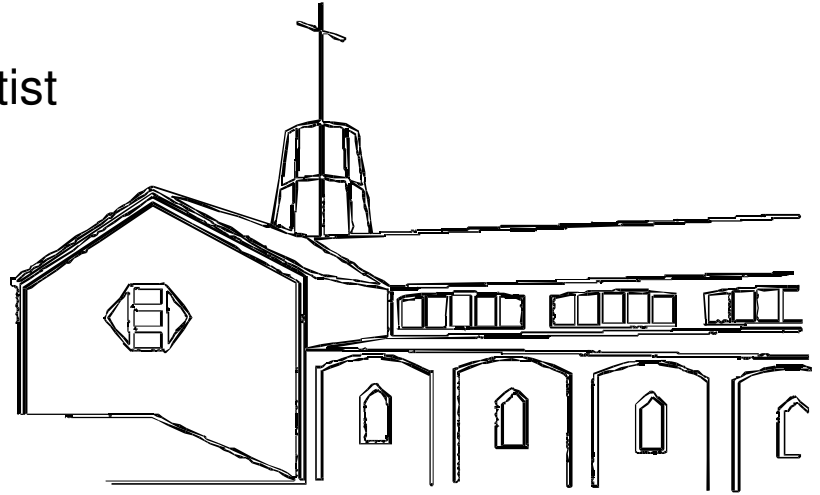


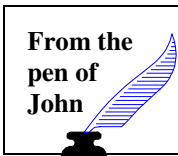
If undelivered please return to:
Parish of St John the Baptist
5 Payne Street
PINETOWN 3610

Church of St John the Baptist
October 2005
Stewardship Edition



The LANTERN

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.
Malachi 3:10



**Dear Parishioners:
Greetings in the name of the Lord**

Stewardship Campaign

Parish Council, I believe in its wisdom at the meeting of 16th Aug, agreed to

postpone our intense Stewardship Campaign until next year. We really felt that the leadership is stretched at the moment preparing for the Lent programme for 2006 – *The 40 Days of Purpose*. The intense Stewardship campaign will now be held after Easter 2006.

The programme for 2006 is coming together. The *40 Days of Purpose* will be studied through Home Groups with the appropriate theme being preached on Sundays. After Easter, we will then have the Stewardship Campaign, and we will particularly think about the stewardship of our financial resources. The stewardship of gifts and ministries will be dealt with during *The 40 Days of Purpose*.

After the July school holidays, it is proposed that we run an *Alpha course*, on the same basis that this year's course was run.

This year there will still be a Stewardship campaign. The Revd. Canon Monica Mkhize, from the Parish of Addington, will be coming to preach to us on Stewardship on 16th October. We will have a Dedication Sunday, where we renew our financial pledges for 2006 on Sunday 23rd October. However this will be for finance only and we will offer the service of our gifts and ministries during *The 40 Days of Purpose*.

I ask you, please to be diligent about returning the forms that you will receive through the post, as it enables us to plan and budget intelligently for 2006. These forms will be offered to God during the Morning Eucharist services on Sunday 23rd October (the Friday congregation can offer them on Friday 21st October).

Confirmation

Bishop Elijah confirmed our candidates and two adults were baptised on Sunday 11th September at our most wonderful celebration which saw the church bursting at the seams! We pray for Debbie Allison, Kate Allison, Phillip Botha, Pamela Brimer, Kelsey Chipps, Siyabonga Dlamini, Rene Dolby, Carlo Gordon, Sam Makhoba, Elkanah Matthew, Lynette Mhlongo, Nozuko Nogwaza, Rory Rosenberg, Graydon Scholtz, Roxanne Smith, Quinton van Deventer, Brett von Brandis, Brendon Warren and Mbali Zulu, that God would bless them indeed and that they would in time come to exercise various ministries in the church.

As I have explained before, my own understanding of Confirmation is that it is a "lay ordination". People are empowered by the Holy Spirit for service and ministry in the Church and in the world, as hands are laid on them. Confirmation is an equipping Sacrament. It equips people for service, by empowering them with gifts, by means of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

New Lay Ministers

We rejoice in the licensing of five new Lay Ministers, at the same Confirmation Service: Goodness Hadebe, Colin Mann, Penny McLennan, Helen Scholtz and Sandy Wallace. Please pray for these people as they take up this new ministry in the life of our parish. Penny McLennan and Sandy Wallace will not be leading public worship, but

will focus and continue in the pastoral ministry that they are already exercising.

Diocesan Synod

On account of a recent (successful) appendectomy on Bishop Rubin, the 2005 Synod has been postponed to next year. At Synod, David Scogings was to have been presented with the Order of the Holy Nativity. This award is given to members of the Diocese who have served the Church with distinction. David has served the Church as a Sub-deacon (a earlier name for a Lay Minister) for 51 years. I encourage you to support David and Irene next year at the Synod Eucharist when Synod convenes again.

Fellowship Committee

From time to time, it is good to thank people for the hard work they have done. I would particularly like to thank Dawn Asher and the Fundraising Committee for all the work they have done this year, especially the KZN Youth Orchestra on Friday 5th August and "Fly with St John's Airways" on Saturday 3rd September. Thank you for your hard work!

Youth Alpha

Young people from the Pinetown Methodist Church, the Pinetown NG Church and St John's have recently taken part in a *Youth Alpha*, which has run over the past weeks. Over 20 young people went away together for the Alpha Weekend from 26 – 28 August. This weekend was a wonderful success and God really blessed the young people in a very profound way. There is a separate report on Youth Alpha in this edition. A big "Thank you" to all who responded to the request for funds to help young people attend the camp. Without these funds, some would not have been able to attend.

Sermon on Sunday 28 August

Various people have asked me for copies of the sermon that I preached on 28th August 2005. A copy of this appears in this copy of the *Lantern*.

May God Bless you richly as you serve him faithfully.
Yours sincerely in Christ
John Green

DANGER

IF YOU ARE JEWISH DO NOT GO TO ISRAEL!

A wealthy New York Jewish businessman sent his son to Israel for a year to see what the old country was up to. On his return the young man told his father it was absolutely fabulous. He spent his time in Jerusalem which was a charming city, rich in culture but most amazing of all was that he became a Christian before returning to New York.

The father went to see his Rabbi to see what could be done about this unacceptable situation. The Rabbi admitted that he had the same problem a year or so before. His son came back after his year in Jerusalem, also a Christian.

They decided to pray for guidance from God. After a period of prayer, God spoke to the two worried men. "I too sent my son to Jerusalem also" "



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

July 2005 Lantern [see page 4 for the next challenge]

NEWCOMERS

Ingrid Pines

A vital ministry performed at St John Baptist is welcoming newcomers into the parish family and I am grateful for the faithful group who help Sunday by Sunday to ensure that this important ministry is provided at our two main services. If you identify a new person who is maybe looking a little lost and hesitant, do direct them to the 'newcomers table' after the service.

We recently held a lunch where we welcomed some individual newcomers and families into the parish. During a time of fellowship and sharing we had the important opportunity of getting to know each other. Thank you to all those who contributed to this lunch by providing such wonderful dishes of food and making this event such a happy and worthwhile occasion.



So, what or who IS Wise Eye, now using the office at the back of the Main Hall? Liz Castleden and friends are temporarily using this room in a new venture. Wise Eye is an amazing reading therapy programme for anyone (in fact ALL ages!) who battles to read! Using the latest technology from Sweden and with a thoroughly researched therapy programme, Wise Eye guarantees to improve reading by a minimum of two grades in only six weeks – for life! Ask Mitchell Scholtz (Helen's son) – he knows!

FREE Visagraph tests given on appointment.
Phone Liz on 082 87 97 57 8

SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Dawn Asher

Saturday 3rd September was a day to remember. Sixteen hard-working fellowship committee members started bright and early to transform the small church hall into a departure lounge, the main hall into an aeroplane, the niches into food areas for India, America, England and South Africa and the all-important pub. The veranda was transformed into Heathrow VIP dining room and everything looked wonderful.

The Lord blessed us with a perfect evening and after pre-flight drinks we boarded the plane with pilot Bill Judd and co-pilot Robin Niemeyer. We transported 116 people on a magical flight to our four destinations: starters were in India, soup in America, a full roast beef Yorkshire pudding and vegetables in England and in South Africa, melktert, Hertzog cookies, etc. and tea and coffee. Goodness Hadebe and five beautiful young girls in traditional dress, danced and sang for us as we arrived in "SA". It was so moving and everybody joined in with clapping and singing. Thank you, Goodness – bless you and the girls.

It was a marathon undertaking but a wonderful evening of fellowship. An enormous thank you to all my team and their husbands for working so hard to make this evening such a success.

The "Fly with St John's Airways" was the team's last fellowship event - we hope that you enjoyed it and thank you to all who have supported us through the last four years.

This year we presented you with a variety of fellowship events: namely, "Teas and Tarts", the KZN Youth Orchestra, and "Fly with St John's Airways" as well as *Shrove Tuesday* evening and *Passover to Eucharist* supper.

As I bow out as portfolio holder I say thank you again for all the love and fellowship to us all.

May God bless my successor and the new team whoever they may be and I hope you will support them in their endeavours.

Shalom

ALPHA WEEKEND

Kamogelo Mathope

Every teenager enjoys going to camp but this was not an ordinary camp but the Holy Spirit Weekend. We came together in different colours, ages and personalities, but we all had Jesus as a common base. Gently we walked into God's presence and we knew he had been waiting for us:-

With our hearts open

Our hands lifted up in praise

Our voices raised in a humble cry

And our knees on the ground in worship

He welcomed us all and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

We fell into His arms and he became our Daddy

Our Friend

Our Saviour

And He became our Lord,

whom we'll worship everyday

in everything we do.

The Lord God redeemed us all and gave us Precious Love

Sparkling Joy

Gentle Hope

Eternal Peace

And Purity in His blood

He set us to be conquerors, shining lights and salty salts in the world.

And on Sunday as we left, we left with the Holy Spirit and a purpose in life.

And we realised that God is the Alpha and the Omega.

And He is all we ever need to make it through the journey of life.

DEDICATED GIVING

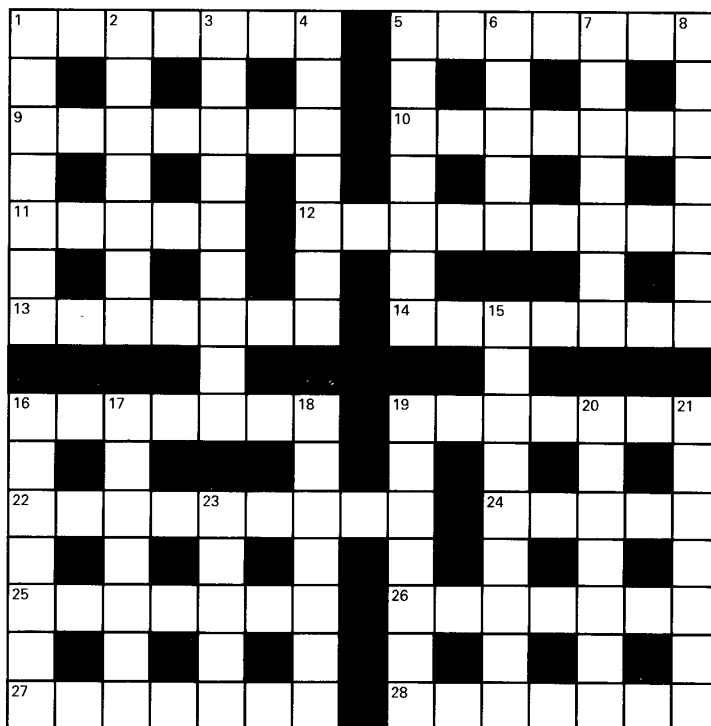
The time has come for the renewal of Dedicated Giving Pledges. Included with this issue of The Lantern, you will find a letter from the Church Wardens, a Pledge Form and a blank envelope in which you can confidentially return your pledge for 2006. You will also find pie charts indicating how the Parish and how the Diocese spend their finances.

Please will you fill in your Pledge Form and return it on Stewardship Sunday 23 October (21 October for 09.00 Friday congregation). I ask you to please be diligent about this as it is so much easier for us to realistically budget for 2006 if we know how much money has been pledged.

Remember, too, that God loves a cheerful giver (2. Cor. 9:7).

Yours sincerely in Christ
John Green
RECTOR

ANOTHER CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



Across

- 1 Pick up a prayer (7)
- 5 Scripture hill-where Balaam had to do it? (7)
- 9 Judge finds rarebit smashing (7)
- 10 Venerable one wants son . . . to provide this! (7)
- 11 One is an act somewhere in North Italy (5)
- 12 Dread awful wickedness from reckless spirit (9)
- 13 Payment for the Windsors? (7)
- 14 Chaps in terrible deed should be changed (7)
- 16 Profligate poet? (7)
- 19 Officer with hat leading reservists at home (7)
- 22 Female believer somersaulting at the end (9)
- 23 State should be genuine with element of mercy (5)
- 25 Emerge boot first with defender away (4,3)
- 26 Striking resemblances? (7)
- 27 The northern layman is pedestrian (7)
- 28 Strongly dislikes landlords' charges round Home Counties (7)

Down

- 1 Part of book associated with dean (7)
- 2 'He hath sent me ... to proclaim'
(Isaiah 61:1, AV) (7)
- 3 Hospital department biased and involved in compromising situation (9)
- 4 The way Eutychus reacted to Paul's preaching, shattering dry tile? (7)
- 5 Severer changes to 25 (7)
- 6 Dug material up (5)
- 7 AV nudes in distress outside the Kingdom (7)
- 8 Felt thrilled in writing ledger (7)
- 15 Pure hate's erupting on account of the waters of Babylon (9)
- 16 A bag, but it made Biblical music (7)
- 17 Is it a pain when the organ isn't functioning properly? (7)
- 18 Confused Tories on right behave like louts (7)
- 19 Mr. Crane is funny old prayer-book liturgist (7)
- 20 Cooker Hank redesigned for multimillionaire (3,4)
- 21 Retributive justice may make sin seem wrong (7)
- 23 Stayed in place, but ran for Parliament? (5)

22nd Sunday of the Year

Crosses often turn out to be Blessings in Disguise : John Green

Eugene Orowitz didn't have anything going for himself. He was a skinny 100 lbs boy. Every one joked about him because he was so thin. He bore the butt of many of his classmates' jokes.

One afternoon the gym coach held classes in the middle of the track. He wanted to show the members of the class how to throw a javelin. After the coach finished his instruction, he let the kids try their hand at it. One by one they threw the 6ft long spear. The longest throw was 25 yards.

When every one but Eugene had tried the coach looked at him and said, "You want to try to throw it, Orowitz?" Eugene nodded. "Well, go ahead", he said impatiently. The other kids laughed at Eugene. "Hey, Skinny, can you lift it?" someone shouted. And another one called, "Careful! You'll stab yourself!"

A strong feeling came over Eugene as he stood there holding the long spear. He pictured himself as a young warrior about to do battle with the enemy. He raised the javelin over his head, took six quick steps and let it fly. It soared 20 yards, 30 yards, 40 yards and then over 50 yards. Then it crashed into an advertising board. Eugene's throw went twice as far as the others. When Eugene retrieved the javelin he saw that the tip had broken off as a result of it hitting the advertising board. The coach looked at it and said, "What the heck, Orowitz, you broke the thing! You might as well take it home with you. It's no good to the school any longer".

That summer Eugene began throwing the javelin in a park. Some days he spent up to six hours throwing it. By the end of his senior school Eugene was throwing the javelin 211 ft further than any other high schoolboy in the USA.

Eugene was given an athletic scholarship to the University of Southern California. He began dreaming of the Olympics. Then, one day, he didn't warm up properly and, as he threw the javelin, he tore the ligaments in his shoulder. That put an end to his javelin throwing, his scholarship and his dreams.

All his hard work went down the drain. He felt as if God had slapped him in the face after he had performed a minor miracle with his

puny 100 lbs body. Eugene drafted out of university and took a job in a warehouse.

The tragic story of Eugene Orowitz raises a vexing question. Why does God allow misfortune to wreck the lives of many good people? Why does He let suffering bring tears to the eyes of so many fine individuals? For example – why did God let a good man like Jeremiah be ridiculed, as we saw in our first reading? Why did God allow the life of Eugene Orowitz to be robbed of so much potential after he had worked so hard?

How many of you know the songs from the musical 'South Pacific'? Maybe you recall its show stopping song 'Some enchanting Evening'. Referring to the mystery of love the song says "that fools give reasons, but wise men don't even try".

But being somewhat of a fool let me suggest just one reason for the mystery of misfortune and suffering. Jesus hints at it in today's gospel when he says, "Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it".

What Jesus is saying is incredible even perhaps insane to someone who doesn't have faith. He is in effect saying, "Whoever accepts suffering and misfortune for my sake will find a whole new life". And it will not only be in the world to come. It will be right here in this world. If we are prepared to offer ourselves to God, to give our lives to God, despite the circumstances, we find ourselves in, God can bless us.

I am quoting from *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, the book we will be studying during Lent. Referring to the reading from Romans he says:

"True worship – bringing God pleasure – happens when you give yourself completely to God. Notice the first and last words of that verse are the same: *offer*

Offering yourself to God is what worship is all about. This act of personal surrender is called many things: consecration, making Jesus your Lord, taking up your cross, dying to self, yielding to the Spirit. What matters is that you do it, not what you call it. God wants your life – all of it. Ninety-five percent is not enough.

There are three barriers that block our total surrender to God: fear, pride and confusion. We don't realise how much God loves us, we want to control our own lives, and we misunderstand the meaning of total surrender. ...

What it means to surrender.

Surrendering to God is not passive resignation, fatalism, or an excuse for laziness. It is not accepting the status quo. It may mean the exact opposite: sacrificing your life or suffering in order to change what needs to be changed. God often calls surrendered people to do battle on his behalf. Surrendering is not for cowards or doormats. Likewise, it does not mean giving up rational thinking. God would not waste the mind he gave you! God does not want robots to serve him.

Surrendering is not repressing your personality. God wants to use your unique personality. Rather than its being diminished, surrendering enhances it. CS Lewis observed, "The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become – because he made us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be ... It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own".

Surrendering is best demonstrated in obedience. You say "yes, Lord" to whatever he asks of you. To say "no, Lord" is to speak a contradiction. You can't call Jesus your Lord when you refuse to obey him. After a night of failed fishing, Simon modelled surrender when Jesus told him to try again, "*Master, we worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets*". Surrendered people obey God's word, even if it doesn't make sense.

Another aspect of fully surrendered life is trust. Abraham followed God's leading without knowing *where* it would take him. Hannah waited for God's perfect timing without knowing *when*. Mary expected a miracle without knowing *how*. God's purpose without knowing *why* circumstances happened the way they did. Each of these people were fully surrendered to God.

You know you're surrendered to God when you rely on God to work things out instead of trying to manipulate others to force your agenda, and control the situation. You let go and let God work. You don't have to always be "in charge". The Bible says, "*Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him*".

Instead of trying harder, you trust more. You also know you're surrendered when you don't react to criticism and rush to defend yourself. Surrendered hearts show p best in relationships. You don't edge others out, you don't demand your rights, and you aren't self-serving when you're surrendered. ...

The supreme example of self-surrender is Jesus. The night before his crucifixion Jesus surrendered himself to God's plan. He prayed, "*Father everything is possible for you. Please take this cp of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will not mine*".

Jesus didn't pray, "God, if you're able to take away this pain please do so". He had already affirmed that God can do anything! Instead he prayed, "God, if it is in *your* best interest to remove this suffering, please do so. *But* if it fulfils *your* purpose, that's what I want, too".

Genuine surrender says, "Father, if this problem, pain, sickness, or circumstance is needed to fulfil your purpose and glory in my life or in another's, please *don't* take it away. This level of maturity does not come easy. In Jesus' case, he agonised so much over God's plan that he sweat drops of blood. Surrender is hard work. In our case, it is intense warfare against our self-centred nature. ...

Paul's moment of surrender occurred on the Damascus road after he was knocked down by a blinding light. For others, God gets our attention with less drastic methods. Regardless, surrendering is never just a one-time event. Paul said, "I die *daily*. There is a *moment* of surrender, and there is the *practice* of surrender, which is moment-by-moment and life-long. The problem with a *living* sacrifice is that it can crawl off the altar, so you may have to resurrender your life fifty times a day. You must make it a daily habit. Jesus said, "*If people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want. They must be willing to give up their lives daily to follow me*".

God can use tragedy to guide people into newer and better lives. Take the case of Eugene Orowitz. We left him in a warehouse.

One day Eugene met a struggling actor who asked him to help learn his lines. Eugene got interested in acting himself and enrolled in a drama school. His big break came when he was cast (as little Joe Cartwright) in 'Bonanza'. That show ran on TV for fourteen years. Later he got the lead in the TV programme 'Little House on the Prairie'. Eugene Orowitz became Michael Landon. If you were able to ask Michael Landon what was the best thing that ever happened to him, he would say it was the day he tore those ligaments in his shoulder. What seemed to be an incredible tragedy turned out to be an incredible blessing. It guided him to new life that surpassed, by far, the dreams of his old life.

How do we apply this to our own lives?

If you are a person who dreamt of making a real success of your life in

business, of having the world's greatest family, or having the greatest marriage but ended up having none of these you should pick your cross and follow Jesus. He can mend broken arms and binding them up to give us renewed appreciation of life that we never dreamt possible.

This does not explain the mystery of misfortune and suffering. In the end all we may be able to do when misfortune strikes, is to trust Jesus who says, "Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it". We may never fully understand the mystery of misfortune or suffering in this world, but one day we will understand.

There is an old poem by an unknown author. It's called 'The Folded Page'. Here is a paraphrase of it:
Up in the attic of an old house,
As raindrops pattered down on the roof,

I sat paging through my old schoolbook. I came to a page that was folded down. Across it was written in my own childish hand 'The teacher says we should leave this for now. It's too hard to understand!' I unfolded the page and read it. Then I smiled and nodded my head and said, 'The teacher was right; now I understand'.

There are many pages in the book of life that are hard to understand. All we can do is fold them down and write 'The master says to leave this for now, it's too hard to understand'. Then some day in heaven we'll unfold the pages, reread it and say, 'Master was right, now I understand'.

Let us offer our cross to God, whether we find ourselves in good times or bad times. Often when we believe the worst thing can turn out to be the best thing in our lives. Praise be to the holy name of our Lord.

WHERE DOES OUR BIBLE COME FROM – AND WHEN? : Part 1

Contribution by Anne Gosling

This question came up in a Bible Study group recently, and we found that there isn't a short or simple answer. A long oral tradition preceded the written texts, which came about in different periods, and there is no single source text or definitive edition of the Bible. The development of the Bible is closely bound up with Jewish history, and also with the emergence of successive civilisations in the ancient Mediterranean world – their political and cultural changes, the improvement of communication by sea and roads, the spread of Greek and Latin as common languages, advances in writing materials – and later with the emergence of modern Europe, including the invention of the printing press, and the divisions between Catholics and Protestants.

Let's begin by looking at some questions of how texts from ancient times survive. In a later article we'll consider how the Bible became accessible to more and more people through translation into vernacular languages and through technological advances in book production.

Languages of the Bible

Today we have hundreds of languages, and the Bible has not yet been translated into all of them. When the Bible was being written, there was more commonality of language and culture among those who received it. The Old Testament was written almost entirely in Hebrew, and the New Testament in Greek, which was the common language of the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean from the time of Alexander the Great (4th century BC).

Manuscripts

Before the invention of the printing press, all texts were written by hand, originally on clay tablets (used more for legal and business records than for literature) or on papyrus. Papyrus decays from friction or damp, so very few ancient texts survive today.

Scribes copying manuscripts sometimes made mistakes or deliberate alterations or comments, some of which were then copied by later scribes. So there is no one definitive 'original' text of the Bible, although scholarly editors over the centuries have tried to establish the exact text. Another problem is that in translation the original meaning can be lost or misunderstood. (For example, it is impossible to decide from the original Greek whether John 1.1 should be translated 'the word was God' or 'the word was a god.' Those expressions have different meanings in English, but are the same in Greek.)

Also, ancient Hebrew had no vowel signs, so it can be hard to decipher. (Thus in English, DG could be dog, doge, dig, dug, edge ...)

Scrolls and books

Papyrus texts were in the form of rolls, and were never big enough to contain more than one 'book' – for instance one gospel. But vellum began to be used in the 4th century AD. Vellum is more durable than papyrus and its flat sheets can be bound together in book form. (The Greek word *biblia* means 'books'.) The 4th century is also the period when Christianity was officially recognised by the emperor Constantine. Persecution ceased, Christian texts were no longer burnt, and the Bible was widely circulated. There are over 3000 biblical manuscripts still in existence, including a few fragments from as early as the 3rd and 4th centuries. The earliest surviving manuscripts of the Old Testament date from the 9th-11th century AD (one in a synagogue in Cairo, one in St Petersburg). They follow a textual tradition, known as the Massorah, which goes back to the 2nd century AD and had strict rules: apparent mistakes in the text were carefully copied, not corrected. This causes some debate about the interpretation of some expressions.

The Septuagint was the earliest Greek translation of the Old Testament, made in Alexandria in the 3rd - 2nd century BC for the many Greek-speaking Jews. Differences between the Septuagint and the Massoretic texts show that the translators of the Septuagint were working from some different manuscripts.

Some Samaritan Hebrew manuscripts of the Pentateuch survive, and a papyrus fragment from the 2nd century AD or earlier contains the Ten Commandments.

So – we have no original tablets inscribed by the finger of God with an authoritative text. This is not to say that our Bible is not the inspired word of God; but, as in many other aspects of his creation, he uses a process of development rather than a miraculous quick fix, and allows humankind to share in the process.

Sources:

F.L. Cross (ed.), *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (1958)

James Hasting (ed.), *Dictionary of the Bible* (1909)

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP; WEDNESDAY MORNING Claudine Lord

May I express my thanks for our Wednesday morning Bible Study Group? Our present leader is Leisher Cremer and a more conscientious leader one could never find. We enjoy our Wednesdays together and although our singing is perhaps not quite up to heavenly standards, it is sincere. Apart from that we all like each other and pray for each other as friends. Before Leisher took us over we had Barbara Miller (now in Sydney) and before her Doreen Will (now in UK). Occasionally we get a refreshing visit from our good Fr John Green. When he comes we go into a mental orbit but obviously we generally do our own learning. We don't see any of the other learned Priests but as an optimist I think maybe, one day, even our Bishop might pop in and add his inspiration.

We hear lavish tales of evening Bible study groups but we do the best we can. We hear of Video tapes but we can't use the big hall on a regular basis and we certainly have no mechanical knowledge about moving video equipment etc.

But we go along happily learning. No one seems to know about our group but we are there for anyone who might wish to join us. We are just a happy band of Pilgrims.

Oh, and at Christmas we try and do a little fund-raising amongst ourselves. I recall Tim made little golden angels from macaroni; Jean brought plants; Val made some wonderful marmalade (sadly Val has been stolen by the Office so...). I've forgotten what I brought but probably some light books. We made a nice, small profit and were able to donate flowers for the church.

St John's Church is a happy place and I think our good, loving Lord must smile at us because He, too, has a sense of humour. We do our best. In a world full of turmoil it is good to smile at good things.

KidZown : Jenni Young

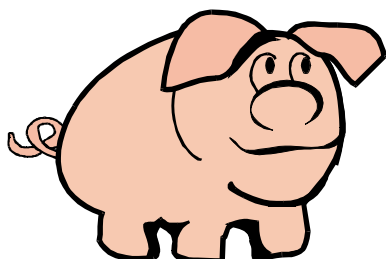
It is really wonderful to see our children grow in Christ.

We have been learning exiting new songs (actions included) and have done some fantastic creative crafts. If you listen carefully on Sunday mornings you might hear us playing our new musical instruments, making a joyful noise unto the Lord!!!! Keep a look out for the banners the children have made!!

We have up to 40 children attending KidZown on a Sunday and between 15 and 20 children at Junior Youth on a Friday evening. Fridays are a fantastic opportunity to have GREAT FUN, so come and join us - you won't regret it.

All this activity is made possible by a group of very committed teachers and we would welcome extra help, so if you feel the Lord nudging you in this direction, PLEASE come and chat to me. It is a very rewarding ministry and a meaningful way to serve the Lord.

A big thank you to all the teachers!!! You are doing a great job and are hugely appreciated!!



Pledge Time :

**God has
interest in your
Piggy Bank!**

**New York's Washington Post recently asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here is a sample of words submitted:
a contribution from Anne Gosling**

Intaxication:	Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.
Bozone (n.):	The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
Cashtration (n.):	The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
Giraffiti:	Vandalism spray - painted very, very high.
Sarchasm:	The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
Inoculatte:	To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
Hipatitis:	Terminal coolness.
Osteopornosis:	A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
Karmageddon:	It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like a serious bummer.
Decafalon (n.):	The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
Glibido:	All talk and no action.
Dopeler effect:	The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
Arachnoleptic fit (n.):	The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
Beelzebug (n.):	Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
Caterpallor (n.):	The colour you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.
<u>And the pick of the pack:</u>	
Ignoranus:	A person who's both stupid and an

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited, until you try to sit in their pews!
The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose but mosquitoes and flies come close!
Quit griping about your church; if it were perfect, you could not belong!
If the church wants a better rector, it only needs to pray for the one it has.
Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.
God loves everyone but probably prefers "fruit of the Spirit" over "religious nuts"
Many folks want to serve God but only as advisers. It is easier to preach ten sermons that it is to live one.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE submitted by Beryl Rawson

A neurologist claims that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours, the effects of a stroke can be reversed **...totally**. The trick is getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed and beginning the treatment within **3 hours**.

Sometimes stroke symptoms are difficult to recognise and delayed action can spell disaster as a victim may suffer irreparable brain damage. A stroke can be recognised by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask them to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask them to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE coherently (e.g. It is sunny today)

If the person has trouble with any of these tasks, call for appropriate medical help immediately and describe the symptoms to the medico.

St John of the Cross contribution by Gill Green

This prayer appeared on the Internet.
St John of the Cross wrote it in 1582.

It has been reworked from the original version to make it more understandable in our English of today. Yet it still retains its beauty and simplicity.

A Prayer of Great Encouragement

Grant to me, Dear Lord, courage and a quiet mind; that I may live a day at a time; that I may feel your strength rise up within me and your love and power sustaining me. Speak to me through the companionship of those who can encourage me. Remind me, Dear Lord, that "success" and "failure" are man's words. All that you require from me is faithfulness in the hour that is now.