

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

“It would do us well to remember that our job is to help people with their lives rather than build infrastructures that help institutions stay alive.” So writes Joseph R. Myers in *Organic Community* - one of the books that I read whilst on my wonderful sabbatical.



In all that I read during my three months “off”, I think that it was this sentence that hit me most powerfully. It wasn’t that it was a new thought exactly; something I’d never considered before. No, it was the recognition that I haven’t always lived out my life (and ministry) in the light of the deep truth at the heart of this statement even though I believe it absolutely. And I don’t think I’m the only one to struggle with this one. In the daily round of church life, as we seek to meet head-on the considerable challenges that come our way, it’s all too easy to get sucked into a different way of thinking, and living, and focus on survival alone. But if we don’t remember what we’re seeking to survive for, what we exist for as followers of Christ, then there’s no point is there? We may as well give up and go/stay home.

I’ll be honest with you, these past few weeks have been draining for me. Really draining. This isn’t just because I’ve had to work for the first time in months. Rather, it’s because I’ve seen (or heard of) people that I care about, hurting for one reason or another. I know, of course, that I can’t take away these people’s pain but I also know that I’d rather be there for them than not. And I’d like to think that I’d be willing and able to drop other things in order to help in some small way if I possibly could. I feel sure that you would want to say the same for people that you care about. So how about we pledge to try and help one another to be better friends by giving one another permission to drop other things when necessary in order to put people first?

People matter. They were Jesus’ top priority. And they should be ours too.

“It would do us well to remember that our job is to help people with their lives rather than build infrastructures that help institutions stay alive.” Amen to that.

With every blessing,

Paul

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CHURCH GENERAL MEETING

The Church General Meeting was held after the service on Sunday 26th June. It was well attended and Chaired by Rev Paul Timmis, who was welcomed back after his sabbatical.

The agenda was moved through quickly with the most notable items being the confirmation of the appointments for the Church Council (as detailed on the next page) and agreeing that Mike Mortley, Colin Smith and Ray Ellis will assist John Butland in his role of Church Treasurer.

The refurbishment of the Kitchen was covered as was the future of the Newsletter, with the possibility of it being issued every two months rather than the monthly issue it now is. This will depend on the availability of articles in the future, so if you have any article concerning the church or circuit, please pass it to Andrew Fox, to ensure the survival of a monthly Newsletter.

There was also call for additional volunteers for Communion Stewards, anyone who is interested is to speak with Derek Heaton and Gwen reported on the future services of Churches Together.

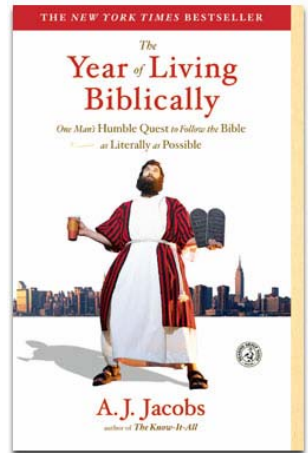
The highlight of the Meeting was Paul reflecting on his sabbatical, which saw him visit ‘House for All Sinners and Saints’, a Lutheran based church in Denver, Colorado, USA. During this a short film was shown, ‘Breaking bread with Sinners and Saints’ featuring the church and the pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. The film is available to be viewed on the internet at <http://stpaul Lutheran pns.blogspot.com/2011/06/video-breaking-bread-with-sinners-and.html>. The churches own website can be found at www.houseforall.org

Role	Name	Appointed Until
Chairperson	Rev Paul Timmis	
Circuit Steward	Pat Rock	
Vestry Steward Team	Derek Heaton	
	Annemarie Pallister	
	Mike Fuwa	
	Pauline Riley	
Church Council Secretary	Caroline Johnson	
Church Treasurer	John Butland	
Vestry Team Rep	Derek Heaton	
Property Rep	Colin Smith	
Communications Team Rep	Jane Smith	
Church Life Rep	Anne Conquest	
Mission Rep	Tony Loft	
Pastoral Rep	Sue Boyd	
Worship Rep	Mike Mortley	
Church Meeting Reps	Jane Bryan	2012
	Geraldine Ellis	2012
	Rosemary Keen	2013
	Andy Smith	2014
	Joyce Plant	2014
	Gwen Edwards	2015
	Gwen Wildman	2015
Minute Secretary	Brenda Cannon	
Church Bookings Secretary	Pete Boyd	
Safe from Harm Reps	Marie Randall	
	Abby Herring	

Summer Book Club

You are warmly invited to join us as we read and share our thoughts on 'The Year of Living Biblically' by A.J.Jacobs.

A.J.Jacobs relates a year he spent trying to follow all the rules and guidelines he could find in the Bible, which turned out to be more than 700. For the first eight months, from September to April, he followed the rules in the Old Testament and immersed himself in Jewish culture before focussing on Christianity and the New Testament in the final four months.



In the book, he confronts a majority of the biblical rules, both obscure and the well known, and tries to follow them as literally as possible. He even attempts to stone an adulterer and to offer animal sacrifice. He also goes to visit numerous religious groups in order to show their particular views on the Bible, as well as their methods of worship.

The book is available through your local library, Amazon and other good bookstores. You can also get the book through his own website at www.ajjacobs.com/books/yolb.asp

For more information or if you are interested in joining us please let me or Abby know.

Jane Smith

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Psalm - Composed in Bible study group

You have made me wonderfully, none can compare with you

May my friends bless and praise the Lord through fellowship

Praise him for his love and goodness

Evermore be there for us

We are in ourselves worthless, but you are worthy and you have
made us worthy through you

Our worship moves us to compassion for our neighbour, making
us instruments of your peace.

Kitchen Refurbishment August 2011

Our tired old kitchen at the church is going to have a complete makeover to give it a new lease of life. Once completed we will have a nice new kitchen, complete with shiny Stainless Steel work surfaces.



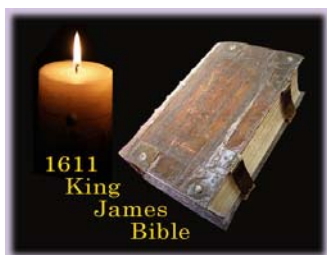
Work is due to commence at the start of August and will take a full month to complete. During this time our kitchen fitters are intending to allow 'limited' use of the kitchen for any regular users such as water supplies, kettle and the cooker. It will of course be necessary to close the kitchen for certain 'critical operations' at certain times but this will be kept to a minimum. Whilst the work is in progress, if any premises users have any queries on access to the kitchen please contact me 07947 004668.

Apologies for any inconvenience this causes, your patience if required is appreciated!

Colin Smith

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Churches Together Special Service



We intend to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible by holding a special service at 6.00pm on Sunday 23rd October (some still keep this as Bible Sunday) at St. James' Church, Martin Way.

The service, as well as including readings from the KJV will include choral music sung by our various church choirs, and congregational music.

Please make sure you note this special occasion in your diaries.

Graham Derriman
Churches Together



KING JAMES BIBLE 400 YEARS 1611 - 2011

For 400 years, the King James Bible has impacted millions of people, influenced culture, and transcended numerous generations.

With more than 6 billion copies published, the Bible is the most popular book in the world, and the King James Bible is the most published Bible translation. Its inspired words has brought peace, joy, and hope to millions of people and is regarded today as one of the most accurate translations.

The following facts have been taken from the official King James Bible website www.kingjamesbibleonline.org. An interactive site that enables you to find specific words, verses, chapters, commentaries or even quizzes on the Bible.

Bible Facts

- The Bible is the best selling and most distributed book of all time. Estimated more than 6 billion copies published¹
- Originally written in 3 languages: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic²
- Written over a span of 1,000 or more years³
- Written by more than 40 authors, including kings, prophets, poets, musicians, and fisherman⁴
- Books include letters, poetry, songs, legal documentation, eyewitness accounts, biographies, historical literature and documents⁵
- Translated into 2,454 languages of the world's estimated 6,500 total languages⁶

References:

1. Bible Society 1992 survey (<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-the-bible/what-is-the-bible/what-is-the-bible-2/> also <http://www.ipl.org/div/farq/bestsellerFARQ.html>)
2. <http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/200-languages-of-the-bible>
3. Bible Society (<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-the-bible/what-is-the-bible/what-is-the-bible-2/>)
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. United Bible Societies (http://www.unitedbiblesocieties.org/?page_id=2)

King James Bible Facts

- The most popular Bible translation; an estimated 1 billion or more copies have been published¹
- The translation was brought upon by King James I of England²
- First published in 1611 A.D. (some believe between May 2nd - May 5th)³
- More than 169 original 1611 King James Bibles are in existence today⁴
- Gothic text and Jacobean spelling was used in the original 1611 version, which is noticeably different than 21st Century English⁵
- 80 books were included (39 in Old Testament, 14 in Apocrypha, and 27 in New Testament)⁶
- Contains 788,258 total words, of which 14,565 are unique⁷
- The title was not originally called the "King James Version", but "THE HOLY BIBLE, Containing the Old Testament, AND THE NEW: Newly Translated out of the Original tongues: & with the former Translations diligently compared and revised, by his Majesties special Commandment"⁸
- 1814 A.D. is the earliest recorded date of it being called "King James Version" or "Authorized Version"⁹
- The original book was very large: approximately 17" tall, 30" wide when opened, and it weighed up to 30 pounds¹⁰
- The first 1611 Bibles were expensive and were chained to the front pulpit of churches, to prevent from being stolen¹¹
- Prior to the 1611 King James Bible, most churches did not have Bibles¹²
- The King James Bible is the first English Bible ever printed in the United States- first printed by the King's Printer in England, then printing and distribution spread throughout the world¹³
- Public officials on all levels of United States government, including presidents, have taken their oath of office with the King James Bible¹⁴
- A committee of 54 translators worked for 7 years to complete the King James translation¹⁵

References:

1. <http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org/files/kjbt-booklet.pdf>
2. Ibid.
3. <http://kjv400.co.uk/> and <http://www.squidoo.com/king-james-bible-400th-birthday>
4. Donald Brake, PhD, A Royal Monument of English Literature: The King James Bible 1611, Credo House Publishers, 2011, <http://www.credocommunications.net/KJV>
5. <http://www.jesus-is-lord.com/kjworkes.htm> and <http://www.angelfire.com/la2/prophet1/holybiblepictures.html>
6. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_books_of_the_Authorized_King_James_Version
7. <http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Popular-Bible-Words.php>
8. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authorized_King_James_Version
9. Ibid.
10. <http://www.greatsite.com/facsimile-reproductions/kingjames-1611.html>
11. <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/>
12. Ibid.
13. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.CON.RES.38>:
14. Ibid.
15. <http://www.npr.org/2011/04/18/135437890/king-james-bible-now-400-still-echoes-voice-of-god>

A load of Malachi

Having had a taste of Malachi at Spring Harvest this year, some of Doreen's house group decided to look at this minor prophet further and share their experiences. Malachi is rarely the first choice for a Bible study but to quote the words of Stephen Gaukroger: "It is a wonderful resource for those who want to 'live' Malachi as well as read it". Ruth Valerio's workbook edited by Krish Kandiah contains materials for five sessions with reflections on worship, justice and the faithfulness of God.

Our recent session entitled "Giving Worship" was led by Joyce Plant and we considered what we bring to God in our worship. We were challenged as well. How can we ensure that our worship today is not shallow but is reflective of who God is and what he has done for us? This question prompted much lively discussion.

Toward the end of our session Joyce encouraged us to write our own psalm of praise as an expression of our worship. She presented us with a sheet of paper and asked each of us to make up a line of a psalm and write it on the head of the paper before folding the paper and passing it on to the next person who then writes a second line. This continued until all had written on everyone's piece of paper then we all read our psalm. This was the result:

We love you Lord and lift our voice in praise.
We long to be true to you in our praise
We bless your holy name and ask a blessing on ourselves.
Thank you for your love to me and to all the world, it is so
deep, so wide and so high!



Praise today and praise forever, everlasting great endeavor.
Praise the Lord for all his goodness
Praise Him in the heavens above
The heavens declare your glory, the earth declare your glory
Help us to co-ordinate our praise with our thinking, feeling
and well being.
With prayer and thanksgiving we come to you, O Almighty
and everlasting God.
May all my neighbours praise the Lord.
We praise you O Lord for your almighty power.
Lord you guide my every footstep.
All the gifts we seek to find, everyone the good and kind.
Thank you God for sending Jesus, thank you Jesus that you
came.
Holy Spirit won't you tell us more about your lovely name.
May our house group worship and praise the Lord
You not only forgive but you also forget, I praise you O God.
Sing our praises to the Lord, all join in with one accord.
We sing to you in thanks and praise.
May all the churches together and Christian CARE praise the
Lord.
He is worthy of our praise.
Thank you Lord for the tremendous mystery that makes me
humble in science and life.
He gives me discernment. Praise the Lord.

The group has still much to learn from Malachi's words, much to be challenged with and much to be encouraged by, as we seek to live lives of wholehearted devotion to God. The next session entitled "Faithful Worship" will be on **Thursday 7th July at 2.45pm**. Everyone is welcome and we have loads of fun so please come and join us and taste Doreen's delicious infamous almond cakes!

Now that we have tasted that the Lord is good (1Pet2:3)

Gwen Wildman



JULY

CHURCH DIARY

Fri	1	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	3	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	5	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Thurs	7	8.00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sun	10	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
		4.00 pm	Faith Nyota's Farewell Service at Wimbledon Methodist Church led by Rev Margaret Adams
Tue	12	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Fri	15	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	17	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	19	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
		7.30 pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Mr Deeprise</i> - Chief Steward of the Albert Hall
Thurs	21	8.00 pm	Church Leadership Team Meeting
Sun	24	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Dawn Register
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	26	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	31	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Joanna Williamson

*Please refer to the Website (www.martinway.org.uk)
or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*



CHURCH DIARY

Tue	2	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	8	10.30 am	All Age Worship led by Tony Loft
Tue	9	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	14	10.30 am	Morning Service with Tongues of Fire
		6.30 pm	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	16	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	21	10.30 am	Communion Service led by Rev Paul Timmis
Tue	23	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	28	10.30 am	Morning Service led by Valerie Ashcroft
Tue	30	8.00 pm	Time for Prayer

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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
during these months a very

Happy Birthday

and especially to:

Francesca Heald on 5th July
Anne Jenkins on 12th July
Jessica Haze on 26th July
Emily Bacon on 5th August
Rebecca Smith on 11th August



GOING FOR A SONG

Although we no longer have a regular choir at church, some of our congregation do belong to choirs. So if you would like to find out more about joining them or go to one of their concerts check out their web sites for their concert programmes.

The West Barnes Singers

The West Barnes Singers held a wonderful performance here at Martin Way last month, which featured Songs of the British Isles. Their rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings in Holy Cross Hall, Adela Avenue, Motspur Park, Surrey, from 8 to 10 pm.

www.westbarnessingers.co.uk

Contact: Penelope Prendergast - 020 8648 3987

Wimbledon Choral Society

There are vacancies in most voice parts at the moment, especially tenors. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7.30-9.45 pm in the Wimbledon Community Centre located on St. George's Road.

www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk

Contact: Laura Stewart - 020 8949 1320

The Hill Singers

The Hill Singers rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at The Lantern, Raynes Park Methodist Church. The regular venue for the concerts is St Matthews Church, Durham Road, Raynes Park, SW20, which has one of the finest acoustics in the borough.

www.hillsingers.co.uk

Contact: Secretary - 020 8644 3794 or info@hillsingers.co.uk

Ad Libitum Chamber Choir

The choir are currently recruiting new members in all voice parts. If you are an experienced choral singer with good sight reading skills, they would be delighted to hear from you. Rehearsals usually take place at St Mary le Strand on Thursday evenings for the six weeks preceding each concert.

www.ad-libitum.co.uk

Contact is via the website

Items for the **September Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox, (email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 21st August** at the latest