

## Pew Sheet Reflection – Bible Sunday

When I was younger, I used to love watching the Miss Marple mysteries on a Sunday evening, starring Joan Hickson as the unlikely detective. The key was always in the detail and in the clues and connections placed skilfully throughout the drama which all drew together at the end to identify the culprit. I was always very pleased with myself if I worked it out!

Agatha Christie's writing was extremely clever, and she was undoubtedly a master of her craft, however she was one woman in total charge of a single story, each one reputedly being written within 3-4 months. The Bible, by comparison, was written by 40 people in three different continents over a period of some 1500 years. And yet, whereas an Agatha Christie book might play with up to 30 embedded connections, the Bible contains more than 63,000 direct cross references, spanning the entirety of its pages. These intricately bind together the whole story of God and his creation in a complex and beautiful web which reveals the hand of the One who inspired all those 40 writers. No other book in human civilisation can come anywhere close.

But most wonderfully, as in a Miss Marple mystery, the facets of the Bible story draw everything together and point us to the answer. However, here we don't discover a murderer, instead we are brought face to face with Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life.

*Rev Carys*



**NEXT SUNDAY 03.11.2024 All Saints' Sunday**  
10.30am in the Church

**READINGS:** NT Wisdom 3: 1-9  
OT Revelation 21: 1-6a  
GOSPEL John 11: 32-44



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# **St Thomas, Exeter**

**27th October 2024**

**Bible Sunday**

**10.30am in Church**

### **Today**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers.*

242 Immortal, invisible, God only wise  
235 I, the Lord of the sea and sky  
532 We have a gospel to proclaim

**12-4.30pm** All Souls Cultural Festival in the  
Hall, Church and Churchyard

### **Wednesday 30th October**

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

### **Thursday 31st October**

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd  
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

### **Friday 1st November**

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting



## Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Isaiah 55: 1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

## 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

## John 5: 36b-47

Jesus said to the Jews, 'The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. 'You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who

alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

## Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**TALKWORKS can help!** If you are feeling stressed, anxious, are experiencing ongoing low mood, or are having difficulty sleeping,

NHS TALKWORKS is a free, confidential, talking therapies service helping you to feel better and giving you the tools and techniques to improve your mental well-being.  
0300 555 3344 Give us a call and see how we can support you. [www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk](http://www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk)

**The House Group** meets fortnightly in someone's house to speak about our faith. Please speak to Ian, Helen or Mic if you would like to come and find out more.

**All Souls Cultural Festival** Sunday 27th October In the Church and the Hall from 12.15pm. Tea and coffee this Sunday will be served exceptionally in the North Transept.

**The clocks** go back on Sunday 27th October at 2am.