

The Feast of Epiphany, Sunday 8th January this year, will mark the beginning of the “Year of the Bible”, which is a Diocesan initiative to help us engage with the Scriptures, as individuals and as a church.

The Old and New Testaments are foundational for our faith and its practice. In all our acts of worship we engage extensively with the Bible and so spend a lot of time listening to, and reflecting upon, Holy Scripture.

Consequently, it makes sense that we ought to know more about it. For instance, at the most basic we need to be able to find our way round the Bible, which is like a library of books all in one volume. Would we know where to find 1 Samuel or 2 Chronicles? Would we know the name of the last book in the Old Testament? Would we know what the Apocrypha is? Refreshing our foundational knowledge will help us to engage with the Bible in our thinking, our worship and our prayer.

As we go a bit deeper, it's helpful to identify (particularly in the Old Testament) what kind of literature we're dealing with - for instance, is it a legal document, history, poetry, worship songs or doctrine and theology? In the New Testament it's illuminating to identify the slightly different presentations of Jesus in each of the Gospels. In reading the Epistles (which are the earliest parts of the New Testament) it is moving to read how Paul wrote about his own spiritual experience of the Risen Christ turning his life upside down, and how the other Epistles shaped the early Church's understanding of Christ and his work of salvation.

At the end of the Year of the Bible, the hope is that we will be more knowledgeable about the Bible; that we will be much more excited about the Bible and so will want to spend more time reading our Bibles; and that importantly we will be more able to make connections between the Bible and our everyday lives and decision-making. So the Year of the Bible will help us to grow in understanding and knowledge, but above all it will help us to grow spiritually. In the words of Thomas Cranmer it is by 'reading, marking, learning and inwardly digesting' the words of Scripture that we are given the resources to share in and live out the life of God.



YEAR OF THE BIBLE 2017

CELEBRATING

Year of the Bible 2017 at St Mary's Horsham



YEAR OF THE BIBLE 2017



YEAR OF THE BIBLE 2017

JANUARY 8TH - EPIPHANY

Launch of *The Year of the Bible* as we bring our Bibles to church - and take the **"Bible in a Year"** Challenge!

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR CHALLENGE

Starting on the Feast of Epiphany, at St. Mary's we are each invited to take the challenge of reading the whole Bible in 2017

There are 2 personal Bible reading schemes for you to choose from:

1. The Whole Bible in a Year - using the scheme at

<https://www.bibleinoneyear.org/bioy>

This is simple to follow, with Old Testament & New Testament readings plus a Psalm/Proverbs section each day. The website includes an email send out, and an app to download, together with a daily thought to ponder; hard copies are also available in Church or from the office for those who prefer

2. The Message of the Whole Bible in a Year - using the

scheme at http://e100.scriptureunion.org.uk/files/E100_planner.pdf

This is a selection of key passages, with less to read overall, aimed to take us through the message of the Bible each day. Less online support is available, but hard copies of the "E100" brochure may be obtained from Church or office

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Travelling Roadshows around the Diocese on **"Exploring the Story"**: eg at St Mark's Holbrook on January 28th or Feb 4th (tbc) for Horsham

MARCH 1ST ASH WEDNESDAY

Diocesan Lent Course begins : **"Hear the Word of the Lord"**

APRIL 1ST

"Walk through the Bible" Horsham Parish Day Workshop:

5 interactive in-depth sessions exploring the whole Bible (tickets £14 per person including buffet lunch)

JUNE

14 June **"The Bible and Politics"** Archdeaconry of Horsham Lecture at St Mary's Easebourne

15-18 June **"Bible Heroes & Villains"** St Mary's Flower Festival

"The Bible in the Public Square" Cathedral lectures (dates tbc)

OCTOBER

29 October **BIBLE SUNDAY**: Guest Preacher at St Mary's (tbc)

NOVEMBER

4 November **"Troublesome Texts: Exploring Difficult Parts of the Bible from The Song of Songs to the Book of Revelation"** Cathedral Study Day led by Professor James Dunn and Professor Steve Moise

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

St Mary's Homegroups are encouraged to focus on Bible-study

On the Diocesan website www.chichester.anglican.org there will be recommended books on the Bible, including choices by our Bishops

Schools are encouraged to use "Open the Book" for assemblies

On Sunday mornings (8.00am and 9.30am services) a 33 session sermon series (the real highlight of the year!) will present every book of the Bible - 21 sermons on Old Testament books before the Summer, followed by 12 on the New Testament books in Autumn/Winter