

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 24th November 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Joyce Bible

Joyce, who died yesterday, lived for the last few years at Eden Grange Care home in Battersea. When you went to visit her, to sign in, you had to enter the relevant details on an iPad, and when you typed in her first name into the search box, a suggestion would come up with her full name, and they had the b and l mixed up, so instead of it saying Joyce Bilbe, it had Joyce Bible down instead! Jill and I thought that sounded very appropriate! (its an easy mistake to make as my computer has changed Bilbe to Bible twice now, and I have to keep changing it back!)

A few years back, Joyce gifted her actual Bible to St James. It had been gifted to her in 1929, when she was 7 years old! If you come to church you can see it on the table where the book of memories and tributes is. In her bible, she had placed what seemed like postcards or telegrams, which were birthday greetings. There is one from her granny which read, "with love and best wishes from Granny", and another from her mum which read "with fond love and best wishes for a Happy Birthday, Mummie" to mark her 10th birthday. It's extraordinary to think that her gran certainly, and most possibly her mum would have been born during Queen Victoria's reign!

And there was also a lovely bookmark, with a Bible verse on it which read 'Stand fast in the Lord' from Phillipans 4:1. the full texts reads "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!"

Paul loved the Phillipian church. Joyce was loved by her family and by us. We are loved by God.

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the bible tells me so..."

Whatever the challenges the day brings to us, let us stand fast in the Lord in that knowledge.

