

"So these three things continue forever: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love."
(ICB)

"But now remain emunah, tikvah, and ahavah, these shalosh (three). And the greatest of these is ahavah." (OJV)

So how do you choose a version, and what do you read from it that will help you to be inspired by God? I hope this day will help you to read wisely!

And if you can't make it?

Read the Bible. Read Mark, then Luke. Get into a habit of praying before you get up in the morning or before you go to bed. Make a list of the people and things that matter to you and bring them to God in prayer every day. Order a Bible reading scheme or get an app that does it on your phone. Find a church that suits your music style, your type of worship, and commit to it week by week.



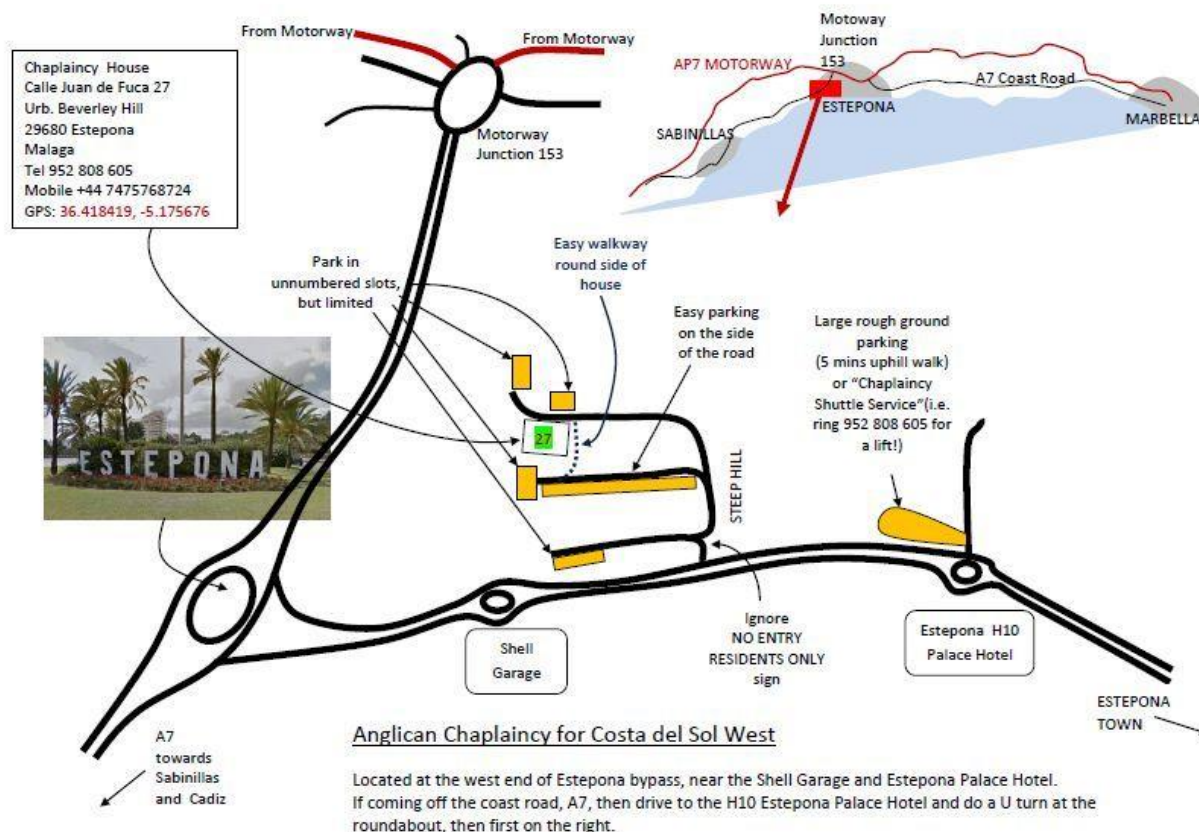
The Bible in a day

Where and when?

10am-6pm, 24th March, 2018
The Anglican Chaplaincy House,
Calle de Fuca 27, Beverley Hill,
Estepona 29680, Spain
952 808 605 or 00447475768724

www.costachurch.com

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH



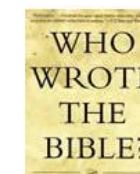
Revd. Adrian Low is Chaplain to the Costa del Sol West of the Anglican Church – part of the Diocese in Europe of the Church of England. See www.costachurch.com for more information

The Bible

The Bible is a unique book. In fact it is 66 books, each of them unique. It contains the scriptures of both the Jewish and the Christian religion, and it also has many elements which underpin the Islamic faith. But this study day is about Christianity and what touches both the heart and mind from the words. The Bible is full of ancient laws, poetry, history and myth and we will look at them all. Unlike the Quran it has many authors



from many periods of history starting with the Bronze age, and, again unlike the Quran, it is not a



book normally learnt by heart, is a lot older and it is not a 'dictation', but full of inspired and inspirational words that help us to have an understanding of God.

Why is it important?

For Christians, the Bible provides a story of humankind's better understanding of God. It shows us what God is like and by reading it, we get clues on how to live our lives in the way our creator intended.

It has God at the beginning, designing and instigating creation, but it also tells of God engaging with people, inspiring, directing and changing the world. Most of all, for Christians, it tells the story of Jesus, his coming into the world 2000 years ago and the impact it made then and afterwards. In that part of the Bible there is a unique insight into the way God wants to deal with us as humans, indeed with all of creation.

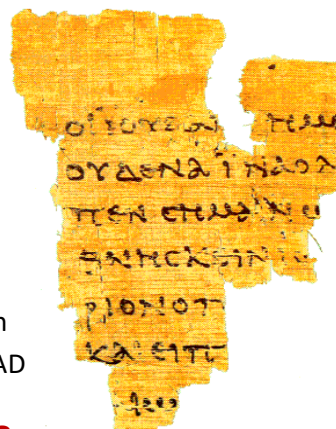


For you and me that is important because it helps define who we are and how we are valued, it gives us hope for life, and beyond, it provides a means by which we can escape from our own addictions and self-centeredness and become lights in a dark world.

The documents

The books were written and collected together over a period of about 1,500 years, which makes it a warehouse of curious and compelling elements. We are aiming to study a book with over three-quarters of a million words in six hours - so there is no way we can read the lot! It has been translated into 3,000 languages and sold 1.6 billion copies in the last 150 years.

Accuracy is important in scripture. The Jewish scriptures were well preserved and used and all the material written about Jesus (whose ministry was about 30AD) was copied over and over again, so we have lots of copies of each of the books. A full copy of all books by 130AD and by 300AD 5,000 Greek, 10,000 Latin, 9300 others copies. Fragments of gospels exist which may have actually been in their author's hand, for example this fragment from John's gospel is carbon dated between 90 and 130AD



How the Bible inspires

Written by so many authors, all of whom were mere mortals, not taking shorthand or dictation, but 'theo-pneu-stosos' is the word that Saint Paul uses to describe this kind of inspiration. Theo

(God) pneu(breath). The Bible is breathed by God, written by humans.

And it means that God operates two ways, every day, in Christian people when they read the Bible. The words were inspired long ago, and you can value their history and cultural context, or you



can take the second inspiration step, you can read and think about the words and be open to a second stage of inspiration which God offers today. There is a little

skill in being open to God when reading the Bible, but when you are inspiration becomes a double whammy!

Translations

Most of the Bible was written in Hebrew or Greek, so has been translated to English many times. Often the translating teams have spent years getting the words right, but as our own use of words in the language change, so we need new translations that update the old and use the very best and oldest documents, sometimes newly found, to correct any copying mistakes that may have been made.

For example 1 Corinthians 13:13 in three versions

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (KJV)