

**There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph.
Can you find them?**

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours.

He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo.

Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact.

Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst.

Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, "The Chronicle," surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown.

One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal.

A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Friends,

2011!! What a momentous year that was! – as we welcome the dawn of 2012 with trepidation.

On closer scrutiny of the Old Testament, the messages conveyed by the prophets whether they were Major or Minor Prophets, were more often than not messages of doom. From Moses to Malachi the messages were similar; 'Change your ways or expect God's wrath upon you'.

When the Law was eventually fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, a new word was introduced in the first sentences of Mark.

The first sentence of the gospel of Mark reads, 'The beginning of the *euangelion* (Good News) of Jesus Christ. A few paragraphs later, Mark describes how, after living in total obscurity for thirty years, Jesus burst onto the public scene 'proclaiming the *euangelion* of God, saying, 'The time (kairos) has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the *euangelion*.' Jesus himself is the *euangelion*, the good news, or the gospel of God. An evangelical thus keeps the main thing - Jesus as God's good news.

This term 'Evangelical' once brought to our attention by John Wesley in his preaching in America, has been used to describe any or all of the following movements within the Christian religion; - Dutch Calvinists, African-American Baptists, all manner of Anabaptists, Catholic Charismatics, Converts to Orthodoxy, Episcopalians in Africa, Brazilian and Korean Pentecostals, the Southern Baptist Convention, etc. etc. etc.

This word *euangelion* and its derivatives occur about eighty times in the Greek New Testament.

A friend of mine describes labels as 'training wheels for the mind'. Labels 'help us to begin thinking about complex issues', he says, 'but they inhibit our progress if we rely upon them beyond basic categories of analysis.'

I remember a prominent 'Right Wing' member of the Tory Party who was admitted to hospital in the early 1990s suffering from a heart condition. After being discharged he identified a member of the Labour Party, regarded as 'Loony Left', who was suffering from

the same condition and who had sent him wishes of speedy recovery. In other words, even though their political views were diametrically opposed, underneath all that there was a bond of friendship and common identity which untied them. The commentator remarked; 'But why did he not let us know this before?'

We started 2012 in circumstances similar to that in the Old Testament. The Political, Social, Economic 'chromos' is ticking and we wait with fear and anticipation, to see how it would pan out at the end of the year.

In my mind, it is as if we are living in the transition period between the Old and New Testament, between chromos and kairos when the Good News will manifest itself to us.

Would it end with the *euangelion*?

One thing I am almost certain of is that by the end of 2012 it would not be business as usual. Changes that were proposed within British Methodism (The Fruitful Field) as regards the future of its training institutions. for example' would be mimicked in almost every aspect in our society whether local, national or global.

Within our four churches, even though we lost a few members last year, we have indeed seen God's healing hands on others; for which we are very thankful.

I am amazed at the bond of unity between the churches in sharing the concerns of members in discussions, visits and prayers, irrespective of denomination. Long may it continue!

THE SNEEZE

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would not pray during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The Principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

Then a solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened.

All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly sneezed!

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU' - and then walked off the stage.

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

Eastern Shore District High School,
Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

This was sent to Diane Humphries by her daughter Louise's Canadian mother-in-law.

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

A man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her chair. He spoke softly to her, "Honey, can you hear me?"

There was no response.

He moved a little closer and said louder, 'Honey, can you hear me?'

Still, there was no response.

Finally he moved right behind her and yelled, 'Honey, can you hear me?'

She replied, 'For the third time, yes!'

(no comment - Ed)

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church has arranged

AN EVENING WITH JOHN WESLEY

a one man production where

Mark Topping becomes John Wesley for the evening

This will be at High Cross Church, Camberley
at 7.30 pm on Saturday 3rd March 2012

They invite our congregations to join them
for this very special evening.

No tickets are necessary,
just a retiring collection at the end of the performance.

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

Canaan Books and Christian Resources
If you need a book for a present, or to study, or Bible reading notes or a Christening/Baptism gift, Canaan has an excellent selection, with Fair Trade items and CDs and DVDs as well. Canaan is at 121 High Street, Staines, by the railway bridge. Tel: 01784 457194 Email: info@canaanbookshop.co.uk

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

St Jude's United Church

Englefield Green

2012 Concerts

Saturday 4 February at 4.00 pm

CLARINET QUINTET FROM RHUL

MUSIC BY MOZART & BRAHMS

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

Answers to 'How smart are you really?'

- 1) One 2) All of them 3) He can't be buried if he isn't dead.
- 4) No, because he is dead 5) Two
- 6) Half way. Then he is running out of the woods
- 7) None - Noah took them on the ark. 8) Meat
- 9) 12. 10) Same as it is now

In verses 14 and 15 of Mark's Gospel we are told that he (Jesus) proclaimed the *euangelion (Good News) of God saying The time (kairos) is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is near, therefore repent and believe the good news.'*

It is our belief in the Good News of Jesus Christ that makes us all Evangelicals.

I hope that as we share this good news among ourselves and with others we would continue to pray for each other, our community and our world, that the current feeling of malaise in our political, economic, social systems may end up for the good of all.

May 2012 be a Happy Year to you all

Beale

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

STAINES & FELTHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT

Sunday 5 February at 6.30 pm

Circuit Service at Staines Methodist Church
when Mrs Ruth Medcalf will be received as a
fully accredited Local Preacher

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

WENDOVER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday 21 February at 7.00 pm

PANCAKES AND BEETLES

Pancakes followed by a Beetle Drive
The evening will end with a short service
to mark the start of Lent

All welcome

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE - Saturday 25 February

Staines Methodist Church, 9.30 am– 4.00 pm.

- ❖ Where are all those places talked about in the Bible?
- ❖ Who are all those people?
- ❖ Who came first?
- ❖ And how does it all fit together?

This seminar is led by a qualified guide, from 'Walk through the Bible Ministries'. You will have great fun (yes, really) and it will all come together, and you will have good fellowship.

Tea and coffee will be provided; please bring a packed lunch.

The cost is £14 and you will receive a full-colour workbook.

Children from 11–16 may attend free if accompanied by an adult.

Contact Marian Izzard for queries or to book a place, 01784 25255 or email: marianizzard@btinternet.com

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

HANDING ON THE TORCH

Sacred words for a secular world

A five session ecumenical discussion course for groups

If you want to:

- learn more about the Christian faith
- tackle the biggest questions facing humanity
- examine your own beliefs, in fellowship with others

A Lent Study course for the Egham Churches

Christianity is the largest movement our world has ever seen.

It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America.

At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow and – perhaps - even to survive.

In this course we consider some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individuals, for Churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer.

WHERE - The United Church of Egham

WHEN - Thursdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March at 7.30 pm

COST: - Free

To help us plan, please email uceorg@btopenworld if you intend to come.

News from the United Church:

We have been saddened to learn of the death of our friend and fellow member, Mrs Pam Bidmead, who died on 12th January.

Pam has been attending the Church at Egham for some years now and we have all appreciated her quiet presence at worship, both on Sundays and Thursdays, when we were able to learn more about her husband, of whom she was so proud of his wartime service, and her family (one of her sons was a United Reformed Minister). She always received news of an addition to her family with great joy and shared this with us all. A lovely lady with a keen sense of humour and a good friend to her neighbour Doris Poulton - Pam will be missed!

We remember members and friends in the United Church who are unwell, and hope that they are recovering and on the way to better health: Barbara Read, Les Fairhall, Eileen Munks, and Heather & Clifford Holt. If your name is not here and you too have been unwell, you are not forgotten!

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

1662 and all that!

To celebrate 350 years of non-conformity in England, on 7th February 2012 at 6.15 pm, the Church of England and the United Reformed Church will be holding an historic service in Westminster Abbey, marking a significant step forward in the development of a shared relationship.

This is the year of the 350th anniversary of the Act of Uniformity and the Great Ejection, as well as the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the United Reformed Church. It will be a service of reconciliation, healing of memories and mutual commitment, including testimonies about martyrs of the past and stories of shared work in the present. Janet Figgins and I will be attending this special service and we will report back on this great event.

Gordon

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

Congratulations and best wished to Tony Miller of Whitechapel Mission who has been awarded an MBE in the new Year Honours. (I expect Janet has already written to him on our behalf! Ed)

**UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM
TUESDAY @ 8**

Great fun was enjoyed by 11 members at the January Beetle Drive. The speaker at our meeting on 6th February is one of our Church members, John Mackerness, who will be talking about his Chaplaincy work and Heathrow Airport. All are welcome and usual charges apply - 50p for members and £1.50 for visitors.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The concert performed by Egham Band in December was excellent and very well attended. The young members of the Training Band also performed some pieces for us. It was great to see youngsters being encouraged and helped by some of the experienced players. The retiring collection raised £249 towards the Church organ restoration fund.

CHRISTMAS BONANZA

This certainly lived up to its name. We had 6 trestle tables outside the Church, on the first Saturday in December, absolutely full of goods (mostly Christmas gifts and food) and the incredible sum of £843.75p was raised for Church Funds. Very grateful thanks to members and friends who so generously donated these items. Jill and Janet's organisation was superb and they were backed by an excellent small team.

Diane Humphries

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

How smart are you really? answers on page 14

- 1 - How many birthdays does the average man have?
- 2 - Some months have 31 days; how many have 28?
- 3.-.Why can't a man living in Wales be buried in Scotland?
- 4.-.Is it legal for a man in Scotland to marry his widow's sister?
Why?
- 5.-.If there are 3 apples and you take away 2, how many do you have?
- 6 - How far can a dog run into the woods?
- 7 - How many animals of each sex did Moses take on the ark?
- 8 - The butcher's assistant is 5'10" tall. What does he weigh?
- 9 - How many first class stamps are there in a dozen?
- 10 - What was the Prime Minister's name in 1980?

WENDOVER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Getting back to routine now with all our weekly activities – not that the badminton group has a break – unless Christmas Day falls on a Tuesday!

The Bible Study group meets on Thursdays at 8.00pm and this session is getting to grips with Nehemiah.

Then we shall have Lent Groups taking place at the same time on Thursday evenings. To start Lent off in fine form, we have our famous Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Beetles! This will be at 7.00pm on 21 February when after however many pancakes you can manage, there will be a fast and furious Beetle Drive. The evening will end with a short service led by Beale.

Our next Open Church date is 11 February and we continue to pray that this will reach out to our local community. Sunday Afternoon Tea is on 12 February. Do pop in for tea and cakes and some fun and laughter on a Sunday afternoon.

I don't know about you, but I have vacuumed quite a few times since Christmas and I am still finding sparkly bits on the carpet – let's try to keep the Christmas sparkle in our days all through this year

Anne Hebenton

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

WENDOVER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

OPEN CHURCH

11.00 am – 1.00 pm

~~~~~

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY

AFTERNOON TEA

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

WITH A FRIENDLY GROUP OF PEOPLE

O God, whose glory the heavens are telling,  
 the earth your power, the sea your might,  
 and whose greatness all the hosts of heaven proclaim;  
 to you belongs all glory, honour, majesty and praise;  
 both now and forever, and to the ages of ages.  
 Amen

Liturgy of St James, 5th century

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

**LECTIONARY:**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**5** Isaiah 40: 21 – 31  
 1 Corinthians 9: 16 – 23  
 St Mark 1: 29 – 39

**Last Sunday after Epiphany**

**19** 2 Kings 2: 1–12  
 2 Corinthians 4: 3–6  
 St Mark 9: 2–9

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**12** 2 Kings 5: 1–14  
 1 Corinthians 9: 24–27  
 St Mark 1: 40–45

**First Sunday in Lent**

**26** 2 Kings 2: 1–12  
 2 Corinthians 4: 3–6  
 St Mark 9: 2–9

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

**Staines & Feltham Circuit Holiday 2012**

14th to 18th May at Knowle Manor in Somerset,  
 Near Dunster - 2 miles from the coast.

The historic Knowle Manor house offers spacious and comfortable facilities. All bedrooms are en-suite. There are activities for the more energetic, and comfortable lounges with lovely views.

Pastor Mark Conlon (who is leading) invites you to join him for 5 days of activities and outings, good food and prayers.

The £350. per person price includes:

- Transport to and from Knowle Manor and 3 meals per day.
- A trip out to a local attraction on each of the 5 days
- Full use of all facilities and private grounds of Knowle Manor

For more information and Booking Form, contact Joyce Griffiths

**Englefield Green Village Centre**

KIDS CLUB KAMPALA needs your children's clothes!

Please donate your kids' unwanted/outgrown clothes to slum children in Uganda who have virtually nothing. This is an on going project for ALL AGES but currently we are desperately in need of clothes/shoes for 3yrs up. Please get in touch if you can help or drop off any suitable clothing here. We act as a collecting point for clothes but only when we send out such a message as this.

Thanks  
 Linda

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

This year we want to push forward with becoming a Family Contact Centre at The Village Centre. If you or anyone you know is interested in being a volunteer please can you contact me?

You will need to have an enhanced CRB check, which we can do and training is given. Your commitment can be as little or as often as you wish and once we have a trained team on board we will decide what days/times we will be offering this facility.

Please do contact me if you want to know more.

Many thanks  
 Linda

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

The Job Club at St Jude's School is proving to be a great success. Rowena, an ex-HR Manager from BA, has all the enthusiasm and skills and to give the 7 people on the course the support and direction they need. Pat is also supporting them with ICT skills. The next Job Club will start on Wednesday 22 February, 9.00 am - 12.00 noon, also at St Jude's School, and already has several men and women booked. Please do pass on this information.

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

**Dates to note**

- ❖ Saturday 11th February - Big Breakfast! in aid of FEED THE CHILDREN
- ❖ Tue 14 February - Police Surgery 2.00 pm- 3.00 pm in the Café
- ❖ Weekly prayer meeting for the Village Centre and village - Mondays at 2.00 pm

**ST JUDE'S UNITED CHURCH, ENGLEFIELD GREEN**

**SUNDAY Holy Communion** (said) at 8.00 am  
**Parish Communion & Junior Church** at 9.30 am  
**Evensong** and sermon at 6.30 pm on second Sunday  
**MONDAY Crusaders** - a joint Church activity for 7-12s  
 6.15 pm - 7.45 pm at Village Centre  
**TUESDAY Bright Hour** at 3.00 pm as shown in calendar  
**WEDNESDAY Holy Communion** at 10.00 am  
**SATURDAY St Jude's Church** is open from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm  
 - just to be quiet, to chat or to make arrangements for  
 - baptisms, weddings and funerals  
 -

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

**VIRGINIA WATER METHODIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY Worship** at 10.00 am  
**Evening Worship** as announced  
**Coffee** is served after Morning Worship  
**MONDAY Women's Fellowship** - as shown  
**Brownie Guides** at 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm  
**TUESDAY Guides** at 6.15 pm - 8.15 pm

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

**WENDOVER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY Worship** at 11.00 am  
**Sunday Afternoon Club** - 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm on  
 second Sunday of the month  
**TUESDAY Badminton Club** - everyone is welcome  
 who wishes to play badminton, have a chat  
 or just come along for a cup of coffee - at 8.00 pm  
**THURSDAY Brownies** at 6.15 pm  
**Bible Study** at 8.00 pm  
**FRIDAY Prayer Group** at 9.30 am

**UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM**

**SUNDAY Worship** at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm  
**MONDAY Brownie Guides** at 6.30 pm  
**TUESDAY Rainbow Club** for Toddlers and Parents/Carers  
 10.00 am - 12 00 noon. For children aged 0 - 3 yrs  
 Contact Janet Figgins for details.  
**Readers Unite!** second Tuesday of the month - 10.15 am  
**Beaver Scouts** at 6.00 pm  
**Tuesday at Eight** - open evening with varied programme  
 for adults on the first Tuesday each month at 8.00 pm  
**WEDNESDAY Coffee & Chat** - 10.00 am - 12 00 noon  
 Ideal for parents and children  
**THURSDAY Church open for prayer** from 10.00 am to noon  
**Coffee** served in the Vestibule 10.00 am to noon  
**Lunch time service** - 12.30 pm - followed by lunch  
**OUCH** - social time for Church members and friends -  
 last Thursday of month - 2.00 - 4.00 pm  
**Guides** at 6.45 pm  
**FRIDAY Church open for prayer** from 10.00 am to noon  
**Coffee** served in the Vestibule 10.00 am to noon  
**Cub Scouts** at 7.00 pm  
**SATURDAY Church open for prayer** from 10.00 am to noon  
**Coffee** served in the Vestibule 10.00 am to noon

**CALENDAR -**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

Sat 4 \* \* 4.00 Concert at St Jude's - see page 14...

**Sun 5** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Mark Ewbank  
Preacher - Mrs Margaret Willis  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - Mr Sydney Shore  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Sheila Hassan  
\* \* 6.30 Circuit Service at Staines - see page 3  
EG 6.30 Taizé Service

Tue 7 EG 2.30 Bright Hour - at Schroder Court  
EG 7.00 'Christianity Explored' - at Village Centre  
UCE 8.00 Tuesday @ Eight - Rev John Mackerness -  
his Chaplaincy work at Heathrow Airport

Sat 11 EG 9.00 - 11.00 - Big Breakfast at Village Centre  
in aid of FEED THE CHILDREN

**Sun12** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Mark Ewbank  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Linda Ashford  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship - Rev Malcolm Evans  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship - Rev Malcolm Evans  
EG 6.30 Evensong Rev Mark Ewbank  
material for March FORUM to Diane, please

Tue 14 UCE 10.15 Readers Unite  
EG 7.00 Christianity Explored - at Village Centre

**Sun19** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Beale Griffin  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship - Miss Rita Berry  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - Mr Michael Bagg  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship - Mr Michael Ashford  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin

Tue 21 EG 7.00 SHROVE TUESDAY  
Christianity Explored at Village Centre -  
probably with pancakes  
WR 7.00 Pancakes and Beetles

Wed 22 ASH WEDNESDAY  
EG 8.00 Service for Ash Wednesday at St Jude's

Thu 23 UCE 2.00 OUCH

Fri 24 EG 8.00 'For Such a Time as This' - a time when we  
can pray for children and young people in the  
neighbourhood - at Village Centre

Sat 25 EG 10.00 Christianity Explored away day - at Virginia  
Water Methodist Church - until 4.00 pm  
\* \* 9.30 'Walk Through the Bible' - see page 4

**Sun 26** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Mark Ewbank  
Preacher - Mr Roy Gouriet  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship - Mr Graham Wells  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Maggie Bridgett  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship - Mr Dave Food

Tue 28 EG 2.30 Bright Hour at the Village Centre

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

All the activities listed here are, of course, open to everyone. Those marked with \* \* have been specially planned or all connected with all four Churches.

EG - Englefield Green Methodist Church UCE - United Church of Egham  
VW - Virginia Water Methodist Church WR - Wendover Road Methodist Church

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~

A Lunctime Service is held at the United Church of Egham each Thursday at 12.30 pm, followed by a Ploughman's Lunch, and all are very welcome.

~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~-0-~~