

Wye Brooks Group
UPDATE for 17 October
Last after Trinity—GREEN

LECTIONARY
 Isaiah 55:1-11
 Psalm 19:7-end
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 John 5:6b-end

BIBLE SUNDAY

FROM THE VICAR

Hi folks
 Today is the Last Sunday after Trinity (we go from here to Sundays before Advent), and it is otherwise known as Bible Sunday.

So I thought I would give you in the first couple of pages of this week's Update some information about the Bible which you may or may not find interesting. So here goes.

BASIC DETAILS

- The Bible is the Christian holy book, claimed to be the Word of God.
- It's divided into two—the Old Testament, written before the time of Christ, and the New Testament, written after the time of Christ.
- It's more of a library than a book, in that it comprises 66 books, of which 39 are in the Old Testament and 27 are in the New Testament.
- The books are by about 40 authors in total - kings, peasants, prophets, farmers, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, and scholars .
- The Bible was written over a period of at least 1000, and possibly 1600, years.
- There is an extra section we called the Apocrypha, written in the time between the Old Testament and New Testament. Parts of the Church accept this as of equal status to the Old and New Testaments.
- The Old Testament (which Christianity inherited from the Jewish faith and which they claim points forward to Christ, was mostly written in Hebrew (apart from parts of Daniel, Ezra and Jeremiah, which were written in Aramaic)
- The New Testament was written in Greek.
- The average Bible is about 1200 pages long.
- The letter of James is the bossiest book in the Bible
- The centre verse of the Bible is *said to be* Ps 118:8.
It might be an idea to look it up and heed it!



THE BIBLE IN THE WORLD

- The Bible is the world's best selling book
- Total sales: more than 5 billion copies
- Rate of sale: more than 100 million per year.
- It appears to have outsold all other books EVERY year since anyone began keeping records
- Its nearest rival is the works of Chairman Mao, with nearly 900 million sold, then the Qur'an with about 800 million, then Don Quixote, with 500 million, then A

Tale of Two Cities, with 200 million sold. The Harry Potter series has sold altogether about 500million copies.

- The Bible is the world's most stolen book
- The country which produces the most bibles, until very recently, China!

TYPES OF LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE

There are quite a lot of different literary genres represented in the Bible.

TYPE	EXAMPLES
Myth	Genesis
History	Samuel, Kings, Ezra, Acts
Laws	Exodus, Leviticus
Letters	Romans, Corinthians etc
Biography	Ruth, Esther
Lists	Numbers, the gospel genealogies
Genealogies	Genesis 4,5,11
Poetry	Psalms and a lot more
Erotic	Song of Songs (yes, true! Have a look.)
Wisdom	Proverbs, some Psalms,
Lament	Lamentations
Prophecy	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc
Gospel	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
Apocalyptic	Revelation and others
Theology	All of Paul's letters

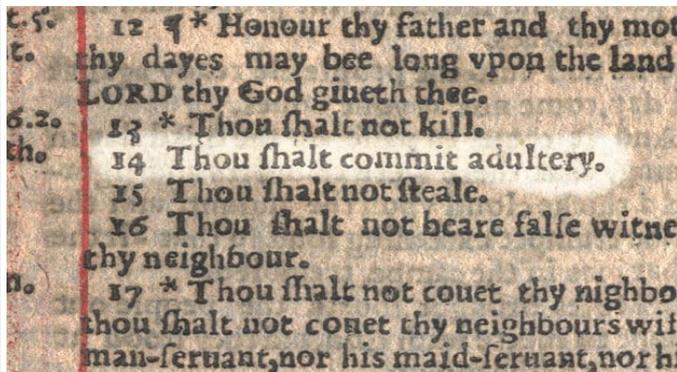
'ALTERNATIVE' BIBLES

CAMELS BIBLE In 1832 an edition had Rebekah leaving her tent to meet Isaac with a group of - not damsels - but camels.

WIFE-HATER BIBLE An 1810 version read, "If any man come to me, and hate not . . . his own wife (instead of :life"), he cannot be my disciple."

"SIN ON" BIBLE. The first English-language Bible to be printed in Ireland, in 1716, encouraged its readers to "sin on more" rather than "sin no more." A similar error in 1653 had declared: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom of God?"

THE WICKED BIBLE of 1631 reported the Seventh Commandment as "Thou shalt commit adultery," a mistake that infuriated King Charles. He ordered all copies destroyed and fined all printers whose hands had touched the edition.



MURDERER'S BIBLE. This 19th-century faux pas had Mark 7:27 as "Let the children be killed" instead of "filled."

PLACEMAKER BIBLE. a 16th Century printer had Jesus blessing the "place-makers" instead of "peacemakers." An American printer later substituted the "Parable of the Vinegar" for the "Vineyard."

PRINTERS Bible. Perhaps King David was on target in a 1702 edition, which quoted him as saying "Printers (instead of "princes") have persecuted me without cause.

BIBLE TRICKY QUIZ

1. Whose son was Mahershallalhashbaz?
2. In which book do you find the phrase Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin?
3. Which of the seven churches was accused of being 'lukewarm'?
4. In which book and chapter is the Bible's shortest verse?
5. Two books don't actually mention God. One is the Song of Songs. Which is the other?
6. A female judge in the Old Testament is?
7. Which New Testament writer describes himself as 'The Elder'?
8. Who was the runaway slave in the New Testament?
9. Can you work out what links the 5 women mentioned in Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:1-16)
10. What happened at Penuel?

Answers next week

HOW DID WE GET OUR BIBLE?



Not like the opening to Mr Bean but the Old Testament was already in place by the time of Jesus.

It seems that, for the gospels at least, the content was being gossiped first; then it was written down, then read out in the churches, and then it was collected together. The main theory still seems to be that Mark was written first, and Matthew and Luke based their gospels on his work, adding their own material and material from a sayings source we call 'Q'. John was produced separately. At some stage everything was brought together and edited.

Acts is almost certain to be Volume 2 of Luke's gospel. The first of the letters were earlier, as early as 49 or 50a.d. They were written to churches to address particular problems and were probably read out at worship. But again those were collected together.

The Revelation is a bit of a mystery. Hidden behind the text seems to be a political polemic written in a time of persecution. Most scholars say it was probably written during the time of the Emperor Domitian (maybe 91-96a.d). Other claim that the mad Emperor Nero fits the bill, (say the 60s a.d.)

Then the Church spent a long time praying, discussing, arguing and fighting about what was scripture, what was authoritative and what wasn't worth bothering with. They used certain criteria to help them decide. To be accepted a book had to be a) written by one of the apostles; b) obviously inspired by the Holy Spirit, c) already authoritative; d) already used in worship.

The reason for the care was that in the background was heresy, such as Gnosticism. Gnosticism was a diverse group of religious movements, from the early 2nd century a.d., claiming special, secret knowledge given to them by Bible figures, hence names like the Gospel of Thomas, the Apocryphon of John and others. Some had a radically different view of God, that as Creator he was evil. Some thought that we should 'use up' all the evil by sinning, and so on. The Church had a lot of work to do to decide what was genuine and what was not. Some books just scraped in, like James and the Revelation. Some nearly got in but didn't, like the Didache and the Shepherd of Hermas.

By 367 it was all in place

We have NO ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS, but we have thousands of early copies and no other book on earth has been so critically studied for so long.

IN THE NEWS

FROM 12-200 IN TWO YEARS



This is Preston Minister, the town centre church in Preston, Lancashire. Two years ago it had a had a congregation of 12-20 after a long period of decline. Now it's touching 200.

After talks between the Bishop of Blackburn and the new vicar it was decided that the church should change its worship style from formal to 'charismatic' and reach out to Preston's many students.

They were given large grant to develop the interior of the Church. The Church also entered into a partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton (the home of the Alpha Course) and about 25 people from HTB arrived to work with locals to move the church on.

The church does an Alpha course every term and growth is the order of the day. Most of those who have begun to come are those who had slipped out of church attendance because their needs weren't being met, but others have actually found a faith in Christ here. 45 of the regular worshippers are under 16.

I find myself asking what happened to the traditional worshippers, and that I don't know. But the truth is that a local church can expand with prayerful creative thinking, boldness and investment and lively faith.

HAITI MISSIONARIES KIDNAPPED

Last weekend a group of American and Canadian missionaries was kidnapped in Haiti. The kidnapers, a gang, have demanded \$17 million, \$1 million per person, to release them. The group includes 4 children and one 8 month old baby.

Negotiations are underway to try to secure the release of the captives, but the situation seems to have been made more complicated by the fact that 5 priests and 2 nuns were kidnapped in April and a ransom was paid.

Haiti has a big problem with gangs and kidnappings. Parts of the country are controlled by gangs, and the country saw 628 kidnappings from January to September this year.

A RIGHT TO THE RITES?

Something of a discussion is going on at the moment following the fatal stabbing of MP Sir David Amess. It seems that local Roman Catholic priest Father Jeffrey Woolnough was prevented by police from approaching Sir David to administer the last rites.



The last rites are of course the final prayers said to commend a person to God's mercy and are really important in the Catholic faith.

An amendment to the law is being proposed to ensure that Catholic priests can administer the last rites to dying people, even at crime scenes. This is not enjoying unqualified approval though, because some professionals are saying that a priest's presence could easily compromise a crime scene.

It has been described as a standoff between the sanctity of a crime scene and the sanctity of the victim.

THE CHURCH AND SAME SEX UNIONS



The 'Parliament' of the Church of England is of course the General Synod, but nothing is passed with a simple majority here. Motions must pass by a two-thirds majority in all three of the three 'houses' - bishops, clergy and laity—to be enacted. It makes the Synod inherently conservative, but on the other hands protects against hasty or ill thought out decision making.

It's currently illegal for the Church of England to permit same sex marriage, but it had been thought that it was moving inexorably towards blessing same sex civil marriages and civil partnerships. That seemed more likely still since the Church in Wales voted to do so in August this year.

But that now seems to be in doubt following the General Synod. It seems that whilst the House of Bishops seems solidly for a change, the House of Clergy now has 40% against same sex blessings, and the House of Laity 37%, in other words a 'blocking minority'.

We'll see what happens, but one commentator says we should probably expect no change in the near future.

SERVICE ROTA

We're now in the fifth week of a route heading towards normality. We recently more than doubled the number of services in the benefice on a Sunday, but this is considerably more challenging than you might expect and I'm grateful to the Wardens' and Reps Group for their input. There will be more changes.

	24 OCT	31OCT	7 NOV	14 NOV	21 Nov
BENEFACTICE COMMUNION SERVICE	BIBLE SUNDAY Vicar at Hentland 11am. Goodrich	10.00 am Marstow Service of Light with voluntary short final act of Holy Communion	11am Llangarron	See below—the information on REMEMBRANCE	10am. Llangrove
Extra Services which are likely to be lay led	10am. Marstow		10.am Llangrove All Age Praise (lay led)		11am. Llangarron
Extra Services which are likely to be lay led	6pm. Welsh Newton Village Service	8.30 Meditation at Welsh Newton 9am. Bible Study at Welsh Newton	← NOTE CHANGE FROM 7 NOV		8.30 Meditation at Welsh Newton 9am. Bible Study at Welsh Newton

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT BITE AND BISHOP'S MESSAGE

The Light Bite is for Bible Sunday Go to https://youtu.be/Patee_WOYiw

For the Bishop's message on the Need for Discernment go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=->

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES—14 NOV

We are attempting to deliver as full a programme as possible, but of course I can't be in two places at once. It has been fully discussed. Here is what we think will happen.

Welsh Newton

8.30 Half hour communion - no hymns, no sermon, modern language
9.00 War memorial Act of Remembrance

Llangrove

9.30 War memorial Act of Remembrance followed by coffee and biscuits at the Village Hall

Llangarron

10.00 Act of Remembrance at a churchyard war grave

Goodrich

10.45 Remembrance Service at church
12.00 Goodrich War Memorial Act of Remembrance



ALL SOULS

Last year (or was it the year before?) we held a service to remember lost loved ones, and it is intended that we will do the same this year. Precise times TBA, but the two services will be at Llangrove and Welsh Newton.

*All Souls'
Day*



Image tweeted by @OrnonLugard0

LIGHT BITES

For anyone who hasn't tumbled to it yet, a *Light Bite* is a home produced 'event' of about 20 minutes on You Tube. It will consist usually of an introduction, a bible reading, a talk a hymn and a blessing. They are supposed to TEACH something about our faith or CHALLENGE us.

LIGHT BITE THEMES

Our Christian learning is never complete and there are always some awkward questions we don't like to be asked. This month we'll be dealing with some of those. By all means give me an awkward topic to deal with.

24 Oct	The Book of Books (for Bible Sunday)
31 Oct	Halloween
7 Nov	War and the Christian
14 Nov	War and Peace
21 Nov	Just War

THIS WEEK'S LIGHT BITE

For Bible Sunday this a talk on the Bible, who reads it, what kinds of people learn from it and its value to us as Christians.

RON TUBB LATEST

I had a good chat with Diana on Saturday. Obviously he is still in Intensive Care, where the medical staff are working hard to get all the gunge out of his lungs and to deal with whatever is causing that.

Ron is awake, alert, talking (though I think not distinctly yet) smiling and waving at people, so my impression is that things are beginning to improve. It is, though, a case of three steps forward and two steps back (sometimes three steps back!)

Diane is of course up and down too, but not by any means defeated.

Keep praying for the pair of them.

ROSIE SHEPHERD LATEST

I visited Rosie at home on Wednesday and we sat and chatted for about half an hour.

She is beginning to get around a little bit more, and she said that she has been out into their garden. But movement is a major challenge, very difficult.

Though she was cheerful with me, she says that really she is quite fed up with being so immobile, and she is looking for something to do which will give her a sense of hope.

A USEFUL WEBSITE

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/>

A daily memory verse, articles and much, much more to help you study the Bible for yourself.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

The UK

- HM the Queen and the Royal Family,
- HM Government, especially as it seeks to solve transport and other difficulties.
- The discussions about MPs' security in the light of the murder of Sir David Amess.

World

- The difficult situation in Afghanistan, especially the light of the recent suicide bombing at a Shi'a mosque
- The tension between China, Taiwan and other countries
- Famine in Ethiopia and Yemen, Civil war in Yemen.
- The migrant issue
- The UK/Europe tension over trade, travel and vaccines.
- Violent persecution of Christians in the Muslim world
- Climate change and ecology.
- La Palma Island and the continued volcanic eruptions

Coronavirus.

- Increasing infection rates and new risks from the easing of restrictions
- Covid elsewhere in the world
- Those who continue to suffer from the Virus and from long Covid
- Those who have lost loved ones or watched them suffer.
- Those who continue to be isolated

Our churches and clergy

- For our diocesan leaders as they steer us towards more mission thinking.
- Clergy—for energy, wisdom, faithfulness, courage.
- Churches—role in the community, finances, adaptability, digital presence.
- The future. A 'hybrid' future?
- The weekly services, Light Bites, the Updates, the lay-led services, the Zoom Prayer Meeting, House Groups, Meditation Group, the Worship Group, the Tech working party and the work to give us a proper digital presence; the possibility of starting a benefice choir.
- Coming up - Bible Sunday, All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance.

Our villages

- Our pubs
- Our parish councils, local businesses and schools

Pray for people

- Brenda, on a course of chemo, and Graham
- Doris, living with dementia, in a nursing home
- Rosie, and Nigel (see opposite)
- Ron and Diana (see opposite)
- James, a young man with long term illness
- Carol, in a persistent vegetative state.
- Ivor Trapp not very mobile, quite cheerful, missing church
- Lisa, still suffering from vertigo
- The family of John Millard, of Welsh Newton Common,

BORDER NEWS

The three clergy involved had a meeting on Thursday.

Part of this was about getting a basic aim for the Border News; part of it was about the content, part of it was about the advertising. We need to make its production more manageable than it is.

We are having another meeting in mid November and we are certainly moving forward.

COLLECT FOR BIBLE SUNDAY

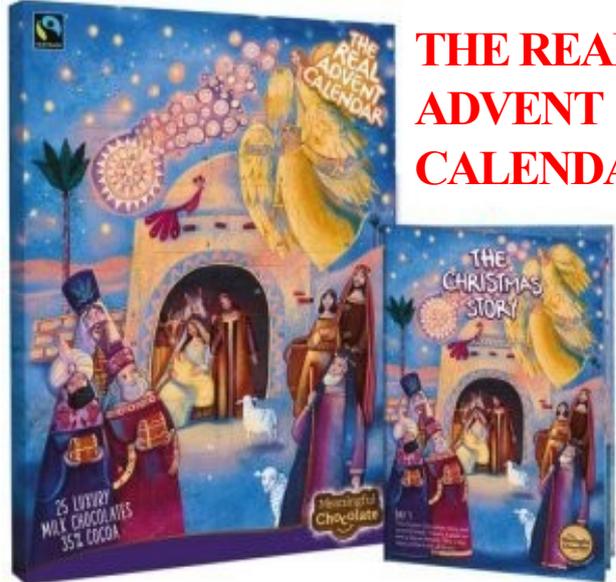
Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written
for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest
them
that, through patience, and the comfort of
your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour
Jesus Christ, Amen

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday 10am

HOUSE GROUP meeting as usual
Zoom invitation issued with this Update's email.

The PRAYER GROUP will meet on Tuesday
at 7.30pm. Zoom invitation issued with this Update's
email



THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

The Real Advent Calendar is a Fairtrade chocolate Advent Calendar which comes with the telling of the Bible's story of that first Christmas.

You used to be able to get it at Tesco, but you can't this year.

Please do make a firm decision - that any cards or Advent Calendars which you send this Christmas will make reference to the birth of Jesus. Insist on it, and be prepared to go to more than one shop. Don't be afraid to ask.

Please also consider ordering the Real Advent Calendar online through the Meaningful Chocolate Company. You'll find it on <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/>. There are various organisations which sell this product.

Remember that this is a secular society, and if we don't draw attention to the message of the birth of Christ, no-one else will.

Three months to go, so you have plenty of time to do this.



Saturday 30th October 2021
Fish and Chip van in the village
in aid of the Church restoration
TAKEAWAY OR EAT-IN
at the Garron Centre (bar drinks available)

Food served from 5.00pm – 8.00pm

EXAMPLE MENU (all Gluten-free):

Hand battered Fish and Chips (Cod or Haddock)
Hand battered halloumi served with salad, dips and chips (Vegetarian)
Falafel served with salad, sweet chilli dip and chips (Vegan)
Whitebait on a bed of lettuce and chips with garlic or paprika mayonnaise
Jumbo sausage (2, plain or battered and chips)
Chicken goujons served with salad and chips
Hand battered whole Camembert on a bed of lettuce served with chips and cranberry sauce

PRE-ORDER ONLY:

Hand battered salmon chunks served on a bed of lettuce with dips & chips
Hand battered king prawns served with salad, dips and chips
Hand battered calamari served with salad, dips and chips

CHILDREN'S MENU (Gluten-free):

Small fish and chips
Fish fingers and chips
Jumbo sausage and chips

Any questions or to confirm items from the pre-order menu, please contact:
jennym@pobox.com
Tel: 01989 770221



REGULARS

THESE ITEMS DON'T NORMALLY CHANGE FROM WEEK TO WEEK

THE DAILY HOPE LINE

0800 804 8044

If you haven't done already, this is information to be passed on to those who don't have access to the Internet. It's a freephone number to a Church of England initiative, where there are recorded hymns, messages and prayers.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

We are pushing the Parish Giving Scheme because it is the best way of giving to your Church, not just because of *how little hassle* it is to you, but also because of *how safe* and *tax efficient* it is, *how easy it is for treasurers to administer* and how it usually does actually *drive the income of churches up*. And GOOD NEWS—you don't even have to fill in a form. You can set it up by phone. By all means ring your church treasurer for details and fill in a

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Tel 0333 002 1271

Church	<u>Parish Ref</u>	Church	<u>Parish Ref</u>
Goodrich	180618231	Marstow	180618241
Llangarron	180618239	Llangrove	180618240
Welsh Newton	180618256		

THE BORDER NEWS

Not currently available as a hard copy.

To get the online Border News:

- Go to wyereaches.org
- Click the What's On tab.

CONTACT

Revd Ben 01989 770454.

Revd Philip 'Ben' Bentham

Tel 01989 770454

Email benbentham@yahoo.co.uk

If you have suggestions for improving this Update, please do let me know.

To unsubscribe, simply drop me a line.

COMPANION WORK NEEDED

One of our parishioners would like to find paid work as a companion to someone

—cooking, housekeeping, shopping etc.

If you or someone you know might be able to offer this kind of work, please ring me (01989 770454) and I'll put you in touch.



The Llangrove Milk Shed at the Village Hall, For farm fresh milk and a few other things like butter, cheese and cake.



Our local eateries are important, and without our patronage they risk not being able to survive, especially in this climate.

Llangrove - The Royal Arms

Phone [01989 770267](tel:01989770267)

Goodrich - The Hostellerie

Phone [01600 890241](tel:01600890241)

Goodrich - The Cross Keys

Phone [01600 890692](tel:01600890692)

CLERGY DAY OFF

My DAY OFF is Monday. I may be around on Mondays, but can't guarantee it.

CLERGY HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR

28-31 Dec

CHRISTIAN WISDOM

"But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

Bible: 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Goodrich Community Bonfire Night!!



Friday 5th November on Church Field, Goodrich

Gates open at 5.45pm

Lighting the Guy at 6.30pm.

Grand finale of Fireworks 7.15 – 7.45pm.

**Entry(cash only please)£5 per person or £15 family ticket
(2 adults plus 2 or more children)**

Catering Van and Beer tent

Priority parking on site for elderly or disabled. Please find alternative parking or walk if you can. Some parking available at Goodrich School.

STRICTLY NO SPARKLERS ALLOWED ON PREMISES

In the event of bad weather, we will hold this event on Saturday 6th November at the same time.

For information call Helen : 01600 890460 or 07508 320111

Proceeds in aid of St Giles Church bell tower repair fund