

Letters from the Churches

One Friday evening at chapel, the eve of Paul Cook and Katherine Warnton's wedding, Kay Smith delivered to me the huge pulpit Bible from the now closed Thornton Curtis chapel. Coming to Kay through her Grandma, with its opening pages missing and its well worn leather cover, this Holy Bible revealed many years of faithful use in the worship of God. As with other historical literature it will now be kept in the archives at Lincoln.

Today Bibles look very different from this one of the past - in modern English, often with bright covers and aimed at specific readers such as teenagers, couples, and toddlers (for mum or dad to read aloud at bedtime!).

Quite a few of us will have received a Bible through the Gideons organisation, with helpful index as to relevant texts when perhaps desperate, lonely as well as when on top of the world! Dipping into God's word is always good, but feeding on it daily is, like regular physical eating, the best. Thankfully feeding off God's word has no penalty clauses like putting on weight, quite the contrary it keeps us spiritually healthy with God's peace and purpose in our lives.

The challenge is always to dig deeper into previously unread parts - it really is a fascinating read, full of characters, love stories, amazing acts of God and most importantly God's message of salvation to us that our relationship with the Lord Jesus is His chosen way.

Amid the gathering of family and friends, beautiful flowers and cameras at the ready stood Paul and Katherine taking their marriage vows. I gave them their first gift as a married couple - a Good News Bible (yes, with a bright cover!).

Whilst Paul and Katherine's bright covered version was rightly pristine the well thumbed Thornton Curtis pulpit Bible had obviously served its purpose well - Bibles are for reading!

God bless, Gillian

Reverend Gillian Belford
01652 632148

Do you remember when you could go into a cafe and the choice of hot drinks was tea, coffee or hot chocolate? Now when you go to order coffee the choices are vast: latte, Americano, espresso, skinny, flavoured, de-caffeinated, cappuccino and all sorts of permutations and combinations of these and more! (one even offered me bits of marshmallow to float in my coffee!)

In the Christian walk though there are just two choices: do it God's way or not. The Bible contains an array of options for us, and even though we know what choice we should make (just look at the book of Proverbs!), often we still take the wrong one.

Following their entry into the 'Promised Land' Joshua gave the children of Israel a choice: serve the Lord or serve the gods of other nations; but made it clear what he and his household were going to do. The Israelites had seen God in action in their wanderings in the wilderness and decided en masse to serve God, thereby committing themselves to getting rid of any false gods in their possession, and ultimately entering into covenant with Him there. Moses presented the Israelites with a choice from God too: I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. (Deuteronomy 30 v 19).

The story of Adam and Eve at the very beginning is a symbolic story of the eternal choices which face us all, and of course they made the wrong choice. There are areas in all of our lives where God has given us options and we have been influenced to make what we now know to have been the wrong choice. The amazing truth though, is that God is always prepared to give us a fresh start, to make a new choice and when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ the blessings of this choice will remain with us through eternity.

Reverend John Girtchen
01469 530357