

Community Help Initiative:

If you need help during this difficult time contact:

for Wilden	Martin & Susie Cooper wildennews@hotmail.com
for Colmworth	Jeremy & Gillian Freedman j.freedman@sky.com
for Ravensden	< ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com > or phone 772230
for Keysoe	Laura Barry PcIlrLaura@outlook.com
for Bolnhurst	Jane Browning janebrowning50@gmail.com

While it has not been possible to worship inside the church building for many weeks, Sarah and I have been exploring the beautiful countryside and rich heritage of our 5 parishes where we have discovered many inspiring stories.

The story of Rev. Timothy Matthews, Rector of both Bolnhurst and Colmworth, who in the early nineteenth century preached the gospel in the open air, changing the lives of many local people for the better and leaving a rich Christian heritage. He helped to found the Baptist Chapel in Ravensden and his tomb can be seen in Colmworth churchyard.

Connections at Keysoe with John Bunyan (b.1628), whose book 'A Pilgrims Progress' is still a best seller, he preached in the open air in Park Wood encouraging local people to pray and read the Bible in their homes.

We have been reminded of Rev. Francis Dillingham Rector of Wilden (d. 1625) whose remains are said to be buried in the churchyard. This Cambridge scholar was responsible for translating parts of the Bible from Hebrew into the English language, contributing to what became known as the King James version of the Bible.

Stories of two sons of the Polhill-Turner family of Ravensden who in the 19th century became among the first Christian missionaries to China.

In these difficult times we can be encouraged by these local predecessors of ours who stepped out into the open air, into homes, into print and even into other nations to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our villages, our nation, the English speaking world and way beyond.

Revd. David

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Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

www.wcrchurches.org

NEWSLETTER

August 2020

In this time of lockdown you may have had time to read or re-read a book. There is a book of 66 books. The first book is called Genesis and the last Revelation, the combined book is called The Bible. I don't think there is a book that has such a history and faith behind its words. It is now written in many languages for ALL to read. Yet, even now there are places in our world where the Bible is banned and it is dangerous to possess one.

At one time in England the Bible was not available to all – not until early in 1380 when John Wycliffe (1320 – 84) translated it from the Latin Vulgate (c380) Bible into a Bible in English; Wycliffe explained *'It seems first that the knowledge of God's law should be taught in that tongue that is more known, for this knowledge is God's word'*.

The road for an English written Bible was a bloody and dangerous path depending on the persuasion of the Monarch of the time and the power of the Church. Many translators met a gruesome death, many went into exile.

That was not the end of the problems for this great book so that all could read it; translating from one language to another so the meaning was not lost was a great challenge. From Hebrew to Greek to Latin then to English in its many formats was a difficult path.

One of the translators for the King James Bible was a man called Francis Dillingham who was Rector at St Nicholas church Wilden from 1600 to 1624, he died and was buried in Wilden Church in February 1625.

Many old Bibles have some interesting translation / printing errors for example - In 1560 The Geneva Bible had a nickname The Breeches Bible for in Genesis 3:7 it states 'They sewed fig tree leaves together and made themselves breeches'. In 1631 Barkers (printers) octavo edition of the King James Version made a colossal mistake in Exodus 20:14 it was printed 'Thou shalt commit adultery'. And there are many more. If you are interested in the history of the English Bible I can recommend Donald L Brake – The Visual History of the English Bible.

I encourage you to take some time to read or re-read the books from the Bible. There are many commentaries on each book; take time to explore and hopefully, when we can all meet up again, we can explore questions together. If you need help in your travels through the 66 books of the Bible that give sign posts to Jesus Christ, please contact Tim, David or myself.

As Paul Stated in his letter to the Romans chapter 15:4 'For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have hope.'

The Word of God is truth, for God so loved the world that he gave US his only Son our Lord Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. Amen

Geraldine Skinner

**During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic,
please look at our website: www.wcrchurches.org
which will give you the days and times our churches are open.
Each Sunday there will be a short 'Message of Hope' on the
website led by Tim, Geraldine & David**

Short said services without hymns will begin on 2nd August

Colmworth 2nd August 10am Holy Communion Service
Wilden 9th August 10am Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th August 10am venue TBA
Sunday 23rd August 10am venue TBA
Sunday 30th August 10am venue TBA

Readings and collects:-

**Sunday 2nd August 8th after Trinity - 10am said Holy Communion
at Colmworth**

Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17.1-7 & 16; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sunday 9th August 9th after Trinity – 10am said Morning Prayer
at Wilden**

Genesis 37.1-4,12-28; Psalm 105.1-6,16-22 & 45; Romans 10.5-15;
Matthew 14.22-33

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sunday 16th August 10th after Trinity – 10am service
venue TBA**

Genesis 45.1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11.1-2a & 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 23rd August 11th after Trinity – 10am service venue TBA
Exodus 1.8 - 2.10; Psalm 124; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 30th August 12th after Trinity – 10am service venue TBA
Exodus 3.1-15; Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26 & 45; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Don't forget to go on line and participate in our "Words of Hope" service each Sunday. www.wcrchurches.org

We also have a Zoom gathering every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Leave a message on the website or email Tim for the Zoom link or join by phone.

Evensong by Zoom is also being held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6 pm with our five churches and Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden. You are very welcome to join us, just email Tim for the Zoom link or join by phone.

Circumstances change very quickly during this trying time so do check on the website which is kept up to date.
