

BAKE YOUR HOME WITH US

WELCOME TO OUR BIRTHDAY EDITION! LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER...

'Bake your home with us' became our alternative slogan as we celebrated our 70th anniversary recently – with a huge cake in the shape of a house!

Our usual slogan is 'Make your home with us'. But to make our own 'home' for our anniversary year, the usual bricks and mortar were replaced with 30 eggs, 1.6kg of flour, 1.6kg of sugar, 1.6kg of butter – and a whole bottle of vanilla essence!

CEO Mairi Johnstone led staff and board in a cake-cutting ceremony as part of our annual general meeting (see main photo on page three). We shared the cake with Methodist colleagues at Methodist Church House.

***'We look back on an
amazing ministry that's
been running since 1948'***

London baker Jola Odegbaro had made the cake, using dowel rods to support the structure and a board to keep the roof up. She took careful measurements using rulers and set squares in what became an engineering feat.

The experience had added meaning for Jola, who runs a bakery business called The CakeWay. The day before baking the MMHS cake, she heard of the death of an uncle who was a Methodist minister – Sir Adeola Olufon, a lay reader and leader of the Wesley Guild at Wesley Cathedral Olowogbowo, Lagos, Nigeria. 'It was my little tribute to him,' said Jola.

After cutting the cake, CEO Mairi Johnstone said, 'We look back on an amazing ministry that's been running since 1948. As well as being thankful for our history, we've spent much time looking to the



Photo: Clive Price

***'We want to be fully
responsive to the changing
needs of retired ministers'***

future and thinking strategically.

'No organisation worth its salt can stand still – and we want to be fully responsive

to the changing needs of retired ministers of the Methodist Church. Our vision is Acts 4:34 – "There was not a single person in need among them". That will keep us busy for quite some time to come!

A MESSAGE FROM MAIRI



I had the pleasure recently of meeting 95-year-old Anthony Eyton RA, considered by many to be one of our finest living artists. He still paints – with huge depth and understanding – a veritable master at capturing light and movement.

Exceptional talent, and indeed genius, is to be celebrated – but so, too, the

skills and abilities of us supposedly 'lesser mortals'. We have a generous creator God who's given us a wide array of natural talents and gifts. The challenge is to strengthen and practise them.

Thinking of all the many hundreds of people MMHS cares for, I am constantly amazed at the creative pool in our midst. It is always our pleasure to be at the receiving end of the evidence!

Landscaped gardens, handmade cards, published books, woodwork, musical scores – I'm skimming the surface. You will have noted that fabulous cake on the front cover that we enjoyed for our 70th anniversary – yet another skill, shared out in slices so to speak! The story that goes with it is quite lovely.

If you feel you'd like to share one of your talents or gifts with either the team or your fellow retired ministers, please email me. Any time. mjohnstone@mmhs.org.uk.

• Mairi Johnstone CEO

JOIN THE PARTY!



BIRTHDAY BUNCH – staff and board members mark our 70th anniversary with a special house-shaped cake

OUR FORM IS JUST THE JOB

Are repairs working out? We'd like to know how you feel about any maintenance carried out on your home.

You will be sent a Tenant's Satisfaction Questionnaire for any job we raise directly with a contractor on your behalf. You will also receive one when you send in a request for reimbursement, which will carry a sticker explaining this is for work already carried out.

Respond online (<http://mmhs.org.uk/satisfaction-questionnaire>) or just fill it in and post it back to us. Just give a brief outline of the job and tell us what you thought of the contractor's work. Completing this form will help us to ensure our service meets with your satisfaction.



Photo: monkeybusinessimages

1948 THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS...

WHAT ON EARTH WAS HAPPENING IN 1948? QUITE A LOT. MMHS WAS BORN FOR SUCH A WORLD AS THIS.

War is over. But a new struggle begins.

It was 1948. There was peace in Europe, but turmoil in the home. Weather was bad. Food was still rationed. There was an economic crisis, a fuel shortage – and a hunger for housing.

MMHS emerged into this time and space, for such a world as this, as we sought to care for those who cared for others – to give retiring ministers a home to call their own. Here are just some of the momentous events that were taking place around us at that point in our history:

★ British Railways is created as the Government nationalises the railway industry.

★ The London Co-operative Society opens Britain's first self-service supermarket in London.

★ One of the highest attendances for an English Football League game takes place as 83,260 people watch Manchester United draw with Arsenal at Maine Road.

★ Nationalisation of the electricity supply industry comes into effect.

★ The Land Rover is unveiled at the Amsterdam Motor Show.

★ Sir Laurence Olivier's film of Shakespeare's Hamlet is released.

★ Jewish Agency Chairman David Ben-Gurion proclaims the State of Israel, establishing the first Jewish state in 2,000 years.

★ The arrival of the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury Dock marks the beginning of post-war mass migration.

★ The Gas Act 1948 nationalises the UK gas industry.

★ The National Health Service begins, giving the right to universal healthcare, free at point of use.

★ The Games of the XIV Olympiad are held in and around London, the first Olympic Games to be held since Berlin in 1936.

★ The first new comprehensive schools open in Potters Bar and Hillingdon.

★ Princess Elizabeth gives birth to a son.

Much of these events still resonate today. MMHS faces challenging – yet exciting – times in our 70th anniversary year, as we seek to meet the housing and housing related needs of as many retiring ministers as possible.

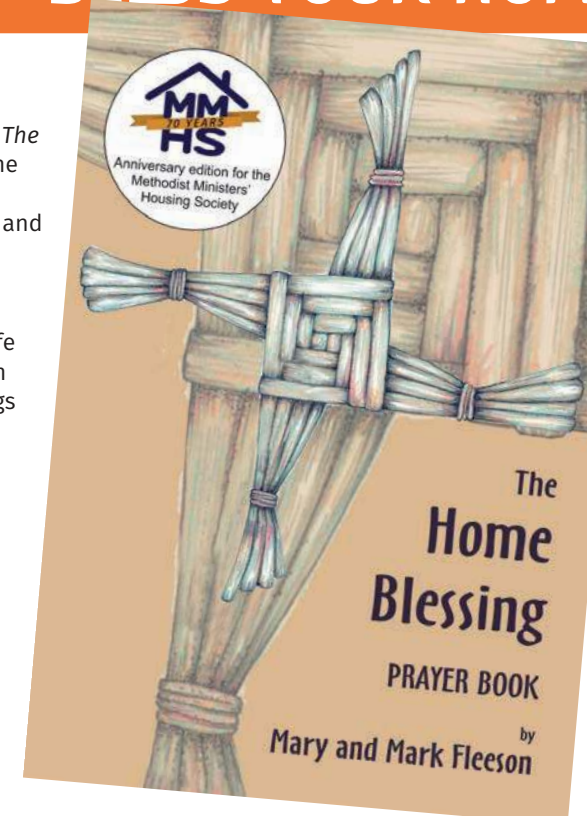
We have ambitious plans to deliver our vision and mission. You can read all about these on our website – <http://mmhs.org.uk/strategysummary.pdf>. We are planning for a bright future. Join us. Make your home with us.

BLESS YOUR HOME!

To help celebrate our 70th anniversary, we're giving every MMHS resident a copy of *The Home Blessing Prayer Book* – the first in a series of prayer books written and illustrated by Mary and Mark Fleeson.

This special edition 24-page book from the husband and wife team at Lindisfarne Scriptorium is packed with prayers, blessings and activities to be used throughout your home. You should find a copy with Roof 'n' Roots as it arrives at your address.

The Home Blessing Prayer Book covers themes including – 'Front door', 'Hallway', 'Living Room', 'Kitchen/Dining Room', 'A room used for work', 'Bedroom' and 'Garden/Yard'.



We hope these blessings, written by Mary, will lead you into praying regularly for the environment in which you live. They may even inspire you to create your own more personal prayers, too.

'Praying through your home and neighbourhood will make a difference,' said Mary, who has supplied designs for the Methodist Conference in the past.

'When we invite God into our everyday living space we invite God to participate in the little things of our life, the humdrum and the ordinary, and even the boring.

'Those things probably won't suddenly be transformed into amazing spiritual experiences – but there will be a difference.'

BUZZ ABOUT ELECTRICAL TESTS

Good progress has been made in our five-year electrical test programme. We've almost completed the second year and fire alarm protection has been added or upgraded in most cases.

The Society has a legal responsibility to ensure the electrical supply/circuits in all its homes are safe and comply with legislation. So we commissioned Henderson Electrical Services Ltd to carry out the inspections.

The test takes between four and five hours in each property. Please ensure the engineer shows you his ID card before allowing entry to your home. Should you have any concerns, please contact Patricia Berry at the MMHS office, 020 7467 5271.

LET US REPAY

We have funds for repairs to your home. But we need a receipt – and we need to make sure the cost is under the agreed limit.

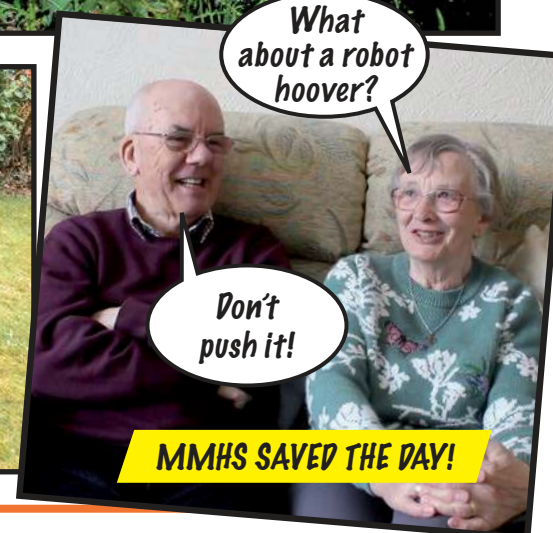
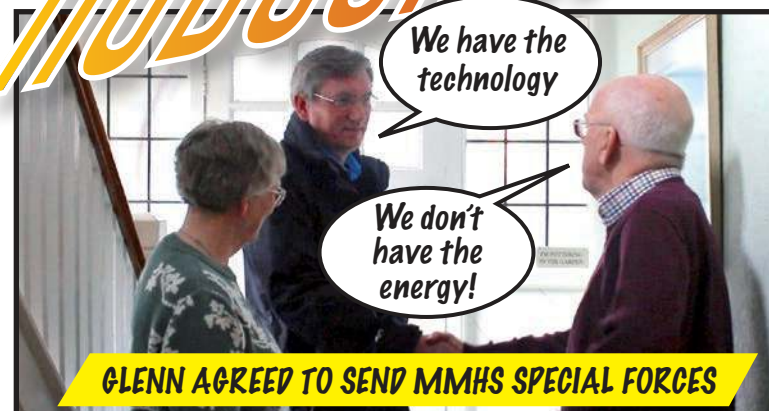
Residents can arrange for works under £100 to be carried out without contacting us – providing you pay the

contractor and send in the receipt for reimbursement.

For works between £100-£499, one written quote must be sent by post or email to the MMHS office. For works over £500, residents should contact the office for advice – 020 7467 5271.

WHEN BACK PROBLEMS ADDED TO LONG TERM HEART ISSUES FOR REVD DAN PATERSON, HE AND WIFE ANNE NEEDED HELP WITH THE VAST GROWING GARDEN AT THEIR MMHS HOME. SO WE SENT...

ROBOCROP



THE PINK FLOYD OF BRASS



Media presenter Chris Evans described him as leading the 'Pink Floyd' of brass bands. Alex Campbell is blowing our trumpet now!

From a Salvation Army background, father of six Alex is the new Chair of our Board. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience of cutting edge social action and hands-on community engagement.

'For me, the Salvation Army – and it's not the only one, I think most churches are there now – is a church that rolls

up its sleeves and gets on with helping people,' said Alex. 'So we don't talk about need, we don't strategise about need, we just get out and do it.'

Born and bred in Clydebank on the outskirts of Glasgow, Alex joined the Salvation Army at age ten. He learned to play the flugelhorn, and years later, worked for Salvation Army social services in various towns and cities – and has led some brass bands that have captured media attention. Chris Evans made the 'Pink Floyd' reference after Alex's Becontree Brass band appeared on Evans' Radio 2 Breakfast Show.

At a meeting in the Scottish Highlands, a colleague tipped Alex off about a vacancy for the job of CEO of Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, the Seamen's Mission of the Methodist Church. Based on London's East India Dock Road, the charity provides accommodation for merchant seamen and for former members of the armed forces.

'I don't know if he was trying to get rid of me,' Alex joked, 'but I looked at the advert and I made the application – and 15 years later I'm still at the Seamen's Mission.'

He has totally reinvented and re-energised the charity. In November 2014, Alex received the Merchant Navy Medal



MEDIA MAN – Alex has played in bands that have attracted media attention. Here he is pictured with TV and radio presenter Moira Stuart OBE.

'I applaud the initiatives the Society has taken'

for services to the care and welfare of retired merchant seafarers.

How did he find his way to the MMHS Board?

'My Chair at the Seamen's Mission was on the Board of MMHS for many years,' said Alex. 'About ten years ago I made an application to join the Board. But unfortunately, the day they were doing

the interviews I was on annual leave, so it didn't happen at that time.

'Fast forward to today, and I got a message saying, "Are you still interested?" I said, "Yes". I went through the due process and was interviewed, and then obviously got involved.'

Alex knew how the Salvation Army's own retirement housing worked. 'So I had some skills and knowledge that may be helpful,' he reflected.

Alex is excited about the Society's future. 'There's a heart to respond to needs,' he said. 'We're working with people who've given their lives in service, and now there's an opportunity for us as a housing society to serve them and make sure their needs are looked after.'

He already knows some of our residents, and has seen how the Society has helped them in their retirement. 'I applaud the initiatives the Society has taken,' he said.

So what does he think is next for us?

'We're in our 70th year and can celebrate many achievements – but there's still a great deal to be achieved. Therefore we must make sure we've constantly got our finger on the pulse of what's needed.'

FREE WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR YOU!

You can celebrate our 70th anniversary with us – thanks to a new suite of free worship resources produced by members of our staff and board.

Vice Chair Ros Peedle, board member Glynn Lister and Communications Manager Clive Price have compiled a host of materials for simple services of celebration – with the help of artist Mary Fleeson and designer Mark Fleeson from Lindisfarne Scriptorium, along with hymn writer Andrew Pratt.

These worship aids are based around the biblical idea of blessing the home. They are available without charge as downloads for you to use in your church, small group or your own times of devotion.

You can access the professionally designed PDF documents with just a click. Load them onto your tablet PC, laptop or print them off to enjoy them with your church or small group. Go to – <http://mmhs.org.uk/worship> – and you'll find:

- *backstory and sheet music – a basic introduction to MMHS;*
- *a short service – a simple*

act of prayer and thanksgiving for personal or small group use;

- *an act of worship and thanksgiving – a full service of reflection for use at church;*
- *a blessing liturgy – bless your home with this profound act of dedication;*
- *a hymn for MMHS – music and words of a specially written hymn for the 70th anniversary.*

Lindisfarne Scriptorium is a small business based on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne that produces artwork and books drawing the viewer into an experience of prayer, meditation and blessing. You can visit www.lindisfarne-scriptorium.co.uk to find out more about their work.



'I SEE MY ROLE AS A CALLING'

Photo: BrianAlackson



FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR ATAWA ARYEE TAKES US BEHIND THE SCENES AT MMHS TO SHOW THE INTENSE WORK THAT GOES INTO MAKING YOUR HOME WITH US...

I keep a watchful eye over the numbers. Together with the senior team, I am responsible for the financial wellbeing of the Society.

I also have a focus on the future. The Society has a five-year strategic plan. That plan gives us a guide of where we want to be in five years' time and how we get there, year in and year out. So I keep my focus in there to ensure that, from my perspective, we are on track and that there are no surprises.

**'We aim to be
very friendly and
professional with our
residents'**

Together with the finance team, I also provide a whole range of underpinning work to keep our services running smoothly. For example, that involves budgeting and forecasting. A lot of work goes into setting the budget according to the cycles that run here at the Society.

Our day-to-day work also involves operating a monthly management accounting system. That delivers reports on a monthly basis to the senior team, the board and committees to help them understand the financial consequences of our activities and the decisions they make.

**'We like to operate so that
integrity is brought to the
accounts'**

We also receive many enquiries from residents. Those enquiries come in by phone, email or in other formats. We aim to be very friendly and professional in the way we deal with our residents.

We maintain accounting records. That's very important to us. We have to maintain proper and accurate records. In a nutshell, we like to operate in such

a way that integrity is brought to the accounts – that we are accountable and that we are professional in the delivery of our service.

Much of what we do is routine. But it's all necessary to get to where we want to be and to ensure the reports we give out are accurate – that they paint a true picture of where we are in numbers.

We are a charity. However, that doesn't mean we do things anyhow. We have to be professional. To be viable, we have to be transparent and above board – and operate just like any other viable business would operate.

Behind all this are real people, ministers are real people with lives and families. Our job is that we manage ourselves in such a way that it delivers a service to them. So it's important. It's not just bricks and mortar, it's people behind it all.

**'Every day is different
and I thoroughly enjoy
working here'**



Atawa Aryee

So it is important to us to be very professional and to bring integrity to the accounts and to be accountable for what we've been given to manage.

I see my role as a calling. I'm not just an accountant, it's a calling. I enjoy

what I do. I have been blessed with the skills I've got and it's in my interest to apply them to the best of my ability. It's very fulfilling. Every day is different and I thoroughly enjoy working with the Society, with the people here.

'IT'S ABOUT HELPING THE RESIDENTS'

THE SOCIETY'S LONGEST SERVING STAFF MEMBER PATRICIA BERRY SHARES HER STORY...

Patricia Berry is our storm defence service! As Reactive Repairs Co-ordinator, she helps residents get vital jobs done around the house – from replacing fallen fences to repairing broken boilers. Pat, as we like to call her, is almost like International Rescue – but all in one person.

She's also our longest serving staff member. She joined MMHS in 1998 after working for a housing association in London's East End. We asked Pat a few questions about her work...

What do you find most satisfying about your job?

When you can work through a problem

that a resident has and find a solution, seeing it through from start to finish – talking to the resident about what they should do, getting in an estimate, placing the order, and then hearing that the works have gone well and that the residents are happy with them. It's especially nice when a resident phones up to say 'thank you' personally. They don't need to do that. Sometimes they send in a little card which shows they've taken a little bit of extra effort to say 'thank you' because they're pleased with the outcome.

Has that happened because of all the storms earlier this year?

When we had the snow and I worked from home, there were a few boilers

**'It's especially nice when a
resident phones up to say
"thank you"'**

that went wrong. Because we've got all the technology, I was able to take work phone calls at home and deal with them. One of these had no heating or hot water because the condensing pipe had frozen – that had to be sorted out. They were very pleased that British Gas came out so quickly. When you're in your 80s and 90s, I'm sure being without heating is much more difficult than when you're a bit younger. It's never nice, of course, but with all the snow and how cold it was, they were very pleased that British Gas was able to sort it out so quickly. One of them phoned up to say, 'thank you'.

What keeps you going when it's tough?

It's my job and it's about helping the residents. That's my role. Sometimes it can be tough and there are always piles and piles to do.

What excites you about your job?

You develop relationships with some of

the residents. Because they've spoken to you about work that needs doing, they become friends and they sometimes phone up for a chat.

**Twenty years is epic, Pat! How does it
feel to look back?**

I can't quite believe I've been here that long! But there you go, that's what the dates say. Thinking about the residents, and their homes, for a lot of them if they've worked all their lives as ministers living in manses, this is like owning their own home. They've been offered it or found it. And then they have the chance – if it's in need of refurbishing – to be involved in the process of choosing the kitchen or bathroom if these need to be replaced, and all the other little things that make it a home.

Some residents have said to me, it's really special that they can be that involved in the retirement home. When

**'For a lot of them, this
is like owning their
own home'**

you think they might be there 20, 30, 40 years even, then that's probably a longer time than any of the manses that they've lived in, when they've been ministers. So that's quite amazing, really, to think they can be retired and be in the same house probably for longer than any of the manses.

**That is quite a big thing
when you put it like
that.**

Yes. And when they consider it as their forever home, the final chapter when they retire, it's quite a thought.



Patricia Berry



William Farrell – then and now...

WILLIAM'S DONE A TON!

One of our residents – Revd William Farrell of Gloucestershire – is celebrating his 100th birthday during our own 70th anniversary year! We quizzed him about a century of experience...

What is the secret to your longevity?

If I knew that, I'd write a book and without doubt be a millionaire!

What do you do to stay young?

An active life with plenty of walking and cycling – especially in the Lake District – has helped.

What do you eat for breakfast?

Cereal, toast and, of course, a cup of tea.

What's your favourite way to relax?

Sitting and listening to music.

What is your earliest childhood memory?

My first day of school at five.

What was your background before becoming a minister?

Left school and worked in an office at Bolton Town hall.

What have been the three most important inventions you have seen?

TV, computers and mobile phones.

How have you coped with such technological advances?

I think I am a long way behind where I should be.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Take life easy and enjoy the present.

What was your favourite decade?

1960s.

What would be the ideal 100th birthday present?

Another 100 would be a bonus!

HOME TRUTHS

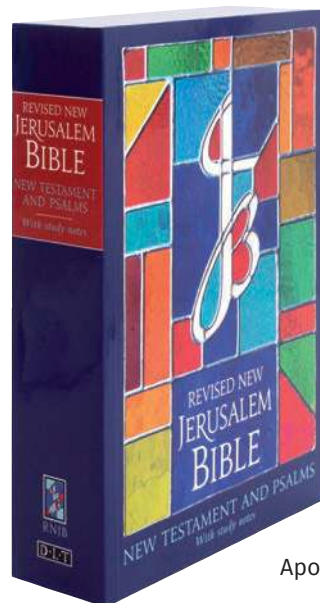
REVIEW BY BARRIE TABRAHAM

During the Housing Society's first year of existence, 1948, no fewer than four new Bible translations came out. And now, in MMHS's 70th anniversary year, we find another new version has emerged – the Revised New Jerusalem Bible. So how does the RNJB fare?

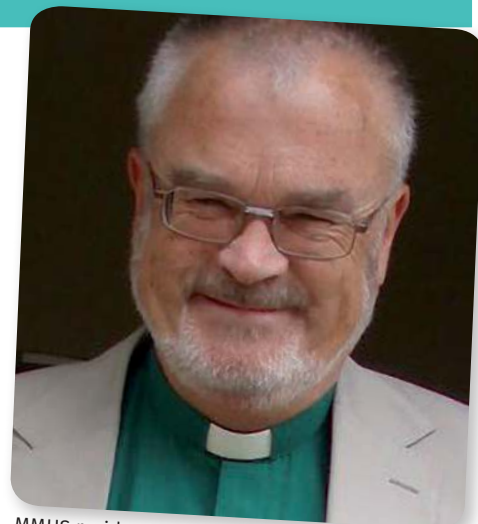
I make no apology for visiting some favourite passages. I imagine that's what many of you will do when taking a first look. The back cover summary tells us the RNJB presents the original scriptures 'more accurately... than the colloquial approach of many other modern translations'. True, but the classic statement of Christian belief in John 3:16 in the RNJB perpetuates the mistranslation of the Greek. Along with many modern versions such as the Good News Bible, the RNJB has 'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son...' (my italics) instead of the correct 'For God so loved the world...' as in the NIV and NRSV, which correctly translate the Greek 'outos' as 'thus', rather than 'so much'. In other words, Jesus is telling us that incarnation is part of God's very nature and not just the extent of his love for us.

Aside from this, we find the misleading phrase 'happy are they' in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1) which occurs in many popular versions is avoided, and the correct 'blessed' given. Similarly, the GNB's inaccurate 'became like man' in the Christ-hymn in Philippians 2 is translated properly as 'born in human likeness'.

Readers will welcome the short introductions to each separate book and the footnotes and cross-references.



EXCLUSIVE OFFER! MMHS residents can claim a 50 per cent discount on the retail price of this New Testament and Psalms by using code RNJB via www.dltbooks.com. Total cost for MMHS residents would be £6.50 plus post and packing. The Revised New Jerusalem Bible – New Testament and Psalms is edited by Henry Wansbrough and published by Darton, Longman and Todd, 2018, at £12.99. ISBN 978-0-232-53361-3.



MMHS resident Revd Barrie Tabraham

Occasionally they are puzzling, as when editor Henry Wansbrough comments on Paul's crucial Christological definition in Philippians 2 vs. 6, and tells us that 'two interpretations compete...', but teases us by only giving us one! Also, the much-quoted II Timothy 3:16 is rendered, 'All scripture is inspired by God and...' without any footnote to indicate there is an alternative translation, ie 'All scripture that is inspired by God is...' – which I found surprising. Generally, however, the notes are extremely helpful. So, alongside the intriguing passage in John 7:37 when Jesus refers to himself as 'living water' we are encouraged to think about the

quite different, but actually complementary, ways of interpreting our Lord's words.

Overall, the RNJB will be a worthy addition to our shelves, and a good balance between scholarship and readability. It's a modern translation (inclusive – so we have 'fishers of people' in Mark 1:17) but never banal, and the Psalms are beautifully reproduced. We wait with eager anticipation for the RNJB's version of the Old Testament and Apocrypha!

