7.30pm	St Mary's PCC meeting, the Vicarage
Thurs 10th	2.45pm	Mothers' Union Lenten Meditation by Gwen Watkins
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Lent Course, the Vicarage
	7.30pm	Pentridge PCC meeting
Wed 16th	12.30pm	Soup Lunches, the Vicarage
Thurs 17th	7.15pm	Bible Study Group, 32a Sheasby Close, Sixpenny Handley
Tues 22nd	7.30pm	Lent Course, the Vicarage
Wed 23rd	12.30pm	Soup Lunches, the Vicarage
Thurs 24th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Archdeaconry service, Blandford
Tues 29th	7.30pm	Lent Course, the Vicarage
Wed 30th	10.30am	School Praise Assembly, St Mary's
	12.30pm	Soup Lunches, the Vicarage
Thurs 31st	7.30pm	Men's Group

Lent Course

Come along to the vicarage on Tuesday evenings during Lent as we explore something of what Easter means together. Details from Mel 01725 552608.