

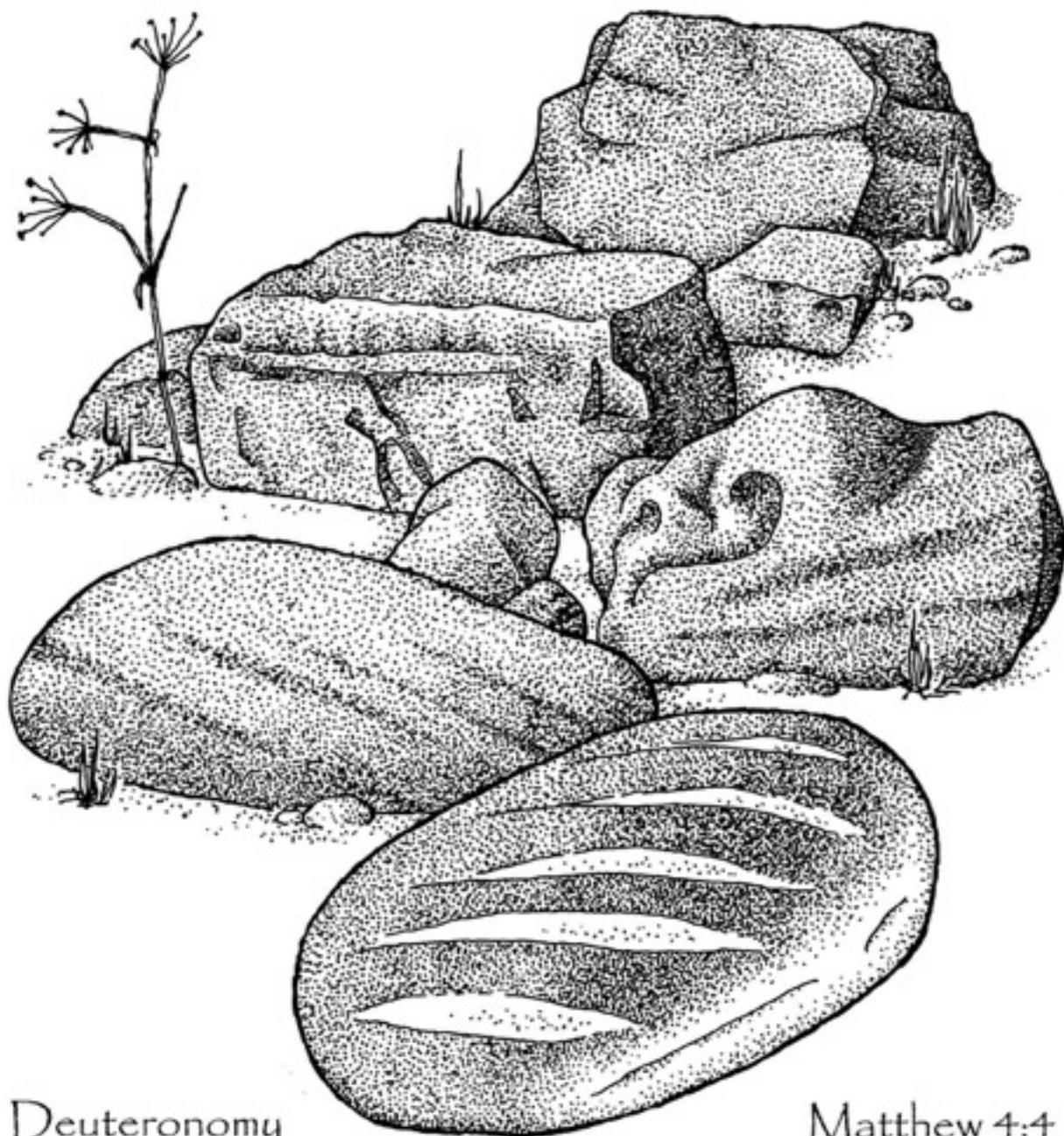
holy trinity church

parish magazine

February 2016



30p



Deuteronomy
8:3

Matthew 4:4

Bread is not enough to keep us alive;
we need to feed on every word of God

Parish Pump: With Lent in mind, this famous prayer of Sir Francis Drake may well be an inspiration ...

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

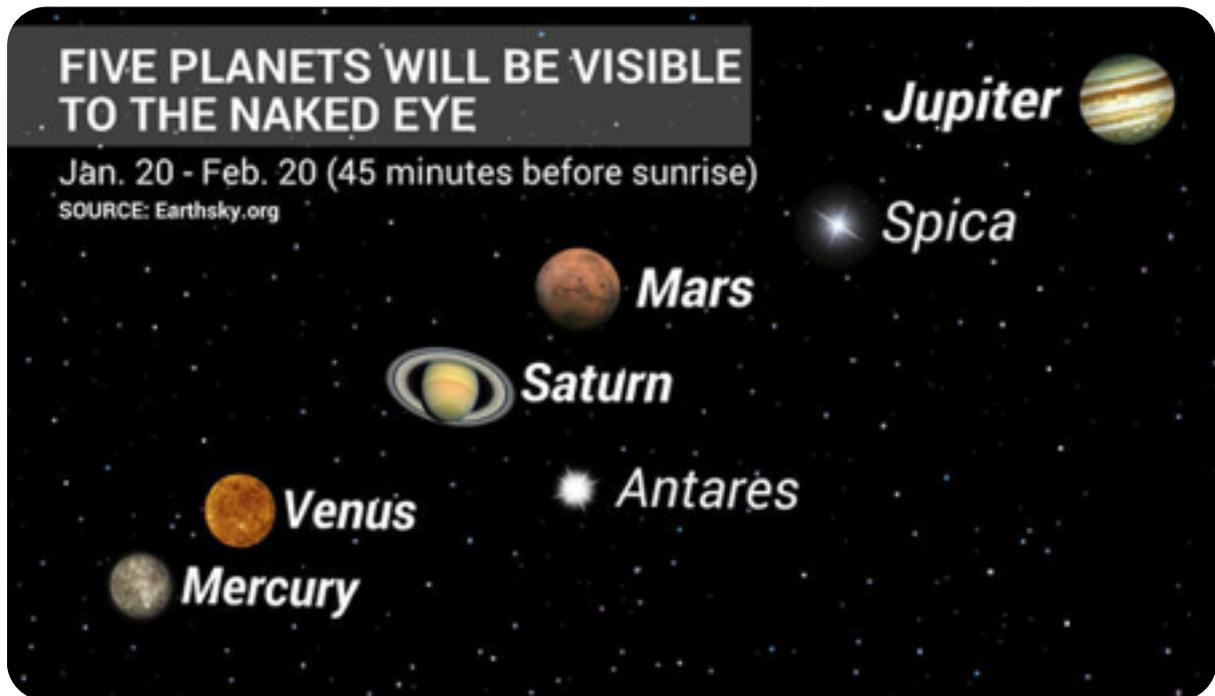
Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

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From the Vicarage

Five planets are aligning across the dawn sky over the next month, in a rare treat for skywatchers. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will be simultaneously visible to the naked eye for the first time in more than a decade. The spectacle is visible from Wednesday until 20 February and experts advise stargazers to begin their viewing 45 minutes before dawn.



Two events will also coincide this year on 12 June. It is the day we have chosen to celebrate 175 years of Christian ministry by Holy Trinity. It is also the day when the nation celebrates the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. We are beginning to plan a great celebration, so watch out for more details as the year unfolds.

Watch out, too, for a very special book being published to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. "The Servant Queen - and the King She Serves" is a beautifully illustrated short book, which uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her trust in Jesus Christ, offering an inspiring, multi-faceted insight into a life well-lived for others.

Thousands of churches across the country will be giving away copies of this unique tribute published by HOPE, Bible Society and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

HOPE's executive director Roy Crowne says, 'We are thrilled to have the foreword of this book written by Her Majesty. The Queen has served the country and Commonwealth for more than 60 years. From 10-12 June 2016 we will celebrate her 90th birthday. It is a chance to say thank you to God and to the Queen for her life and example as a follower of Jesus Christ.'



Paul Woolley, Deputy Chief Executive at Bible Society, said, 'In drawing attention to the central role of the Queen's faith in her life and reign, The Servant Queen will be a unique 90th birthday publication. The book will inform, surprise, entertain and challenge, all at the same time.'

Co-author of the book, Mark Greene, Executive Director of LICC, added, 'As I've been writing this book and talking about it to friends, to family who don't know Jesus, to my Jewish barber, I've been struck how very interested they are to discover more about the Queen's faith. The Queen has served us all her adult life, with amazing consistency of character, concern for others and a clear dependence on Christ. The more I've read what she's written and talked to people who know her, the clearer that is.'

12th June 2016 promises to be a very special day for us here at Holy Trinity as we host a double celebration. Please pray for all the organisation and planning which we need to do. If you have any suggestions for what we could do to celebrate on that day, please let me know.

With much love

Neil

Prayer Focus - Youth ministry



Hello!

Could I please ask you to pray for the following things...

Kids club, Tuesday's 6:30-7:30pm

Please pray for good weather that would make it easy for parents to bring their kids along. There are children from school who want to come, but parents are, as yet unwilling/unable to bring them (bedtime of younger siblings, transport/ it's cold and dark out there, coughs and colds...) Please pray for these obstacles to be overcome. Please pray for the team, for good health, for energy, for work commitments not to overtake. Please pray for fun and safety as we play games and openness to learning from the Bible. This term we're learning about Love. Please pray for overwhelming sense of God's love for us, and that each of us, children and leaders, would be transformed by God's love for us.

Messy Church, 9th Feb 6:30-7:45/8pm

This time our theme runs on from Kids Klub teaching series about Love. Please pray for families to be free to come, for donations to resource the activities and refreshments, for preparation to be swift and easy, for clear and faithful Bible Time, that God would use the event to draw people into relationship with him.

Holiday Bible Club (HBC), 29th-31st March

This year we will have an Olympic theme as we learn about Jesus and 'being on his team'. I've still to finish writing the material, then it will need resourcing, from leaders, helpers (/ "go-for's), crafts, decorations etc. We need also to pray for the children to come! For parents to bring them (and maybe even stay on with them!) Last year chicken pox was doing the rounds and that took a toll on our numbering. Please pray for good health for everyone. Also this time HBC will run in the afternoon slot (2-4pm). Please pray that this would prove to be a good time for local families.

If you would like to help please let me know. We need people to help lead groups of children, we also need people to make and serve refreshments, welcome the children as they arrive, run technology etc.

Trinity Tots, Tuesday's 1:15-3pm

Again please pray for good weather, that will make it easier for mum's to come out with their little ones. Pray that the heating in the hall would work! Pray for conversations with parents to be useful and point to Jesus. Pray for safety and fun. Pray for all the helpers who make the sessions so well. Pray for newcomers too.

Drop-ins (in school holidays)

Give thanks for past drop-ins, for safety and fun, for the building up of relationships. Pray for this to continue. For fresh ideas, for resourcing, for strengthening of relationships and opportunities to share the gospel.



TNG (The Next Generation - our young people)

Pray for God's protection of them, as the deal with the natural challenges being a teenager brings and all the pressures that schooling and culture bring. Pray that the seeds of faith down would bear fruit. Pray that they would always be able to speak up about anything that is burdening them. Pray for leaders to join the very small team, especially ready for when Neil is on study leave, and pray for their equipping that we can walk with TNG and faithfully teach them from God's Word. Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip and transform us all.

Other things to pray for:

Assemblies, one to one Bible studies and conversations, creche, junior church, training of leaders, safeguarding, Edgehill camp, weekend away, opportunities of Easter, New families, church weekend away, our church services, welcoming and anniversary celebrations.

Thank you!

Helen Morrow



Prayer on Prayer

Dear Father,

Thank you that you want us, your children, to connect with you in prayer.

Thank you that we can come to you, rest in your presence and spend time with you, either quietly or crying out our thoughts and concerns from open hearts.

Help us to trust you; to be confident that you hear us and will answer our prayers, in the right time and in the right way for us, even if we don't always understand.

Thank you for the sustaining privilege of prayer,

In Jesus name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Flame of a Candle - *By Nigel Beeton*

See the candle flame a-burning
See its flick'ring, dancing light;
See how it, the darkness spurning
Burns throughout the darkest night.

Light of faith, of God reminding
As His Spirit, long ago
Lit the first apostles, finding
Faith within the Spirit's glow.

Light of life – God's life eternal
Won through Christ's atoning death
Sparing us from Hell, infernal
Granting *us* His living breath!

Light of hope, in God victorious
For we know that He will win
When we'll see His flames of glorious
Vict'ry o'er the pow'r of sin!

Light your candle, kneel and praise Him
Kneel and praise the Lord of Hosts;
Let your prayers and praises raise Him
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



Parish Pump: *The loneliness of old people in our communities is a huge problem. Could your church do anything to help some of your local older people? The following article might be a useful way of introducing the idea to your church members. Here is the link to Morning Call, to give you some background on what can be done:* <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/cymru/about-us-/local-services-search/groups/friendship-services-in-the-highlands-scotland/>

All the lonely old people ...

A silent epidemic is sweeping our land – the loneliness of old people trapped at home. With many families living at a distance from each other, and technology removing the need for face-to-face encounters (to collect pensions, etc) there are hundreds of thousands of older people who can get through an entire week hardly speaking to a soul.

Is there anything that we might do to help some of the lonely old people who live near our church? There is a scheme in the Highlands where a number of volunteers agree to each ring several older people each morning, just to make contact. ‘Morning Call’ has been praised by the medical authorities as well as the older folk, who call it a lifeline. As one lady explained: “Knowing that I would be receiving a phone call from a Morning Call volunteer gave me a reason to get out of bed ... the calls have become a much looked-forward to event.”

So here is an idea: would there be any volunteers in our church who would agree to each make one or two phone calls a day, to local elderly people who would otherwise go all day without speaking to anyone? The phone call would be just to wish them good morning, and to make sure they are all right. If so, perhaps we could start, in a very small way, some sort of scheme to help *our* lonely local old folk.

If such a scheme interests you, please contact our minister Neil or wardens Gary/Ian or lay preacher Christine.

Parish Pump *continue their series looking at the stories BEHIND some of our favourite hymns. We offer all the verses, for your interest.*

The story behind the Hymn - 'Who Would True Valour See'

Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound;
His strength the more is.
No lion can him fright,
He'll with the giant fight,
But he will have a right
To be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit;
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away;
He'll fear not what men say;
He'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

By John Bunyan (1628-88)



John Bunyan wrote these words while a prisoner in Bedford jail. They appeared as a poem in his great work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. He would have been astonished to learn that his poem would ever go on to become a well-loved hymn.

What was Bunyan doing in jail? He had got caught up in the religious/political tensions of the times, and suffered for it.

John Bunyan was born in 1628, only a few years after the Pilgrim Fathers fled England for America, and religious freedom. Those were troubled times in England, with great tensions between King Charles and the Royalists, who were Catholic and believed in the divine right of kings, and the Parliament, as represented by Cromwell and the Roundheads.

Bunyan had been brought up a Roundhead, and even became a soldier for a while in Cromwell's army. When another soldier died in his place, Bunyan was stricken with grief, and went on to become a committed Christian.

After the Restoration of the monarchy and the Established Church in 1660, Bunyan was viewed with suspicion as a Puritan sympathiser. He was ordered to stop preaching in public, but refused. He was convicted and altogether spent 12 years in prison. They turned out to be the most fruitful years of his life, for he took up the pen, and in the end reached far more people than he could ever have done by preaching locally.

The poem appears in *Pilgrim's Progress* at the point where Christiania and her four sons meet and help Mr Valiant-for-Truth on the road. They wash his wounds, give him food and drink, and learn his story. Mr Valiant-for-Truth was on his way from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. He relates the obstacles and battles along the way, and then launches into 'Who would true valour see...'

The poem/hymn has been praised as 'calculated to inspire the most doubtful spirit; the most disconsolate soul and to rekindle the fire of zeal and enthusiasm for the pilgrim journey.' ... it was born out of Bunyan's own struggle... *to be a pilgrim.*' And it is the same faith, in the same Lord, and the same journey, that keeps millions of Christians in the Persecuted Church of today strong and looking forward... to the Celestial City!



True Love, A Tale for St. Valentine's Day



A Tale of True Love for St. Valentine's Day

"Newspaper Fred?" The man behind the counter watched as the old man came through the door.

"Yes please and a bag of those herbal sweets." Fred was looking a bit anxious.

"How's your hand doing?" the shopkeeper asked.

"I'm just going to have the stitches out." Fred handed across a five pound note.

"You still haven't said how you did it." The shopkeeper went to the till.

"Stupid really," Fred answered. "The grass was getting a bit long so I decided to cut it. My son John usually does it but he's been working all hours lately so I thought shouldt to do it, for Alice like. I always remember the day we first saw the house she said, 'It's lovely Fred, I can just see the kids playing on that lawn but you must keep the grass short. It soon gets overgrown you know.' We hadn't even got any kids then but well, I've never let it get too long since. Alice wouldn't like it.

Anyway I got John's mower out and forgot it was a rotor so of course when it jammed, I put my hand under it. Still I was lucky really, it was only a cut," the old man chuckled, "now I know how the grass feels."

As Fred left the shop he saw his bus leave the stop. "Oh no, it's early again," and looked at his watch to see how long he'd need to wait for the next one.

"Sorry Mr. Aliquis, You've missed your appointment but if you'll wait we'll try to fit you in a bit later. It was quite an important appointment you know. Those stitches mustn't be left in too long, they can cause a lot of problems if they're left in too long.." The receptionist at the clinic tossed her head back to emphasise the point.

"How long? Fred had that flustered look again. "Please, I'm in a hurry, I've got to.."

"Sorry you should have thought of that earlier, before you were late." A haughty look followed this latest telling off.

Fred went over to one of the chairs in the waiting area, a tear was edging itself from an eye. He sat down despondent.

It was just then a door opened, Fred looked round. The nurse came out of the cubicle.

“Oh Fred, Mr Aliquis, I’ve been waiting for you, come in,” she gave a smile.

“Sorry, everything is going wrong this morning.” Fred gave a slight if embarrassed smile.

It was later, the last stitch had just been removed.

“Tell me,” the nurse asked, “What’s your hurry, you seem quite flustered?”

“I always go to visit Alice, my wife, she’s in the nursing home. We always have breakfast together then I read some of the newspaper to her. She can’t read any more and she always wanted to keep up with the news.”

“What’s wrong with her? is she blind or something.?” The nurse was puzzled.

“Oh no, it’s nothing like that.” Fred looked at her, a straight look..

“She’s got Alzheimers.”

“Oh God, I’m sorry Fred. I didn’t know.” The sorrow showed across the nurse’s face. “My Dad..” she stopped herself. “At least she still recognises you.”

“Oh no.” Fred interrupted. “She can’t recognise me, she hasn’t done for five years now but I recognise her!”

Have you thought, God must be very much like Fred. Fred is always there for his wife though she fails to recognise him. How many times do we fail to recognise God? but God never fails to recognise us and just like Fred is always there for his wife, God is always there for us.

Prison Bars

by Jean V. Dickson

I was 19 years old and only hours before I had been full of audacity - thinking I could handle whatever life passed my way. But now I was limp with terror - limp like the damp facecloth I kept pressing to my friend's brow.

Months before I had dreamt about traveling to a warm, vibrant and distant land. I wanted to spread my wings and fly. Both, in the belly of a mechanical metal bird, and as in taking first steps of adult freedom. Stepping from the plane with my friend, little did I realize the imprint these first few steps would leave on the rest of my life. All I could think was, "Finally, free to do what I want. Away from all the restrictions of home. I'm free!" I felt like a tiger let loose after years of captivity. A prisoner released.

My dream started falling apart when my friend complained of being hot, not from the tropical heat, but from an internal fire caused by bacteria. Within only minutes, she wasn't complaining any more. Instead she was tossing her head, hoarse delirium dreams spewing from her lips.

I knew that the situation was serious. Locking the door behind me, I ran to the front desk of the small, isolated beachfront hotel.

"Is there a doctor nearby?" I asked the two bronze skinned men standing behind the desk.

"No - there are no doctors - but you are in luck." One then explained that one of the extra staff brought in for the holidays was a medical student in his final year of study. I felt my spirits bud as hope coursed through my veins - I knew my friend would be safe.

Together, the medical student and I walked to my room. When he said my friend was in danger of losing her eyesight because her fever was so high, I put ice cubes on her eyes. She moved; the ice fell down her face, leaving snail trails on her cheeks. I put more ice on. He buzzed around frantically, soaking towels with cool water and placing them on her chest, watching her, telling me how dangerously ill she was. How much she needed his help to survive the night, how if I wanted him to further treat her, then it would cost me ... something

....

It was bad. But as painful and hurtful as it was, it was no where as wounding as what happened when I phoned home. The words from my mother were - "you must have done something to make this happen." You must have done something... As she said it, the prison bars slammed down and encircled my heart.

Let's be honest. We ALL hurt others this way - when we all blame them for the evil that comes upon them. If we don't say it, certainly we think it.

- "Those welfare bums - if only they would get off their butts and look for work."
- " Look at that fatso getting an ice cream cone. Why doesn't he go on a diet?"
- " He must have done something bad for THAT to happen . After all, what goes around, comes around."

I've done it myself.

Why do we do it? Maybe it is because we are afraid. We are afraid that it could happen to us. By making the victim "bad," we distance ourselves from the act, telling ourselves because we are "good" people, it couldn't happen to us.

We don't realize that by blaming the victim, something worse is happening to us. Willingly we take the prison bars, and place them around our soul. We forget that "no man is an island."

Thousands of years ago, a female poet from China wrote, "my heart is not a stone, it cannot be rolled..." I know at times, that I've turned my heart to stone and rolled it away from the outstretched arms of people in pain. I know at times you've done the same. Sometimes it just seems the easier thing to do. But is it worth the price?

I can't take back the hurtful words my mother spoke. But I can try not to repeat those words to others. Today, I'm asking you to make a decision, to not do something worse. Don't turn away when people hurt. Reach out to the rest of the doors. Make a choice to open the prison bars.

<http://www.fatsheep.org/articles/index.php>

12 Promises for Perseverance in Bible Reading | Desiring God

www.desiringgod.org

Many Christians begin another year with fresh energy and resolve to read their Bibles. Here are twelve promises from God, about his word, to keep you reading all ...

As Christians, we know that without taking in God's word, our faith will become anemic, shallow, and weak. And yet, so often, we neglect the precious gift of God's word in our daily lives. This is a simple list meant to help motivate souls-prone-to-wander see that giving ourselves to God's word in 2016 will be worth it — one reason for every month you might be tempted to give up.

1. The Bible enables us to know and love Jesus more.

*“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me [Jesus].”
(John 5:39)*

The Bible is not ultimate. Jesus, the Word of God incarnate, is ultimate. But the Bible is the place where we know for certain that we can see and savor Christ each day. The Old Testament writings promise him and point toward him. The Gospels show us his ministry here on earth leading to his death and resurrection. The letters show us the work he continues to do by his Spirit through his church, which is his body.

There is nothing and no one more valuable for you to know and love in 2016 than Jesus, and there is nowhere you're more likely to encounter him than in this Book.

2. The Bible gives us hope in God no matter what is happening in our lives.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

The Bible is the foundation under our feet that gives us the encouragement we need to remain hopeful in Christ through times of depression and suffering. We have a God who wrote a Book so that we might be people with hope. We should take advantage of that precious gift.

3. The Bible leads us to supreme happiness in God.

Blessed [this means happy!] is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1–2)

God has revealed himself in his word. In the Bible, discover the path of life that leads us to “fullness of joy” and “pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11).

The happiness the Bible offers us is as unchanging and durable as the God who wrote it and who is himself our greatest Treasure.

4. The Bible arms us to kill our sin by the Spirit of God.

If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:13)

The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)

The word of God is the sword in the hands of the Spirit of God. The sword goes to work to hack up sin in our life that keeps us from God. The sword pierces through bone and marrow to reveal our hearts. With sin removed and cleansed, we can see Christ more fully and find greater holiness and happiness.

5. In the Bible, we hear directly from the mouth of the God of the universe.

All Scripture is breathed out by God. (2 Timothy 3:16)

May we never be bored reading the Bible. May we never forget that the almighty God of the universe is speaking directly to us in those moments.

There are probably people you are dying to meet in person. You would never miss the opportunity if it was given to you. You would clear your schedule of anything to be with them. Shouldn't the God of the universe make that list? We meet *him* again and again in his word when we read our Bibles.

6. The Bible is a free course on life taught by God himself.

All Scripture is . . . profitable for teaching. (2 Timothy 3:16)

If God is speaking, and his word is profitable for teaching, then we get to go to class every day under the professorship of God himself. And it's free. Indeed, God has given us his Spirit to teach us his secret and hidden wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:7, 10).

7. The Bible enlightens us to areas where we need to grow so that we can be changed and trained into the image of Christ.

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

As we see Jesus in his word, we will also see that we don't measure up. We will see sin and areas for growth. Jesus is the standard for change and the means of change. As we see him, the Spirit goes to work to change us more and more into his image, and to set us free from the silly little desires and idols we've been settling for.

8. The Bible equips us for good works that bring glory to our God.

All Scripture is breathed out by God . . . that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

The Bible stirs us up and equips us to do good works that beautifully adorn the gospel. And as we do these good works, others see them and give glory to our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12). We want our lives to count for his glory, and God gives us the guide for that great cause in his word.

9. The Bible produces healthy and happy families and relationships.

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. . . .
Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1, 4)*

We cannot know how and why we ought to obey our parents, at least in a way that honors God, if we do not know the word of God. And we cannot know how to raise our children to know, and love, and obey the Lord if we do not know the word of the Lord. Families and church families will be much healthier and happier places, for all of the reasons already mentioned above, if we are people saturated with the Bible.

10. The Bible keeps us from being conformed to this world.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

The world bombards us with sinful and foolish temptations. The world screams for conformity to its systems and ways. We desperately need to be people who fix our eyes on Jesus, and meditate on all his words, so that we are not conformed to the world, but transformed to be more like him.

If you want to be average and irrelevant, ignore the word and fall in with the world. If you want to make an eternal difference *for* the world, be transformed by God's word.

11. The Bible teaches us to pray.

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (Proverbs 28:9)

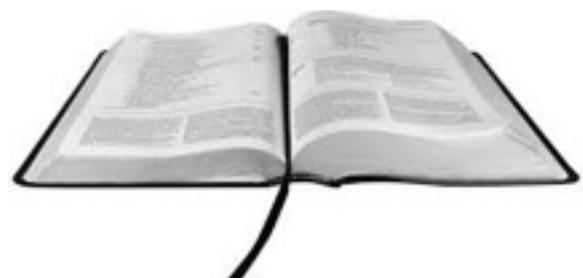
Without the Bible, our prayers too easily drift into our own fleshly, sin-driven complaints, desires, and pity-parties. With the Bible, we can see reality, see our sin, even see the sins of others against us, and approach the throne of grace for help, with deep and lasting truths ringing in our ears.

12. The Bible spurs us toward genuine and healthy fellowship and accountability.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. (Hebrews 10:24)

The Bible helps us in our families and churches to make God's glory the goal, sin the enemy, and perseverance in our faith the priority. It gives us the courage and wisdom to humbly and lovingly admit our own wrongs to others and to confront sin in one another. Make this next year a quest to find joy in God by hearing from God. He's worth all the effort.

Article submitted by Raj.



If we have any science teachers in our church, you might ask them to draw you a simple Sun and Planets model for our children to colour in.... or your local library could help you find such an illustration. By Tim Lenton. our community reporter.

Remembering Galileo – and how the earth revolves

Galileo Galilei found himself at the centre of controversy 400 years ago this month, when he was ordered by the Catholic Church on 26 Feb 1616 to abandon his opinion that the Earth and planets revolve around the sun. He was banned from holding the opinion, promoting it, or teaching it.

Highly respected as a scientist, Galileo has been called the father of observational astronomy, of modern physics and of science generally. But the Church at the time feared that his championing of heliocentrism and Copernicanism cast doubt by implication on the authority of Scripture. Galileo himself argued for a non-literal interpretation of Holy Scripture to solve the “problem”.

Galileo was born in 1564 near Pisa, then part of the Duchy of Florence. The first of six children of a famous lutenist, he started studying medicine but became fascinated by mathematics and became Professor of Mathematics at Pisa in 1589, then moved to a similar position at Padua in 1592.

In 1609, Galileo heard about the invention of the telescope in Holland. Without having seen one, he built a superior version and made many astronomical discoveries, including mountains and valleys on the surface of the moon, sunspots, the four largest moons of the planet Jupiter and the phases of the planet Venus.

In 1632, he was again condemned for heresy after his book *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* was published. Galileo was summoned to appear before the Inquisition, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment – later reduced to permanent house arrest at his villa in Arcetri, south of Florence. He was also forced to publicly withdraw his support for Copernican theory.

Galileo died in 1642. In 1758, the Church lifted the ban on most works supporting Copernican theory, and by 1835 dropped its opposition to heliocentrism altogether.

You might make this local by contacting your local Reference Library, to see if there were any Catholic or Protestant clergy killed in your area during the years under Bloody Mary and then Elizabeth. If so, you could invite someone in your church to 'write up' the story for you, and you could add it to the article below. By Tim Lenton, our community reporter.

Mary Tudor – the first Queen of England

Mary Tudor, the first undisputed Queen of England to reign in her own right, was born on 18 February 500 years ago.

The daughter of Henry VIII and Catharine of Aragon, she reigned for five years and after her death was known as Bloody Mary, because of her execution of hundreds of Protestant leaders in a bid to turn England back to Roman Catholicism following the death of her half-brother Edward, an ultra-Protestant.

The first of these martyrs was the printer of the “Matthews-Tyndale Bible”; also executed was the former Archbishop of Canterbury, **Thomas Cranmer**, who was primarily responsible for the printing of the Great Bible, as well as bishops Ridley and Latimer.

During her reign from 1553, Mary thwarted a bid to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne and then crushed a rebellion led by Sir Thomas Wyatt. To help her restore Roman Catholicism in England, she married Philip of Spain.

This marriage was not a success, however, and she was childless – after several false pregnancies she died of what is believed to be uterine or ovarian cancer. Her husband showed little long-term interest in her or in England, except to drag it into a conflict with France that cost it the area around Calais, its last toehold in France. As a result the country became disillusioned with her and was ready for a return to Protestantism when she was succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn.

Memorable dates down the years - February (parishpump)

500 years ago:- on 18th Feb 1516 that Mary I, Queen of England (1553-58) was born. She was also known as Mary Tudor or Bloody Mary.

400 years ago:- on 26th Feb 1616 that Galileo was ordered by the Catholic Church to abandon his opinion that the Earth and planets revolve around the Sun (known as the Copernican theory). He was banned from holding the opinion, promoting it, or teaching it.

60 years ago:- on 11th Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

40 years ago:- on 11th Feb 1976 that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating. (It was also Britain's first medal at the Winter Games for 12 years.)

Also 25 years ago:- on 24th Feb 1991 that during the Gulf War/ Operation Desert Sabre, that the US-led coalition launched a massive ground offensive against Iraqi forces. Kuwait was liberated on 27th Feb, after 208 days of Iraqi occupation, and the war ended at midnight on the 28th Feb.

20 years ago:- on 1st Feb 1996 that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House to discuss the Northern Ireland peace process.

Also 20 years ago:- on 10th Feb 1996 that the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue defeated reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov in one of their six games. This was the first time a computer beat a world champion under tournament conditions.

15 years ago:- on 19th Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. On 21st Feb the European Commission banned all British milk, meat and livestock exports.

10 years ago:- on 18th Feb 2006 that British rock band the Rolling Stones played the world's largest free rock concert on Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. An estimated two million people attended.

People and News

Birthday Celebrations - February 2016

6th Robert

*Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday to you*



*Happy Birthday to you
To Jesus be true*

18th Tanya

*May God Bless you and keep you
Happy Birthday to you.*

*May the Lord bless you richly
In all that you do*

Remembrance - February 2016

7th Mr & Mrs J. Piggott - In loving memory of our dear father who died Nov. 26th 1949 and our dear mother who died Feb. 14th 1957, from their son Jack & daughter Olive Henley.

14th Mr & Mrs Rudd - In loving memory of our dear father and mother from Edith Rudd and Ethel Wilkes.

21st Rev. and Mrs Sutton - All our loved ones in God's nearer presence, are ever remembered. In gratitude for 18 years of happy love and service.

***Sept. 20th 1975 Frederick Sutton Vicar of this parish from
1939 - 1966***

28th Mr & Mrs H Smith - In gratitude for the happy wedding on July 6th 1957 in this church, of our son Robert Henry to Rita Elizabeth Lester

Grant unto them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them . May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Sunday morning at 10.00am before the morning service there is a time for quiet prayer.

All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER TIME

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm.

A time time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Kevin. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.

West Bromwich Food Bank - in January in addition to the generously donated food parcels, **£79.50** in cash, donated by Holy Trinity congregation was also handed over. Many thanks for your very kind and generous gifts.



Shoeboxes change lives



Celebrating 895,000 Shoebox Gifts

We are delighted to share that your church contributed to us being able to send over 895,000 shoebox gifts from the UK in 2015. Globally, we delivered over 11.2 million shoeboxes, with many being given to children currently living in refugee camps.

Hundreds of churches and individuals lovingly packed these gifts, whilst thousands of dedicated volunteers carefully checked and prayed over each one. That is an amazing effort that we would never have accomplished without your involvement – you were an integral part of this campaign and for that we want to thank you!

Daniel Stracinski, our CONNECT Prayer Co-ordinator for the OCC Team in Montenegro, tells us of the impact these gifts have on a community.

"The children were very happy; one boy opened his shoebox and found a Frisbee. He started jumping, running around, calling his friends and showing everyone. Another boy took out a cap and gloves from his shoebox and put them on for everyone to see. It was such a special time for that small town and school in a remote mountain area."



HT contribution - 23 boxes - great effort!

League of Friends Sandwell Hospital

**WELCOME THE
DONATIONS
of BOOKS and
MAGAZINES**

**PLEASE KEEP THEM
COMING**

If you need any further information please see Madeline Page.
Thank you all very much for your generous



“Urban Catechism”

Thursdays at 7.30pm and
Sundays at 4.30pm.

Please see Neil or sign up
on the list at back of
church.

MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER TIME



West Bromwich Food Bank

The Food Bank collect and stores food ready to freely distribute to individuals or families in crisis (who cannot afford to feed themselves).

* Milk (UHT or powdered) *
Sugar (500g) * Fruit juice (carton)
Soup * Pasta sauces * Sponge
pudding (tinned) * Tomatoes
(tinned) * Cereals * Rice pudding
(tinned) * Tea Bags/instant
coffee * Instant mash potato *
Rice/pasta * Tinned meat/fish *
Tinned fruit * Jam * Biscuits or
snack bars * Or cash donation



Catechism:- a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for religious instruction.

Urban:- in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city.

Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am there is a time for quiet prayer. All welcome.
Please join us if you are able.

Celebration of many years of service at Holy Trinity

This year Cilla Brookes celebrates 43 years of service and worship at Holy Trinity Church. I never realised this and it got me wondering about other long serving church people. Asking questions I found out that Eileen Hemms who is 91 this year has been attending our church since she was 8 an amazing 83 years!!!



They both must have a few tales to tell. Maybe I will ask them for their memories.

If you know other long serving - I can think of one or two - please let me know so I can include their memories in forthcoming magazines.



Congratulations Eileen and Cilla and other long serving members of our church; we wish you all many more years of loyal service.

Ash Wednesday - 10th February

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

Forthcoming Events



Wesley Church

West Bromwich
presents



Aladdin

Monday 15th – Saturday 20th February 2016
at 7.30 p.m.
at Wesley Church, High Street, West Bromwich

Monday 15th -
Saturday 20th
February @ 7.30 pm
@ Wesley Church,
High Street



Our own Sue Hardcastle performs once again in the Wesley pantomime. This time as the Empress of China

GROWING YOUNG DISCIPLES TRAINING DAY

Brilliant training days for Christian youth & Children's work

Saturday 5th March - 10.30 - 4.30 pm

MAIN SESSIONS with Phil Moon

- What is a living faith?
- Growing a living faith in yourself

The day includes a mix of sessions for both helpers and leaders, whether you work with young children or older teens.

Choose one of five seminars to answer your questions and shape your thinking.

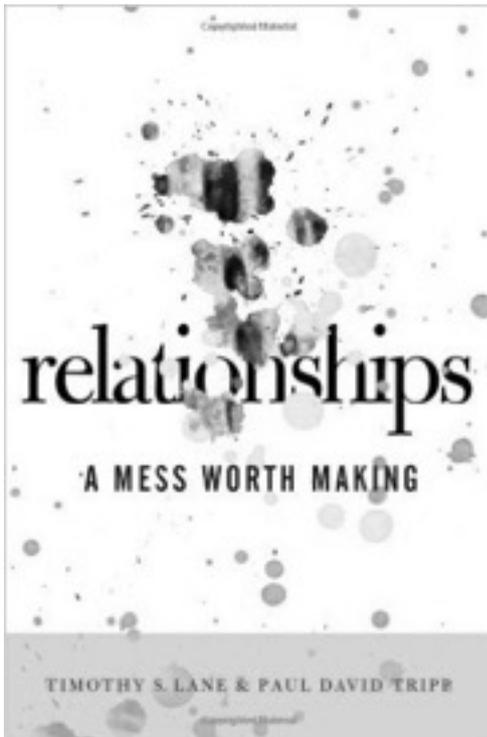
Plus two practical workshops, one from Group A and one from Group B, to help you grow in your practical skills and understanding.

Seminars

1. Living faith for 14-18s Ben Putt
2. Living faith for 11-14s Dave Thornton
3. Living faith for 7-11s Tamar Pollard
4. Living faith for under 7s Tim Thornborough
5. Unpacking the message Alison Mitchell



Forthcoming Events



Lent Course - 2016

Relationships

A Mess Worth Making

Begins Thursday 11th February @ 2.30 and 7.30pm for 6 weeks.

In *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*, Tim Lane and Paul Tripp show you how God does it, and how it can happen for you. They help you tackle the stubborn problems that plague many close relationships. They show you the deeper issues that drive our reactions, choices, and behaviours. And they show you how God steps in to help you build relationships that are all he intended them to be.

If you would like a copy of the book please talk to Amanda or Neil.

Sunday 14th February 10.30 AM Service

Homelessness Sunday

Matthieu Lambert of Hope into Action will lead this service



**Find Holy Trinity
on Facebook**

www.facebook.com/

Vicar: The Revd. Neil Robbie

Hope into Action is an award-winning charity set up to fight homelessness initially in Peterborough, now across the country. **Our dream is to change the lives of the most disadvantaged in our society by finding them homes rather than a bed for the night.**

**holy trinity
church**

**1 burlington
road**

west bromwich

