



## St HELEN'S WINDOW

### Prayer and Motion

The Revd Dr Jane Baun

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote  
 The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote,  
 And bathed every veyne in swich licour,  
 Of which vertu engendred is the flour....  
 And smale fowles maken melodye,  
 That slepen al the night with open ye,  
 (So priketh hem nature in hir corages):  
 Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages....

Prologue to the Canterbury Tales

*When April, with his showers sweet, has pierced the drought of March to the root ...  
 then people long to go on pilgrimages....*

What does the word 'pilgrimage' say to you?

*And bathed every vein in such liquor, of which virtue engendered is the flower....*

What are the 'showers sweet', what is that 'liquor', which brings forth blossom, green shoots of hope and grace, from parched places in your life?

Geoffrey Chaucer (+1400), writing his *Canterbury Tales* around same time that our Lady Chapel ceiling was being painted at St Helen's, captured unforgettably the many moods and motivations of pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. Chaucer's pilgrims were part of a universal human urge—to get up and move, to grow, to widen our experience and enlarge our understanding, to seek holiness. Under the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we grow continually in our lives as Christians. But we must let ourselves be watered by the 'showers sweet' of the Spirit, and warmed by the Spirit's light.

Where can we find those showers, that light, of the Spirit which renew our lives?

Ways in are many: prayer, worship, meditation, study, fellowship, quiet days and retreats, pilgrimage, festivals and gatherings, immersion in art, music, nature.... This month's *Window* highlights two particular channels of grace: our direct access to the living words of the Bible, and the *Cursillo* movement. As we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, we give thanks for the courage, determination, and scholarship of all those who worked to make the Bible available to everyone. We remember especially William Tyndale, burnt at the stake around 6 October 1536, whose strikingly beautiful and immediate prose underlies more than three-quarters of the version ultimately 'Authorised' by King James. *Cursillo* evolved from beginnings as a training course for Spanish pilgrimage leaders into a movement which encourages Christians all over the world to know their lives as life-long pilgrimage, constantly renewed and refreshed. Oxford Diocese, and Abingdon parish, are blessed with numerous *Cursillistas*, three of whose stories we feature this month—ask to hear more!

We often say, 'I want to pray, to grow spiritually—but I have no idea what to do; where do you start?' One good place is the three 'Simple Guides' recently produced by our Diocese. These are short but thoughtful, to-the-point leaflets on getting started—in Prayer, Pilgrimage, and Reading the Bible. Copies are available from the Parish Centre or from the Diocese, and they can also be downloaded from the Oxford Diocese website. On the website too are a series of brilliant 'Prayer Walks' around Oxfordshire. At home in Abingdon, we can combine prayer and motion by walking the wonderful tile labyrinth in St Michael's Church. Whatever your chosen path, the main thing is to get going—you may be surprised how far you can go from taking just one small step.

### The Editors

Jane Baun  
 Alexandra Green  
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 Silvia Joinson  
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 to Church Office or  
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 preceding month

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## What is Cursillo?

Kevin Beer

Cursillo is a church movement, providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone. The Cursillo weekend, which actually consists of three 'Hebrew days' beginning on a Thursday evening and finishing with a closing service the following Sunday afternoon, is described by many as a life changing experience. Although held at a single location, such as Douai Abbey in Berkshire, it is a kind of spiritual journey which has a loose resemblance to the climax of Holy Week. However, this is only the introduction and preparation for the rest of your life - 'the 4th day'.

My own involvement began in 2003 after a newcomer from Scotland suggested that I ought to try Cursillo, having already been steeped in Alpha. This conversation was in front of Bishop Dominic of Reading, who quickly endorsed this suggestion, so I soon found myself on a weekend run by the Chichester Diocese, not knowing what to expect. Indeed, the best advice I was given was to keep an open mind to discover what God had in store for me. There were certainly a few surprises, that were so special that I can't really describe their impact even now if you ask me, not that I'd want to spoil the surprise for you! Shortly after my weekend, I thought of it as being like the early Christian community described in Acts: 'They devoted themselves to the



apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer'. In other words, simply a return to the basics of Christian life – as the Spanish suggests, 'Cursillos de Cristiandad' are literally 'short courses in Christian living'. Tip: If you want to say it like the Spanish, it is pronounced 'kur-see-yo'!

The 'heartbeat' of the 4th Day is the Group Reunion. This is a short meeting in a small group to review our progress in the three areas of:

- Piety – 'abide in me': share a moment when you were closest to Christ since we last met
- Study – 'to know the mind of Christ'
- Action – 'so I send you'

There are a few simple rules: it is not a discussion group; anything shared is held in confidence; you can 'pass' on any of the three areas. Like all things in Cursillo, the meeting begins and ends with prayer. Anyone can join in these groups – you don't have to go on a weekend first, but it may help! In the Oxford Diocese, Cursillo has been running since 2005, gifted from the Coventry Diocese. Bishop John and his wife Wendy are both enthusiastic 'Cursillistas', and strong supporters of the movement. Much more information can be found on the Oxford Cursillo website: [www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk).

## Experiences of Cursillo

Barbara Earl

I made my Cursillo on a weekend in 2009 at Cold Ash. It started on Thursday afternoon very gently with lots of support from the members of the team who ran the weekend. There were eight of us as guests. Throughout the weekend we were surrounded by love and prayer as we explored our faith and how we could go forward in our Christian ministry. There was time for worship, quiet

reflection and much laughter. I came away a different person: I had made new friends, I had gained confidence, and most of all, I felt lifted on high by God's love. The weekend is just the beginning, as we all keep in touch with small reunion groups and larger meetings called *Ultreyas*, which help us to keep growing in faith.

## Anglican Cursillo

*The following are shortened excerpts from the leaflet 'History of Cursillo', used by kind permission of Oxford Anglican Cursillo, which is affiliated with the British Anglican Cursillo Council (Registered Charity No 1117925).*

Cursillo began in Spain—in Majorca to be exact. It was a response to a need to bring Christ back into the lives of the people after the Civil War—a need to renew and Christianise the environment. The great national pilgrimages to the Shrine of St James at Compostela had always involved much spiritual preparation, and the founders of Cursillo were concerned to preserve this and the great spirit of renewal that the actual pilgrimage stimulated.

A local movement to begin with, a type of leader's school was established based on the workshops which had prepared pilgrims to go to Compostela. They first of all met in small groups where they shared their piety, study and action for Christ and encouraged each other in Christianising their environments. Gradually, with much prayer, the short course in Christian living was formulated into what we would recognise today as the Cursillo weekend. The first three days took place 7-10 January 1949. Despite some opposition to this movement of renewal within the Roman Catholic Church, it slowly spread to mainland Spain, to the USA, and then worldwide.

Our own roots lie in the USA. It was here that the Cursillo movement was first translated into English (1961), and later (1968) moved into the Episcopal (what we would call the Anglican) Church. The Cursillo method of renewal spread through the Episcopal Church, reaching Dallas in 1972 [where a certain Charles Miller experienced it—KB]. This was very significant for us because it was from Dallas that a team came to the UK in 1981, at their own expense.

The first UK weekend was held in September in North Wales ... followed shortly afterwards by a weekend in Gloucester. To these two centres the Dallas team not only brought training, manuals and a wealth of experience, but also considerable financial support. Both centres flourished, with people attending the weekends coming from many parts of the UK, and then returning home renewed to form group reunions and *Utreyas* [wider gatherings] to encourage one another in Christianising their environments. Gradually, other Dioceses established the Cursillo method of renewal.

A national body was formed from Diocesan representatives—the British Anglican Cursillo Council. There are currently 36 out of 51 Dioceses running weekends in the UK. Since 1981, there have been well over 2,000 Cursillo Weekends in the UK.

## Experiences of Cursillo

Ann Moss

I attended the Oxford 8th Cursillo, the first to be held at Douai Abbey. The setting was superb and so peaceful. As the day drew near to my going, I was very apprehensive and was having second thoughts, but the minute I arrived I felt so welcome and surrounded by love - all this from total strangers. The weekend reinforced my faith—the feeling was very strong that God loves me even though I am a sinner. The four days I can honestly say were some of the best of my life—I often look back and think, 'did the weekend really

happen?' Of course it did, and the feeling of being surrounded by love and prayers was very strong. Since the weekend I have attended many reunions and these help all of us to keep in touch, both from Abingdon and others. The weekend completely changed my way of thinking about what being a Christian is all about, and I would highly recommend anyone who wants to explore their Christian journey to think seriously about going on a Cursillo weekend.

## The King James Bible, Authorized Version of 1611

Silvia Joinson

This year we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the King James, or ‘Authorized Version’ of the Bible. When it was first published on 2 May, 1611, nothing was done to promote it, by either king or parliament. The printer had to foot the bill and various problems meant he ended up dying in gaol. Altogether it was an anti-climax. So, why and how did this project begin?

James I succeeded to the English throne on the death of Elizabeth in 1603, having been king of Scotland since childhood. He was well educated and interested in theology. He saw himself as a peacemaker who would heal the divisions in the church. On his way south, he was presented with the Millenary Petition (signed by a thousand Puritan clergy) asking for reforms in the church. This led to the calling of the Hampton Court Conference in January 1604. A new Bible was not on the agenda, but ended up being the only lasting result of the meeting. The most popular Bible then in print was the Geneva Bible of 1560, which contained many annotations favoured by the Puritans. The Bishops’ Bible of 1568 had not proved a popular alternative. There had also been advances in biblical scholarship in the intervening years. So, in 1604, the King, the Bishops, and leading Puritans were all happy to promote a new translation.

James I. told Richard Bancroft (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1604) that the chief translators ‘should with all possible speed meet together’. In the end, 47 scholars were involved, divided into six teams, with two each

meeting in Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster. Each team had a portion of the Bible to work on. The individuals worked on their own, with regular meetings to discuss progress with their colleagues.

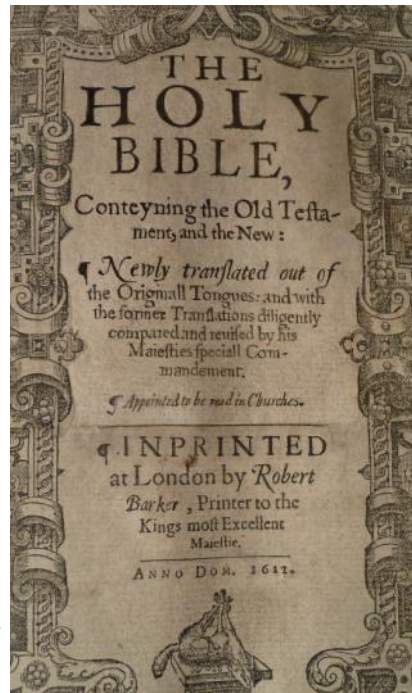
John Reynolds, a leading Puritan who had initiated the idea of a new translation at Hampton Court, led one of the Oxford teams. He was president of Corpus Christi College, and a renowned and respected Hebrew scholar. He was also dying of TB, but worked away at his portion of the prophets, though had to be carried up to the meetings towards the end. He died in May 1607. Another eminent scholar and well known writer was Lancelot Andrewes, Dean of Westminster, who led one of the Westminster groups.

They were not starting from scratch, but used every available version, especially the translations of William Tyndale, as well as referring to the best Greek and Hebrew texts. Finally, in 1610, two members from each

team went to London for the final revision, where they met in the Stationers’ Hall—this took another nine months. The Bible was intended to be read in church and was read out to ensure it sounded well. This was a feature that was to endear it to future generations.

The hurried, haphazard launch, with little proof reading, led to

some horrible howlers in the earlier editions. The Geneva Bible continued to be more popular for many years, and the Authorized Version only came into its own after the restoration in 1660 of King Charles II after the Civil War when it finally emerged as the unchallenged English Bible.



Geneva Bible

## St Helen's Early Bibles

St Helen's Church is fortunate to have two Bibles printed in 1611. One is a Geneva, or 'Breeches' Bible, so called because of its translation of Genesis 3:7 'and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves breeches' This A4 sized Bible is a fairly recent acquisition given by the Revd Pixall, a retired vicar of Radley, who sometimes did duty at St Helen's, and is remembered by older members of the congregation. St Helen's greatest biblical treasure, however, is a first edition of the Authorised Version of 1611, sometimes known as the Great 'He' Bible, after a misprint in Ruth 3:15.



Authorized Version

This verse should end 'and she went into the city', but reads 'he' in the uncorrected first edition. Our 1611 Authorised Version is the only survivor of the former chained library of St

Helen's Church, and still has its chain, although the binding dates from a later restoration. It is a large and heavy folio volume, printed in a clear, bold

type-face to facilitate being read out from the lectern during services. We hope it may be possible to display our venerable Bibles sometime during their anniversary year.

Silvia Joinson

## King James Bible Anniversary Events

22 April-4 September

**Manifold Greatness:**

**Oxford and the Making of the King James Bibles**

Exhibition at the Bodleian Library, Oxford

27 June

St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle

**Why is the King James Bible so good?**

A lecture by Adam Nicolson, author of *Power and Glory: Jacobean England and the Making of the King James Bible*.

For a host of other events taking place during the year and King James related resources see [www.kingjamesbibletrust.org](http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org)

Further reading:

Derek Wilson, *The People's Bible* (Lion, 2010)—there is a copy in Abingdon Library.

Brian Moynahan, *Book of Fire: William Tyndale, Thomas More and the Bloody Birth of the English Bible* (Little, Brown, 2011).

*Condensed. Colourful. Quirky'*

Creation Theatre meets King James

Among the more idiosyncratic and exuberant responses to the challenge of how fittingly to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, and how to introduce young people to it, is the offering of Oxford's own Creation Theatre.

Creation Theatre is inviting young and old to 'Join us as we say "Happy 400th Birthday" to the best-selling book ever—the King James Bible—in true Creation storytelling style.'

Entitled *Tales from King James*, its production will run from 13 May to 11 June, at a venue to be announced in Oxford.

The *Tales* is meant particularly to appeal to young people, and to raise awareness of the influence, beauty and power of the Authorised Version among generations which have not grown up hearing it. Accordingly, school groups and young people are being offered specially-subsidised tickets.

More information is available on 01865 766266, or from the Creation Theatre website.

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## What's on in April

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### St Helen's Church

Sunday 3 April  
14.00 - 16.00

**Mothering Sunday Teas**  
and live music in Church  
All welcome

Monday 4 April

#### St Helen's AGM

Come and hear about the  
last year & plans for the next  
19.30 in Church Centre

Tuesday 12 April

**Mothers' Union Discussion**  
from topics in *Families Worldwide*  
20.00 Church Centre

Monday 18 April

#### Easter Celebration for under 5's

10.30 - 12.00

St Helen's Baby and Toddler Group celebrate  
Easter with crafts and music. All under 5's and  
older siblings welcome

Wednesday 20 April

#### Wednesday Club

*A debt of Honour*

talk on the work of the Gurkha  
Welfare Trust by Colonel G.C. Vernon OBE

Saturday 7 May

FOSH Coffee Morning

### Church in Abingdon

Mondays in Lent

#### CiA Lent Course

20.00 at All Saints Methodist Church

4 April

*Jesus - Word & Spirit*

Revd Will Donaldson, Wycliffe Hall

11 April

*Jesus - the Saviour*

Naomi Starkey, Editor *New Daylight* BRF notes

Thursday 7 April

#### CiA Meeting

19.45 St Helen's Church Centre

Come & find out more about how the churches  
in Abingdon work together for the community

Thursdays 7 & 21 April

#### Back to 35

10.30-11.30 Baptist Church Hall

Opportunity for chat, fellowship, coffee & cake!

April 7 Ivan Cage *Abingdon Branch Railway*

April 21 Cliff Marshall *Christian Aid & Climate  
Justice*

Sunday 17 April

#### Sunrise Service for Palm Sunday

Wittenham Clumps time tbc

led by Padre Stephen Hancock

details 01235 528985

Friday 22 April

#### CiA United Service for Good Friday

St Nicholas Church time tbc

Wednesday 27 April

#### Fresh Vision

19.30 at St Ethelwold's House

Led by Revd. Laura Hodges

This group meets monthly with a simple service  
& time for discussion & reflection

#### 35 Ock St

Closed for Easter break 14.00 Wed 20 April

Re-opens 10.00 Wed 4 May

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Last Month's solution - *Don't give up!* By Ian Miles

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If you would like an event listed on this page let us know by the 5<sup>th</sup>  
of the previous month and we will try to include it. Contact Silvia at  
alanj@phoncoop.coop or  
tel: 01235 521247

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### A Quote of Many Colours

Set by Rod Hunt

Each answer is a colour. A clue could be a common expression (such as an idiom, proverb, saying or phrase) or a title (book, song, play) or an everyday item, a name or a place e.g., Hunting coat—pink.

- 1 Bull rag \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Elephants seen by the inebriate \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A capable landscape gardener \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Ecologically and environmentally aware \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Philip Pullman’s spyglass \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 A sinister spot in Stephenson’s *Treasure Island* \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 The \_\_\_\_ Ridge Mountains of Virginia \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Heroine of *Gone With the Wind* \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Flag of socialism \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Disgraced, disreputable, disinherited family member \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Traditional blossom for brides \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 The rose of York \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Goes with old lace and elderly spinsters \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 Excessively elaborate or ornate piece of prose \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Submarine in which we all live \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 That of Wilkie Collins’ woman \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 That of Chris de Burg’s lady \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 That of Johnny Cash’s man \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 Colour of Dr Seuss’s eggs and ham \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Tint of optimistic spectacles \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 Colour of geographical feature overflown by bluebirds \_\_\_\_\_
- 22 The matter of brain power \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 The dog of depression \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 Gardeners’ fingers often are \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 ‘Boys in \_\_\_\_\_, Boys in Blue’ Marie Lloyd song \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 Colour of Fats Domino’s heaven \_\_\_\_\_
- 27 Cloud lining indicating better times may be imminent \_\_\_\_\_
- 28 Bottles – hanging, but systematically diminishing in number \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 29 Procul Harum’s shade of pale \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 ‘Lily the \_\_\_\_’ by Scaffold \_\_\_\_\_
- 31 Colour of route reserved for plane flying a royal \_\_\_\_\_
- 32 Ribbon round the old oak tree \_\_\_\_\_
- 33 Drink mixing stout – black with pale ale - ---? \_\_\_\_\_
- 34 ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ pink and apple blossom white’ Perez Padro song \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 35 Knuckles when subjected to thrilling speed \_\_\_\_\_
- 36 The moon – infrequently \_\_\_\_\_
- 37 Over which one’s finger do the walking \_\_\_\_\_
- 38 *The \_\_\_\_\_ Letter* novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne \_\_\_\_\_
- 39 Room where actors wait and relax \_\_\_\_\_
- 40 All that glitters may not be this \_\_\_\_\_

# April at St Helen's Church

## Divine Services

3 April	Mothering Sunday	10.00	Sung Eucharist
10 April	Lent 5	10.00	Sung Eucharist with Great Litany
17 April	Palm Sunday	10.00	Sung Eucharist with Procession
24 April	Easter Day	10.00	Easter Eucharist

Morning Prayer	09.10	Monday to Friday except 25 to 29 April
Evening Prayer	17.10	Monday to Friday except 25 to 29 April
Holy Communion	08.00	Sundays
Sung Eucharist	10.00	3, 10, 17, 24 April <u>with Junior Church</u>
Silent Prayer	18.10	Monday 4 April
Wednesday Church	10.30	Wednesdays except 27 April, Holy Communion followed by Refreshments

## Meetings and Gatherings all in Church Centre Hall unless marked

AGM St Helen's Church	19.30	Monday 4 April	Centre Hall
Baby and Toddler Group	09.30 & 11.00	Monday 4 April	
Baptism Preparation	20.00	Tuesdays 5 and 19 April	
Brownies	18.15	Tuesdays 5 and 26 April	
Clergy consultation	19.00	Weds by appointment	
Confirmation Preparation	17.30	4, 11, 18 April	in Lounge
Cubs	18.20	Wednesdays 5 and 27 April	
DCC	20.00	Tues 3 May	
Desiring Life	14.30	Tues 5 April, Lounge	
Junior Church	10.00	every Sunday, starts in Church	
Marriage Preparation	20.00	6, 13, 28 April	
Mothers' Union	20.00	Tues 12 April	
Wednesday Club	20.00	Weds 20 April	

## Events (some more details on page 6)

Mothering Sunday Teas	14.00	Sun 3 April, Church
St Helen's AGM	19.30	Mon 4 April Church Centre Hall
Peel attempt	10.00	Sat 7 April, St Helen's tower
Scouts Service	14.30	Sun 17 April, Church
Easter Celebration	10.30	Mon 18 April, Church

## Sunday Evening Services

3 April	16.30	Choral Evensong
10 April	18.30	Taize
17 April	18.30	Sung Evensong
24 April		no evening service

## Holy Week at St Helen's

### Palm Sunday 17 April

10.00 Procession and Palm Liturgy

### Mon 18, Tues 19, Weds 20 April

20.00 Sung Compline and Address

### Maundy Thursday 21 April

20.00 Sung Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar and Vigil until midnight

### Good Friday 22 April

12.00 Devotional Concert  
20.00 Good Friday Liturgy

### Easter Eve 23 April

09.10 Service of the Word  
20.00 Easter Vigil and Confirmation

### Easter Day 24 April

08.00 Holy Communion with Hymns  
10.00 Easter Eucharist

*The services and events listed here are correct at the time of going to press  
- please consult the weekly Newsletter if in doubt.*

To arrange baptisms, weddings and funerals contact the Church Office.  
Clergy are available in the Church Office between 19.00 - 20.00 on a Wednesday.  
Call the office to book an appointment.

Rector:	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Assisting Priest (NSM):	The Revd Tim Hewes
Curates (NSM):	The Revd Dr Simon Thorn, The Revd Dr Jane Baun, The Revd SokHan Yong
Director of Music:	Christopher Fletcher-Campbell
Parish Administrator:	Linda Barker

St Helen's Church Office: St Helen's Court, Abingdon, OX14 5BS  
01235 520144

Normal opening hours 09.00 to 14.15 Mon, Tues, Weds; 09.15 to 14.15 Fri  
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