

# The Christian Guide Book

*By Rachel Chamness, Okehampton Quaker Meeting*

Jesus Christ was born a long time ago. His disciples and believers have been called Christians, followers of Christ. Their Christian guide book, or Bible, tells of Jesus, his life and his teachings. Over the intervening couple of thousand years to now, there have been various versions.

Many people could not read, and English priests read the Bible to their congregations in Latin. But this was not too helpful as their hearers could not understand Latin.

Four hundred years ago the Church of England, under the direction of James the First, produced the 'authorised' version of the Bible in English.

All Christians value the Bible. The Religious Society of Friends, Quakers, began about 350 years ago. They described themselves as 'ancient Christianity revived', believing the Bible was the most important book extant and that it was written by divinely inspired men for our instruction and profit.

The Bible was not written for us to pull to pieces but to hold in our hearts – and to have the meanings made clear in God's own time.

Clever, scientific men try to use their earthly wisdom to decry parts of the Bible. We do not need to follow them, most people calling it the Holy Bible.

I read recently how the story of Moses leading the Hebrews to safety over a parting of waves in The Red Sea has finally been proven to be correct after all these years of disbelief. The crossing has been found with the bones of Egyptian men and horses with their chariots. Let this be a lesson to us to have more faith in the Bible.

Each Christian denomination has their own small differences of belief, but all believe in Jesus and the need to love one another. Most religions in the world believe in a Supreme Being. All peoples of the world are God's children.

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