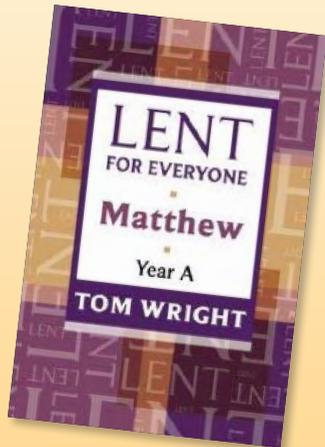




# Lent for Everyone: Matthew

Lent 2010: Several thousand people in the North-East undertook "The Big Read 2010", using Tom Wright's Lent for Everyone: Matthew as a shared text to encourage thoughtful engagement with the Bible individually, in housegroups, and corporately as a region. There was so much positive feedback that for Lent 2011, it has gone national and both Biblefresh and the Methodist Church are encouraging people to take part in the #BigRead2011 over Lent 2011.



# Going National: The Big Read 2011



The #BigRead2011 involves meeting together in housegroups to read the Bible, making use of Tom Wright's Lent for Everyone: Matthew (December 2010) with opportunities to go much bigger and much more creative and join in online (inter)nationally. From quiet sitting rooms with Bibles and books, to coffee shops and Internet chatrooms across the world.... Get involved!

# What do I need to do ?

- Book #BigRead2011 into your diary for Lent 2011.
- Talk to your church leader/ church meeting about adopting #BigRead2011 as your church's Lent housegroup programme
- Pencil in six dates for Lent 2011 – one for Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday, 8th March this year) and then five housegroup sessions.
- Advertise your housegroups in your church and neighbourhood
- Keep an eye out on <http://bigbible.org.uk> for updates and materials.

[www.bigbible.org.uk](http://www.bigbible.org.uk)

# 2011: Biblefresh: The Year of the Bible

2011 is the 400th anniversary since the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. Biblefresh is a movement of hundreds of churches, agencies, organisations, colleges and festivals which has a vision to reignite and re-enthuse the church in its passion for the Bible. For many in our churches the Bible has become tedious and toxic rather than treasured, trusted and true. The aim of the Biblefresh initiative is to encourage a greater confidence and passion for Scripture across the Church.

**biblefresh**  
It could change your world

Biblefresh is asking churches to agree to raise the level of biblical understanding amongst their members by taking practical steps in four areas: Reading, Training, Translation and Experience, providing resources through the Biblefresh website ([www.biblefresh.com](http://www.biblefresh.com)), book, leaders guide and e-letters which will provide you with ideas as to how to fulfil development in all four areas.

## 2011: The 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible



The King James Bible is the most familiar and widely read Bible translation in the world, recognized for centuries as both a religious and literary classic. Published in 1611, it was not, as is commonly quoted, the first Bible to be published in English, but has had the most profound impact upon English culture, with its language an inspiration for virtually every great writer since the seventeenth century.

The invention of the Gutenberg Press in the 1450s had lit the spark of the Protestant Reformation, whose advocates ultimately demanded, among other things, that the Scriptures be translated into the vernacular languages of the people so that they might experience the Word of God for themselves. So what is the modern day vernacular language.

Read the full history of the Bible in English: <http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org/resources/history/mulvey/>

# So is this all about online media then?

NO! This project is very much built around helping people engage more fully with the Bible, especially within housegroups. With the project created by CODEC (Christian Communication in a Digital Age), however, we wanted to use material that is familiar to many (the Bible) to allow them to take their first steps, or go deeper, into engaging with others online. Join a new, or your normal housegroup, and then continue your discussions with a wider audience online.

## Where can I find the BigBible Project online?

- **Blog & Website:** <http://bigbible.org.uk>
- **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/bigbible>
- **Facebook:** <http://bit.ly/bigbiblefb>
- We can also be found on other social media platforms, including YouTube, Vimeo, LinkedIn, Digg, Delicious, Flickr
- **Hashtag:** #bigbible



## The Big Bible Project

The @BigBible Project is the bigger project behind #BigRead2011. Many searches online for e.g. "Bible" produce negative search terms, so the project seeks to encourage more positive content online, whether specifically Christian, issues-based, or reflective of personal lives.

- It promotes Bible reading within a community setting, whether online or offline, or a mix of both.
- It encourages people to consider joining a housegroup
- It provides online case studies, training and inspirational interviews to allow Christians to gain confidence in engaging with online media.

## Rewarding Online Engagement

Christian New Media Awards and Conference

2010

The BigBible project is involved in the Premier Christian Radio hosted event

'The Christian New Media Awards' and 'The Christian New Media Conference'.

The Big Bible Project is supported by the following:

**B** BIBLE SOCIETY

**CODEC**

**Premier**  
CHRISTIAN RADIO

The **Methodist Church** 

**125**

**met**  
Methodist Evangelicals Together

**SPCK**

# What would it look like if Christian stories were online?

Both individuals and organisations already have great stories, but may not know how to get them online. Find someone within your Church who's keen, and the BigBible Project will help you get that material online. We'll be offering tips, tricks & training for blogs, social media, images, videos and podcasts.

We are looking for stories about reading the Bible, being part of a Housegroup, creative responses to Bible reading, and experimentation, encouragement and engagement online, from small to large ways.

- Have you recently tried emails, blogging, Twitter, etc. for the first time? How did you find it? What does it allow you to do differently?
- Do you feel overwhelmed by online media, and what questions would you want answered to help give you a voice online?
- What do you think are the big debates around using online media – and what's your opinion?
- What advice can you offer from your own experiences in any of these areas?

**Want more?**

Please visit [www.bigbible.org.uk](http://www.bigbible.org.uk) or email [bex.lewis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:bex.lewis@durham.ac.uk) for more info.