



October 2021

NewsMail Extra

EDITORIAL

Hello everyone. A bit of a bonus this month as we have some additional material to share with you. So here is our first edition of NewsMail Extra. I'm tempted to shout "Read all about it!" in a loud and distorted voice. Please do, as there are a couple of Groups who could really use your support. Any aid or encouragement you can give them would be greatly appreciated. Oh, and Happy Halloween by the way!

Meanwhile, if there's anything in particular you'd like to see in the December edition, do send it to me at newsletter@yorku3a.com by Monday 15th November for publication on Friday 26th November.

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GROUPS

Have Bible, Will Travel

I don't know about you, but my morality was formed initially by watching westerns. When I was young, I loved to see the baddies getting thoroughly thumped by the likes of the Lone Ranger, or Paladin ('Have Gun Will Travel'). I was disappointed to find, as time went on, that the ethics of the western became more sophisticated. Increasingly, the baddies avoided their well-deserved thumping by seeing the error of their ways and becoming reformed characters. I felt cheated. But reluctantly, I had to admit that the new way of dealing with wickedness was probably preferable!

This is the theme of the Book of Jonah, who was sent to preach to the city of Nineveh, pleading with them to abandon their sins and turn to God. To his intense disappointment, they did just that, whereupon God, the incorrigibly soft-hearted, duly forgave them and abandoned any thoughts of retribution. There's a lot of food of thought in that, and not a little humour, including the fact that the Ninevite animals also repented of their sins, in sackcloth!

Sadly, by the time you read this, the Exploring the Bible group will have moved on to another topic, as the Book of Jonah is quite short. By that time, we'll be looking at the 'Bible' that you might have encountered in a church in the First Century CE, which would probably have been in a house. Basically, it would have consisted of bits of the Old Testament (not the New), largely Psalms and Prophets, remembered and recited by leaders, or, exceptionally, read out of books which really looked like books – pages and a spine, rather than a roll (easier to find your place in).

Exploring these ancient texts gives us an insight into a different world, with different ways of thinking about what 'scriptures' were, and how they should be regarded. We'll be doing this for a few weeks in October, before going on to discover how the New Testament helped to form the Creeds that many churches still recite every week.

And we still have a few places in our lively and friendly group that meets in the Fell or Woolman Room on Monday mornings at 10.00 weekly except for holidays.

Website: <http://exploringbible.simplesite.com/> Email: exploringbible@yorku3a.com or call 07871 478891.

Folk Music Group

We resumed face-to-face meetings at the Sea Scout Hut in Clifton on July 19th, and meet 1st and 3rd Mondays at 2pm. It was good to get back to some of our favourite tunes, including rousing shanties like Captain Pugwash, and stately marches like The March of the Kings of Laois. We have a repertoire of 50 or 60 songs and are working around them a dozen or so each session to bring us back up to playing speed.

Before lockdown we were up to ten or a dozen members. Since the return we are on four or five. Certainly enough that we can play with a full range of sound, but it seems like we may not have enough to retain the Sea Scout Hut – a great pity as it is an excellent venue for just £20 per 2 hour session. The likelihood is we move back to the leader's house over the winter, where we can comfortably hold up to 6 or 7, with instruments and music stands, though limiting the opportunity for group expansion.

We have fiddle, squeeze boxes, guitars, accordion, but would certainly welcome additional folk instruments including whistles, and percussion (a bodhran would be great!). All music is hosted on Dropbox and we generally communicate by email. New folky tunes are also welcome: we have a mix of English, Irish and Scottish Folk. More of those needed, but also willing to try American or Canadian Folk too.