

'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.



Parkwood Methodist Church The Herald

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St. Mark's Parish Centre
53 Thornhill Road
Longwood HD3 4UL

The story of the English Bible

'Love thy neighbour as thyself'
'Seek and ye shall find'
'And the word was made flesh'
In normal times these are the phrases that we hear being read on a Sunday morning across hundreds and hundreds of churches in the English speaking world. They are phrases that have shaped our faith and have given meaning to our lives and our communities. Yet it was not always so. There was a time when the threat of death hung over those who owned English translation of the bible. The man who gave us most of the phrases we all know and love, William Tyndale, was burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English.

Wycliffe's Translation



It started in 1382 when John Wycliffe gave us the very first English translation. There were, however, two problems with this translation.

The first one was it was a ridged 'word for word' translation which caused confusion and gave us such

phrases as: 'And God said: Light be made. And light was made'.

The other problem was that it was banned from 1407 onwards. Being in possession of a Wycliffe English translation brought with it the death sentence.

Tyndale's Translation



William Tyndale

The man who brought the English bible to life for us and gave us such phrases as '*knock and it shall be opened unto you*' and the '*spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak*' was William Tyndale. His

translation of the New Testament appeared in 1526. It was the first English Bible to be printed rather than hand produced by scribes.

For those of you who have been following Hilary Mantel's rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell, there is a scene where Cromwell illegally imports a Tyndale translation from Europe into England, as the death sentence still hung over possession of the Bible in English.

In order to escape persecution, because of his opposition to Henry VIII's planned [annulment](#) of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in favour of [Anne Boleyn](#) and his translation work, Tyndale moved to Antwerp. He was



eventually tried on a charge of heresy in 1536 and was condemned to be burned to death.

The Execution of William Tyndale

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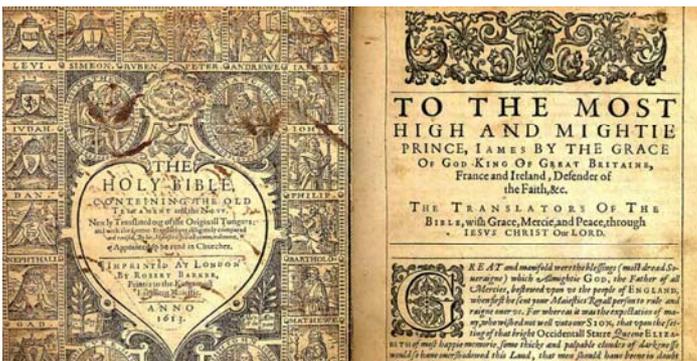
The Great Bible



The next translation of the Bible was the 'Great Bible' or 'Chained Bible', because it was **chained** to the pulpits. It was the first

authorised edition of the [Bible](#) in English, authorised by King [Henry VIII of England](#) to be read aloud in the church services of the [Church of England](#).

The King James Bible



The King James, or Authorised, Version of the Bible is still the most widely published text in the English language.

BY the time of Shakespeare England had split with Rome and Bibles in English were now available. The death penalty for possessing an English Bible was abolished by King James I and he commissioned a new version, which was published in 1611. It has been estimated that over three quarters of the King James translation was contributed by William Tyndale.

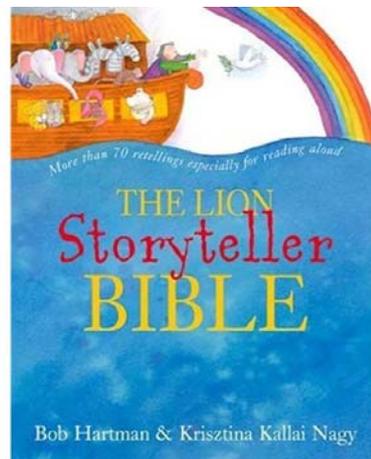
I can remember on a visit from print college in the 1960's to the Oxford University Press seeing a new printing press that had just been installed. This was capable of printing many thousands of King James's Bibles per hour.

Modern English translations



There have been scores of modern translations of the bible. These include translations such as the 'Good News Bible'.

The Lion Storyteller Bible



A popular version of the Bible for young people today is the 'The Lion Storyteller Bible'. Storyteller Bob Hartman uses simple language that's ideal for reading aloud to children without

ever talking down to them. We have used this translation for our Messy Church at Parkwood. It all seems a very long, yet fascinating journey from the times of Wycliffe and Tyndale.

John A. Oldham

Thank you John for the interesting and varied stories. (Ed!)

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Amazing how many people use the scout "call to action" of DYB, DYB, DYB and DOB, DOB, DOB. I wonder how many actually know what it means?

(Ed!)

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Dear Editor,

An appeal for our Herald – it's Time has Come!

I want to firstly thank Joe for slogging away at getting a Herald out for us – month in and month out for over many years now. I know he enjoys doing it and he does a good job at it, apart from his dodgy graphics, but we can't expect everything. It can, however, be a thankless task. So, once again Joe our grateful thanks.

OK folks I want to make an appeal

We're thinking of publishing more editions of the Herald at this time of 'Stay at Home' to help to keep us all in touch.

The Herald's time has come!

It's an ideal way of keeping us all together in our isolation – a sort of Superglue as we miss meeting up on a Sunday morning.

So here's the deal. Let's keep our self superglued together by sending more stuff in to fill the pages of the Herald when we really need it.

For example, I was delighted to hear from Bernd in Germany in the April issue of the Herald. We used to have some really good chats together at Parkwood – and the Herald brought such a lovely memory back again for me.

So, whatever you have – SEND IT TO JOE.

Memories, recipes, stories, your favourite poem, silly things that have happened you – to your family, hymns you love, Letters to the Editor...anything else you can think of. Let's come together and stay together through our beloved Herald –

SEND IT TO JOE!

Thanks so much,

John

PS All those who do Facebook – let's have a simple rule. For every two Facebook postings you do – send one email to Joe for the Herald.

PPS If you don't send stuff in I'll have to start publishing some of my old sermons – and I'm sure you really don't want that – do you?

COPING WITH COVID

Most of us now have more time on our hands as we are kept inside because of Covid 19. Mother's Day celebrations were cancelled but the postman saved the day and brought cards and, in my case, a Dear Grandma Journal of a Lifetime to complete to be saved for my grandchildren. I am finding it a good distraction to complete a couple of the 60 pages most days and that other country - the past - seems a good place to visit right now. I have heard many friends are catching up with decorating, DIY and gardening. My daughter keeps reminding me that this is the perfect opportunity to make progress with my declutter but my current prevarication is that, apart from the few things that I can consign to waste or recycling bins I would perhaps be making the situation worse as charity bags would pile up and a trip to the tip is also precluded. Any excuse! We are spending a lot of time speaking on the phone to friends and family and Face timing the grandchildren which is always a bit of a crazy session guaranteed to cheer us up.

As well as keeping occupied it is important to keep positive and remembering to count our blessings can help. I must admit that the Gratitude Diary I started in December 2018 was completely neglected at the beginning of 2020 with Robin, my husband, in hospital in Leeds for a number of weeks and the worrying few weeks that led up to this. I went back to it just before this virus began to preoccupy us all. It seems to have a positive effect on my state of mind, and can change my focus, to list 2 or 3 things to feel grateful for every few days. A mundane one recently was fewer white shirts to iron because of staying in but they do get better than that. Diaries or journals of whatever type can give you a sense of perspective when you look back on them. We can't know what challenges we might have to face but it is bound to help to keep a thankful heart.

Has anyone else started a project and how do they find it is helping them?

Sheila Whittam

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Come on folks. Let's start a "Letters to the Editor" page. I'm sure you all have hobbies, pastimes and interests. Now's the time to contact whilst we are in almost total lockdown. Photo's as well please. Share your day's events. What about your favourite poem/hymn and why!

I was going to publish the answers to the Bible Word Quiz in this edition, but no one has sent me anything to show they have done it.

It has either proved to be too hard or there is no interest, so I will publish in the next edition.

Please submit articles for this magazine whilst this scary pandemic is around. Just do as the government and boffins ask and all should be well. The longer you keep safe, the more likely a vaccine/cure may be discovered.

Are you happy to receive this newsletter as and when I have enough to complete. All submissions will be welcome. You can post me an article if you receive a printed copy and are not on line. Don't hold back. As usual if you don't want to receive the newsletter please tell me and I will remove your contact details. (Ed!)



Amelia - Claire and attendants.

Pause for thought:---

I have heard it said that no man is an island, but it seems to me that in reality each person is an island unto himself. You may be empathetic about how people are feeling, but you can't be empathetic enough to really understand the core being of anyone but yourself.

We've all said many times, "if only 'John 'would do this," of "if only 'Jane 'would do that," then "everything would be okay". We all believe that if we could just dictate everyone's behaviour and tell everyone else exactly what to do, we could straighten everything out. The trouble is that you can't get John or Jane to do what you want them to do because they view the whole situation differently. John sees every situation from his viewpoint, according to his needs and desires, and with all the prejudices and prior opinions that exist within him. Jane, likewise, sees things from HER point of view. (*And whatever I say about John and Jane also goes for Tom, Dick, Harry, and every other person in the world as well.*)

So since the world around me swirls on in relationship chaos and neither John nor Jane will let me straighten them out by proscribing their exact behaviour, I have written a short mantra to remind myself of how powerless I am to affect the actions of anyone other than myself.

Everyone will do what everyone will do and how you will respond is all that's up to you.

Of course, I must also remind myself that my response should not be dismay that there is nothing constructive I can do, but rather joy that I have a clear conscience. After all, however John and Jane decide to behave, I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE.

Betty Killebrew

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SILENCE MATTERS

Jock was out working the field when a barnstormer landed near by. "I'll give you an aeroplane ride for £5" said the pilot. "Sorry can't afford it" replied Jock. "I'll tell you what " said the pilot, "I'll give you and your wife a free ride if you promise not to yell otherwise it will be £10". So up they went and the pilot rolled, looped, stalled and did all the things he could to scare Jock. Nothing caused the farmer to yell and the defeated pilot finally landed the plane. Turning to the rear seat he said "Got to hand it to you. For country folk you're sure brave!" "Aye," said Jock. "But ye nearly had me there when the wife fell out!"



Happier times



Contributions please, PLEASE; not John's sermons.