

North Cornwall Cluster of Churches Newsletter February 2021



For the parishes of St Kew, St Endellion with St Peter's, Port Isaac
and St Minver with St Enodoc (Trebetherick) and St Michael (Porthilly)

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

Holy Habits: Biblical Teaching

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.'

We're four weeks into the new year and with it, our Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching. I'd love to know how you have got on with exploring the Bible over the past month. For many of us, the Bible can seem intimidating: a huge, complicated dusty tome, full of unpronounceable names and confusing commandments. We can sometimes feel like you need a degree in theology to understand what it's really saying.



In some ways that's true: you can study the Bible every day for a lifetime and still not exhaust its meaning. But the opposite is also true: a child can read these stories and understand them sometimes better than a professor.

This month, we're hoping to help one another fall in love with the Bible in a new way. For some people, that will mean learning about how it works – how the different parts fit together into one big story. The best way to do this is by joining us in the Bible Course on Zoom (contact Revd Geraldine to join a group). For others, it will mean practising new ways of reading the Bible, using suggestions from our weekly pew sheet. For those of us who find it difficult to start reading, or find ourselves getting stuck, there are some ideas in this newsletter to help us get to grips with it.

The important thing to remember as we read the Bible is that it's not a textbook for us to learn, or a book of rules for us to follow. Instead, it is a treasure trove of stories entrancing us with tales of intrigue, adventure and plot twists; romance and comedy, tragedy and poetry, stories which call to us, drawing us into a thrilling new world where we are swept off our feet and into a brave new life. And through it all, behind every twist and turn, one character shines through: the captivating figure of a great, good God, stretching his hands out through the pages to reach us.

As you read the Bible over the next few weeks, let it read you back. Let the words soak into you, shaping you, saturating your imagination until everything you look at is coloured by Bible stories. Let the words challenge you, as if the very Creator of the Universe were speaking directly to you through its pages. Let the story of God's goodness, of his reaching out to save us, of Jesus becoming human, of his death and resurrection – let it become your story. Our story. And as we do, we will find this dusty tome ceases to be dry and confusing, and instead comes alive, infused with rich, life-giving Spirit: the very words of God.

Rose Jones

A Thought for February

Pancake Tuesday is on the 16th this month; its' traditional name is Shrove Tuesday and is a mini-celebration before lent starts the following day on what is known as "Ash" Wednesday. In church, Lent is a time for followers to prepare themselves to be personally involved in the Easter story, the mystery of Jesus dying on the cross and resurrected to new life on Easter Sunday. During Lent, many followers will give up something they consider to be an everyday luxury and others will take up virtuous habits; this helps to set the time aside as something special, helps to focus the mind on what's important and ultimately can lead to a humble and yet hopeful spirit.

Pancake Tuesday will be one month from the anniversary of the first lock down in March last year and it feels as if we have already served much greater than 40 days and 6 Sundays of Lent. We have given up liberties and much loved activities, and for many the loss of the past year has been much more costly and painful that the idea of suggesting one could piously give up chocolate sounds derisible.

If the past months have been our Lent, and the Lose and pain is our Good Friday, then the hope we have in the vaccines is our Easter day including the day when we return to doing the activities and see the people that we have missed so much.

It's not Easter yet though and time will tell when this Covid business is all over, what remains is how we prepare ourselves for the Easter promise of new life. The practice of Lent can still have a place to play in our journey to readiness and I suppose the first question to behold is to ponder on what might New Life look like to you and in what ways can you prepare for it.

May you know the one who walks with you this Lent.

*Marcus Jones
North Cornwall Cluster of Churches.*

The Bible Course

An eight-session course helping you explore the world's bestseller.

The Bible is a big and complicated book to read and for many it can be difficult to know where to start. Maybe you've been part of a Bible study group and want to build your confidence so you can study the Bible on your own, or maybe you need help connecting together the bits you've been reading. The Bible Course is a great resource, whether you are familiar with the Bible or just starting out.

The Bible Course helps you see how the books of the Bible are part of one big story.

Using a unique storyline, The Bible Course will show you how key events, books and characters fit together. The video teaching, course guide and daily readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself. Acts as a great follow-on resource for those who have done introductory courses like Alpha and Christianity Explored.

This is an online course via zoom, which is very easy to use and you will be sent a link each week to join the group from the comfort of your own home.

We will start on Tuesday evenings from 26th January

Find more details at: www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/

Contact Geraldine if you are interested in joining a group: gezzalou@aol.com 07957609085

Reverend Geraldine Ashton

Four Questions to ask about (almost!) any bit of the Bible

1. What does it tell me about God?

What can I see of God's character?

What can I see of God's actions?

2. What does it tell me about people (and myself)?

What can I see of human goodness?

What can I see of human sinfulness?

3. How should I relate to God?

Can I praise God because of these truths?

Do I need to confess anything before God?

4. How should I relate to people?

Am I prompted to better serve and love others?

Is there a truth I need to try to share with others?

Bible Treasure Hunting

Can I find in this passage...

- a **promise** to believe?
- a **command** to live out?
- a **warning** to heed?
- an **example** to follow (or avoid!)?



Five Pictures to use with (almost!) any bit of the Bible



LIGHTBULB: what shines out of this passage for you? Is there one word or phrase that really strikes you? Think about what it means and why these words are special for you.

QUESTION MARK: Does this passage raise any questions for you? What troubles you or confuses you? Pray about these questions, as well as considering where you could look for more help.



CROSS: How does this passage point us to Jesus? Does it tell us directly about his identity, his life, death or resurrection? Or does it show why we need him so much? Does it point forwards to his eternal kingdom coming?

ARROW: What will you take forward from this passage into your life? Is there a situation that it speaks into? Is there a habit you want to change as a result? Does this passage give you tools for Christian life?



SPEECH BUBBLE: What have you learnt from this passage that you'd like to share with someone else? Who else might need to be encouraged with the truths you've found here? When might you have chance to share it?



NORTH CORNWALL BOOK FESTIVAL

North Cornwall Book Festival 2021

Discussions and planning have started for the annual North Cornwall Book Festival, to be held at St Endellion near Port Isaac. It has been decided that this year the event will be held from 23rd – 26th SEPTEMBER 2021.

The School Days are scheduled for 23rd and 24th, the Adult programmed days with visiting authors, workshops and the café will be held on 25th and 26th and Music Evenings on 24th and 25th.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DATES REPLACE THOSE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED (which were in October)

Between July and December, a number of mini films were made with the authors due to attend in 2020, and these can be viewed on www.ncornbookfest.org/north-cornwall-book-festival-at-home or search for North Cornwall Book Festival at Home on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram or Vimeo

In November, a selection of video interviews with a number of children and young adult authors were launched, which included a creative challenge set by the authors for children to compete in their own time. They are entirely free for use either in the classroom or at home and these can be found on the following link www.ncornbookfest.org/ncbf-at-school

We look forward to seeing you again.



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& PRAYER
FROM HOME**
DOWNLOAD RESOURCES

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

ONLINE SERVICES

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk



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Next issue

The deadline for text and or pictures* for the March issue is:

18th February 2021

* Please note that permission is required for people in photographs and written parental consent for children.

Since 10th January

Our church communities have not been meeting in person but resources are available online, by telephone and post. We are keeping the situation under review and look forward to things improving.

Sunday Worship

available at:

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

Fellowship

join our facebook group at:

www.facebook.com/groups/northcornwallcluster

Pastoral Care

If you or anyone you know are in any kind of need, or would like a phone call or to have resources posted to you, please contact:

Revd Elizabeth Wild
07758 407661
elizabeth-wild@live.co.uk

Praying for all people at this time, we continue to remember that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, and that:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Gospel of John Chapter 1, Verse 5



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