



The West Hereford Team Ministry
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Hello everyone,

Next Sunday is Bible Sunday, and in our sermon this week the Revd Chris Fletcher, reflects on the importance of the Bible to us as Christians. The Bible Society works hard to enable people across the world to access the Bible in languages and forms that they can understand.

We are fortunate, for the most part, to be able to access a multitude of texts, translations and formats. There's a bit of a joke amongst clergy about the number of Bibles they own – I haven't counted recently but I suspect, with the recent presentation of a Bible from the Bishop at my ordination that number is approaching 20...

Have you got more than one Bible on your shelves? If you do, or if you can borrow one from a friend, then have a look at this week's readings in the different versions. They all place slightly different emphases on the text. Which one speaks to you, and why? You might find beauty in a version you usually don't read or find one turn of phrase makes the text much clearer.

Rather than thinking of one of them as 'superior' we can see God revealed through the multitude of texts and rejoice that we have access to them!

As well as trying different perspectives we can also return to our well-worn friends. Have you got a version or a copy of the Bible you favour? Although it's not the copy that I use regularly I have a Good News bible with some beautiful illustrations and a wonderful Noah's Ark and rainbow on the front cover. It was given to me as a prize for being the first in my Sunday School to memorise the names of all the books of the Bible in order (something I can't do now!) and it's always been special to me as my first 'grown up' Bible. Have you got copies you were given as gifts, or that have special significance? It always amazes me the way that things can carry the weight of our memories.

We know that the news can be overwhelming and depressing, and that there is a lot of uncertainty about what this winter will look like. For many of you we know that there is anxiety about lockdown restrictions and health continues. We want to remind you that we are here for you. If you find you need a chat, prayer, or some practical help then do reach out – either by phoning 01432 273086 or by contacting your Pastoral Coordinator.

We hope these resources help you feel connected as we worship as a scattered Church. Please be assured that you are not forgotten and that you are remembered in our prayers – and that we long for the day when we can meet again as the whole church in one body and one place.

God Bless,
Ruth and Jo