

Who Are You Listening to?

I have been struck recently by the number of ways we are being bombarded with messages and where they are coming from!

We all love to receive messages from our loved ones by phone or text. Facetime allows us to see our children or grandchildren wherever they are in the world.

Messages from friends help us keep up with how they are and what is happening in their lives, such as the birth of a baby or the passing of a loved one.

Other messages are not so welcome. Companies try to sell you something you don't need and have not asked for on the TV or flyers through your door. Scams trick you into giving away your personal details enabling them to take your personal identity or your money.

Our young people spend much of their time on social media platforms such as Tik Tok, Instagram or Spotify. Do we know what messages they are getting? Then there are our daily news programmes! The message seems to be all doom and gloom with little or no hope for the future!

The Bible gives us many examples of God's messages to his people. He spoke to Noah and told him to build an ark for him and his family as well as the animals. (Genesis chapter 6).

Moses received the Ten Commandments from God to pass on to the people (Exodus 20).

God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets were God's messengers, bringing messages of the promised Messiah as well as calls to repentance when God's people fell into sin and idol worship.

In the New Testament the Angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary. 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.' John 1.14

Jesus' final messages to his disciples before his death, were to give them hope and reassurance and it is worth us looking at what he said to them. In John 13, Jesus spent his last evening with his disciples and his message to them was that he was going away and one of them was about to betray him. Having been with him for 3 years and seen him perform signs and wonders, this was not good news. They had given up everything to be with him and they could not understand what he was saying until later.

Within hours their lives were turned upside down. There seemed to be little hope until Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms ... I am going there to prepare a place for you ... I will come back and take you to be with me.' John 14.1-3

We have that same promise for the future. Jesus will return and we will be with him in the new heaven and the new earth. This is our sure and certain hope. We need to fix our eyes on this future hope and not on this world.

But Jesus had more to say that would help his disciples cope with the traumatic events of the coming crucifixion.

'...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.' John 14.16-17a.

The promised Holy Spirit would be poured out on them after Jesus' resurrection and would teach them and remind them of what Jesus had said.

'When the Counsellor comes ... he will testify about me.' John 15.26.

Jesus also told the disciples that they should also testify as they were with him from the beginning.

Jesus reassured the disciples, and us, that he would send the Counsellor when he was gone and that unless he went, the Counsellor could not come.

Without the Holy Spirit, man would be lost and there would be no hope.

The same Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, righteousness and judgement today because they do not believe in Jesus. (John 16.10-11) The Holy Spirit brings us hope!

We have the promised Holy Spirit within us.

'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?' 1 Corinthians 6.19

Jesus final message to his disciples is in John 16.33; 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.'

What messages are you listening to? Do they bring you hope and reassurance?

God's word gives us the greatest hope in Jesus and is available to all. Be encouraged!

Tina Stevens, South Birmingham, President Know Your Bible UK



From The Witness Box

A few months back I was invited to 'The Witness Box' at Central Church in Helston: an evening of questions about one's faith walk. During this time, the minister asked how I'd got involved with KYB which gave an unexpected opportunity to share. From this I was asked to share my story and a little more about KYB at their community event for ladies.

It was held in an upstairs room at the Inn & Still pub and about 56 ladies came. Over a meal and using the KYB strap line of Transforming women's lives by the power of God's Word' we shared how the Bible can become so much more than just words on white paper when Jesus, by the power of his Holy Spirit, brings it alive to us in glorious colour. How, in what for many are dark and anxious times in our world, nation and maybe personally, this Word can bring truth, hope, comfort and assurance to any and every experience or situation.

The ladies perused our different KYB study books, and the exciting news was that there were some who, having heard how KYB can be



instrumental in helping us grow in faith, grace, supporting and spurring each other on, now wish to start their own group from September.

Each lady left with a 'bag of colour' holding little reminders of the evening and the truths they had heard. We had told them about the women in Luke 24 who were in dark days after Jesus' death, but then experienced the full colour of resurrection morning. That final phrase in verse 24 saying the disciples went to the tomb and '... found it just as the women had said.' Our prayer is that the ladies too, will personally experience living daily with Jesus, through his living Word.

Lesley Searle, Cornwall See page 12 & 13 for more from Lesley







THANK YOU ALL!

An awesome £1,166 has been sent in from groups around the country since KYB Week, with some groups continuing to use their boxes to collect donations! Scones, cakes and cups of tea were enjoyed along with fellowship and prayer that we may see our tents being extended, and our ministry growing in depth as well as numbers. Many thanks, also, to the generous ladies whose stamp donations paid for the whole KYB Week mailout.

Legacy: A Gift that Lasts

Have you thought about leaving a bequest in your will, or honouring a loved one with a gift to KYB, helping others to grow in Christ? Please contact Finance Director for more information: margaret.toy0302@tiscali.co.uk

It's REALLY Good News!

There has been lots of positive feedback about the Good News KYB studies, which are ideal for new groups and young Christians and could be used 1:1 with individuals.

Order 3 copies or more and

a leader's guide comes free.

Vision Statement

- 1. To bring women to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour.
- 2. To deepen and enrich the spiritual lives of women.
- 3. To equip women for life's challenges so they might be a positive influence in their homes, work and communities.
- 4. To enable them to play a more effective role in their own churches and in all their service for the Lord.

KYB Newslink Team

Tina Stevens, Sandra Gilbert, Nicky Dixon & Kate Kernaghan. This magazine aims to be informative and interesting to all in KYB, as well as an outreach tool. However, the cost of producing & posting each Newslink is now £2. Any contributions towards the cost, or books of stamps would be much appreciated.

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Renewed Strength



I have had the privilege of knowing God's healing first-hand. My life could easily have been quite different or ended.

Most Wednesdays, I aim to go swimming and meet friends to pray. On May 12th 2012, my husband was away so I was at home alone. I remember little of the day.

Two friends came to the house but got no response. That evening, I was due to babysit my grandchild, my son, Jim, came to check on me when he got no reply to his phone call.

I was on the floor in the lounge, unable to communicate. He called for an ambulance, rang his sisters and then for my husband to come immediately. At the Queen Elizabeth hospital it was diagnosed as a brain aneurysm, a bad one needing surgery. Many people from all over the world prayed for my healing. The prognosis for a brain aneurysm is not that good - about a third die, a third have some kind of disability and a third recover, of whom only 5-10 % make a complete recovery. A sixhour operation stopped the bleeding, and a shunt was inserted to reduce pressure from swelling.

I was unconscious for a few days to enable my brain to start to recover. An answer to prayer was that I recognised my family when I woke up, which is not always the case. Two weeks later, my brain was still very confused and I said things which were out of character. They kept checking I knew what my name was, where I was and the date, which I can understand now but at the time it just didn't make sense. I got home around June 6th 2012, very tired, needing lots of sleep, and very grateful for my husband's care, and his employer's understanding.

I am now back to praying and swimming on a Wednesday morning. I have 4 grandchildren whom I regularly look after. Looking at me, you would have no idea I am a brain injury survivor. All those things I praise God for - he guided the surgeon and enabled the help I had to recover.

This life-threatening event changed my priorities and the way I see things. Every day is a blessing from God, and all the praise and thanks should be his daily.

Isaiah 40v31: 'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. Praise the Lord.'

Studying God's Word through means like KYB helps us all to grow closer and understand him more. It's not about head knowledge but changed hearts.

Hazel Wilkins, Birmingham

Love, joy & peace in every circumstance

Waiting for radiotherapy treatment recently, God gave me the opportunity to witness to a lady about how I came to faith in Jesus and the effect he has on my life. When I said I could not imagine my life without Jesus and how he and the prayers of people at church are upholding me, she replied: "If it works for you!" This lady went on to tell me how hard it is for her to manage the stress of getting treatment after an all clear for five years.

In early 2017, when diagnosed with advanced breast cancer, I was still in the 'New Age', in a deep pit with no visible way out. I had many fears about the treatment and no trust in the experts. There was no one to turn to in the 'New Age' movement. Support of a supernatural kind was needed for my family and me.

I didn't want to die from this disease! It seemed as if I was surrounded by darkness with no hope or strength to carry on. In desperation, I cried out to God to rescue me. He heard my cries and gave me peace in my heart that only Jesus can give. This was a new beginning and the way forward, with Jesus Christ, for hope and recovery.

This continues to be a stressful, tiring and busy time, with ongoing treatment, which is working, as well as my husband needing radiotherapy prior to chemo and surgery.

In early 2017 God guided me to 'get an education'. By this he meant through studying his Word, the Bible. I started attending church, joined a KYB group, and met



women of faith at varying stages of their journeys with Christ. Studying with KYB has given me so much encouragement and love, that many of my fears are healed or are healing and my spiritual growth has been amazing. This is an ongoing process but recently my trust in God and his plan for my life has dropped into my heart. God is with me through my trials and his plans for me are for good not for harm.

Each day, I thank the Lord for the ways he is working and will continue to work in my life and for the people he has put around me to help me follow him and live his way. God knows me better than anyone (even me). God's mercies are new each morning. My life is filled with love, joy and peace. I can safely say I have found 'Godfidence' and believe 'all things are possible with God' (Mark 10:27). He is patient, loving and merciful to his children. This is truly a story of enduring and everlasting love.

Dianne Chapman, Cornwall

KYB Residential Conference



My Hayes Experience

When I booked my reservation May seemed so far away But finally, the day arrived to travel to The Hayes. The M6 traffic was moving, so we stopped for scones and tea Before arriving at The Hayes and securing our room keys.

All the rooms were fresh and lovely. No one could complain. The grounds were simply amazing – all very well maintained. The flowers were in full bloom, and the weather was ideal Early morning walks around the lake somehow seemed surreal.

Debbie challenged us to leave our comfort zone, And refresh our worship praising God alone. Reminding us this world's our temp'ry home, And while we're here, to make Jesus' love known.

The meals were great. I didn't need to shop, prepare or clean. The craft evening was fun (though normally I'm not keen). The NLT did a great job of balancing the days. If there's another conference, I will book without delay.



Beckie Kiddoo South Birmingham











The Hayes, Derbyshire, May 2023

A Modern-Day Psalm 3 Written at the KYB conference

In the Saturday Reflective session, Debbie gave us some Bible passages and prompts, then we all headed off to various sunny or shady spots around in the grounds. One idea was to use a psalm as a model, writing our own words reflecting the times we live in. In Psalm 3 David pours out his heart to God, lamenting his situation but also acknowledging God's love and protection. Here is my modern-day psalm, unaltered, just as God gave me that day.



Bombarded by information, texts, emails, newsfeeds, the list is endless. How do I hear God's voice through the cacophony that seeks to engulf me? They watch on, observing my every move, my every comment, How I react, how I live my life.

I struggle trying to make sense of it all,

Conscious of the tensions that surround me.

But God is my helper, my anchor in life's storms.

I am never alone, he understands and has compassion.

He calls to me: "Come my child, come to me."

You beckon me, Lord, longing to draw me closer into a deeper relationship, To enter into all that you have for me. To abide in your presence.

You fill me with your peace and set me on a rock.

I am safe in your embrace. Safe, loved and precious.

I am yours. You invite me to sit at your table and feast on your delights,

Treasures that only you can give, deep joy, fulfilment, purpose,

And the hope of a future spent with you.

Send forth your blessing, Lord, on all those who call to you.

May they know the joy of your salvation.

Jill Opie, Torquay







Transformation

Debbie Laycock's teaching sessions were enjoyable, packed with Scripture, wisdom, humour and encouragement as well as challenge.

I came away with five challenges to think about further and hopefully follow through with action. These brief notes hardly do justice to Debbie's excellent teaching, but you can hear recordings of her talks on our website home page. www.knowyourbible.org.uk.

Transformation can be energising, motivating, daunting or exhausting. A large decorating project brings immediate transformation: full-on, visible, fast-moving.

An acorn becoming a mature oak tree is a much slower process: steady, gradual, a quiet flourishing.

Challenge 1: Do I welcome transformation, or shy away from it?

Refreshing Our Worship

We looked at Jesus meeting with the woman at the well, described in **John 4 v19**. Her ideas about worship were completely transformed as she met with Jesus. Could my ideas about worship benefit from a refreshing? In **Mark 12 v30** Jesus names the most important commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." "That is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices," a teacher of the law wisely responded.

Would that I opened more and more of my heart, soul, mind and strength to Jesus! Wow! My worship life would be transformed!

Challenge 2: Be more willing to get out of my comfort zone!

Renewing our Mind

Debbie asked us to consider how we saw ourselves in life? in church? in KYB? Often the world assesses by jobs, cars, roles, clothes, accents and so on. Also, we have numerous choices about what we will read & watch, how we will spend out time and money. The devil loves to draw us into unhealthy, ungodly thinking and acting.

Romans 12 v2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Challenge 3: What are the danger points for me?

Reshaping our Walk *Luke 24 v45* describes how Jesus met with his disciples after his resurrection, and reassured their troubled, doubting minds by 'opening their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.' He does the same for us as we read Scripture, showing what we are living through in the light of his word and in the timescale of eternity.

Philippians 3 vv 17-21 Take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you...... Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that we will be like his glorious body.

Debbie described the exotic-looking green parrots in London, that stand out so dramatically in the cityscape. They may be descendants of a couple that escaped from Crystal Palace in the 1890s, and now in their thousands, are common in city parks. She also showed a hilarious slide of owners with their dogs – apparently motivational speaker Jim Rohn says: "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with."

Challenge 4: Am I spending time with people who will have a godly influence on me?

Reflecting his Glory

2 Cor 3 v18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

As we soak in God's glory, we carry his glory with us and then reflect it out to others. Debbie gave us a bit of Greek here: the word for give and receive is the same! The word for 'transformed' is translated as 'reflected' in some Bibles.

Challenge 5: What can I reflect of Jesus to those I meet in the week ahead?

Debbie ended our weekend with three case-studies of life-changing encounters with Jesus: the Samaritan woman in **John** 4, the demon-possessed man of **Mark 5**, and the man at the Pool of Bethesda in **John 5**. May we see lives transformed by the power of Jesus.



Nicky Dixon, Mid Wales

KYB Conference May 16-18 2025 at The Hayes, Derbyshire

Excellent Bible teaching & fellowship in a beautiful location. Costs are kept to a minimum, but rooms, food and speaker, will total £240-250.

We can pay in 3 installments, and there is a bursary scheme, so let's start saving!

Introducing Kate Kernaghan

I have enjoyed being part of KYB since returning home to Bristol in 2009 and am part of our KYB Area Team.

I'm not from a Christian family, but had the privilege in infant school of having a best friend who was from a Christian family. This friendship led to lots of Christian influences through Brownies, Guides and a church youth club, and I came to faith at 12 through a Church Youth Group trip to a gospel meeting.

I met my husband Pete at Chester College, and we have four grown children. We were foster carers for many years and now enjoy opening our home to many others and serving through our local church.



There are lots of things I love about KYB. One of them is its simplicity – a group of women gathered in a home to read scripture together, to hear from God and be changed. Another is how it strives to do one thing well to see the wider church built up. I love to see women from all walks of life connect with God through his word and discover more of him and his ways.

Introducing Lesley Searle

I am so thankful to have been brought up in a loving Christian, where the Bible was the 'go-to book'. Aged fourteen, Jesus became my personal Saviour, and he dramatically dealt with my fears, as I was a very anxious child.

Thank the Lord he is 'the keeper', and here I find myself some fifty plus years later still walking with Jesus through many life events, each one becoming part of my testimony, which could fill a book. These are summed up in the words of these hymns:

'His grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home,' and 'All

my life you have been faithful, all my life you have been so, so good, with every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.'



KYB has played a part in encouraging and teaching me and it's been a joy to be a small part of what God is doing among his women. Having just retired after many years as practice manager of a local GP surgery, the opportunity to serve on the National Leadership Team (NLT) is humbling, challenging and exciting all in one.

Our prayers for Know Your Bible are based on just two words from the inspiring story found in *1 Kings 18 vv 41-46:* 'GO AGAIN'.

We can pray and see no change: it's easy to lose heart. In a time of severe drought, Elijah said to his servant 7 times "Go back" to look for rain coming. Let's do the same - be persistent, prevail in prayer, hunker down and not be distracted, because we have an unchanging God in a changing world.

Prayer Diary

For our daily prayer rhythm - When there is nothing - GO AGAIN!

Day 1 A Cause for Praise Psalm 22 v25

Give thanks for:

- Faithful women wanting to get closer to God.
- The success of KYB week and for new groups.
- Women prepared to lead new groups and expand the work of KYB.

Day 2 A Confession Matters James 5 v16

- We can do nothing apart from God; deal with any attitudes, relationships and opinions which stop us growing in him.
- Bless the NLT as they meet in October, with wisdom, guidance, clarity and boldness.
- May gifts & characters in the NLT blend & strengthen, giving balance and fresh vision.

Day 3 A Care Shared 1 Peter 5 v7

Pray for:

- The cares and needs in our local KYB groups, as well as the wider world.
- Wisdom to use social media to further God's kingdom.
- The teaching of all our KYB speakers to reach new hearts and homes.
- An IT "savvy" person to help us develop the means of this outreach.

Day 4 A Challenge to Faith Hebrews 11 v1

 Give us faith to be excited at what God is about to do in these challenging times.

- Increase our faith to hold steady in any storms of life and hold firm to his truth.
- Thank you for the work around the world and that KYB studies get out to different people groups.

Day 5 A Comfort Given 2 Corinthians 1 v3-4

- Today we especially pray for those in need of comfort from God's Word.
- Pray for those who need healing, and those we know who are grieving.

Day 6 A Command Obeyed John 14 v15

- Help us to be obedient in our hearts and actions.
- May local & national KYB hear and obey God's calling.
- Give wisdom & guidance to our 'unseen' faithful trustees in their administration.
- Encourage 'unseen' intercessors who faithfully pray for KYB, that they know God's prompting and see answers to pray.

Day 7 A Connection Made Psalm 6 v9

- Thank you we can know God's heart & mind; may we, like Elijah, look out for 'the cloud' with its promise of new things and the abundance of 'coming rain'.
- Let's believe for new groups, that lives will again be touched, a nation impacted and transformed by the power of God's Word.

KYB Events

WEST CORNWALL

Saturday 30th September 9.45am - 2.15pm

Venue: Central Methodist Church, Helston, Coinagehall Street R13 8EQ

An event for ladies featuring worship, teaching with Debbie Laycock & fellowship

Cost: £10 Please bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee & cake provided.

Contact: email: kybevents985@gmail.com

TORQUAY, DEVON

Saturday 14th October 10am - 2.30pm

"Who do YOU say I am?"- discovering our identity in Christ

Speaker: Esther Carter

Venue: Upton Vale Baptist Church Hall TQ1 3HY

Cost: £8 to include coffee, tea and cake

Contact: book your place by emailing kybtorquay@gmail.com or by phoning

Mary Walton

BRISTOL

Saturday November 18th 9.30 welcome for 10.00am – 12.30pm sessions

Venue: Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church, Bristol BS32 8BH **Cost:** Suggested donation of £5 to include tea, coffee & cake

Speaker: Lesley Searle "Don't Forget to Remember"

Contact: Sue Hoyles: susan.hoyles16@outlook.com to receive monthly email

messages and news. Jane Brittan: to book events

Reflective Day in Torbay

The Torbay KYB Team led a Reflection Day on Saturday 10th June at St. Paul's Church, Preston. The day was well attended by ladies from a variety of local churches together with ladies visiting from further afield. We were honoured to have two of the National Team members with us for the day. Our speaker was Julie Cubitt, a local GP, who titled the day ` The Voiceless shall break into song `. She had produced an excellent booklet for the day based on eight songs from Isaiah, Psalms and Luke. There was a song of disappointment from Psalm 77 and a song of creation from Psalm 19. Julie spoke about our need to "slow down"

and meditate to let these songs from scripture speak to us where we are in our lives.



We each then chose a song to reflect on either sitting in a quiet area of the church hall, or we could express ourselves through a craft table where we could engage in drawing, painting, or collage.

The time of sharing and reflection was a real blessing to us all, as were the home-made cakes.

We are now looking forward to our conference day on 14 October.

Natalie Trigg, Torbay

Know Your Bible Studies

Keep this list handy for your next order! **KYB studies should**

not be photocopied or reproduced in any way.

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|--|-------|
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| Galatians: Grace and Freedom | £4.15 |
| Nehemiah: Faith & Perseverance Under Pressure | £4.15 |
| Genesis I | £4.00 |
| 1 Samuel | £4.00 |
| 2 Samuel | £4.00 |
| The Life of Solomon | £4.00 |
| Proverbs | £4.00 |
| Jeremiah (limited stock) | £4.00 |
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| Psalms of restoration & renewal | £4.00 |
| The Problem of pain: a Biblical perspective | £4.00 |
| 5 Lives: Women who encountered God | £4.00 |
| The Good News | £4.00 |
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| Acts 1-12 | £4.00 |
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| Timothy & Titus | £4.00 |
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Know Your Bible Studies Development

I have recently taken on the role of KYB Studies Development, after my beginnings with KYB in a young mums' study group 32 years ago! In our current times, knowing our Bibles is as important as or, maybe, more important than ever.

I am thrilled that **Acts Part 2** is now available to order. The excitement doesn't stop there! 'Christ in the Old **Testament**' will be available soon.

Whilst it is exciting having new studies in the pipeline, I would encourage you to revisit studies you have previously completed. Many of the older study books have undergone extensive

revision and, in some cases, rewriting with new authors so that our studies remain relevant in today's world.

I want to see KYB study groups continue to grow



Sue Hoyles, Bristol



Hot off the Press!

Message & Mission exploring Acts chapters 13-28 is the latest study to be printed. Follow Paul, Barnabas & Timothy as they travel around the Mediterranean urgently proclaiming the gospel, as well as the challenge of the disciples in Jerusalem as non-Jews came into faith by power of the Holy Spirit. And so, the church was established! Grateful thanks to the Guildford Area team who contributed towards the cost of printing this study.

The Goodness of God

Our Bristol Area summer gathering was a joyful event, gathering together to be encouraged, challenged and inspired from God's Word!

Our very own Sue Hoyles shared with us the reminder from Psalm 100 that not only does the Lord do good, he is good. This is not a variable, not dependant on circumstances, not measurable, but rather an intrinsic part of his nature. Moreover, all his other attributes, his love, mercy, justice and so on, are all themselves good, and all this goodness of God is for our good! It was quite the ride as we followed God's abundant goodness in creation, in salvation and in revelation through from Genesis 1 to Revelation 21 – realising afresh that scripture is both bookended and filled with God's goodness.

Later in the morning, we spent some time looking at the story of Ruth in small groups, seeing examples of God's goodness woven into the life of this family. It was encouraging that a good number joined us, some new to KYB, and to be able to hear how our local groups are getting on. We look forward to more challenge and inspiration at our next gathering in the Autumn.