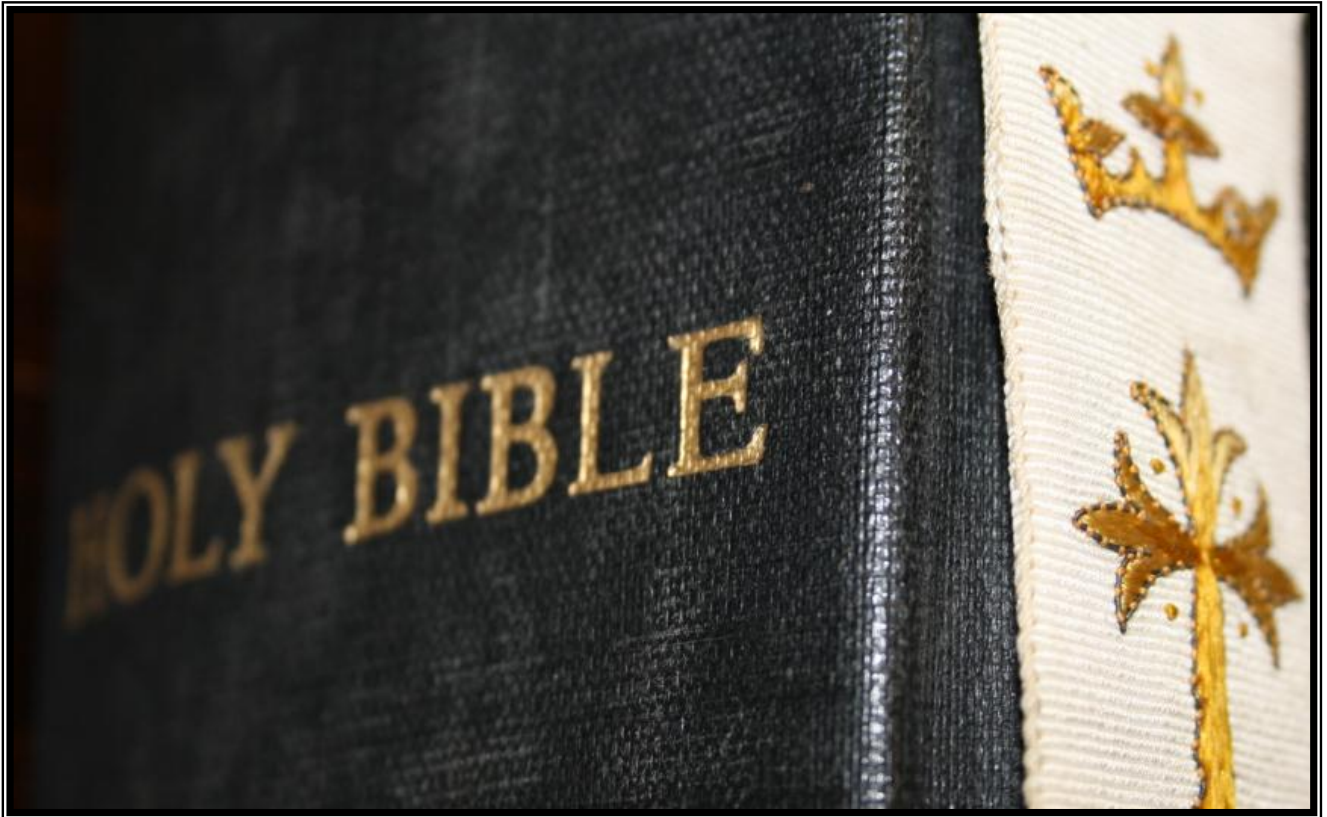


# Year of the Bible

## A Celebration



***Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath***



# Introduction

Speaking about the work done by the translators of the King James Bible, the Archbishop of Canterbury commented that *a good translation will be an invitation to read again, and to probe, and reflect, and imagine with the text. Rather than letting me say, 'now I understand', it prompts the response, 'now the work begins'.*

It's that type of reflecting that the people of our congregations have been doing in offering this collection of favourite bible verses and stories.

On their own, they may seem small and insignificant but when taken together, they tell of how this book has impacted our lives.



This wonderfully moving collection can be read in different ways.

Feel free to:

- dip in and out when you need a little comfort or inspiration;
- mull over the whole collection, to meet with the God who changes lives;
- take one reflection for each week of the year, spending time to consider and come up with your own thoughts and ideas.

I hope you enjoy it and that it inspires you to read some more of this amazing book for yourselves.

*David Brewster*

**The Reverend David Brewster**



***“Can all your worries add a single day to your life?”***

Matthew 6:27

This is one of the very first Bible verses I ever read and it stopped me in my tracks! I worry about everything. When I read this verse, I realised I had to learn how to let go, to leave my worries with God and to live my life without fear.

*Pam Robinson*





***“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***

Romans 10:13

I love this scripture because it sums up the hope God extends to all people, regardless of nationality, religion, class, age, race, background, gender or anything else. If we will just call on His name, nothing else is needed, He will save us to live forever with Him. It's why I do the work that I do in schools and the hope of my heart for myself, my family and everybody I meet – just call, He'll be there in a hurry! Nothing can keep Him from you if you just call.

*Reverend Sue Mayo*



***“Do for others what you would  
want them to do for you.”***

Matthew 7:12

And just how many times did my mum say this to me... “do unto others..!”

And we can all still learn from this in our day-to-day life. We need to think about the ways we would like people to be kind to us – and be kind to them. How we would like people to encourage us – and to encourage them.

Wouldn't the world be a nicer place if we did?



***“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is  
your strength.”***

Nehemiah 8:10

I was in India with a Tear Fund team one summer and the local church had this painted on their back wall. None of us really got it when we arrived, but by the time we'd finished our work there they had taught us exactly what it meant. I always come back to it when I'm tired or disheartened.

*Lucy Brewster*





***“Taste, and see that the Lord is good!”***

Psalm 34:8

I spent an awful lot of years denying God, refusing to believe in Him. But once I did give Him my heart and let Him into my life, I am in awe of the joy I feel, the strength I get and the richness of my life.

Life tastes so much sweeter now! Why did I wait so long?!



***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”***

John 3:16

It has given me the comfort and strength to know that beyond this life here on Earth, there is a place of God’s promise to us all.

*Dorothy Wilde*





***“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbour to the man who was attacked by bandits?” asked Jesus. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”***

Luke 10:36-37

The story of the Good Samaritan is one I have heard all of my life and is a story that speaks to me very clearly even now. This story is a true example of how we should treat all people, not just the ones who are “like me”.



***“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.”***

Matthew 11:28-29

This verse was probably given to me by the Holy Spirit when my mother died. I saw Jesus in front of me just before my mother went to Heaven.

*Claire Abercrombie*



***“I lift my eyes to the hills.  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord.”***

Psalm 121:1

It reminds me to rely on God, not myself or someone else!

*Sara Elizabeth Baxter*



***“That night, Matthew invited Jesus and His disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his fellow tax collectors and many other notorious sinners.”***

Matthew 9:10

What an incredible dinner party that must have been!

This story speaks volumes to me. Jesus does not wait for me to be “perfect” so that He can love me. Jesus meets me exactly where I am – full of problems and worries, full of stress and anxiety. And He loves me anyway...





***“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ and everyone members one of another.”***

Romans 12:4-5

Containing my school motto (“members of one another”), I heard it on many occasions throughout my senior school days. I take comfort from knowing whatever different talents we all have, God will put them all together for use in His service.



***“For you shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”***

Isaiah 55:12

It is both inspirational and comforting. I especially love “and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.”

*Cynthia Green*



***“Whatever you do, give it your very best,  
as if you were working for the Master and  
not for human beings.”***

Colossians 3:23

This is a very practical verse that encourages me to see everything I do and say as part of my Christian witness and service for God. My faith must be “lived out” in my daily life.

*Lois Haslam*



***“And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”***

Luke 15:20

Oh, how our children can love us and hurt us in the same breath!

As the parent of a very wayward teenager, I have waited all night for their safe return, worried myself sick about the choices they have made and wept tears of joy when they ran back into my arms!



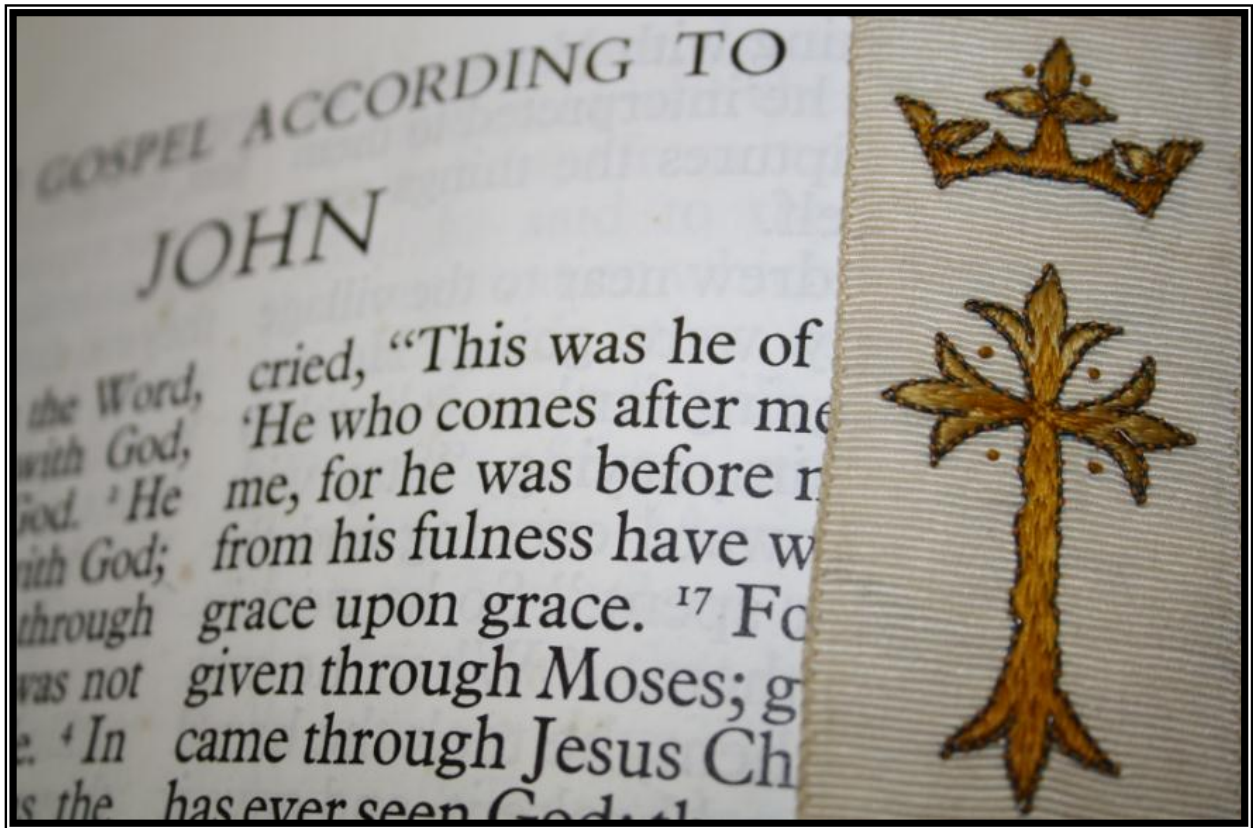


***“Be still and know that I am God.”***

Psalm 46:10

In my frantic and often chaotic life, this verse brings me back to the most important thing in my life. I take a deep breath and let go of all my cares and anxieties and remember how much God loves me, cares for me, and that He will never leave me.

*Pam Robinson*

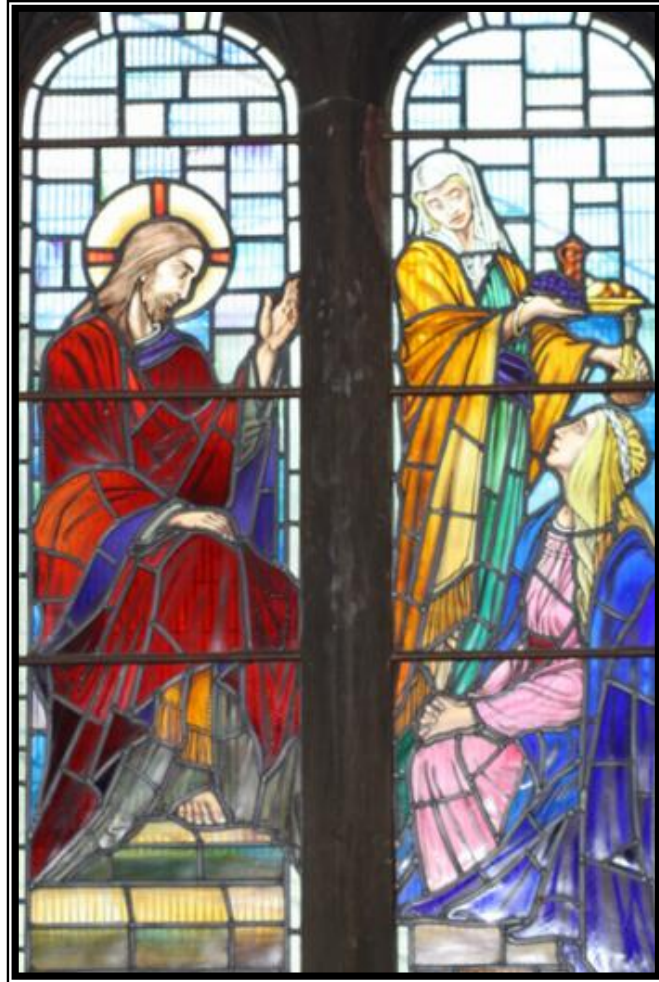


***“In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.”***

John 1:1

I love this for its sheer beauty; as someone who writes, it appeals to me on an aesthetic level. But I also love what it tells us about Christ: that He is, was and always will be; that He is one with the Father; and that, when used correctly, words are a powerful tool in our Christian armour.

*Linda Cosgriff*



***“Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what He had to say. But Martha was worrying over the big dinner that she was preparing and came to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to You that my sister just sits here while I do all the work?’”***

Luke 10:39-40

Jesus told Martha that there is really only one thing worth being concerned about and Mary had discovered it!

When we are working hard, especially when we are working FOR God, it is easy to forget that it is more important to spend time WITH God!

*My favourite story is from Exodus, Chapters 4 – 7. Moses and Aaron re-appear to Pharaoh, they try to persuade him to let God's people go. When he refuses, Aaron's staff becomes a snake and 10 plagues fall.*

*I like it because it re-tells a famous event in ancient Egypt which people celebrate around the world. It seems like such an important story, the freeing of the Israelites.*

*It also reminds me of St. Mark's, where I used to have Passover.*

*Robert Ieuan Adams*







***“ ‘What about him, Lord?’ Peter asked.  
‘What is that to you?’ replied Jesus.”***

John 21:21-22

I like these verses because I tend to try to carry responsibility for others – my family, friends, etc., and it reminds me that all that is necessary is my faithfulness and that Jesus will do the heavy lifting with regards to others. That is not my responsibility. He can be trusted.

*Reverend David Brewster*



***“Fear not, for I am with thee”***

Isaiah 41:10

During the “Troubles” in Ireland, it was necessary to visit my Aunt, who was very ill. As I travelled to the hospital each day, I was very frightened but the words, “Fear not, for I am with thee,” gave me courage to make further visits.

*Lavinia M.E. Johnson*



***“And now abideth faith, hope, charity,  
these three, but the greatest of these  
is charity.”***

1 Corinthians 13:13

It has always been inspirational but recently is comforting as it reminds me of my late husband.





***“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”***

2 Corinthians 4:7-8

These verses came to mean a lot to me in the way of encouragement during my struggles through the years of training for the Lay Ministry in the mid-1980s.

*Reverend Julie Johnson*



*My favourite story is David and Goliath because I like the way David stands up for himself and his people against the giant.*

*Josh*



***“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”***

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Just a month before my licensing, my beloved Dad died, aged 71. We watched him rapidly wither before us with late-diagnosed cancer of the liver and the day before he died, my daily reading was the verses above.

This helped me tremendously in my grief and, on what would have been Dad’s birthday the following year, these verses again were my reading for the day!

*Reverend Julie Johnson*



***“I will be with you;  
I will never leave you or forsake you.”***

Joshua 1:5

My marriage was going through a bad patch and as I was sitting on a train going to Chester these words just popped into my head. I guess that is the Holy Spirit!

*Sue Levene*





***“Jesus replied, ‘You know the saying, “Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow, red sky in the morning means foul weather all day”. You are good at reading the weather signs in the sky but you can’t read the obvious signs of the times.’ ”***

Matthew 16:2

I love this verse because it is apparently one of the earliest recorded mentions of the saying we know so well... “red sky at night, shepherd’s delight...”

The more I read the Bible, the more I see words and sayings that we say every day – the Bible is a much deeper part of our lives than we realise!



***“Unless the Lord builds the house,  
its builders labour in vain.”***

Psalm 127:1

This is the first Bible verse I ever learnt. It was carved into the wall of our village school and I could see it from my bedroom window. It was in the King James' version as the building dated from 1873 (“Unless the Lord build the house their labour is but lost that build it”).

Mum explained to me what it meant, but it's only since I became a Christian that it's really hit home. It's a reminder to me that whatever I'm doing, God should be at the heart of it and the reason for doing it. Otherwise, it's not worth bothering with, it's time and effort wasted.

*Lucy Brewster*



***“So Jesus rebuked the wind and the  
raging waves.  
The storm stopped and all was calm.”***  
Luke 8:24

This is my favourite Bible story. It is the first time I decided to listen to the Bible stories.

*Claire Abercrombie*





***“I walk before the Lord in  
the land of the living.”***

Psalm 116:9

I like this verse because it makes the point that the most important thing is to serve God now in the situation that we happen to be in at the present.

*Mike Taylor*





***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.”***

Romans 8:28

This verse inspires me.

God allows nothing to happen unless He can bring a blessing.

*Grace A*



***“So do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you ‘Do not fear; I will help you.’ ”***

Isaiah 41:10-13

My baptism verses, 33 years ago. I read them every day. God knows how anxious and fearful I am, and gave me these words. They have comforted me in big and small things, and I know they always will.

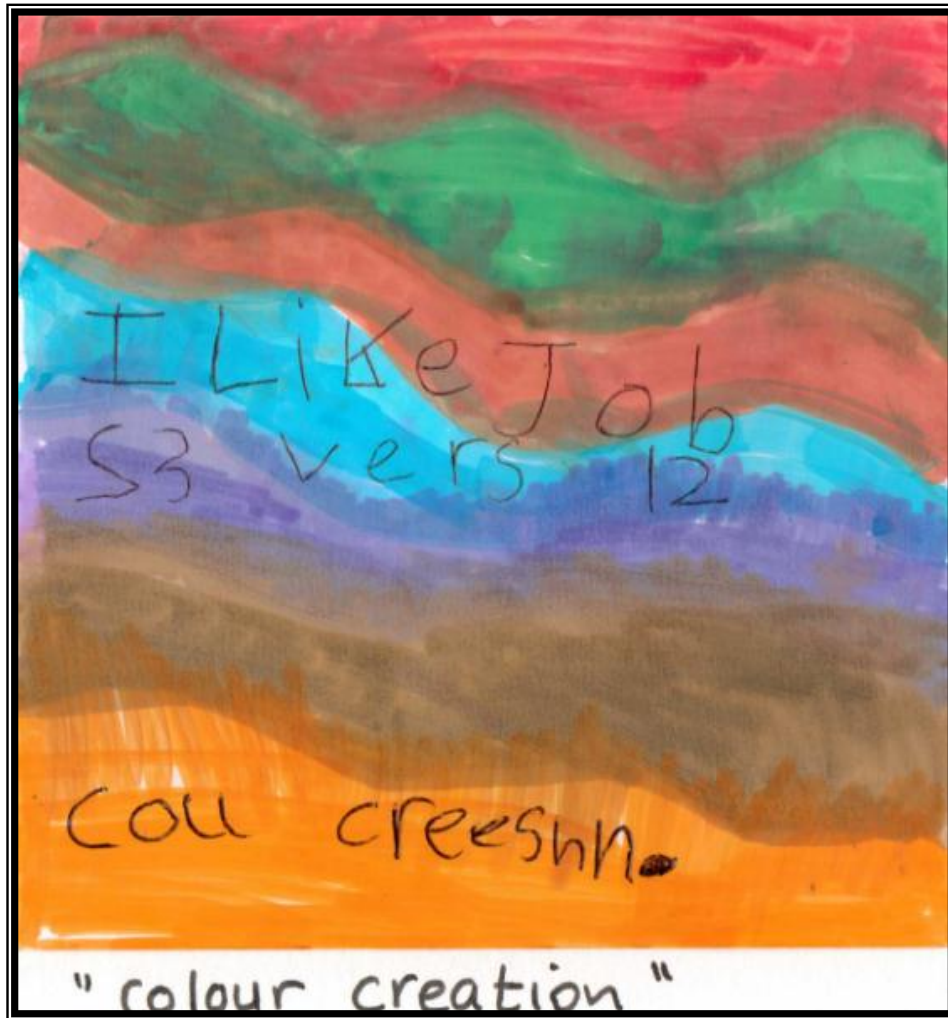
*Linda Cosgriff*



***“I may have the gift of inspired preaching, I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets, I may have all the faith needed to move mountains – but if I have no love, I am nothing.”***

1 Corinthians 13:2

What more needs to be said?



***"I will always do as God command.  
Follow His will, not my own desires."***

Job 23:12

I like this song because I learned it at holiday club, and I like it because the words stick in my Mum's head (over and over again!)

*Tess Bailey*



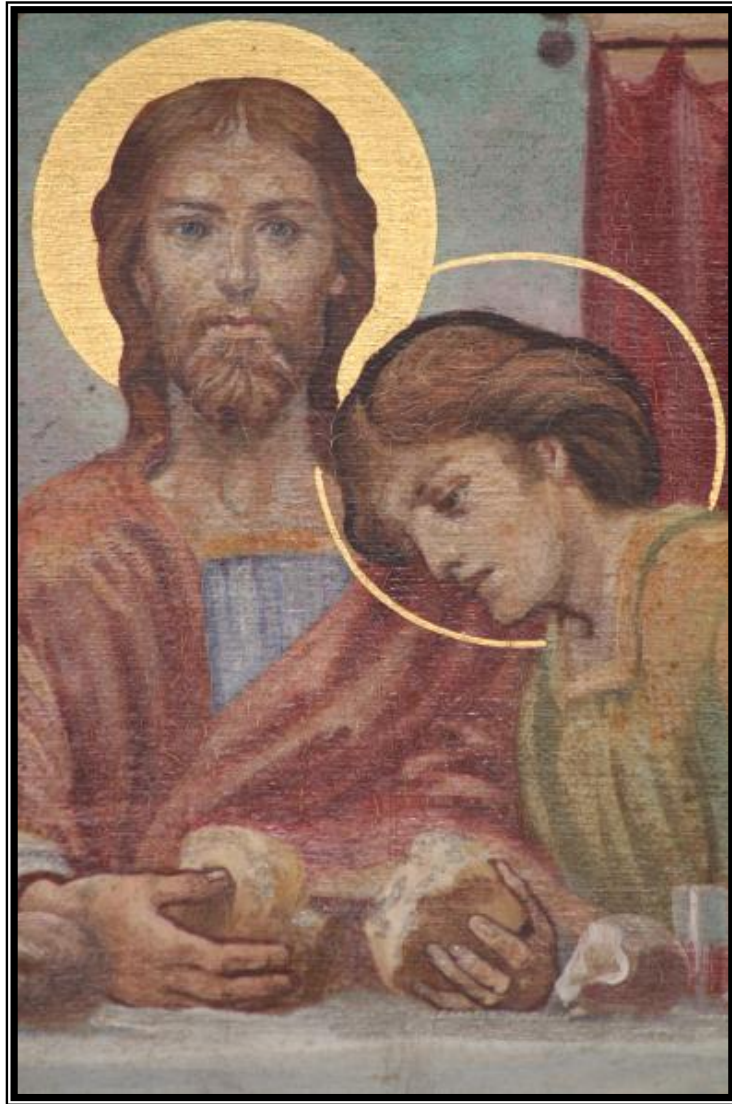


***“I look up to the mountains  
Does my help come from there?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made the heavens and the earth!”***

Psalm 121

When my husband died, I couldn't come to terms with having to live alone. I read the wonderful words of Psalm 121 and I have never felt alone since. I know my Lord is looking after me.

*Lavinia M.E. Johnson*



***“God’s son was before all else, and by  
Him everything is held together.”***

Colossians 1:17

I love this whole passage in Colossians – all about Jesus and how He’s just like God and how important He is to absolutely everything. I first came across it about 15 years ago and still find it really inspiring.

*Heather Adams*



***“Jesus came and told His disciples ‘I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.’ ”***

Matthew 28:16-20

I especially like the last part of verse 20... “and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” What a promise and what an encouragement! Which brings me to, “If God is for us, who can stand against us?” Good old Paul!

*Lucy Brewster*



***“There is a time for everything, a season  
for every activity under heaven...”***

Ecclesiastes 1 3:1-22

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs  
is the kingdom of heaven...”***  
***[The Beatitudes]***

Matthew 5:3

Taken together, these verses give you first of all, a summation of the chapter which is, “that’s life”, followed by blessings and instructions to help us and to guide us through “that’s life”.



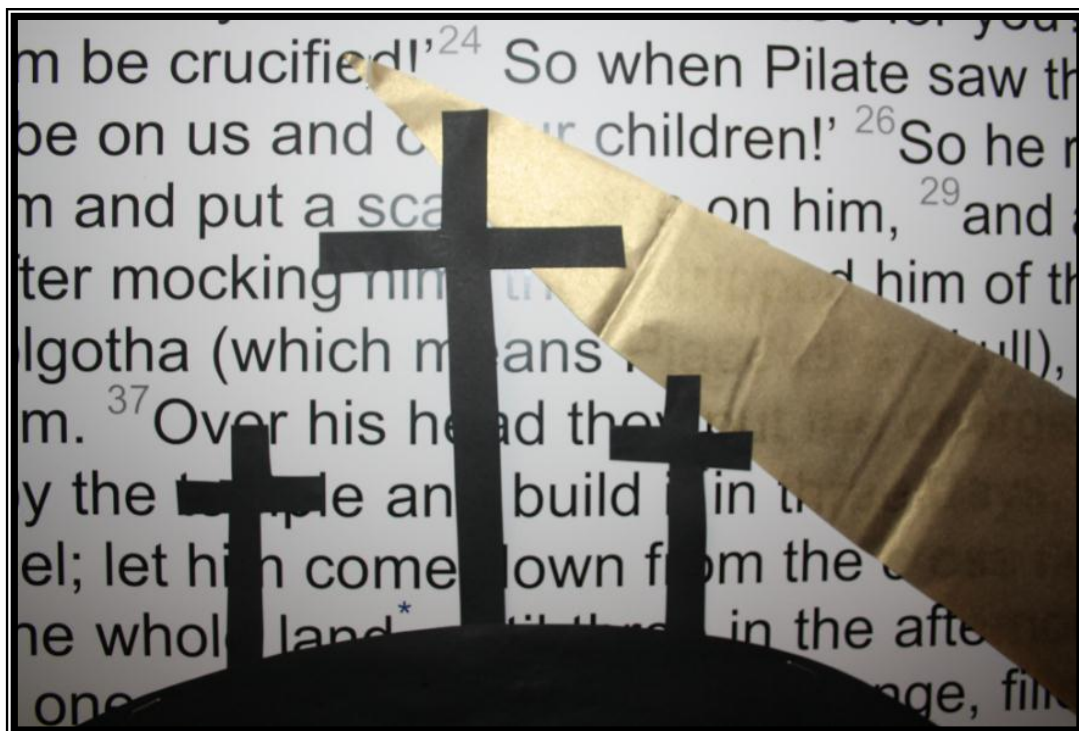


## **Noah and the Ark**

*I like the story of Noah's ark because I understand it and it is suitable for kids.*

*I also like it because I understand that you should listen to God and do what He says.*

*Ned Bailey*



***“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven not built with human hands... Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight.”***

2 Corinthians 5:1-2

2 Corinthians Chapter 5 continues with many verses of encouragement around the theme of life after death. These continue to affirm my belief.

*Reverend Julie Johnson*

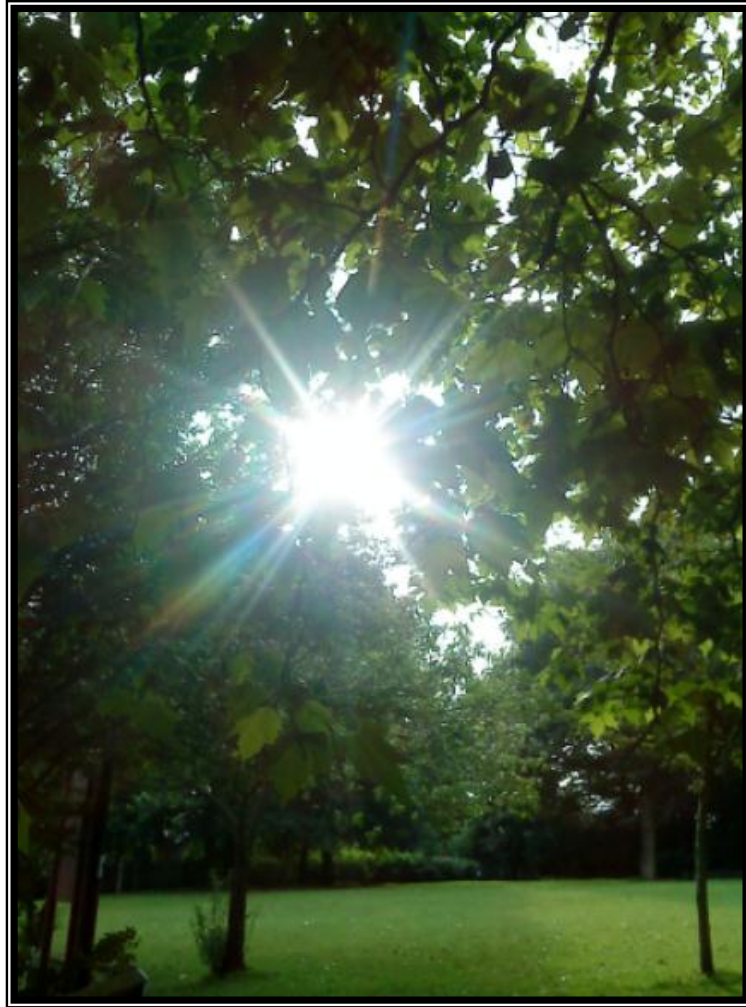


***“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters  
He restoreth my soul;  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for His name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil:  
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and  
Thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of  
my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”***

Psalm 23

I consider the above to be extremely inspirational and shows the essence of closeness to our Father. It covers a lot in a minimum of words and relates wonderfully to a Christian life.

*Ken Hazeldine*



***“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”***

Isaiah 55:12

This verse (and the subsequent chorus’) has always been at the forefront of my mind whenever I have made significant moves in my life – from home to University, going away on my year long travels, and most critically, my moves from parish to parish and church to church. These times have been filled with emotion, but the verse (especially when it is sung) has always lifted my spirits.

*Karen Bailey*





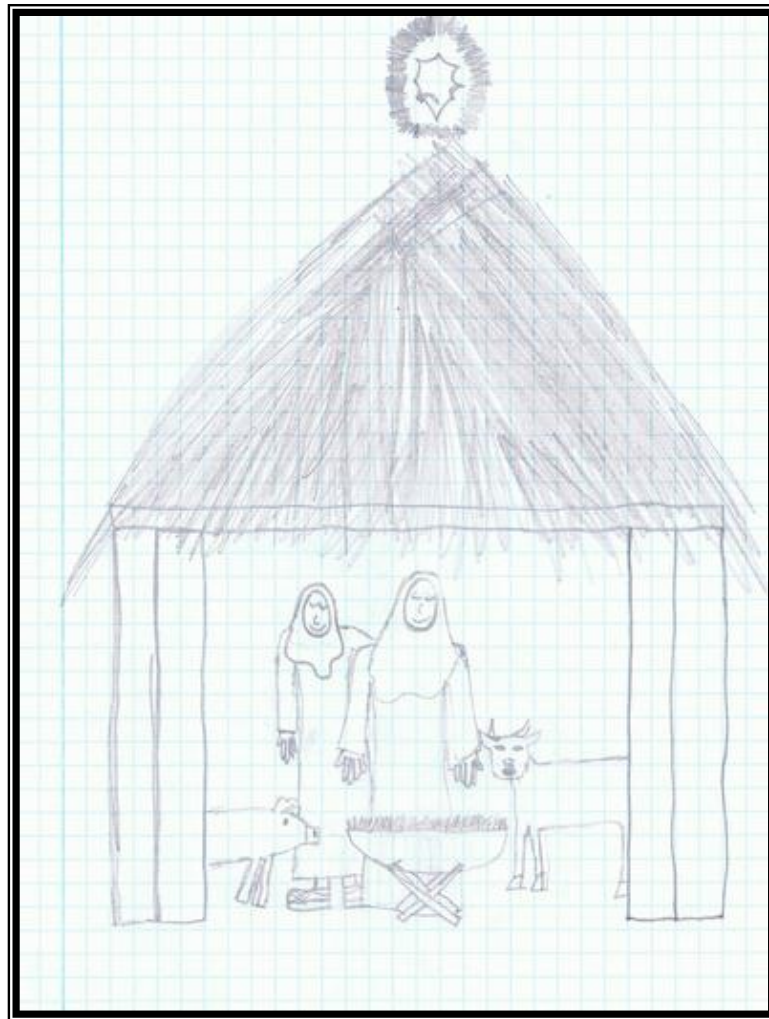
***“Jesus wept.”***

John 11:35

I love this verse not because it's the shortest sentence in the Bible; but because it so vividly portrays Jesus' humility. Here in these two simple words is demonstrated God's love, mercy, passion, compassion, grief and anger. Wow! Just think what a whole book could do!

*David Brown*





***“But the angel said to them,  
‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news  
of great joy that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David, a Saviour has  
been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.  
This will be a sign to you:  
you will find a baby wrapped in cloths  
and lying in a manger.’ ”***

Luke 2:10-12

*Leira Pamp*



***“Though I speak with the tongues of men and  
of angels, and have not charity,  
I am become as sounding brass,  
or a tinkling cymbal...”***

1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13 (in full)

I first met this chapter of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians when I entered a competition for reading aloud the scriptures in fourth year at secondary school. It moved me very much and, at the age of 15 had great significance for me in my life at that age. Whenever I feel low or know I have said or done something that upsets someone else, I remember Paul’s words and try to put them into practice, not always with success.

*Janet Critchley*



***“Be strong with the Lord’s mighty power.  
Put on all of God’s armour so that you  
will be able to stand firm against all  
strategies and tricks of the Devil...”***

Ephesians 6:10-21

These verses illustrate the badge of the Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade. I joined the Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade when I was 7 and spent 18 years as a member. It is what brought me to the Church at St Augustine’s and then to St Matthew’s.

*Mark Rushton*





***“Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.”***

Mark 10:14

I’m not sure if I love this verse so much because I work with children in a school, or whether I work with children in a school because I love this verse so much. I love it because Jesus sees in the little children exactly what I see in children; their honesty, their zest for life, their trust in all things, their unconditional love and their immense potential.

This verse also reminds me of when we took a 9 month old James to a wedding and we were asked to leave by a churchwarden because James was “singing” and interrupting – this verse sprang straight to mind!

*Pamela Brown*





***“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.”***

Matthew 18:20

I just love the thought of Jesus being so close to every part of my life! I love that He wants to share in my sorrows and my joys.

There is no part of my life that Jesus is not interested in and He is always close to me. I love that He cares for all the people I care for.



***“Train a child up in the way he should go;  
and when he is old, he will not depart  
from it.”***

Proverbs 22:6

This verse sums up my faith and life because I was “trained up” by Christian parents; I did depart from my faith but returned to it. Now I realise that I have the same responsibility to my children and that is to train them up the right way.

*Sue Pamp*



***“Don’t be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s home and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know where I am going and how to get there.”***

John 14:1-4

These verses bring comfort. You feel God is with you when you are distressed.

*Margaret Bryant*



***“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’  
says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good  
and not for disaster, to give you a future  
and a hope.’ ”***

Jeremiah 29:11

This is a favourite verse of a very good friend of mine, Julia, who has it framed in her living room. The more I read these words, the more I understand why she loves Jesus as much as she does! Julia has helped me to understand my questions about God and played a large part in me becoming a Christian.

*Pam Robinson*





***“...having finished His task, God rested  
from all His work...”***

Genesis 2:2

If God rested for a day, why do we think that the world will stop spinning if WE rest?!

Even if we don't call it a “Sabbath”, we should all try to have a day where we rest and re-charge our batteries!

The world can spin without us for a little while....



***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything...”***

The letter of James

The name James has had significance for me for most of my life, from my great Uncle Jim whose advice was always sound, to the man that prints the parish magazine who is helpful and understanding, and not least my husband Jim who has taken me on with love and patience, so, when I needed guidance some 22 years ago, I was moved to read the letter of James to the twelve tribes and found there advice appropriate to me at that time and I found it to be as relevant today as it was when James wrote it. It is a passage that addresses all aspects of life and I refer to it regularly.

*Janet Critchley*

## Acknowledgements

These verses and stories have been submitted by the members of the Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath, who worship at St Matthew's Church, Grenville Street, Edgeley, Stockport.

Various translations of the Bible have been used to provide the verses.

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[www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk)

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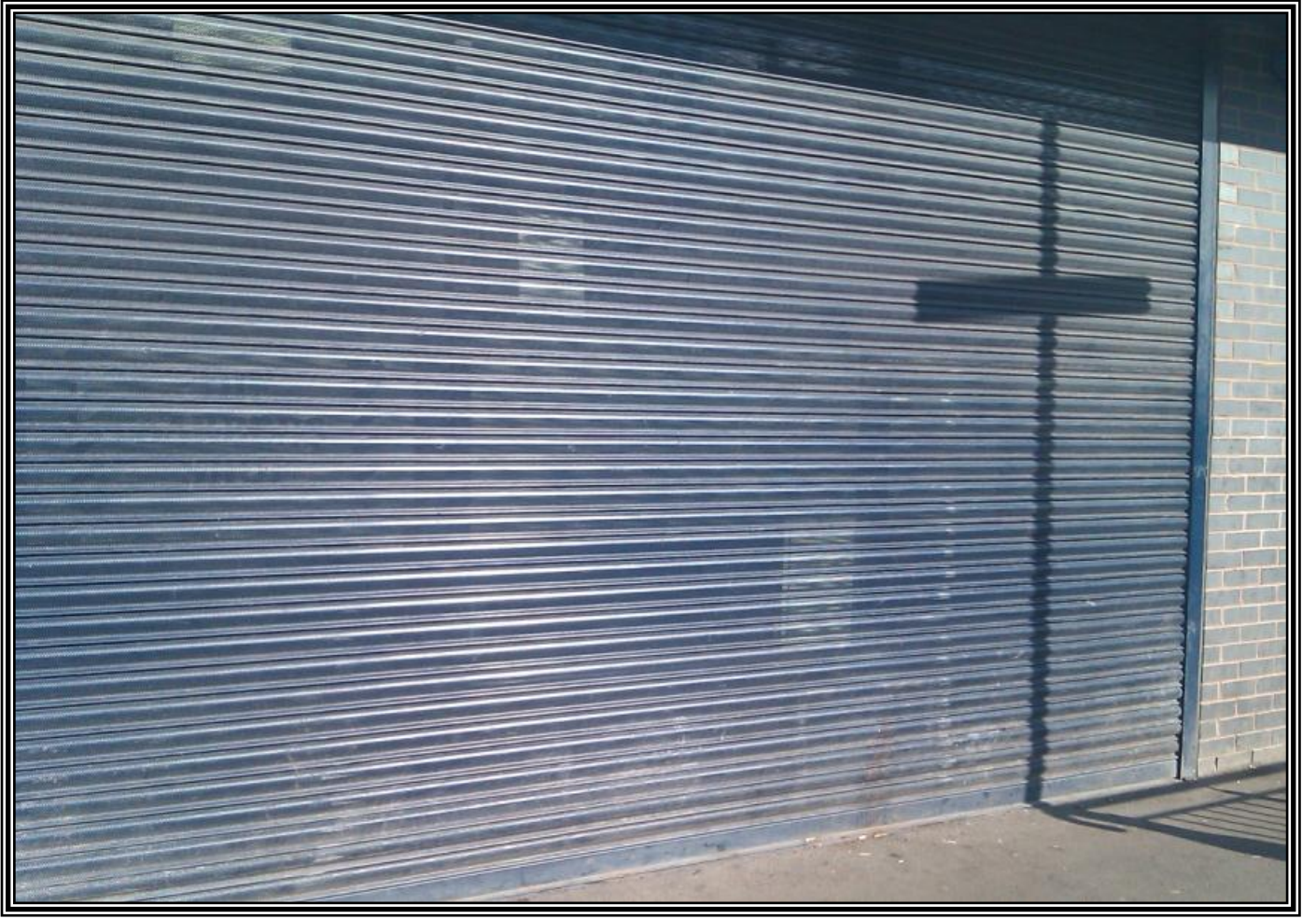


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In 2011, we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. Join us on our journey through the stories and verses that have impacted on our lives.

Share with us the ways in which our lives have been transformed through God's word and celebrate with us the joy in knowing Jesus!

## Our Vision



Responding to the call of Jesus on our lives, we will be a welcoming, growing and vibrant congregation, seeking God, sharing our gifts and serving the world.

We will do this by:

- providing opportunities and tools for people to deepen their relationship with God;
- recognising the gifts God has given us and using them in His service; and
- recognising where God is at work and responding to the needs of the local and global community.

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