

October/November 2017

CONTACT

**The Magazine of
St. George's United Reformed Church
Newton Road, High Heaton,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7HP**



Thoughts from the Manse

This is Pastor Julius. Julius is minister of a church in Ntwetwe (pronounced *en-tway-tway*) in Uganda, 120 miles north west of the capital, Kampala. Ntwetwe is where we ran our Holiday Bible Club. The church and the orphanage are just outside the village.



There are two things I want to point out to you in this picture. You have probably noticed already that Julius is holding a Smartphone; the Ugandan mobile network is quite well developed, and even in a rural village like Ntwetwe, there are many shops where you can top up or use your phone to send money; there are not many banks. The other thing I want you to notice is the pool Julius is standing beside. This is the well closest to the village. It's hard to see in the picture, but the water is very muddy and on this day, was full of tadpoles.

Julius remembers, when he first came to Ntwetwe, he said he would never drink this water. Two days later, mad with thirst, he gave in. It does not seem to have done him any lasting harm, but the same cannot be said for many other people who have drunk from an unfamiliar well.

Even if well water does you no harm, think what it means to live without mains water. People who can afford it drink bottled water. Our mission party finished every day by looking for a shop that sold bottled water; because otherwise, how could you brush your teeth or take your anti-malarial tablets? At times I dreamed of being back home, drinking one glass of iced water after another.



Even if you can afford bottled water to drink, you still need water for many other things – cooking, washing, cleaning, flushing the toilet (if you have one). Uganda is a dusty country, and floors and other surfaces have to be constantly brushed, mopped and wiped. Well-off people, particularly in town, collect rain water in tanks or have water delivered by tanker. The orphanage has a rain water tank, but it needs repair. On the main street in Ntwetwe there is always a snaking line of yellow 20 litre jerry cans, and children and grown-ups waiting for them to be filled with water. The cost is 500 Ugandan shillings per can, only about ten pence – but most people in Uganda have very little cash. They grow food to eat, not to sell.

Then the water has to be taken home. A full jerry can weighs about 45 lbs. At any time of day you see children on the road struggling to carry those heavy jerry cans, or pushing bicycles piled with four or six of them. It has often been said before, how much education children miss because they are fetching water. Many children, particularly orphans, are basically unpaid servants, and get no education at all.

This single problem of fetching water hints at how many familiar things are strange and difficult in Uganda – shopping, cooking, banking, finding your way, getting medical treatment, and so on. Part of the joy of being a visitor is seeing at first hand how people cope with the challenges, how little they complain, how eager they are to welcome you, bringing you water to wash your hands, food to eat, and yes, water to drink.

Water is such a powerful biblical symbol of God's love and grace, it is not surprising Christian charities overseas often focus on bringing clean water to people who have been forced to live without. A reliable supply of clean water mean much more than being able to drink freely when you want to. It means freedom from the daily burden of wasted time and back-breaking effort to fetch and carry water, that helps to hold back a whole continent, its people, and above all its children.

Your friend in Christ

Grant

CHRISTMAS CAKES

Once again I am taking orders for Christmas Cakes (un-iced). As in previous years, all profits will go to Church funds.

A 6 inch square cake will cost £10.00. and an 8 inch square cake will be £18.00.

Audrey Matfin.

Hire of Halls, Rooms and Church

Inside the cover of our church magazine Contact, is a list of the charges for the hire of our premises. If you would like to book a hall, meeting room or the church, (for a church activity or a private meeting/function) please make sure that you **first** speak to our Hall Lettings Officer, Harry Fawcitt, on 0191 2403129. Or email harryfawcitt@virginmedia.com Church activities are not charged but it is still important for us to know that they are happening!

There is a church diary, kept in the Office, which Harry keeps up to date from his diary, with all bookings; this is to make sure that rooms are not double booked, and it enables other members to look to see if there are spaces available. Our halls are very well used. In the colder months the heating will be put on for you- but only if we know about your meeting. The church diary also exists so that any maintenance work or cleaning work carried out will not clash with a booking.

For further information if required please speak to Harry, or Dorothy B, Church Secretary.

Church Meeting: Sunday October 15th 2017 at 11.45 am.

May I remind you all that we elect our officials at this meeting. Each of the posts below is an important part of our life and work here. If God puts a name into your prayers, please approach that person and encourage them to pray about it too. Or talk things over with Grant, Dorothy B, Tony Hall, or one of the Development Elders.

Please look at the August /September issue of Contact to find out who is eligible for re-election if Church Meeting wishes and the individual concerned accepts. Job "descriptions" are below. The following posts will fall vacant, and the term of office is also there...

Church Secretary. (3 years) Appointment on the recommendation of Elders

Assistant Church Secretary. (3 years) On the recommendation of Elders.

Church Treasurer. (3 years)

- Together with the Finance Committee, ensure that church funds are invested appropriately and that we comply with any current legislation
- Keep records of income and expenditure
- Pay bills as and when necessary
- Prepare a summary of accounts for quarterly Finance Meetings
- Organise meetings of the finance Committee
- Prepare a budget each year- with input from the Finance Committee.
- Make a verbal report about Financial matters to church Meeting
- Once a year, write a report for the Annual Reports Book for the AGM
- Ensure that accounts are checked /audited.

Assistant Church Treasurer (2 years)

- Enter the weekly offerings into ledger (on a rota basis); take cash to bank or post office.
- Assist and advise the treasurer in his task on financial matters as they arise.
- Meet with the Finance Committee.
- Meet with the Development Elders once a year

Development Elders: (3 years)

- Exercise oversight of the spiritual life of the church
- Attend Elders meetings
- Through prayer and discussion, develop strategies for the life of the church.
- As Duty Elder (on a rota) welcome and look after a visiting preacher.
- Assist at communion when required.

Pastoral Elders: (3 years)

- Exercise pastoral oversight of groups of members within the church.
- Attend 2 meetings a year with the Development Elders
- On a rota basis, take out church flowers to those who are in need of them.
- Ensure members receive the church magazine each month.
- Assist at Communion approx. 2 times a year.
- As Duty Elder (on a rota) welcome and look after a visiting preacher.

Pastoral Visitors: (3 years)

- Exercise pastoral oversight of a group of members and keep in touch with them.
- Deliver the Contact magazines to their districts.
- Distribute church flowers on a rota basis.
- Attend 2 meetings a year with Development Elders and Pastoral Elders.

Finance Committee: (2 years)

- Assist the Treasurer.
- Meet quarterly with the Committee.

Property Committee: (2 years)

- Meet with the Property Convenor on a regular basis
- Arrange for jobs to be done around the building and garden
- Suggest improvements to buildings and planning for jobs needing doing in the future.
- Meet with the Development Elders once a year.

Social Functions committee: (2 years)

- Arrange and co-ordinate events
- Ensure publicity for events in notices and church magazine.

Hall Lettings: (3 years)

- Handle hall lettings enquiries
- Keep diary for bookings and keep office diary updated.
- Arrange to open halls on time for non key -holders. (yourself or another person)
- Make sure that the halls are adequately heated.

- Ensure that hirers have completed Premises Use Application Form and Safeguarding Declaration form, and file forms in church office.
- Take money for bookings and pass on to Treasurer, unless the treasurer sends out an account to hirer by previous arrangement.
- Ensure the premises are secure after the event

Synod Representative: (3 years) (does not have to be an Elder!)

- Attend synod meetings twice a year(Saturdays, usually March and October)
- Pass on any information received to various post holders.

Flower Secretary (2 years)

- Organise rota for flower arrangers
- Put flower list for each year on notice board in church.
- Collect money from donors and pass it onto the arrangers.
- Record money donations/purchases into book.
- Ensure a supply of oasis and floral tape.

Cradle Roll Secretary (2 years)

- Send birthday cards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd birthdays to all children baptised at St George's.
- Invite children to attend the Junior church and family part of our worship

Contact Editor (2 years)

- Collect articles for the bi-monthly magazine from church members
- Arrange articles in order and set out the pages ready for photocopying.
- Arrange for the photocopying and assembly of the magazine.
- Put the completed magazines into the Elders' folders for distribution.
- Send Contact out by email to those requesting that format.
- Send a copy of Contact to the Webmaster for inclusion on the website.

Web Master (2 years)

- Make sure that all pages of the website are kept up to date (weekly prayers, notices, Contact, events page).
- Take ideas from members and create web pages on St George's website, using Dreamweaver or similar software.

To maintain the status quo in the running of our church we will need to find replacements for those who are standing down or not seeking re-election. If we do not find volunteers then things will simply not get done- we cannot ask those who are already committed to various jobs to take on extra duties.

At the time of writing this, **NO ONE** has expressed an interest in any of our posts to be filled!!!

Please pray about this- God needs you in His Church.

Dorothy Barker
Church Secretary.

Advance Notices

We will be holding a Ceilidh at St George's in aid of the Seeds of Hope project on Saturday 28th October. Please save the date and invite your friends and family! There will be more information nearer the time, but if you have any questions in the meantime please see Marina.

On the 4th November we are holding a Craft Fayre in the large hall from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. There will be tables set out in the hall which can be hired for a donation to the church. If you have any items you wish to sell and would like to hire a table please let Babs Hall or Sandra Nossiter know beforehand. Setting up will be from 12.30pm. Doors will open at 2.00pm, entrance fee £1 for adults and 50p for children and will include refreshments. Please save this date in your diary and tell family and friends about it. More information will be forthcoming in the Notices nearer the time

Socks and Chocs

Heaton Churches Together are once again going to collect Socks and Chocs at Christmas time for the clients of the People's Kitchen. (The Homeless of Newcastle). We would like to make up gift bags containing new socks (or tights for the ladies), a woolly hat and/or gloves/scarf, sweets, - or bars of chocolate, toiletries. The gifts are given to individuals at or around their Christmas party.

This year, the Kitchen has also appealed for men's boxer shorts, tracksuit bottoms, and sleeping bags- these will be separate from the gift bags! For ladies, sanitary products are needed.

We plan to sort out all the gifts from the churches on Saturday December 9th at St George's, from 10 am till 12.

Please start saving your gifts now! There is a box at the back of church if you wish to bring them to church before December.

Heaton Churches would also like to give out knitted angels when they go carol singing in December. If you would like to do some knitting for us, please ask me for a pattern. Angels can be any colour!!

Thank you!

Dorothy B

Reconcile!

Lebanon is now home to over one and a half million refugees from Syria and Palestine. Entire generations are being born and brought up in confined camps with limited resources, where hate, despair, and vengeance are commonplace. Yet amongst it all, Bible Society is present and active.

Reconcile! is a programme run by Bible Society offering hope to refugee children, based around the sharing of Christian values within interactive drama presentations. Based in Biblical stories, the drama presentations contain humour to help engage children in a positive way. Most have been affected by traumatic experiences and are encouraged to forgive their perpetrators, hence the name "Reconcile"

The presentations aim to use the Bible as a basis for addressing the common psychological needs of the refugee children, such as feelings of security and safety. The story of Noah is used to show how God protected him in the stormy waters, and also protects us in times of trouble.

Wissam Rajha, an actor in Lebanon, performs as a clown and totally disconnects the children from their trauma. "I invented the character "Billy Cookie" to engage with children based on Bible stories delivered

in a creative and humorous way” he said. “We live today in a world where pain and sadness surround us. Laughing is an essential way to help children recover from these traumas”

“During my childhood, my family and I suffered from the cruelty of the war and had to migrate in our own country; I wished back then to have someone that makes us laugh to forget our pain. When I’m on stage and I watch children laughing, praying and asking Jesus to enter their hearts, honestly, it is then that I get healing from Jesus as well”

Alongside the drama....presentations, children receive Bible stories highlighting the theme of reconciliation. Bible Society also distributes Arabic Peace and Justice Bibles to refugee camp leaders, and heads of families.

Please pray for Wissam and all the other leaders of “Reconcile!”, that they would be able to offer hope and healing through God’s word to refugee children affected by trauma in Lebanon.

URC Prayer Diary

The URC prayer handbook for 2018 is called “On Eagles’ Wings” and will cost £6.50. Towards the end of October there will be a list in the church for anyone who wishes to order a copy.

Details of the URC Diaries have not yet been released.

Watch the Weekly Notices for more information!

Church Family News

Congratulations go to Phil and Lucy Dixon (nee Cowey) who were married at St. George’s on Saturday 23rd September. Lucy, dressed in a beautiful dress with train, looked radiant, her bridesmaid was in purple and both carried bouquets’ of purple and white Cala Lilies, orange Gerberas, cream Lisianthus and lavender Roses. Sharon wore a light orange dress with gold lace overlay, Phil, Steve, Christopher and the rest of the wedding party wore blue suits with orange ties and white buttonholes, they all looked very stylish

The reception was held in the large hall which you would not have recognised. The walls were covered from floor to ceiling in voile curtains which were lit up from the top and bottom. The caterers brought their own tables and chairs, the food was delicious and the service was exemplary. There was a band for the evening with plenty of dancing and a very tasty buffet.

A lovely day was had by all and I am sure that Sharon and Steve were very proud of their daughter and new son-in-law.

News from Bluefields

Greetings from a very wet Bluefields! Yes, the rains have come with vengeance, but I remain nice & dry in my flowery waterproof onesie. I still get strange looks, but that’s ok - while people are staring at me, they are getting soaking wet!!! But seriously we have had much flooding, plenty power cuts..... Thankfully, full wells. I have now bought 82 pairs of wellingtons which have been greatly received by the children & their parents.



The football/basketball pitch is now finished & is being thoroughly enjoyed by the children in the orphanage & the youth in the community. Matches are taking place already & these boys are very competitive. It's lovely to see them having friendly fun instead of hanging around the streets getting into trouble.

Crime is really getting worse & many boys & men are carrying knives with them as part of their dress & have no hesitation in using them.

Next week should see the start of the hard core floor being laid at the shelter I had built last year at the rock quarry. We are hoping the rains ease a bit so the cement doesn't get spoiled. I have a supply of clothes & shoes that I have had donated to give out while we are working at the quarry. That's when my name changes to being Pied Piper!

We have had a family of mice visiting us recently, but between the poison & the pastor & me chasing them with our flip flops, they seem to have gone for the moment. Sadly the last one we found dead, which was detected by the foul smell, was in the unit where the kitchen linen & hand towels are kept. They had left their trace on them, so everything had to be washed - not so easy to get dried in this wet season.



Fishing is one of the main sources of employment here in Bluefields & nearly 4 weeks ago, 13 local men set sail to go lobster fishing & would be away from home for several weeks. The large boat was loaded high with lobster creels. They left in bad weather & sadly there has been no contact with them in all of this time. 70 frogmen from the USA have been searching the waters with no success. I can't imagine what it must be like for the families waiting at the wharf each day for news of their loved one. One young man on board, was one of our SIFT students & the cousin of 3 children who are currently receiving a scholarship. To make matters worse, his wife is pregnant!

It has brought the community closer together as they grieve for each other. The church pastors have supported the families tremendously. Each day they have been making sure someone is present with them for prayer & counselling.

It's hard to believe that I am just over half way through my stay here & other than toothache & an abscess on my gum; I am still enjoying very good health. Dengue fever has hit here quite badly & sometimes when visiting people in the hospital, beds are out in the corridors because they are so overcrowded. I am truly thankful for being a visitor & not a patient!

So, I will wind up now & say enjoy your summer, however you spend it. As always, I end in thanking you for your continued interest & support as I endeavour to improve the lives of those not so privileged as we are.

Every blessing, love *Margaret*

"SIX LITTLE STORIES" .worth your 30 seconds to read

Once, all of the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered but only one little boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That's TRUST.

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That's HOPE

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE

We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's LOVE

On an old woman's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.

And remember, Good friends are the rare jewels of life....difficult to find and impossible to replace

Woman and the Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things 'in order,' she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. 'There's one more thing,' she said excitedly.. 'What's that?' came the Pastor's reply? 'This is very important,' the young woman continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my Right hand.' The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. That surprises you, doesn't it?' the young woman asked. Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Pastor. The young woman explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie; Something wonderful, and with substance!' So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ..the best is yet to come.'

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, 'What's with the fork?' And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share. Being friends with someone is not an opportunity, but a sweet responsibility. And just remember...keep your fork!

The BEST is yet to come! God Bless You

Fairtrade, Cocoa Life and Cadbury

From September, you'll no longer see the FAIRTRADE Mark on the front of Cadbury Dairy Milk bars, hot chocolate and Buttons.

This is because Cadbury's parent company, Mondelez International, have decided to roll out their own sustainable sourcing programme called Cocoa Life across all Cadbury products. This is so they can safeguard their supply chain by taking complete responsibility for the sustainability of the cocoa they buy.

The difference between Cocoa Life and the FAIRTRADE Mark

The Cocoa Life programme isn't an independent farmer-owned system like the one behind the FAIRTRADE Mark. Instead, Mondelez work directly with cocoa farming communities to develop action plans that tackle challenges such as climate change, improving cocoa quality and making cocoa farming a more attractive profession for young people.

Instead of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and the Fairtrade Premium, Mondelez pays farmers the market price for their cocoa and then a loyalty payment on top to boost their incomes.

They also invest in projects that address the challenges identified by community action plans, which farmers create and deliver with Mondelez.

Fairtrade's involvement with Cocoa Life

Here at the Fairtrade Foundation we've been working with Mondelez for many months to make sure Fairtrade farmers have been properly consulted on the Cocoa Life programme, and that they will receive at least the same value as they have under Fairtrade certification. As part of its development we have been able to make sure farmers' views have been heard and they have told us they fully support it.

Five times as much Cadbury chocolate will be sourced on sustainable terms through Cocoa Life than was Fairtrade certified. Mondelez have committed to continue buying the same volumes of Fairtrade certified sugar as they do now.

The Fairtrade Foundation exists to represent and protect farmers' interests, and we see it as our responsibility to ensure that this continues to be the case. That's why we've worked with Mondelez on developing Cocoa Life and will continue to help them monitor it to ensure it truly benefits cocoa farmers and will publish an annual report on how we think that's going. Our work with Mondelez on their Cocoa Life programme is indicated by the Fairtrade Foundation's name appearing on the back of packs.

Best wishes,
Jonathan Smith,
Head of Campaigns, Fairtrade Foundation

Bible a Month: Uganda

**"I don't know if he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!"
John 9, 25. (CEV)**

Uganda is a country in Africa and is surrounded by South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It covers an area of 241,000 sq km, approx 99% of the UK size. It has a population of 37.1 million, which is 58% of the UK population. The literacy rate- people who can read and write – is 78%. Languages include English, Ganda or Luganda, Swahili, Arabic plus other local languages.

Uganda has a population of 37 million people, 1 million of whom are visually impaired. Blind people are often perceived as a curse in Uganda, and therefore tend to be stigmatised by society. They are frequently denied rights, like education and worship. They can even be excluded from church activities, because their leaders think they are of no use to them.

The PVD (Providing Scriptures for People with Visual Disability) project in Uganda seeks to address these issues by advocating on behalf of blind people in society, as well as ensuring they have access to God's Word through braille, audio and large-print formats.

Prayer Pointers

- Pray for the growth of the PVD project; that it will be able to reach more blind people.
- Pray for the parents and guardians of the visually impaired young people, that they will value them and send them to school in order that they will gain braille literacy.

- Pray that the blind everywhere will be able to access adequate education, health, and other services necessary for life.
- Thank God that many people who are visually impaired have already been able to receive several portions of the Bible and pray that others will soon be able to access God's word.

Northern Synod Prayers

We are asked to pray for the following churches and ministers in the Synod

October

- 1st Synod meeting on 7th October; Moderator's Secretary, Mrs Wendy Watson; Trust Officer, Mr Andrew Atkinson; Finance Officer, Mrs Helen Hogg; Ecumenical Officer, Mr Andy Lie.
- 8th The work of the Mission Committee and its convenor, Rev'd Meg Robb.
- 15th Berwick URC; Crookham URC; Wooler URC; Rev'd Mary Taylor; Erskine & St Cuthbert's URC, Belford; North Sunderland URC.
- 22nd West End URC; Jesmond URC; Robert Stewart Memorial URC, Newcastle; Rev'd Meg Robb; Ms Ann Honey (Church Related Community Worker).
- 29th PCM (Presbyterian Church of Mozambique), their churches of the Central Presbytery and the Presbytery of the North; in these regions life can be very tough as resources are scarce.

November

- 5th For world -wide peace and acts of Remembrance this week. Zion URC, Northallerton; Northgate URC, Darlington; Keld URC; Low Row URC; Rev'd Hilary and Rev'd Stephen Collinson.
- 12th St Paul & St John's URC; St Margaret's URC, South Shields; St Andrew's URC, Hebburn; Rev'd Helen Drummond.
- 19th St Andrew's LEP (Methodist/URC) Benton; Rev'd Gavin Hume (Meth); the Church of the Good Shepherd LEP (Anglican/Methodist/URC), Battle Hill; Rev'd Julie Mooney (Anglican).
- 26th Advent as we prepare for Christmas. PCM, and the work of the Mozambique Council of Churches.

December

- 3rd The work of Ministries and Development Committee and its convenor, Rev'd Hilary Collinson; St Columba's URC, North Shields; St Andrew's URC, Monkseaton; Rev'd Dr Matthew Prevett.
- 10th Stamfordham LEP (Methodist/URC), Rev'd Maureen Lloyd; Bellingham LEP (Methodist /URC); Falstone & Kielder LEP (Methodist/URC); Wark LEP (Methodist/URC), Deacon Anne Taylor (Meth).

Bible a Month: 40 years. 1977-2017

Bible a Month, the Bible Society's scheme for supporters to give a Bible, month after month, is celebrating 40 years.

In that time, Bible a Month (BAM) members have raised more than £35 million- which is the equivalent of providing more than 7 million people around the world with a Bible.

The programme, originally called Bible a Month Club, was launched in June 1977. Back then, prospective members were told, "It's the book club where you don't get a book- you give one every month" and were invited to donate £1.50 a month. Within 6 months the club had 1,500 members and by the end of 1978 it had doubled to 3,000 regular givers.

Today, there are 23,162 Bible a Month supporters, who give on average £8 a month each- enough to cover the £5 cost of translating, producing and distributing a Bible. Together, these supporters donate more than £2 million every year to Bible work. This ministry has reached millions of people with God's word and has changed many lives, for good.

Bible Book Club

Bible Book Club, a new resource launched at the end of January, encourages people to read through the Bible one book at a time. Over the past 6 months, over 3,000 people have been downloading Bible Society's helpful guides and setting up their own Bible Book Clubs. Amazingly, our guide to Leviticus, the last popular book according to a recent Bible Society survey hosted on Bible Society's website, has had the most downloads.

The top ten downloaded guides since January 2017 are :- Leviticus, Genesis, Matthew, Ruth, John, Romans, Mark, Este, Luke, Jude.

One of the key aims of Bible Book club is to encourage people to explore lesser known books as well as more familiar ones and it takes less time than you think. Obadiah, Haggai, and Nahum can all be read in under 10 minutes. New Testament books like Philippians, Colossians and 2 Peter can be read in under 15 minutes.

The Bible Book Club has easy-to-use guides for all 66 books with lots of information including genre, background context, and tricky issues. There are also questions for small groups intended to develop conversation as you gather to reflect on your personal reading experience. The emphasis is on reading one book at a time rather than reading a few verses or small sections of Scripture.

If you're not sure which book to start with, Bible Society provides you with a variety of tracks to help you get going. If you want to explore the poetry of the Bible you could try reading Psalms, Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. If you want to revisit Sunday school stories you could go to Genesis, Exodus, or Judges. Or how about exploring some of Paul's writing in Romans, Corinthians or Ephesians?

It's free and all the information you need is available at biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub or call 01793 418222 for further details.

Don't complicate Life

Missing somebody?	CALL	Don't like something?	SAY IT
Want to meet up?	INVITE	Like something?	STATE IT
Want to be understood?	EXPLAIN	Want something?	ASK FOR IT
Have questions?	ASK	Love someone?	TELL THEM

Keep your life SIMPLE

Points to Ponder

- Don't ever be afraid to show who you really are, because as long as you are happy with yourself, no one else's opinion matters.
- A beautiful face will age and a perfect body will change, but a beautiful soul will always be a beautiful soul.
- No, we don't always get what we want. But consider this: there are people who will never have what you have right now.
- Life is too short to argue and fight with the past. Count your blessings, value the people who love you and make the most of each day.
- Don't be afraid of losing people. Be afraid of losing yourself by trying to please everyone around you.
- No matter how educated, talented, rich or cool you believe you are, how you treat people ultimately tells all. Integrity is everything.
- Churches that become passionate about people outside their walls will be far more effective than churches that are passionate only about keeping the few people they have inside their walls.

- You have permission to rest. You are not responsible for fixing everything that is broken. You do not have to try and make everyone happy. For now, take time for you. It's time to replenish. *Sungazing.com*
- Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. *Dallas Willard*
- Life has knocked me down a few times. It has shown me things I never wanted to see. I have experienced sadness and failures. But one thing is for sure, I always get up.
- Sad hurts but it's a necessary feeling. It's a necessary thing to feel. Depression is very different. *J.K Rowling.*

Most of the above are from the Internet and cannot be attributed to any particular person.

Being British

A British national daily newspaper asked readers: "What does it mean to be British?" Some replies were hilarious, but this one from a resident of Switzerland stood out:

"My perception of Being British is about driving a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then going home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American and Australian shows on a Japanese or Korean TV, which will soon be powered by a Chinese power station."

And the most British thing of all? "Suspicion of anything foreign."

Smile

If you ever feel a little bit stupid, just dig this up and read it again; you'll begin to think you're a genius.

- (On September 17, 1994, Alabama's Heather Whitestone was selected as Miss America 1995.)
Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?
Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever," --*Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.*
- "Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff." --*Mariah Carey*
- "Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life," -- *Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign*
- "I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body," --*Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward.*
- "Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country," --*Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC*
- "That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it," --*A congressional candidate in Texas.*
- "Half this game is ninety percent mental." --*Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark*
- "It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.." --*Al Gore, Vice President*
- "I love California . I practically grew up in Phoenix .." -- *Dan Quayle*
- "We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?" --*Lee Iacocca*
- "The word "genius" isn't applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein." --*Joe Theisman, NFL football quarterback & sports analyst.*
- "We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people." -- *Colonel Gerald Wellman, ROTC Instructor.*

- "Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."
--*Department of Social Services, Greenville, South Carolina*
- "Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas." --*Keppel Enderbery*
- "If somebody has a bad heart, they can plug this jack in at night as they go to bed and it will monitor their heart throughout the night. And the next morning, when they wake up dead, there'll be a record." -- *Mark S. Fowler, FCC Chairman*



St George's Coffee Rota –October/November

Date	Set up	Serve	Clear away
01/10/17	Clare	Sandra and Clare	Sandra and Youth Church
08/10/17	Kim	Ann and Renee	Ann and Renee
15/10/17	Dorothy and Ivy	Dorothy and Ivy	Dorothy and Ivy

PLEASE SEE MARINA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE COFFEE ROTA

Lectionary Readings for October/November 2017

<u>Sunday Service Date</u>	<u>Date of Steps Meeting</u>	<u>Lectionary Readings</u>
01-Oct-17	04-Oct-17 see weekly notices	Exodus 17 vs 1-7, Psalm 78 vs 1-4, 12-16 (or Ezekiel 18 vs 1-4, 25-32), Psalm 25 vs 1-9, Philipians 2 vs 1-13, Matthew 21 vs 23-32
08-Oct-17	11-Oct-17 see weekly notices	Exodus 20 vs 1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19, (or Isaiah 5 vs 1-7, Psalm 80 vs 7-15, Philipians 3 vs 4b-14, Matthew 21 vs 33-46

15-Oct-17	18 Oct 17 see weekly notices	Exodus 32 vs 1-14, Psalm 106 vs 1-6, 19-23, (or Isaiah 25 vs 1-9) Psalm 23, Philippians 4 vs 1-9, Matthew 22 vs 1-4
22-Oct-17	25 Oct 17 see weekly notices	Exodus 33 vs 12-23, Psalm 99 (or Isaiah 45 vs 1-7), Psalm 96 vs 1-9 (10-13), 1 Thessalonians 1 vs 1-10, Matthew 22 vs 15-22
29-Oct-17	1 Nov 17 see weekly notices	Deuteronomy 34 vs 1-12, Psalm 90 vs 1-6, 13-17 (or Leviticus 19 vs 1-2, 15-18), Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2 vs 1-8, Matthew 22 vs 34-46
05-Nov-17	08 Nov 17 see weekly notices	Joshua 3 vs 7-17, Psalm 107 vs 1-7, 33-37, (or Micah 3 vs 5-12), Psalm 43, 1 Thessalonians 2 vs 9-13, Matthew 23 vs 1-12
12-Nov-17	15 Nov 17 see weekly notices	Isaiah 25 vs 4-9, Psalm 46, 1 Timothy 2 vs 1-5, Luke 1 vs 68-79
19-Nov-17	22 Nov 17 see weekly notices	Judges 4 vs 1-7, Psalm 123 (or Zephaniah 1 vs 7, 12-18) Psalm 90 vs 1-8 (9-11), 12, 1 Thessalonians 5 vs 1-11, Matthew 25 vs 14-30
26-Nov-17	29 Nov 17 see weekly notices	Ezekiel 34 vs 11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Psalm 95 vs 1-7a, Ephesians 1 vs 15-23, Matthew 25 vs 31-46
03-Dec-17	06 Nov 17 see weekly notices	Isaiah 64 vs 1-9, Psalm 80 vs 1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1 vs 3-9, Mark 13 vs 24 -37

PLEASE NOTE STEPS MEETING MAY CHANGE THE PROGRAMME AND MAY NOT FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY READINGS

Jesus

Jesus died over 2000 years ago.
 Nobody has ever referred to Him as the late Jesus,
 not even the heathens.
 Nowhere in history has He EVER been referred to in the past tense!
 He is the Living God!
 97% OF YOU WON'T FORWARD THIS MESSAGE ON,
 When Jesus died on the cross He was thinking of you!
 If you are one of the 3% who will stand up for Him, forward this.

"SIX LITTLE STORIES" ..worth your 30 seconds to read

1. Once, all of the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered but only one little boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That's TRUST.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That's HOPE
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE
5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's LOVE
6. On an old woman's shirt was written a sentence, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That's ATTITUDE.
- 7.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.

And remember, Good friends are the rare jewels of life....difficult to find and impossible to replace

MAY GOD SMILE ON YOU TODAY

Duty Rotas

	October				
	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Duty Elder	Mrs D. Barker	Mrs S. Cowey	Mrs. B. Hall	Mrs. J. Das	Mrs. S. Nossiter
Door Steward	Mrs J. Das & Mrs L. Cadwallader	Mrs A. Matfin & Mr A. Armstrong	Mr & Mrs. T. Hall	Miss M Foster & Mrs J. Cartman	Mr & Mrs. H. Fawcitt
Communion Stewards	Mrs R. Croft & Mrs L. Dixon (nee Cowey)				
Computer Rota Setting up	Sandra Nossiter	Lucy Dixon	Stewart Barclay	Bob Renton	Sandra Nossiter
Computer Rota Operating	Sandra Nossiter	Lucy Dixon	Stewart Barclay	Anthony Armstrong	Harry Fawcitt
Sound Desk	Norman Nossiter			Norman Nossiter	Norman Nossiter
Offering Counting	Steve & Sharon Cowey	Audrey Matfin	Denise & Harry Fawcitt	Sandra & Norman Nossiter	Ivy & Bob Renton
Flower Donations	No Donor At Time of Printing	Denise Fawcitt			
Flower Arranger	Karen Wilkes	Clare Hutton	Dorothy Barker	Ivy Renton	Sandra Nossiter
Flower Distribution	Lilian Willford	Renee Croft	Julia Watson	Audrey Matfin	Denis Fawcitt

If you are unable to do any of your duties, or they clash with something else you are doing in church, please arrange your own swaps in advance. Please do not leave it till the day of your duty as it is not always possible to get replacements on the day.

Duty Rotas

	November				December	
	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th	3 rd	10 th
Duty Elder	Mr A. Solomon	Mrs L. Dixon	Miss D. Coates	Mrs R. Croft	Miss A. Clough	Mrs. D. Barker
Door Steward	Mr & Mrs S Cowey	Miss D. Coates & Miss A Clough	Mrs E. Cowey & Miss M. Applegate	Mr & Mrs R Renton	Mrs J Das & Mrs L. Cadwallader	Mrs. A Matfin & Mr. A. Armstrong
Communion Stewards	Mrs S. Nossiter & Mrs. A. Mackenzie				Miss D. Coates & Mr T. Hall	
Computer Rota Setting up	Bob Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Stewart Barclay	Lucy Dixon	Sandra Nossiter	Stewart Barclay
Computer Rota Operating	Bob Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Stewart Barclay	Lucy Dixon	Anthony Armstrong	Harry Fawcitt
Sound Desk		Norman Nossiter				
Offering Counting	Sharon & Steve Cowey	Audrey Matfin	Denise & Harry Fawcitt	Norman Sandra Nossiter	Bob & Ivy Renton	Sharon & Steve Cowey
Flower Donations						
Flower Arranger	Karen Wilkes	Clare Hutton	Dorothy Barker	Ivy Renton	Sandra Nossiter	Karen Wilkes
Flower Distribution	Deborah Ward	Dorothy Coates	Norman Nossiter	Denise Fawcitt	Lillian Willford	Lucy Dixon

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Diary for October/November

October

1 st	10.00 am	Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Grant Wilson. Holy Communion during Praise worship.
8 th	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Harry Fawcitt
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Jackie Haws, URC Accredited Lay Preacher.
10 th	7.30pm	Finance Committee
12 th	7.00 pm	Development Elders
15 th	10.30 am	All Together Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Grant Wilson
15 th	11.45 am	CHURCH MEETING. Including elections.
22 nd	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Sandra and Norman Nossiter and Angela McKenzie
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Mr Ken McKenzie.
28 th		Ceilidh- in aid of Seeds of Hope project.
29 th	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Alphonsi Solomon
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Mr Ian Patterson, URC Accredited Lay Preacher

November

4 th	2.00 pm	Craft Fayre
5 th	10.00 am	Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Grant Wilson. Holy Communion during Traditional worship
12 th	10.00 am	Praise Worship led by Judith Das
	10.55 am	Traditional worship led by the SYNOD MODERATOR, REV'D DAVID HERBERT. (Remembrance Sunday)
16 th	7.00 pm	Development Elders PLUS Finance committee
19 th	10.00 am	Worship led by the minister, Rev'd Grant Wilson.
26 th	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Sharon Cowey
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Rev'd Margaret Harris

December

3 rd	10.30 am	All Together Worship to include Holy Communion. Led by Rev'd John Durrell retired URC minister.
10 th	10.00 am	Praise worship led by Harry Fawcitt
	11.00 am	Traditional worship led by Jackie Haws, URC Accredited Lay Preacher.

Dates for Articles for October/November Contact

10th November 2017 Hard Copies
12th November 2017 Emails

Hire of Halls, Rooms and Church - Our premises are available for letting as follows:-

Regular Hires - based on a maximum of a 3 hour session

Large Hall: £45
Minor Hall: £30
Meeting Room: £15
Church: £45

One-off Hires - based on a maximum of a 3 hour session

Large Hall: £60
Minor Hall: £40
Meeting Room: £20
Church: £80

If you want to book any of the above, or require further information please telephone Mr Harry Fawcitt, telephone number 2403129.