



Greystanes Grapevine

The weekly newsletter of Greystanes Uniting Church



12 APRIL 2026

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 12 April 2026

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Next week 19 April 2026

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Volunteers wanted

We are looking for some volunteers who could take some tins of old paint to the Chemical Cleanup on Saturday 2 May.

This will be held at the Cumberland Council Works depot in Foray St West Guildford between 9am and 3.30pm.

This is a drive-thru service, and we can put the paint in your car for you if needed, please see Sue if you are able to help.

Giant Sale next Saturday

Our next Book and Craft Sale is combining with the sale of most of our resources and equipment from the child care centre.

It will be next Saturday 18 April, from 9am-1pm.

If you are able to help on the day or with the sorting of the books and setting up of the spaces on Wednesday–Friday, please let Kaye or Sue know.



Giant Sale

**Books, Craft, Toys
Childcare Centre resources
Outdoor play equipment, office furniture,
kitchenware, kids furniture & more**

**Saturday 18 April, 2026
9am to 1 pm**

**Proceeds to Hands and Feet Inc
to help feed those in need**

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Greystanes Uniting Church

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What versions of the Bible do you keep at home? On my shelf I keep my childhood Good News Bible, an Early Reader Bible, a King James Version and three study bibles, namely, a New King James Version, the New International Version and the New Revised Standard Version. These are but a few of the hundreds of versions currently available to Bible readers. 'Why are there so many versions', you may wonder to yourself. To answer that question we need to delve into the history of the written Word.

We will start this journey back into the Bible's history in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries because during this era a technological invention, the printing press, changed everything. Prior to the invention of the printing press in the year 1440, Bibles were written in Latin and meticulously copied by hand. This Latin version, known as the Vulgate, had existed since the fourth century and scribes were careful not to accidentally change or alter any words or meanings. The oldest known existing copy of the Vulgate dating from the year 700 is kept in the Florence, Italy, in the Laurentian Library.

The printing of the Latin Vulgate into High German in 1456 began a revolution because the Bible could be accessed by anyone educated enough to read the elite, academic style of the German language. In 1522 a priest named Martin Luther published a translation of the Greek New Testament into everyday German. This meant that for the first time the Bible was put into the hands of ordinary people who began to question the monopoly the church had over biblical interpretation and theology. The church came under attack by Luther who also used the printing press to publish pamphlets that criticised the way the church exploited parishioners. Luther's use of the printing press and his profound spiritual insights into the grace of God began a period of history that has forever shaped the landscape of the church, but more on the Reformation another day.

As we go back in time we now need to consider Luther's copy of the Greek New Testament, where did he get it from and who put it all together as a collection of gospels and letters. Wikipedia explains it like this: The New Testament canon (canon from the Greek word meaning 'rule' or 'yardstick') developed gradually over the first few centuries of Christianity through a complex process of debate, rejection of heretical texts, and recognition of writings deemed apostolic, culminating in the formalization of the 27-book canon by the late 4th century. It has been widely accepted across Christian traditions since Late Antiquity.

In existence today there are 5800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, the earliest being a fragment of the Gospel of John written on papyrus. "It has been dated paleographically to the second century A.D. This text is part of the Oxyrhynchus papyri, a group of manuscripts discovered in the ancient garbage dump near Oxyrhynchus, Egypt." More on the history of the Bible next week.

