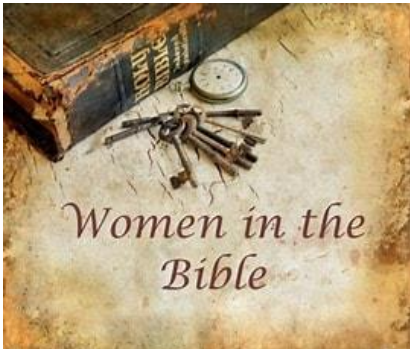




Sunday 28th July



The Women of the Bible - Introduction

Some defied evil kings, saved nations, clung to God's promises, led out armies and changed history with their prayers. Others survived abuse, raised families alone, had unloving husbands or suffered a bad reputation. And some simply used their beauty and brains to take whatever they wanted from this world – to their ruin.

The women of the Bible may have lived thousands of years ago, but when we take a moment to consider their stories, we discover just how relevant and relatable they are. Whether they offer us wisdom or a warning, they are all worth getting to know.

These short introductions to the key women in Scripture are like little launchpads into their stories. They'll help us know where to find them in the Bible, what to expect, what to look for and why they are so important. With this handy guide, these women will become more than names – they'll become living, breathing life lessons.

Eve - The first woman on earth, who's famous for something completely different.

There are good reasons to be famous – and there are bad ones. Instead of being known simply as the first woman on earth, created in perfect beauty and innocence, poor Eve has gone down in history as the world's first sinner. But let's be careful before we judge her too harshly! Her story is more relatable than we might think.

We meet Eve in Genesis chapters two and three. The serpent made her doubt both God's goodness and sin's badness. He told her that obeying God would make her miss out on something really good. She believed him and so began the pattern of sin we see again and again in the Bible, and even in our lives today; she saw, she wanted, she took – and she hid.

Eve shows how easy it is to be tricked into grabbing what *looks* good so that we let go of what is *actually* good. But in her journey to sin, we also see the unshakable faithfulness of God. When we stray, he calls us back. When we are ashamed, he covers us. When we feel hopeless, he promised a rescue. When sin feels like it has the upper hand, Eve's story reminds us that God still love us and offers us real hope.

From, and with the permission of, our friends at Our Daily Bread Ministries.

This Week's Bible Readings: 2 Kings 4: 42-end, Eph 3: 14-end and John 6: 1-15. **Anglican Diocese:** The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East. **From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer:**

Place: Safeguarding Team - Church House Guildford. Lead, Jane Huttly.

Other staff, Jackie Broadfood, Natasha McMillan, Marzena Mazurkiewicz.

Prayer requests: Thankfulness for the new staff starting shortly.

We continue to pray for: peace in Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Israel, and so many other places. Landslide in Papua New Guinea. For all refugees and displaced people and all who welcome and support them. For families, individuals and businesses who are suffering from the impact of the increased cost of living. **Please remember our Mission Partner:** The Leprosy Mission.

We pray for the sick in our parish: especially remembering all who suffer from mental ill health and are victims of abuse and discrimination.

The recently departed: Gary Scott, Kieran Chalkley and Gerry Gage.

From the Memorial Book at their year's mind: Edith de Fraine, Rupert Nisbet, Peter de Fraine, Canon John McKitterick (Vicar of Oatlands 1949), John Bell, Delwyn Dennis, Joan Ellis, Roy Purcell, Frederick Jenkins, Donald Wilson, Ernest Reed, Gladys Sammons and Gerard Bowden.

Funeral: The funeral of the late Kieran Chalkley will take place on Monday, 29th July, at 11.15am here at St Mary Oatlands. (SW Middx Crematorium at 1.20pm).

Host We urgently (from early September) need a new host for Leon, our PAIS Apprentice. Please consider accommodating Leon for a month or two. Also, depending on whether we can provide accommodation, a female PAIS Apprentice (Giovanna aged 19) would be keen to join us. The church will be willing to contribute towards any costs. If you can help, please speak to Hugh Montgomerie at s23932514@gmail.com or Liz Davies, the Church Warden. lizmdavies1@gamil.com Thank you.



Walton & Weybridge Flower Club: Flower Festival at St Andrews URC 10 & 11th Aug. Free admission for visitors and entrants. Refreshments and retail therapy in the hall. More details from Anna Crawford 01932 244466 waltonweybridgeflowerclub@gmail.com

Community Strawberry Tea: Wed 14th Aug 2-4pm on the Church lawn (in the church hall in case of rain). Price freeze, same as last year £5 per person. Under 12's free. Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Knit Wits and Colouring Club: Wed 21st Aug 12.30-2.30pm in the Octagon Room. Bring a packed lunch, tea and fellowship provided!

Film Night: No Film Night in August. Next Film Night Sept 18th 6.30pm for light meal and drinks. Film 7pm. Please use the signing-up sheet at the back of the Church.

St Peter's Church, Hersham: The award-winning Gospel Touch Choir Sat 14th Sept 7.30pm Refreshments from 7pm. Tickets £15, under 16's £5 from St Peter's Parish Office 01932 253452

Meeting Point: 'A lunch club for the young at heart'. Next meeting on Wed 25th Sept. 12.30-2.30 pm. Contact Jane R 07775 9317333 for more details.

Welcomers and Servers: We are in urgent need of Welcomers and Servers. If you can help, please contact Hugh Montgomerie 07921 000038 s23932514@gmail.com