

# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
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## Adventure Camp Part 1

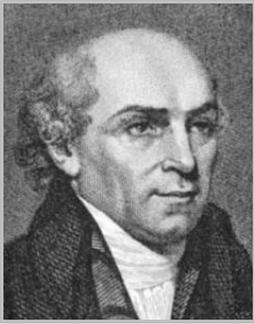
Adventure Camp is a Christian camp for children run by GCI. It started in 1974 with 24 children attending. From 1974 to 1982 it took place near St Albans; from 1983 to 1999 it took place in Silsoe; from 2000 to 2013 it took place in Borehamwood and from 2014 to 2019 it took place in Kettering.

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## Adventure Camp Theme 2014

# William Carey (1761-1834)



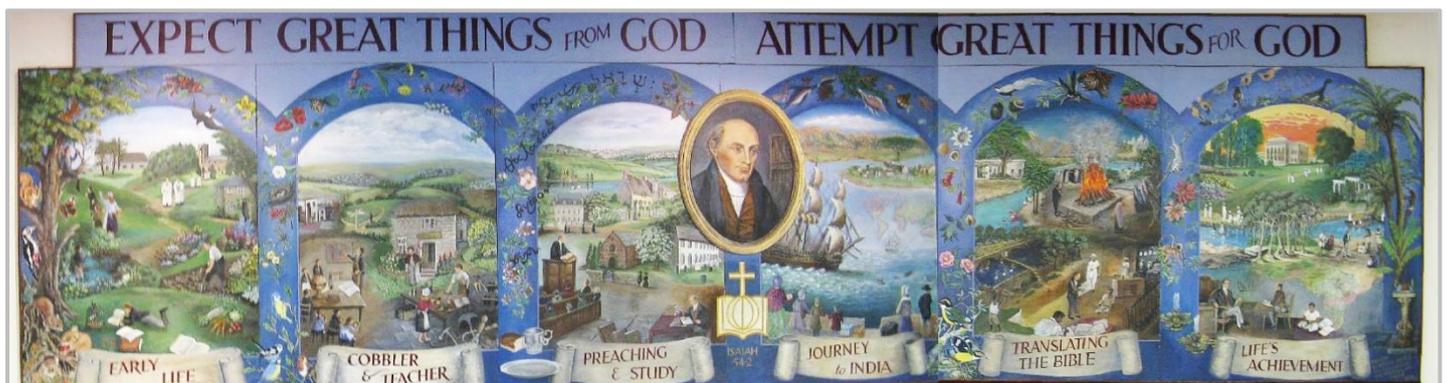
William Carey

William Carey was born in Northamptonshire. He was the oldest of five children. As a child he was inquisitive and keenly interested in the natural sciences, particularly botany. As a young man he worked for a cobbler. He possessed a natural gift for languages, teaching himself Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Dutch and French! In 1785, he was appointed the schoolmaster in the village of Moulton. At the same time, he was also invited to serve as pastor in the local Church! In 1789 he became the full-time pastor of a Church in Leicester. During this time he became very concerned with propagating the Christian Gospel throughout the world.

Some people in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century believed that missionary work was not necessary! So in 1792, William Carey published his ground-breaking missionary manifesto: *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*. The booklet consists of five parts. The first is a theological justification for missionary activity. It argues that the command of Jesus to make disciples in all the world (Matthew 28:18–20) remains binding on Christians. The second and third parts outline a history of missionary activity with some statistics. The fourth part answers objections to missionary work, such as language difficulties and danger to life. Finally, the fifth part calls for the formation of a missionary society. To support the booklet he preached a pro-missionary sermon in which he repeatedly used the epigram which has become his most famous quotation: 'Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.'

William Carey finally overcame the resistance to his missionary zeal and a missionary society was formed. He was its first missionary and sailed to India in 1793. In 1794 he opened a primary school (believed to be the first in India). He also started many other schools. He learnt the Bengali language and consequently soon began working on a Bengali New Testament. In 1800, the mission had their first convert, a former Hindu named Krishna Pal. William Carey used his influence to help put a stop to the practices of infant sacrifice and *suttee* (when a widow sacrificed herself by sitting on top of her deceased husband's funeral pyre) after determining that they had no basis in the Hindu sacred writings.

William Carey helped to set up a printing press and from it came translations of the Bible in Bengali, Sanskrit and other Indian languages and dialects. Many of these languages had never been printed before. In his lifetime, the mission printed and distributed the Bible in whole or in part in over 40 languages and dialects! Also in 1818, the mission founded Serampore College to train indigenous ministers for the growing Church, regardless of ethnicity or class. Frederick VI, King of Denmark, granted a royal charter in 1827 that made the college a degree-granting institution, the first in Asia. William Carey is often referred to as 'the father of modern missions'. Also William Carey importantly founded the *Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India* in 1820.



In 2014 the staff and children of Adventure Camp visited Moulton where William Carey once lived. We visited the William Carey Church in the village. In the church is a stained-glass window with a little map of India in the middle (right). Also in the Church there was a mural depicting six parts of William Carey's life (above). We also visited the cottage where William Carey lived (left); one of the rooms is now a



William Carey museum. Several local church members explained to the Adventure Camp staff and children more about the life of William Carey and about some of the exhibits in the museum including a Bengali Bible which he translated.

# Adventure Camp Theme 2015

## John Bunyan (1628-1688)



John Bunyan

John Bunyan was born in Bedfordshire. He and his father were tinkers. (Tinkers mended pots and pans). Although John learned to read the Bible, he received only a poor education. When he was 16 he was forced to join Cromwell's army. He fought in the Civil war for over two years. During a battle, a friend who had taken his place was killed, and this made John Bunyan feel that his life had been spared specially to do God's work. When he left the army, he became a preacher. In those days however, no one was allowed to preach without permission, and because he would not give up, he was sent to prison. He was there for 12 years and spent part of his time preaching to his fellow prisoners, part of his time writing, and part of his time making shoe laces which were sold at the prison gates to help feed his family. He was released in 1672, but three years later he was sent to prison again for continuing to preach. While in prison Mary, his eldest child who was blind, would bring him food as the family home was only a short distance from the prison.



This picture shows one of the houses in Bedford connected to John Bunyan and the river where he was baptised.



Adventure Camp staff and children gather next to a large statue of John Bunyan in Bedford.



Christian reaches the cross and his burden of sin falls off him.



Adventure Camp staff and children meet outside Moot Hall in Elstow which is connected to John Bunyan.

During John Bunyan's period behind bars he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. This book soon became very popular, and before he died in 1688 over 100,000 copies had been sold. *Pilgrim's Progress* is an allegory (a story with an inner meaning). It tells the story of a pilgrim, named Christian, who departs from the 'City of Destruction' and journeys to the 'Celestial City'. He meets many misfortunes on the way and various people hinder him or help him. Part one of *Pilgrim's Progress* focuses on Christian's journey and the second part focuses on Christian's wife, called Christiana, and her journey. He wrote many other books, including *The Holy War*, which is also popular.



In the museum, Anthony Dady stands in a podium from which John Bunyan preached from.

In 2015 the staff and children of Adventure Camp went to Elstow, the village where John Bunyan was born. We visited the Church where he attended as a child and several other places in the village connected to him. We also visited the John Bunyan Museum in Bedford; one of their staff kindly showed us around the many fascinating exhibits. One of the items on display was John Bunyan's anvil which was very heavy. He had to carry it around with him to enable him to do his work. No doubt this helped him to write about Christian who also had to carry a heavy load on his back in *Pilgrim's Progress*



The engraved paving stone says: 'On this site stood the Bedford county gaol where John Bunyan was imprisoned for twelve years 1660-1672.'

In the last worship service of Adventure Camp 2015 some of the older children acted out the beginning part of the *Pilgrim's Progress* story.



A John Bunyan jigsaw puzzle completed at Adventure Camp.

# Adventure Camp Theme 2016

## John Wycliffe (about 1324-1384)



John Wycliffe

John Wycliffe was an English philosopher, theologian, Biblical translator, reformer, priest and a professor at the University of Oxford. He became an influential dissident within the Roman Catholic priesthood during the 14<sup>th</sup>-century and is considered an important predecessor to Protestantism. John Wycliffe attacked the privileged status of the clergy, their luxury and pomp as well as their ceremonies.



Adventure Camp visit the River Swift, which is connected to John Wycliffe.

John Wycliffe was born in the village of Hipswell in Yorkshire, England, around the 1320s. His large, extended family covered a considerable area, principally in and around Wycliffe-on-Tees. He received his early education close to his home. It is not known when he first went to Oxford, with which he was so closely connected until the end of his life, but he is known to have been at Oxford around 1345. He completed his arts degree at Merton College as a junior fellow in 1356. He was Master of Balliol College in 1361. In 1368, he took over the rectory of Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire, not far from Oxford, which enabled him to retain his connection with the university. In 1369 he obtained a bachelor's degree in theology and in 1372 his doctorate in theology. In 1374 he became rector of St Mary's Church in Lutterworth, Leicestershire, which he retained until his death.



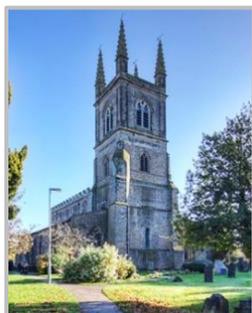
Adventure Camp staff look at a Wycliffe Bible.

In keeping with his belief that scripture was the only authoritative and reliable guide to the truth about God, John Wycliffe became involved in efforts to translate the Bible into English. In 1382 he led a translation directly from the Vulgate (a Latin Bible) into English – a version now known as Wycliffe's Bible. It's probable that he personally translated the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and he may have also translated the rest of the New Testament. It is not possible to exactly define his part in the actual translation, however, there's

no doubt that it was his initiative, and that the success of the project was due to his leadership. His associates translated the Old Testament. Wycliffe's Bible appears to have been completed in 1384, additional updated versions being done by his assistant John Purvey and others in 1388 and 1395. There still exist about 150 manuscripts, complete or partial, containing the translation in its revised form. From this, one may easily infer how widely diffused Wycliffe's Bible was in the 15<sup>th</sup>-century.



Adventure Camp visit the John Wycliffe memorial.



St Mary's Church, Lutterworth.

John Wycliffe's followers were known as Lollards and Wycliffites and were often designated by their opponents as 'Bible men'. From the 16<sup>th</sup>-century, the Lollard movement is sometimes regarded as the precursor to the Protestant Reformation. John Wycliffe was accordingly characterised as the 'morning star of the English Reformation'.

It's estimated that there are over 7,000 languages in the world. The whole Bible has been translated into over 550 of these. Additionally, the New Testament has been translated into over 1,300 other languages. However, there are still over 500 million people that have not yet got a New Testament or complete Bible in their native language. Consequently, John Wycliffe's pioneer work of translating the Bible into other languages continues.

In 2016 Adventure Camp staff and children visited Lutterworth. We visited St Mary's Church which contains many things connected with John Wycliffe. We also went to his Memorial and to the River Swift where his ashes were thrown.

Adventure Camp also visited *Gideons International* while in Lutterworth. One of the reasons the Gideons choose Lutterworth as their UK headquarters was the fact that John Wycliffe was once the rector there. Since 1908 the Gideons have freely distributed over two billion New Testaments and complete Bibles, in over 90 different languages, and in over 200 countries and territories!



Adventure Camp visit Gideons.

# Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Lesson: Let's be like Nobody, as he actually did it!

## Footprints in the Sand



A story is told about a man who dreamed he was at the end of his life. He saw his life as if it were a walk along a beach with Jesus. As he looked back over his life, he saw two sets of footprints in the sand along most of the way, one set belonging to him, the other to Jesus. He noticed, though, that several times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints in the sand. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of his life. This really bothered the man and he questioned the Lord about it: 'Lord, You said that You would never leave me nor forsake me. You said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most difficult times in my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, You left me.' Jesus replied: 'My son, I want you to know that I love you and that I would never leave you. Look again at those footprints. During your times of trouble and suffering, the footprints you saw were Mine. I was carrying you.'

Lesson: 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' Hebrews 13:5, NKJV

See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words: 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' Hebrews 13:5, NKJV

### Word Search

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|-----------|----------|
| ADVENTURE | CANDLES  |
| CAMP      | LEATHER  |
| EVERYBODY | ARCHERY  |
| SOMEBODY  | SWIM     |
| ANYBODY   | CLIMBING |
| NOBODY    | WILLIAM  |
| BEACH     | CAREY    |
| SAND      | GIDEONS  |
| JOHN      | JOHN     |
| WYCLIFFE  | BUNYAN   |
| PILGRIMS  | INDIA    |
| PROGRESS  | EGG      |
| CAMPFIRE  | BUBBLE   |



Pictures are courtesy of: Bedford river and houses in the evening: Pinterest. Footprints on a beach: Facebook and www.onlytheBible.com.  
*Footprints in the Sand* is based on a story found in *Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks* by Wayne Rice.

(Pictures not credited are believed to be Public Domain.)

Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council  
 or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.