

News from Bible Society

Transmission is provided free by Bible Society as part of our mission to equip the church to live out the Bible's message. We also work creatively and with passion to show that the Bible resonates with issues today – and to make scriptures available where there are none.

James Catford

Group Chief Executive



King James Bible

Few will have missed the fact that 400 years ago the King James Bible was published for the first time. And to celebrate, Bible Society has set up the King James Bible Trust with HRH The Prince of Wales as Patron and Frank Field MP as chair. To celebrate the anniversary of the world's most influential book, Bible Society Resources has brought out a new edition. It features a foreword by Prince Charles, a new easy to read layout, classic illustrations and an extensive A–Z list of famous phrases we use every day that are found in the KJB. It's available to buy from bibleresources.org.uk, priced £14.99.

The People's Bible

Today the Bible is freely available in our culture but it's not widely read. This summer our joint initiative with the Scottish Bible Society will see *The People's Bible* taking the Bible back to Britain's high streets. But we need YOUR help to make this happen.

We are looking for churches, local action groups and volunteers to help run local events – where everyone in towns up and down the country will have the opportunity to handwrite a couple of verses in the unique edition. A special service will be held at Westminster Abbey in November where this one-of-a-kind Bible will be presented. More information is available from thepeoplesbible.org.

Biblefresh

Biblefresh aims to encourage and inspire individuals and churches to a greater confidence and appetite for the Bible. As a key partner in Biblefresh, Bible Society can help you get involved by taking practical

steps in four areas: Reading, Training, Translation and Experience. Bible Society has a whole host of resources to help you get the most out of your Bible this year. From *Reel Issues* film discussion notes to the new *You've Got the Time* Bible recording by Riding Lights Theatre Company – there's so many ways to get into the Bible. Find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/biblefresh.

Making Good Sense of the Bible

As part of our contribution to Biblefresh Bible Society has been developing and field testing a course on biblical hermeneutics for 'ordinary Christians'. Research has made clear that providing help in applying the Bible intelligently and relevantly is a major issue for Christians and that their felt inadequacies here undermines their confidence in the Bible. We have been working with Dr Andrew Rogers of Roehampton University to devise a course which also develops 'virtues' as part of the process. So it is positioned as a contribution to Christian discipleship too. We have piloted the project with ten churches and have also tested the training process with 18 prospective trainees. Our evaluation shows that we need to deliver this course through church leaders and ministers who have been properly equipped. So we are offering the opportunity for any suitable person to be trained, free of charge, in Swindon on **14 and 15 June 2011**. If you wish to consider applying for this training course, contact beth.lane@biblesociety.org.uk.

Christian Legacy Consortium

Christian Legacy are encouraging churches to promote legacy giving to their congregations in 2011. Research by the consortium of Christian charities found that, amongst readers of the Christian press, 85% of respondents agreed that charities inform them about the importance of legacies, but only 18% agreed that churches teach about legacy giving.

Legacy giving is, however, a vital source of income for both Christian charities

and churches. Indeed, places of worship are the second most supported legacy cause receiving 11% of legacies (Smeed and Ford). Legacies enable churches and Christian charities to do wonderful things from maintaining and improving historic buildings to providing life-changing support to those most in need.

Christian Legacy have produced a church pack to help churches promote legacy giving to their congregations. To get your copy, please call Bible Society on 01793 418271.

The Christian Legacy consortium consists of Bible Society, Care for the Family, CMS, The Leprosy Mission, Livability and Tearfund.