

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## Bible Sunday

This coming Sunday, 27 October, is kept in many churches as Bible Sunday. You may ask, what is Bible Sunday? According to the Bible Society “Bible Sunday is a day set aside in the church year to celebrate the gift of God’s word.”

Christians believe that knowing the Bible, by daily reading and study is one of the ways we get to know God better. The Bible Society believes that the Bible is God’s gift to the world, and it is something worth celebrating and sharing. They encourage churches to keep Bible Sunday as a way of encouraging people to read the Bible for themselves. For many people the only time they encounter God’s word is when they hear the Bible read during church services, either live or recorded, on the radio or television. There is much more to be found and learned by reading the Bible for yourself.

Perhaps it is something you have thought about, but just never got round to doing, or maybe you don’t think that is for you. In either case I would encourage you to get a Bible and read. Choose a Bible that is easy to read, there are many different translations, so pick the one that you feel most comfortable with. The Bible contains 66 separate books all combined into one volume. 39 books in the Old Testament which tell the story of God’s people before the birth of Jesus, and 27 books in the New Testament which continue the story from the birth of Christ. With this in mind it is best not to try to read it like a novel, starting at the beginning and working your way to the end, instead maybe choose one of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and read about the life of Jesus. Gospel means ‘Good News’ and the four Gospel books narrate the story of Jesus’ life on earth. For a quick read, begin with Mark, the shortest of the Gospels, which gives you an overview of the life and work of Jesus.

You may want to use a Bible reading plan, there are many available online, or as booklets to guide you through the first stages of reading the Bible. The important thing is not to try to read too much at once, start with maybe 10 or 15 minutes each day, think about what you are reading and maybe journal it.

The Bible is more than a good book, it is the guide to a way of life, truly life changing if you let it!

**Rev Carole Garner, Associate Priest of the parish of Oswaldtwistle**

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