



Newsletter



For 2 weeks from Sunday 4th Sept 2011

Our aim is to *KNOW* God through Jesus, *GROW* in faith, and *SHOW* God's love in our community

Revd Catherine writes...

What did theologians ever do for us?

'Theology' is a word that can turn people off; it's one of those Greek words which sounds like it makes Christianity more complicated than it needs to be. Yet we are all theologians because 'theology' just means God ('theos') - talk or word ('logos'). So every time we talk of God, think about His action in our lives or pray to Him – whether as Father, Son or Holy Spirit – we do 'God-talk'.

So what about all those theology books and the people officially called 'theologians'? Do we need to worry about them? The answer is that strictly speaking we don't because it is the Bible that is the essential source of revelation. However, the thoughts of centuries of theologians are useful sources of help both interpreting the Bible and making sense of the struggles of being fully human and fully Christian. Take Augustine (354-430CE) for example, whose struggles with sex led to his comment 'Lord make me chaste but not yet...' 'City of God' was written to work out the relationship of Christianity to other religions and a non-Christian state, issues still with us today.

In the 16th Century Luther and then Calvin were strongly influenced by Augustine in developing the idea that we are saved by faith in God's grace alone. More recently twentieth century theologians Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer had to work out what God-talk and the just society meant in the face of war and Nazi Germany; was it right to take up arms against a regime that was killing its people? Again highly

relevant in the light of the Arab Spring and troops being sent to Libya.

And who said, 'the glory of God is a human being fully alive'? Not some trendy modern theologian but St Irenaeus writing in the 2nd century. He also wrote a great deal about theodicy, the attempt to answer the question 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' a question that Christians have been wrestling with ever since. So theologians have done and thought quite a lot for us with pearls of wisdom still relevant to Christians today. To learn more about them watch this space....

REGULAR SERVICES

Sundays: St Paul's 10am: St Andrew's 11am

St Paul's, 7–8pm: 'Still Hour' of quiet prayer & Parish Prayers, 7–7.30pm, on 2nd Sunday in Sept & last Sunday in Nov.

Wednesdays: St Paul's 10am: St Andrew's 2pm

Weekday Morning Prayers: St Paul's 9.05-9.25am. Come & join us - all welcome.

PARISH NOTES

"Many of you know that my **90th birthday** is fast approaching. I sincerely hope you will respect my wishes which are - no gifts, no flowers, but if desired a donation to your own favourite charity. This would be very much appreciated," Peggy

Free publicity for community, denominational & faith groups; regular services, social and special events can all feature – Hayley Matthews [chaplain@anchormediacityuk.org] www.anchormediacityuk.org/events/submit-an-event

St Andrew's ROC Cafe – We want to re-start youth activities at St Andrews on alternate Thurs evenings from late September. More volunteers welcome, particularly with musical & technical gifts. Details from Rev Catherine: 07711611201.

Could you be St Paul's Hall Bookings secretary; St Andrew's treasurer; St Andrew's musician; a Missionary Board Co-ordinator, or Parish Bookstall manager? If yes... **we need you!**

Message from Nick in Kenya

'Beacon of Hope' is trying to do what it can in the drought, but we are limited, given that most of our people also need support. Recently a mother of two children collapsed and died as a result of the drought. She was going to fetch water at the time. Nobody in her family could take responsibility for the children, so I took them in. Joy is 4 and Emmanuel is 6. I am currently taking them to hospital for their health. They had diseases linked to lack of nutrition but are responding well. Please pray for them.

'Christ is the Answer'

Nick

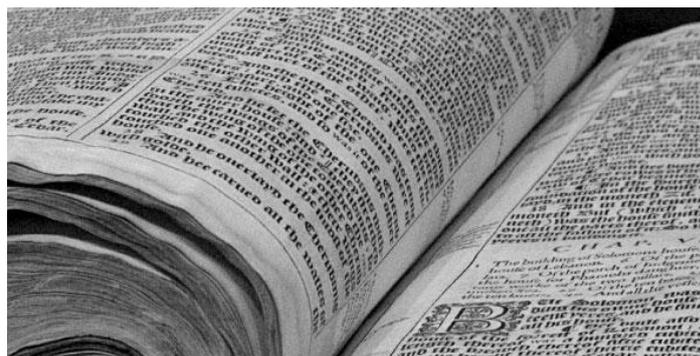
VISIT OF ISOBEL BOOTH-CLIBBORN AND HER DAUGHTER SHIISA - AUGUST 28th.

Isobel has been in England since June. We were the last link church she visited before her return to Uganda on Sept 1st, to enable Shiisa to rejoin her friends in the International School there. Isobel is funded in Uganda by CMS – the Church Mission Society, which we support through St Paul's Tithe. Funded by CMS Isobel is then seconded to an organisation called VIVA (Network) who are working with children in the developing world, locating existing projects and forming networks of them so as to increase the effectiveness of the work.

During the service on 28th Aug the children coloured cut out paper children to be taken back to Africa by Shiisa. They held them up and joined the hands of the paper children, and then began to move in a circle. It was a lovely visual aid of what can happen when people come together. Isobel described some of the desperate situations children can find themselves in and asked us to pray for children everywhere and support the work of CMS and VIVA (Network).

In celebration of the King James Version of the Bible: 400th year

By Michael Teo



This year we celebrate the quatercentenary of the publication of our beloved bible, known as the Authorised Version. It was bequeathed by King James I of England to be used in all the churches of the land. The monarch assembled the great minds of the nation to bring about its birth: they were able men of learning, imbued by God with veracity for this particular purpose. Between them the translators were conversant with and wrote in Greek, Latin, Syriac, Hebrew, Aramaic, and, of course, English. Their voluminous works can still be viewed in the libraries of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Worcester and Chetham's College, Manchester.

The genesis of this superlative piece of work occurred many years before 1611, with stirrings of dissatisfaction with the corrupt power, wealth, greed and machinations of the Church of Rome. The inquisition was at its height: discontents and miscreants were rounded up and routinely executed on the most flimsy of evidence of heresy!

At the dawn of this reformation John Wycliffe from Yorkshire, former master of Balliol College, began the first English translation of the bible from St Jerome's Latin Vulgate in order to make the bible accessible to everyone. Wycliffe was determined to prove that some of the traditions and teachings of the Roman Church were not biblical. Called to defend himself at the seat of the Roman Church in England, Lambeth Palace, this work was easily suppressed, but not before he was prosecuted for heresy and called to the presence of his Saviour in 1384.

Master William Tyndale, of Gloucestershire refined the work of his predecessor by translating from the various extant Greek and Hebrew

manuscripts. Refused support in England Tyndale journeyed to Hamburg, then Wittenberg, where he was aided by the venerable Martin Luther. Thence conveyed safely to Cologne he began printing his English New Testament in 1525. Although many copies arriving in England were seized and destroyed this only empowered him to revise his translation; the Pentateuch and Jonah were published next in Antwerp where he was living. A copy of this work, with the New Testament, was struck in vellum and presented to Anne Boleyn, and can be viewed at the British Library.

That William Tyndale's immense and inestimable legacy imprinted on the King James Bible (Authorised Version) cannot be denied. From his pen emanated the lyrical beauty of Psalm 23; the grandeur of the Lord's Prayer; the rhythmic flow of the Beatitudes; the gravitas of Genesis 1 and John 1, to name but a few of all the familiar verses of the Bible that are frequently quoted and committed to memory.

In retaliation for his work the Roman Church sought his capture: the reward would be a generous sum, and sadly, a friend betrayed him. He was condemned for execution. As he was tethered to the stake he cried with a loud, earnest voice "Lord, open the King of England's eyes".

But God did honour his heartfelt cry and opened the eyes of King Henry VIII. For not long afterwards, King Henry eradicated the stranglehold of the Romish faith from this land. Since then, except for the temporary incursion of Queen Mary to re-establish her faith to this land, Great Britain has remained predominantly Protestant.

Following Tyndale's work the complete Bible was eventually translated, employing 85% of his words. This was the Great Bible prepared by Myles Coverdale for King Henry VIII and published in 1539; the first one authorised to be read aloud in church services. This was followed by the Geneva Bible printed in England in 1575. This was the bible of Shakespeare, Milton and Cromwell, and went to America on board the Mayflower with the Pilgrim Fathers. It was the first mass-produced Bible.

James VI of Scotland acceded to the English throne in 1603. He disliked the Geneva Bible because of its annotations and retention of words that were scornful of earthly rulers. He convened the Hampton Court Conference to conceive a new English version which would conform to the ecclesiology of the Church of England and consolidate the Kingdom, and be 'authorised' for general use. This work was undertaken by a team of 47 scholars of which it is said "we will not see the like of, again". "The King James Bible", as it is popularly known, encapsulates the best of the English language. Phrases such as "fly in the ointment"; "laugh him to scorn"; "weighed in the balance and found wanting"; "a lamp unto my feet"; "salt of the earth"; "light under a bushel"; "let there be light"; "seek and ye shall find" are some of the numerous gems that pepper our writings and speech which we owe to Master Tyndale and the King James Bible. Let this heritage that we are stewards of be a legacy to future generations. Paraphrasing the oath of Her Majesty the Queen on her coronation may this be our "sword". For an unbiased laudatory celebration of this peerless literary gem please refer to Melvyn Bragg, an avowed agnostic, for his comments in "The Book of Books: the Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611 – 2011", published by Hodder & Stoughton.

DIARY DATES - September

(Today) Sun 4th, Broughton House service, 2.30pm, St Paul's.

Mon 5th, St Paul's Committee, 7.30pm.

Tue 6th, SPACE meeting, 6pm, St Paul's.

Wed 7th, Wedding Invitation, 3pm, St Paul's: Natasha Lancaster & Shaun Richards will be married. We've seen their children's baptism; everyone is now welcome to their marriage.

Thu 8th, Espresso Church, 6.30–8pm in Costa Coffee, Longfield Precinct. (2nd Thu in month) Interesting speaker, coffee and chat, after 'Bitter church' at Church Inn near St Mary's, Prestwich.

Thu 8th, St Andrew's Ladies' Circle (fortnightly meeting), 8 pm, St Andrew's – Pie & Peas!

Sat 10th, In M'cr Cathedral at 6.30pm, commissioning of Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) by the Bishop of Bolton. Anthea and Eileen will be commissioned. Everyone invited.

Are you Adult or about 16 but not yet **Confirmed**? The good news is that you can be confirmed at our St Paul's, Sun 16th Oct at 3pm.

The **Confirmation Course** starts on Sat 10th Sept, 2pm at M'cr Cathedral - with the option of making history by staying for the first ever ALM licensing service (see above). Then weekly on Thursday evenings until 13th October, 6.30-8pm. To take part see Revd Catherine (details below).

Sun 11th, 'The Base' Youth group restarts: a Party & Tim's Band, 4.45-6.45pm, St Paul's.

Sun 11th School of Prayer re-starts, with special Parish Prayers, 7pm, St Paul's

Mon 12th, St Andrew's Committee, 7.30pm at Revd Catherine's home.

Mon 12th, Friends of Kersal Moor, 7.30pm, St Paul's.

Tue 13th, 'Time Out' restarts, 1.30pm at 5 Moorside Rd. (fortnightly craft & social meeting)

Tue 13th, 'Churches Together' meeting, 7.30pm at 'Our Lady of Grace' in Prestwich.

Tue 13th, Service Leaders & Preachers meeting, 7.30pm in the rectory.

Wed 14th, Worship Planning meeting, 7.30pm in Parish office. All interested welcome.

Thu 15th, The Leprosy Mission: supporters' gathering, Bolton Rd Methodist, Bury, 10.30am. Finger buffet at 12.30pm. For info see Vera M



n.b. **Volunteers needed** for Refreshment Team for Barry Woodward evening.

Tue 20th, Alpha Course starts, with a meal at the rectory, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Tue 20th, Men's meeting, 8pm. Venue tbd

Wed 21st, Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee morning, 10.30 - 11.30am in St Paul's Social Area. There will be a bring & buy, cake and book stall plus raffle. All welcome, please support.

Sun 25th, Back to Church Sunday – please invite your neighbours to church today.

Mon 26th, PCC meeting, 7pm prayers for 7.30pm start, St Paul's.

Wed 28th, 4th Weds Luncheon club, 11.30am in Social Area, St Paul's

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sat 1st Oct, Parish Harvest Supper, 7pm at St Andrew's: Potato hash/red cabbage & beetroot, then apple pie. Tickets from Kath D: £3 A, £1 Ch.

Sun 2nd Oct, Harvest Festival 'Bring & share' lunch, 12.15pm in St Paul's. All welcome.

Sun 2nd Oct, Healing service, 7pm, St Paul's.

Sat 15th Oct, 'Living Stones' day to explore all kinds of vocation, 9.45-3.45pm at St James' Woolfold. See Lisa for a place. Expenses met.

13-15th Jan 2012, Men's Weekend at Abbot Hall, Grange-over-Sands for men in ours and other churches. Cost £108, or £123 en-suite. To book or for info contact Mike Clegg on miketheclegg@aol.co.uk 0161 773 4947.

Parish Weekend 2012: For all ages. Rydal Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria (www.rydalahall.org) Fri 22nd–Sun 24th June. £135 inc. all meals. Led by Canon Tony Hardy. For details or to book contact Maureen on 792 4873 or rober382@talktalk.net

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Curate: Revd Dr Catherine Shelley, 94 Woodward Rd, M25 9TZ Tel: 0161 773 9859 Mob: 07711611201
Email: revdrcath@gmail.com

Emergency prayer chain: ring Maureen (792 4873)
Email requests to rober382@talktalk.net

Newsletter items to Rick by Tue 13th for Sun 18th Sept
Mob: 0753 927 5834 Email: rick51thompson@yahoo.co.uk

Hall Bookings St Paul's 792 5362; St Andrew's 798 6917

For more information and past newsletters visit our website: www.stpaulsparish.org.uk