

## Partners with Bible Society

**Has Bible Society got a place in the modern world?** There is not a single week in which it does not outsell all competitors by a very wide margin.

**Here are a few more breath-taking facts and figures.**

- ◆ Bible Society distributed no less than 34 million bibles globally in 2016.
- ◆ More than 6.5 million for bibles were distributed in Africa alone in that year. By 2020, half of all Africans are expected to be Christian.
- ◆ The Bible was produced in 30 languages for the first time in 2016. In other words, 30 people groups were able to read God's word for the first time in their lives in their heart language.
- ◆ 80,000 people learned to read through Bible Society literary projects.
- ◆ Beyond that, 15,300 people who were left traumatised or made homeless by war received Christian counselling in 2016.
- ◆ Supporters, like us here at St John's, donated more than £11 million last year to make all of this happen.

**As in Africa, the church in China just keeps on growing.** Today, you find churches so full that their congregations spill onto the pavement. More Bibles are printed in communist China than anywhere else in the world! Almost 731,000 people received a free or subsidised Bible in 2016.

**It isn't all good news:** Although global demand has never been higher, here in Britain, it is viewed by many people as insignificant and irrelevant. Nine out of ten people in the UK have no regular engagement with the Bible.

**Next January, we will be having a visitor from Bible Society.** It feels like a long way away, but this was the first Sunday that Rachael Markham, recently appointed in this area, could give me! She will have many more things to tell us about what Bible Society are doing to help people in Britain gain confidence in the Scriptures, as well as sending it around the



## Three Things PCC Members Do

**They build stuff:** The most obvious area to point out is probably the fabric side. You will notice PCC organised a new car park this year. With Trevor Morton-Holmes taking the lead on that. There is also a major issue with the increasing slope of the Lounge floor. Oh yes – and then there's the new boiler! So if you are warm and can walk from the car park with dry feet, thank your PCC. That's why we need the analysts the administrators and people who can deal with the practical side of church life on the PCC. Otherwise we would be in a bit of a mess.

**They look out for our children :** I am sorry to have to report that no less than 2,600 safeguarding allegations of various kinds are being handled by dioceses in Britain at the present time. It is, by any standards, an appalling figure. PCC works to ensure that our children and vulnerable adults are safe in this church. We have recently appointed Allan Brown as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. If you would like to support his work we need you on PCC.

**They Tell the Good News:** That's what we all want to do. PCC has an Outreach sub-team (one of our five sub-teams). You will be hearing more about ideas for sharing our faith in a very short time. Right now – if you have a heart for evangelism, we need you on PCC.



### Support Lizzie and

**Willows** Next Sunday, 18th March, **Lizzie Tunley** will be running the Reading Half Marathon (13.1 miles). This is her biggest running challenge to date and is raising money for Willows Counselling Service, one of St John's mission partners. If you would like to sponsor Lizzie there is a form in the table in the foyer or you can do it online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/lizziertunley2>



**Prayer Meeting** The next church Prayer Meeting will be held in the Worship Area on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018, from 8pm to 9pm**, and will be led by **Andy and Carol Hall**. Please put this in your diary and give high priority to joining with us for just one hour as we come together as a church to pray. To those who have been attending these monthly prayer meetings, we would like to invite you to let us have your thoughts on the timing and format of the meetings. Your comments can be sent to **Andy Hall** at

[andyshall@ntlworld.com](mailto:andyshall@ntlworld.com) or to **Andrew Dean** at [andrew-jeandean@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrew-jeandean@ntlworld.com)

## Baptism and Confirmation:

**Bishop Lee** will be coming to confirm our candidates on **Thursday, June 21**. That includes both adults and children. Thank you for those who have registered your interest. This is a great opportunity to take a step of faith, not just in terms of confirmation, but in terms of baptism. And we have a baptistery for that very purpose!

**An Ecclesiastical give-away** To celebrate its 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of insuring Anglican churches, the Ecclesiastical (who insure our church at St. John's) is offering to donate £130 to our church each time a new home insurance policy is taken out by someone in our church family with the Ecclesiastical during 2018. So when your home insurance policy is due for renewal, why not obtain a quote from the Ecclesiastical? To take advantage of this offer visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130) or call 0800 783 0130 and quote TRUST130. For further information, see the poster on the noticeboard in the foyer or speak to our treasurer, **Andrew**, on **01793 725526**.

**Prayers:** For **Eileen Arkley** who was in hospital for 8 days with pneumonia and is now recovering at home. **Ann Startinfield** and her family who are gathered around **Bob's** bedside in Intensive Care following his recent heart attack. We thank God for his faith and hope so beautifully expressed and commend him to God.

Mon 12th	9.30am 2.00pm	Pram Club Homegroup in the Quiet Room
Tues 13th	10.00am 8.00 pm	Meeting of Swindon -Uganda Team in the QR Homegroup 27 Garraways, Royal Wootton Bassett
Wed 14th	1.00-3.00pm 7.30pm	Craft Club in Church Room Homegroup at 17 Rother Close
Fri 16th	10.30-1.30pm	Rock Café

**Prayer Circle:** Joan King will be looking after the prayer circles while I am away from 7<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March while I am away. Joan can be contacted on [joanking@live.co.uk](mailto:joanking@live.co.uk) or tel.490396.

Please pray for our church family	
Mon 12th	Russell & Jill Riggs
Tue 13th	Simon, Sally, Serena, Jenny & Lucy Robertson
Wed 14th	David & Jo Rudland & Emily
Thurs 15th	Yvonne Rumble
Fri 16th	May Russell now in care
Sat 17th	The Sabling family
Sun 18th	Kathleen Smith

### Renewal of Giving – Result next Sunday!

Thank you to all who have responded to the Renewal of Giving 2018. **We will be announcing the result at both services next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March.** If you still haven't yet sent your Promise Card back to Andrew or e-mailed him with your response, he would love to hear from you early this week so that your response is included in his presentation and we have the most accurate picture possible of our finances for this year.

Services Next Week			
Sunday 18th Mar	9am 11am	Morning Praise Holy Communion	Raymond Adams Raymond Adams

Parish Office Email: [parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stjohnshaydonwick.org.uk) or Telephone 726000. All items for the bulletin to the office in writing by first thing on Wednesday. Thank you.

# St John's Haydon Wick

## Sunday, March 11th 2018

### Mothering Sunday



## *I said "No!"*

*(The downside of being a mum)*

Time	Service	Preacher	Readings
9.00am	Holy Communion 1662	Raymond Adams	1 Samuel 8: 4 - 22
11.00am	All Age Service	Raymond Adams	1 Samuel 8: 4 - 22 Mark 4: 31-35