

# St Peter's Church

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Music Director: Dwayne Engh

Children's Minister: Grant Bolton Debbage

Pastoral Network Officer: Alfonso Vonscheidt

[stpetersbp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stpetersbp@yahoo.co.uk)

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**Sunday Services:** 11.15am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School  
[Children start in church, returning at  
Communion to receive a blessing]  
6 - 7pm PrayerSpace

**Weekday Services:**

Monday-Friday : 5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday: 10.30am Holy Communion

**Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals** by arrangement with Father Paul.

Magazine material to be sent to [judy.east@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:judy.east@blueyonder.co.uk) or given to  
Father Paul, please

## February and March

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\* from *Parish Pump*



## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

For details of remaining Hampstead Christian Study Group meetings this term see page 14

For details of Lent Groups at St Peter's & St Saviour's (marked below\*) see page 5

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent

11.15am Parish Eucharist and Baptism of Oscar Clark  
6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Tue 7<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm PCC Meeting (Studios)

7.45pm Bible Study & Discussion (Vicarage)

Thu 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

11.15am Coffee and Croissants

6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

11.15am Coffee and Croissants

6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – next before Lent

11.15am Parish Eucharist *Celebrant & Preacher Fr. Mark Speeks*  
6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

### Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

8.00pm – Said Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes



Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – Lent 1

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm – Lent Group 1 (Studios)\*

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm – Lent Group 1 (St Saviour's)\*

## MARCH

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> *St David, Patron of Wales*

10.30am Holy Communion

11.15am Coffee and Croissants

6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> *Women's World Day of Prayer*

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Lent 2 / Fairtrade Fortnight begins

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Tue 6<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 2 (Studios)\*

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 2 (St Saviour's)\*

Thu 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

11.15am Coffee and Croissants

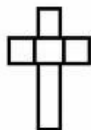
6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Lent 3

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Tue 13<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 3 (Studios)\*  
 Wed 14<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 3 (St Saviour's)\*  
 Thu 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
 6.45pm Belsize Community Choir



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday**

11.15am Parish Eucharist  
 7.30pm Belsize Community Choir Concert (St Saviour's)  
*No PrayerSpace this evening*

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> *Joseph of Nazareth*  
 3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 4 (Studios)\*  
 Wed 21<sup>st</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 4 (St Saviour's)\*  
 Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
 6.45pm Belsize Community Choir



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Lent 5 *Passiontide begins***

11.15am Parish Eucharist *Celebrant & Preacher Fr. Luke Miller – Archdeacon of Hampstead*  
 6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> *Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

3.45-4.30pm Junior Music Group in church

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 5 (Studios)\*  
 Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Lent Group 5 (St Saviour's)\*  
 Thu 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion  
 11.15am Coffee and Croissants  
 6.45pm Belsize Community Choir

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Palm Sunday**

11.15am Parish Eucharist and distribution of palms  
 6 – 7pm PrayerSpace

**Father Paul writes**

Although we are yet to see women bishops in the Church of England (hopefully this will not be too long off now!) we already have a precious store of eminent women priests serving the church throughout the UK. Close to home St Mary's, Primrose Hill has *The Revd. Marjorie Brown* as its vicar, and there are also three women priests serving as curates in our North Camden Deanery. St Peter's was one of the first churches to have a woman Curate, in *The Revd. Claire Wilson* – who, after some years as vicar of a parish in Essex, has retired back to the area and is again contributing much to its life. In recent years St Peter's link with our patrons - the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey – has been *The Revd. Canon Jane Hedges*, who has visited us several times and who corresponds regularly. As someone who worked closely with women for all of my career as a professional musician, I could not conceive of life without the complimentary contribution and presence of women as equal (or indeed, more senior – as many are to me in the Church!) sisters and colleagues.

The wise spiritual counsel of *The Reverend Angela Tilby* has long been a great resource to Cambridge theological students, and to listeners to Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day'. But I have recently been reading some books by another Cambridge priest whom I encountered when she was guest speaker at a clergy conference I attended during the summer. *The Revd. Cally Hammond* is Dean of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where she enjoys much respect for both her pastoral care of students and for her preaching. At the conference I bought two of her books, which examine separately two traditional prayers, the 'joyful mysteries' and the 'sorrowful mysteries'. Of course, much devotional material has been written in the past on these 'mysteries' – which centre upon the events around Christ's birth, and leading up to his Crucifixion, respectively. Some of this material, as you'd expect, was ostentatiously pious, and either morbid or syrupy, but the end result of Cally's reflections is quite different. She has entitled her books *Joyful Christianity* and *Passionate Christianity*. This alone conveys something of her own passionate concern

to communicate how these prayers, and the events of Christ's life they take, can lead to a dynamic revitalisation of our faith.

We are basing this year's Lent Course - 'Journey to the Cross', mounted at both St Peter's and St Saviour's, on Cally Hammond's book on the Sorrowful Mysteries. It explores the meaning and relevance of Christ's 'Passion' in both challenging and stimulating ways, and I do encourage you to join us at either venue, or a combination of the two if your commitments vary. There are more details further into the magazine.

May your personal journey be richly blessed this Lent.

*Paul Nicholson*

## **Journey to the Cross**

Our Lent Course this year is based on Cally Hammond's book 'Passionate Christianity'. This is a contemporary look at the 'Sorrowful Mysteries' – five traditional meditations, each taking a particular episode in Jesus' journey to the cross – and considers the raw human emotions of fear, resentment, humiliation, cruelty, compassion & love these episodes expose.



The Course will be offered on Tuesday evenings at St Peter's Studios, and Wednesday evenings at St Saviour's (Eton Villa's entrance) throughout Lent. Dates and times are marked in the Calendar on page 1

The sessions will run as follows:

1. The agony in the garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)
2. The scourging (Mark 14:61-65: 15:1-15)
3. The crowning with thorns (Mark:15:16-20)
4. The carrying of the cross (Mark 15:21-25)
5. The crucifixion (Mark 15:25-39)

## **Sermon preached at the Carol Service**

It was quite gripping just a few days ago to watch the excitement of scientists giving commentary on the unfolding experiments beneath the earth in an area of Switzerland, which seemed to give evidence to a new theory about how matter is formed. It was also pleasing to watch Physics students over here witnessing the unfolding drama – proud to be sharing in such an historic moment. It's natural that breakthroughs like this in scientific research should stimulate and excite us.

Whereas certain renowned celebrities from the world of science like to trumpet breakthroughs like this as yet further blows to religion and belief in God, others see no tension between the two, seeing God as imminent in all things – seen and unseen: as the writer of Psalm 24 puts it – 'the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof'.

What often serves to perpetuate the idea that 'God is dead' is our tendency to relegate the Creator away from the 'real' world of the known and the understood, to the sphere of things not yet fully accounted for. In one way, the world of Insurance has done this for years; 'acts of God' as defined to some unsuspecting policy holders, often make the Almighty seem little better than some cosmic psychopath. It wasn't much more helpful for some to describe the crucial element in the Hadron Collider experiment as 'The God particle' – the logic being that God remained relevant (in a limited, provisional sort of way) only as long as the hypothesis remained unproven. After it was demonstrated to be true, he was redundant. Of course, if the Divine is merely a 'God of the gaps' in our knowledge, then as science rolls back the frontiers of what's unknown, that already diminished God will be, and will deserve to be, discredited and outmoded.

But just as we have much that yet lies ahead of us in our exploration of the natural world and the universe, we also have vast riches to explore in the event of the birth and life of Jesus of Nazareth, which we celebrate in this Carol Service. The last reading you'll hear today, from the prologue of St John's Gospel, is the one that's traditionally used at Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass and, particularly in that setting I always find it thrilling. To use a filming analogy, it's as though John the Evangelist 'pans-back' to reflect on the significance and the meaning of Christ, and he strains at the boundaries of language to do so, but to beautiful effect. Words are sometimes simply not adequate to express the Mystery of the Incarnation – only tasting and seeing and being can really help us get to its heart. I leave you with words of personal testimony from the 16<sup>th</sup> c. Spanish mystical teacher St John of the Cross, whom the church commemorated last week.

There are great depths to be fathomed in Christ, for he is like a rich mine with many recesses containing treasures, so that however deep you dig, you never reach their end. But rather in each recess you find new veins with new riches everywhere.

*Paul Nicholson*

**“A CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION”**

I recently went with Hazel to the Induction of the new minister at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Church and was struck by one part of the service, when a visiting minister gave a “Charge to the Congregation” ie advice on how they should behave. It might be useful for us. He said they should all Show Up (come to church regularly), Grow Up (be prepared to listen to new things and consider new ways of thought) and Throw Up (their hands when volunteers were asked for). Think about them!

*Mary Shakeshaft*



## St Peter's Charity Coin Collection

Donations in 2011

The Simon Community	£25
Help for Heroes	£25
The Red Cross New Zealand	
Appeal	£25
DEC East Africa Appeal	£25
St Martin-in-the-Fields	
Christmas Appeal	£50
Total	£150



Please continue to put coins in the Coffee Jar. We are low in fund at present - only £5.13 in the bank!

Other recent Charitable giving by St Peter's People

Christmas cards sold in aid of:

Save the Children	£79.70
Poppy Collection	£73.50

*Rosemary Mallard*



## **The Four Minute Mile**

In the early 1950's I was working for London Transport and had a chance to start running again. I always loved to run. We practised at the Paddington Recreation Ground and rumour had it this was where a Very Famous Person also ran. It was Roger Banister, then a trainee doctor at the nearby St Mary's Hospital. We all knew he was making a bid for the first ever four minute mile. Of course I looked out for him. I never saw him. Until one day when I was with the masseur. While he worked on me I mused about the possible headlines when Roger Banister broke the record, for he surely would. The papers had been full of it for weeks. "Magnificent Matador of the measured mile" would be the appropriate wording, I decided.

There must be something about lying on a table and being pummelled in the back that gives you courage. I asked the masseur if he ever saw Roger. He put a finger to his lips and pointed across to the shower cubicle. He was here. Here in the same room with me. I could not pass up an opportunity like that. A chance to speak to possibly the greatest runner in the whole world. But I was trapped on the table. Later when I did get up, amazingly he was still there, so I marched up to him and told him about my plan. He was amused and a little bit humble. He reminded me he had not done it yet.

My work as a bus conductor was on the Number 7 bus. We went by St Mary's underpass every day where the doctors parked their cars while they were at work. I asked my driver to slow down a little each time we went by, in the hope of seeing my hero. On the day after Roger Banister achieved the four minute mile I knew he would be feted and he was. We slowed down in the usual place and a whole army of doctors and medical staff were waiting for him. I actually saw him scooped up and carried shoulder high up through the walkway from the car park to the hospital. Later I could not resist the temptation to write and congratulate him. I received a personal letter in reply. This all happened in Coronation Year. As did Gordon Richards' only ever winning of the Grand National and Edmund Hillary's conquest of Everest. A good year for us all. .

*Irwin Lee*

## **Miracle on Ward Seven East B**

There were four of us in the bay. Eva was a very orthodox Jewish lady who had to have kosher food. Opposite me was Hope, a delightful, striking looking Egyptian lady with a loud laugh. She had to have halal food. Olga was tiny, Jamaican and Pentecostal. The fourth was me, just a boring old Anglican.

I saw at once there was potential here for the sparks to fly. Late at night in your hospital bed you do tend to talk about religion. You are worried you may be going to die. It concentrates the mind powerfully. You also feel like thanking God that you are still here. (Though I felt I could not say God in front of Eva so settled for The Almighty). The fact that you have survived the anaesthetic is a bit of a miracle after all. And the pain that follows an operation, for two of us had had hip replacement and two knee, is something you all share.

We talked about other things too. Our families, mostly. Olga was so proud of her daughter who had just bought a very expensive house based on her new job. Two of her sons, so handsome and well dressed, came in to see her almost every day.

Eva's older son was a Rabbi in Gibraltar and he and his wife had four children already and would certainly have more for they were young parents. This son came into the hospital to see her and she introduced him with pride. The younger son, although he had a good degree in, I think, business studies, had just given up the city and was now studying the Torah.

Hope spoke six languages and was reading Camus's L'Etranger. She had had the most exciting life of all and had until recently earned her living as a translator on cruise boats on the Mediterranean. She and I have remained friends and correspond regularly

Grandchildren. Ah, grandchildren. Mine came in to visit and the ladies were as happy as I was to see them. I asked Olga how many grandchildren she had. She threw her hands into the air, seemed to be struggling a bit,

then "Oh I lost count!"she shrieked and we all laughed.

One night I heard her saying over and over in her bed, perfectly from memory, the 23rd psalm. I tried to and couldn't get further than "He restoreth my soul" though I did find out later I could sing it. The next day when her boys came in I asked them if they could. Of course they could. Those Pentecostals must have something we don't have.

But the real miracle was not that. It was that we all got on so well together. It was as if we had a thread, albeit a different thread, of belief in something beyond this difficult world. A different way of looking at God. But or all of us He was there.

*Helen Braithwaite*

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## Charles Dickens

On February 7<sup>th</sup> 1812 Charles Dickens was born. This year therefore sees the celebration of the work of the last of our really popular writers, eagerly read by rich and poor, educated and uneducated, young and old. In many ways he is the nearest to Shakespeare of all our writers: son of a feckless father, exploiting the most popular form of literature of his day, endlessly inventive in his vocabulary, accumulating a large amount of money and returning to his home area to buy a large house, as if to show those who had known his father's hopelessness with money that he had made it.

Nicknamed "The Inimitable", Dickens had phenomenal energy. He not only wrote fifteen novels (published mostly in Monthly Parts), the Christmas books, "A Child's History of England", travel sketches, hundreds of letters, edited a monthly periodical of which he wrote most himself - and I have probably missed out some works, but he also wrote and produced plays, gave speeches on social issues and gave public readings from his novels. His energy also showed itself in his long walks around London and the Medway district of Kent. There is a story that when he was living at Tavistock House (where the British Medical Association now has its headquarters), he couldn't sleep for wondering how the work on

the recently-purchased Gadshill was progressing, so he got up and walked to Rochester to see for himself.

In his childhood his father, a clerk in the Naval Pay Office, was arrested for debt and imprisoned in the debtors' prison of the Marshalsea, while Charles at 11 was put into lodgings in Bayham Street, Camden Town, (I think of this every time I am on the 168 bus going to Euston) and from there he walked to Hungerford Bridge to sit in the window of a blacking factory there, sticking labels on the bottles of boot-blacking. He never forgot the disgrace of this and his feeling of dereliction and he only spoke of it once to his friend Forster, but it underlies all the neglected children and young people in his novels, so easily condemned as sentimental and unreal. Behind them too lies his grief at the sudden death of his sister-in-law, Mary Hogarth, at 17 from a heart attack in his home after returning from a night at the theatre. The realism of the poverty and crime of Victorian London which he knew so well from his nighttime walks is deepened by the mythic characters who represent good and evil, light in a dark world. In "A Christmas Carol" he created a modern myth: Scrooge is part of all our make-up.

His love of the theatre is there in the dramatic plots of his books. He knew the old music-hall injunction: "Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, make 'em wait" and worked it supremely well. He loved mysteries and most of his plots are concerned with the unravelling of a puzzle. His imagination was captured by everything he saw and especially as he grew older by the sinister, the criminal and the macabre. His humour was extravagant and displayed itself not only in strange characters with wild turns of phrase but also in the way he personified inanimate objects, houses, streets, furniture. (Could it be that the Goon Show owed something to Dickens?)

Perhaps we don't know people like some of his characters, but they are so memorable that they have more life than some "real" people we do. He had a burning sense of the oppression and injustice he saw around him and produced evidence of it for Parliamentary committees and shouted at his readers: "Dead, your Majesty. Dead, my lords and gentlemen. Dead Right Reverends and Wrong Reverends of every order. Dead, Men and women, born with Heavenly compassion in your hearts. And dying thus around us every day", as he writes in "Bleak House" of the

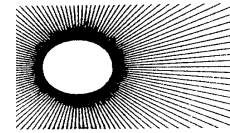
death of Jo, the boy crossing- sweeper.

In some of the earlier books he seems to suggest a solution to society's ills lies in general benevolence, the Cheeryble Brothers and the Christmas jollities of Dingley Dell, but the later books are constructed round metaphors that make it clear that society is bound together by evils which are not so simply dissolved, indeed may be indissoluble – the fog and pestilence of "Bleak House", the prisons of "Little Dorrit". Of course in his first book, "Pickwick Papers" we go with Mr Pickwick to a debtors' prison and he followed this – a book which had even more of a success than Harry Potter – with the grim tale of "Oliver Twist", surely the most remarkable second novel ever written.

In his own life we know that Dickens treated his wife and family badly, that the young actress Ellen Ternan was his mistress and that he became more and more a driven man, contributing doubtless to his fatal stroke by his insistence on reading Bill Sykes' murder of Nancy to larger and larger crowds all over the country. He died in 1870 at Gadshill, leaving "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" unfinished but with no evidence of waning powers.

This is a scrappy tribute. Read Claire Tomalin's new biography or Edgar Johnson's old one. What are your favourite novels? Mine are "David Copperfield" (Dickens called it his "favourite child" but didn't realise until Forster pointed it out, that the hero has his initials in reverse), "Bleak House" with its geographical exactness in legal London and "Our Mutual Friend" where the Thames runs through the story - but then I'm missing "Great Expectations" and "Martin Chuzzlewit" and "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Dombey and Son" and..... Read him!

*Mary Shakeshaft*



## **the Hampstead Christian Study Centre**

**On Wednesdays at St John-at-Hampstead, Church  
Row, NW3.**

**From 8 – 9.30 pm (coffee served from 7.30pm)**

**Lectures : £5 per session**

**Please note that all lectures will take place in the church as our usual venue of the Crypt Room is booked to another group.**

1 February	Luke and the Location of the Kingdom: Revd Stephen Tucker
8 February	Acts : Stories from the Early Church Dr Graham Gould, formerly on the staff of the Theology Dept at King's College, London
15 February	Acts : With Paul to Rome. Dr Gould

More information from:

Mary Shakeshaft	020 7433 8334
Doris Asher	020 7485 2074

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### **One-liners to make you groan....**

1. My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30 this morning, can you believe that? 2:30am? Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.
2. The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.
3. Paddy says, "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador. "Really?" says Mick "have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"



## Commonwealth Day – 12 March

On 12th March about two billion people from every continent, faith and ethnicity, will remember that they are 'related' to each other: it is Commonwealth Day. Every year, on the second Monday in March, the existence of this vast, diverse global family of 54 countries is celebrated. This year a special service will be held at Westminster Abbey, attended by Her Majesty The Queen, the Prime Minister, High Commissioners, up to 200 other VIPs, and more than 1,000 schoolchildren.

2012 is a special year for the Observance, as it will also kick off the Commonwealth celebrations for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. As UK Monarch, she has been Head of the Commonwealth for 60 years.

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### About 'More Than Gold'

'More than Gold' is a name you will be hearing a lot this summer, in conjunction with Christians and the Olympics. Since the 1996 Atlanta Games the Christian community's involvement with the world's major sporting events has been under the banner 'More Than Gold'. This provides a flag for united faith-based outreach, hospitality and service, and also an interface between the event's organising committee and the churches.

To get ready for the 2012 Games, More Than Gold was established as a charitable trust in 2008 under the chairmanship of Lord Brian Mawhinney. It has the support of all main denominations and over sixty Christian organisations and mission agencies.

The banner 'More Than Gold' has been used for the Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games, All-Africa Games, Indian Ocean Games and Summer and Winter Olympic Games and Paralympics. 'More Than Gold' is based at: Unit 37 Tileyard Studios, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH 0845 475 2012. Email: [info@morethangold.org.uk](mailto:info@morethangold.org.uk) or visit: [www.morethangold.org.uk](http://www.morethangold.org.uk)

## Pastoral Search Report

We do not have a happy report to give. We've not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, though we have one promising prospect still. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the church members, and we've followed up each one with interviews or calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

*Adam:* Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking nude in the woods.

*Noah:* Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

*Abraham:* Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

*Joseph:* A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.

*Moses:* A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

*David:* The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbor's wife.

*Solomon:* Great preacher but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

*Elijah:* Prone to depression - collapses under pressure.

*Elisha:* Reported to have lived with a widow while at his former church.

*Hosea:* A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his

wife's occupation.

*Deborah:* Female.

*Jeremiah:* Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river.

*Isaiah:* On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

*Jonah:* Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spat him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

*Amos:* Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation.

*John:* Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

*Peter:* Too blue collar. Has a bad temper—even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

*Paul:* Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

*Timothy:* Too young.

*Jesus:* Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

*Judas:* His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good

connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.



## WHO CAN JUDGE?

Thomas Guy was a bookseller in London during the time of the Great Plague and the Great Fire in 1665/6. His business was very successful and he did well but people looked down on him because they thought he was mean. They saw him eating his lunch of dry bread in his shop, he wore worn out clothes and would only light one candle at a time. What people didn't know was that he lived in this way for a reason. When a new hospital was built at London Bridge they heard that it had been completely paid for by Thomas Guy. And on his death he left a huge sum of money as an endowment so that the hospital could continue to provide treatment for London's poor.

Even today Guy's Hospital is one of the most famous London teaching hospitals. Thomas Guy could have ignored the suffering all around him and eaten grand meals off fine china; instead he chose to eat dry bread wrapped in paper. So often we are wrong about people because we do not know all the facts.

## JUMBLED BIBLE BOOKS

Can you unscramble these letters to find books in the Bible?

1. e r e d m o n t y o u
2. a h a c e h i r z
3. a k m r
4. a e d i l n
5. b e e w r s h
6. c c e h i l n o r s
7. a e v e l i n o r t
8. e d g j s u
9. t e e p r
10. a l m p s s

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**Doctor, Doctor my son has  
swallowed my pen, what  
should I do?**

Use a pencil 'till I get there.

**Doctor, doctor, I feel like a  
dictionary.**

I'll have a word with you later.



**Doctor, doctor, I've been stung  
by a bee. Shall I put some  
ointment on it?**

Don't be silly - it must be miles  
away by now.

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Answers: 1.Deuteronomy 2.Zechariah  
3.Mark 4.Daniel 5.Hebrews  
6.Chronicles 7.Revelation 8.Judges  
9.Peter 10.Psalms