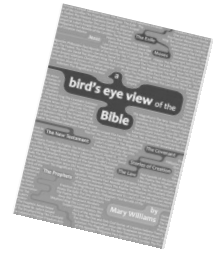


a **bird's eye view** of the **Bible**



Some of you may remember my Aunt Mary. She was very much part of our family life when we moved to Abbots Langley. She lived in St Albans and was endlessly enthusiastic about sharing our adventures as Hannah and Rob were growing up. We have so many fond and funny memories of her. Sadly for us she moved to Solihull in 2003 to a more supported living environment. When she died, very unexpectedly in February 2009, she had just learnt that her book on the Bible was to be published. She was overjoyed!

Two years later the black and white typed manuscript has been brought to life as a treasured bird with brightly coloured plumage! In May well over 100 people from family, St Albans, Solihull and many dear friends celebrated this great achievement. It was a party that Mary would have loved and many people spoke movingly about her and her book. As I said at this launch, three pillars underpinning Mary's zest for life were her faith, her family and her friends. As well as being up for anything, ahead of her time in many ways, she was also a teacher and educationalist, committed to life long learning - having worked in secondary schools then with adults in the RAF, the College of All Saints, Tottenham and the St Albans Diocese Ministerial Training Scheme.

She was also a lay minister in St Albans diocese from 1973 to 2003.

In the words of the publishers, Redemptorist, 'A Bird's-eye View of the Bible' contains a wealth of information to light up the background to the great writers of the Bible. Abraham, Moses, David and Solomon are set in their historical and theological contexts, with timelines and maps, and introductions to concepts like Law and Covenant. The great prophets and poets of the Old Testament come to life against the background of their culture, as they help their people to worship, fear and listen to God. It also puts the New Testament in its historical and literary setting, showing the difference between Gospels and Letters, between formal theological expositions and intimate glimpses into the lives of the first Christians. Ideal for group study or individual use.

I am looking forward to studying with Mary's book - it can be dipped into or worked through; used individually or, as Mary intended, in a house-group. If you are interested in finding out more, copies of the Bird's Eye are available in the Church Office at 25% discount from the full price.

Hilary Samson-Barry