



## “There is a special providence in the fall of a sparrow”

April 23rd 2016 is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare who is regarded as having given more to the English language than any other writers, except for the translators of the King James Version of the Bible, which was published five years before he died.

At the time men and women were eagerly reading the Bible in English to understand for themselves the word of God. As a result William Shakespeare not only knew a good deal of the Bible, but quoted or alluded to it about 1200 times in his writings! There is even a suggestion, almost certainly misleading, that he might have had a part in the translation of the KJV! So, as in so much of English literature and history, an understanding of the Bible is essential to a full understanding of the works of Shakespeare!

More than this, the Bible is God's essential guide to the most satisfying

life - based on belief, discipleship, an understanding of the past and promises for the future. What is more, God promises to His followers that He will always be there to help in times of trouble. And that is the connection to the quotation from Hamlet at the start, which relates to a saying of Jesus in Matthew 10 verses 29-30:

*“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”*

Not long before Shakespeare was born, men like William Tyndale had died to bring the Bible to ordinary people like you and me. So to commemorate Shakespeare's birth we are holding a special talk on Shakespeare and his Bible to launch a new course Getting to know the Bible. Full details of both are overleaf. We believe the Bible is the greatest book in the world - so why not come along and find out more about this precious book?



# > 'Shakespeare and his Bible'

An illustrated talk to be given at 8pm on Tuesday 26th April  
*To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, John Botten, a specialist in Mediaeval and Modern History and in Bible studies will be exploring the place of the Bible in the works of Shakespeare and Tudor life - and reflecting on our attitude to the Bible today.*

**The Claret Room, The Forest Hotel,  
Station Approach, Dorridge, B93 8JA**

Free admission  
Refreshments  
God willing

## > Getting to know the Bible

A free 10 week course for everyone who would like to know more about the Bible. Every Tuesday evening starting on May 3rd at 7.45pm in the Claret Room, The Forest Hotel. See the accompanying leaflet for further details or call 0121 705 0646 for more information and to enrol.

## > Weekly Bible Hour

Sundays at 10am - Dorridge Village Hall

Upcoming Topics

Apr 17th *God's Design - A Reason to Believe*

Apr 24th *The Challenge of Being a Disciple*

May 1st *Morning Meditation - Preparing for the Return of Jesus*

May 8th *The Bible truth about Baptism*

**KNOWLE & DORRIDGE CHRISTADELPHIANS**

