

Thought for the day – Thursday 11th March 2021

By Rev John Marshall

Bible Society Survey

I enjoy reading the Bible Society's journal, The Bible in Transition. In this month's editorial they are speaking about their survey into attitudes to Christianity and the Bible; they interviewed nearly 20,000 adults asking 100 questions into their spiritual practices, thoughts about Christianity and their beliefs about the Bible.

They found the results both affirming and challenging. Comparatively few people read or listen to the Bible regularly, just 6% said they read it weekly or more outside of church services.

Only 21% said they were interested in learning more about the Bible. 61% agree it is good for children to know some Bible stories, but far fewer see the Bible as something for their own lives – 18% agreed that the Bible is relevant to me personally, 59% disagreed. 35% agree the Bible has something meaningful to say about life today – 35% agree, 30% disagree.

When given a choice of words to describe the Bible 35% thought outdated; 32% contradictory; 25% judgemental, 22% guidance.

Among younger people 18 to 34: 47% say outdated, 39% contradictory and 24% homophobic.

How would you describe the Bible?

How important is it to you?

How do you like to access it, read it or listen to it?

What is your favourite passage?

What speaks to you?

Jesus says "You diligently study the scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5.39)

And he challenged his temptations by using the scriptures.