

Guide to the Resources

*from 'Deep Engagement;
Fresh Discovery'*



One of the aims of the **“Bible in the Life of the Church”** project was to provide resources that could be used by the churches of the Anglican Communion to deepen their engagement with Scripture. This Guide offers an over-view of these so you can navigate around the downloadable files available on the website.

There are **8 folders** of extra resources:

- o Anglican Communion Documents
- o Articles
- o Bible Study Outlines
- o Bibliography
- o Case Studies
- o Regional Reports
- o Tools
- o Worship

Each folder has within it a number of resource documents.

This Guide will offer a brief outline of these documents.

This Guide will also give the page numbers in **‘Deep Engagement; Fresh Discovery’** where these resources are mentioned,

e.g. **WV 15** (web pdf version, page 15) **PV 16** (printed report, page 16)

Anglican Communion Documents

This folder contains two major documents:

- o Extracts* – this gathers together many of the extracts from Anglican Communion documents (Lambeth Conference resolutions, reports from Commissions and ecumenical conversations etc) that refer to the place of Scripture in our life as Anglicans.
- o Themes and Principles* – this shorter document seeks to distil from the Extracts the themes that emerge from these extracts and possible principles that might guide us as we seek to engage with and interpret the Bible.

WV 39-41; PV 40-42

Articles

This folder contains 13 files each containing a more academic article about biblical interpretation and other themes raised by the BILC project. These articles come from a variety of sources and theological standpoints. Most were previously published in other journals or delivered in other contexts and are considered by the Steering Group as relevant to and adding substance to issues raised in this Report.

Biblical Interpretation: Some Afro-Anglican Perspectives

by Kortright Davis

Kortright Davis was a member of the North American Regional Group. Unable to attend their final meeting he contributed this paper outlining some Afro-Anglican perspectives on Biblical interpretation.

Biblical Studies for Ministry: Critical and Faithful Interpretation of Scripture in an Either/Or World *by Cynthia Kittredge*

Cynthia Briggs Kittredge describes the “shift in perspective that the transition from graduate biblical studies to ministerial biblical studies required and the curriculum designed to integrate the historical and the hermeneutical with the practical arts of ministry, teaching and preaching”

Can the Bible mean whatever we want it to mean?

by Canon Professor Anthony Thistleton

This is the text of a lecture in three parts: part one explores the “shift in debates about the Bible some forty or fifty years ago from more traditional questions to keen controversies about interpretation..... part 2 discuss(es) some criteria for textual meanings, with six illustrative examples or case studies. and part 3 addresses the impact of post-modern perspectives (that) affect biblical interpretation and Christian theology profoundly for good or ill.”

Contextual Bible Study

an article outlining the thinking behind this approach to Bible Study and pointing towards further reading on the topic.

An E-mail ‘conversation’ between three members of BILC project’s Reference Group

At certain times during the BILC project the Steering Group asked a number of biblical scholars to act as a sounding board for our work. This ‘conversation’ began its life from two specific observations that suggested:

[a] that there was a view expressed that once we had studied and understood what the Bible might be saying on a particular subject there was no more to do or say; and
[b] that there was a gap between what the 'academy' taught in relation to the way we go about viewing and interpreting Scripture and how this was transmitted to those in the pew.

The three participants in this conversation are **Revd Dr A K M Adam**, Lecturer in New Testament, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow, Scotland, **Professor Jesse N K Mugambi**, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya and **Professor Anthony Thistleton**, former Professor of Christian Theology, University of Nottingham, England.

Mind the Gap 1: Reflections on the "Bible in the Life of the Church" project
by Stephen Lyon

Stephen (Coordinator of the BILC project) explores the significance of the 'gaps' the project identified at its half way stage in 2010 between 'received wisdom' as to hermeneutical principles and what appeared to be happening in practice. He seeks to offer an answer to the question 'Do we have a responsibility to look at whether what we do in relation to handling the Bible is in keeping with what we say we do?' In one sense this Final Report is evidence that we need to accept that responsibility.

Mind the Gap 2: With reference to the recent inquiry commissioned by the Anglican Consultative Council - "The Bible in the Life of the Church" – are 'hermeneutical gaps' in the use of the Bible necessarily detrimental to Anglican 'communion'?

by Alex Ross

Alex explores the 'gaps' identified midway through the life of the BILC project. His aim was to see what the "implications of these hermeneutical gaps (were) for Anglicanism (and to analyse them) against Anglican self-identification as a 'communion', and particularly whether these gaps are necessarily detrimental to such a self conception."

Reading the Scriptures decently – and in order
by Charles Sherlock

"The pattern by which a church regularly reads the holy scriptures says a good deal about its view of their status and nature. It is one thing to accept that 'all scripture is inspired by God and useful for instruction' (2 Timothy 3.16), another to demonstrate this in the choice and arrangement of readings." This assertion by Charles Sherlock leads him to explore our Anglican practices in reading the scriptures in public worship.

Reading the Bible in a Sea of Signs: a Postmodern Therapy
by A.K.M Adam

Revd Dr A K M Adams explores a "baffling problem" he encountered as he discovered his fascination with biblical studies, that was "the more (he) learned in (his) biblical courses, the less (his) studies seemed to enhance (his) ministry and teaching". His explorations add depth and value to his preaching.

Should We Be Teaching the Historical Critical Method?

This manuscript is an edited transcript of a panel discussion based on the argument that biblical studies in seminaries and divinity schools give too much emphasis to teaching the historical critical method and not enough to preparing students for ministry by teaching them to be self-reflective practitioners of the improvisational skills of interpreting scripture.

The Food for the Soul

by Charles Sherlock

In this paper Charles poses two questions: "Did Cranmer have a distinctive understanding of Holy Scripture? Does this show through in his liturgical work?" He goes on to say that the "thesis of this paper is that both questions should be answered in the affirmative - and that his perspectives can and should inform our tasks in ministry today."

The Word of God in our World today

by Clare Amos

In the year celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible Clare explores the role of translation on our understanding of Scripture and the significance of current approaches to biblical studies. Clare brings many familiar Bible passages to life as she illustrates her lecture.

The Vocation of Holiness in Today's Church: Anglican Interpretation of Scripture

by Professor David Ford.

Professor Ford offers as a case study or in his words "an example of Anglican wisdom in action, and as a sign of holy communication and hope" the biblical work undertaken at the 1998 Lambeth Conference by the sub-group on Human Sexuality.

WV 53-56; PV 54-57

Bible Study Outlines

This folder contains 4 files – notes for leaders of Bible Studies.

(And it was good: Responding to God's gift of Creation) and (Economic Justice) both arose out of the BILC project and began life as courses for use during Lent 2012. They offer help to explore biblically the Fourth and Fifth Marks of Mission. Each offers a range of Scripture passages, background notes to help a group dig deeper into their meaning and relevance together with questions for discussion.

Case Study 1 and Case Study 2 are the notes prepared for the groups that took part in the Regional Group reflections during the BILC project.

WV 7, 49; PV 8, 50

Bibliography

At an early stage in the BILC project we sought to compile a basic bibliography of literature on different aspects of Biblical Studies. We do so on the understanding that it is still (and perhaps always will be) provisional; it is a list of suggested texts and invites you, the reader, to take from it what is helpful and fill any perceived gaps in from your own knowledge and experience.

WV 56; PV 57

Case Studies

This folder contains 5 files of Case Studies of how Provinces, dioceses or parishes deepened their engagement with the Bible

The project either generated or came across a variety of approaches and processes used by provinces, dioceses or parishes to deepen their engagement with the Bible. In the 'Additional material' sections in the Report are links to documents that outline in greater detail these approaches. They are offered as examples of what could be undertaken in other contexts.

- o Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia* – this Province-wide initiative was the forerunner to the BILC project. It represents a commitment by the whole Province to three residential gatherings (hui) over a three year period to explore the way they approached the engagement with and interpretation of Scripture and then to apply these principles to the exploration of two current issues.
- o Contextual Bible Study* – an article outlining the thinking behind this approach to Bible Study and pointing towards further reading on the topic.
- o Hong Kong and the Philippines* – prior to groups in both Provinces engaging with this work there was a 2 day workshop for clergy and lay-leaders who were to act as facilitators. The workshop modelled what would happen in the groups and offers another Case Study that could be used in other places within the Communion.
- o South Africa* –this Case Study outlines the processes this Regional Group went through and the tools they devised to support their work. Their objective was to ascertain just how Anglicans in the Province engaged with and interpreted Scripture. There may be other parts of the Anglican Communion where a helpful starting point might be to discover what is actually happening – the approach and tools devised by this Regional Group may be of assistance. The Group also explored, through Contextual Bible Study, how to build on what emerged from this work.
- o South Sudan* – the Regional Reflection from South Sudan offers a fascinating insight into the possibilities that a “genuine intercontinental” reading of Scripture might offer the Anglican Communion. The Case Study based on this experience offers more background information and outlines the programme that was used in the 2010 seminar led by Dr Ellen Davis and the team she worked with.
- o Survey Questionnaire Course* – the second part of Section 3 of this Report outlines the process and results of the survey the BILC project undertook. The Steering Group designed, alongside the survey, a course exploring the way we understand and engage with Scripture. This four-session course takes each section of the questionnaire and explains what it is attempting to measure and the significance of these issues for the way we approach Scripture. [See also 'Survey Questionnaire' in Section 9]

WV 50-51; PV 51-52

Regional Reports

This folder contains 7 files of the background notes from which the Regional Reflection in Section 2 of the report were taken.

WV 13-32; PV 14-33

Tools

This folder contains 4 main files and 6 subsidiary ones. They are all tools and exercises for exploring what might actually be happening as Anglicans engage with the Bible

- **The Brueggemann Exercise** – this is a questionnaire based on the introduction to *Redescribing Reality* – What do we do when we read the Bible where Professor Walter Brueggemann describes the circumstances, events and people who have influenced him in his biblical studies. It is an exercise more geared to those with some theological education.
- **Personal Influences on reading the Bible** – this exercise came from the work of the South Africa Regional Group and might be described as a lay version of the Brueggemann Exercise.
- **South Africa tools** (see the Case Study – South Africa) for observing groups with examples of the kind of information these instruments might elicit. There is also a helpful check-list for observers.

Worship

This folder contains 9 main files offering resources to encourage creative use of Scripture in our liturgical life.

With the weekly Eucharist becoming the main Sunday service in many parts of the Anglican Communion 'Services of the Word' often do not play a prominent role in major worship occasions. The project recognises that the use of Scripture in our worship – often following the daily and weekly lectionaries – is one of the marks of Anglicanism.

This section of the additional material collection offers a number of resources:

- **Lectionary Story 1 and 2**
Two study outlines exploring the principles that lie behind our lectionary and its place in our worship life
- **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**
Suggestions for how a Eucharist might be designed around the themes and emphases that the Gospel writers bring us. The outlines offer, in one service, a chance to see the overall picture of each of these accounts.
- **Science Service**
A 'Service of the Word' designed for a conference of scientists that sought to show the relevance of the Bible to their professional lives.
- **Case Study – Engaging the Word**
An outline of the thought and planning processes that the person designing the Science Service went through. This offers a model for such ventures in other areas.
- **Psalm Pilgrimage**
A creative and dramatic Pilgrimage to Jerusalem designed to encourage people to appreciate for themselves the original context and use of the biblical psalms.
- **Marks of Mission**
A short Service of the Word based around the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission

WV 52; PV 53