

Churches Together in Kingswood

Summer 2026

St Mary's Village Fete Saturday 27th June 1 - 4.30pm

Lower School Rooms



Keepers in Kingswood
Teas

Second Hand Books
Children's Activities

Abbey St
Abbey Gatehouse

William Tyndale
and the Tyndale Trail

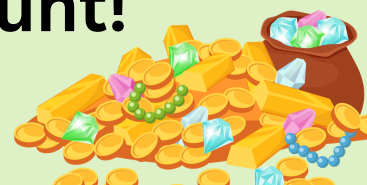
The Walk

Congregational Church

Songs from KADS
Cake Stall
St Mary's Raffle

High St
St Mary's Church

+ a Treasure Hunt!



Kingswood Primary School

Abbey St

Food
Soft Drinks

High St



Saturday 4th July
10:00
Lower School Room

A morning of fun for pre-school and primary school aged children with crafts, stories and song.

William Tyndale

Visible from Kingswood is the Tyndale Monument... indeed, we have an estate called Tyndale View for that reason! William Tyndale was a local hero, born (probably) in Stinchcombe and educated at KLB school, subsequently studying theology at Oxford before returning to this area to become chaplain to Sir John Walsh at Little Sodbury. His studies led him to conclude that church teaching had drastically departed from what the Bible actually said. However, few but the learned were in a position to make this judgement, as the Bible was only available in Latin. He set himself to translate it into English "so that even a ploughboy could understand it". He expected support for this venture from the Bishop of Durham, Cuthbert Tunstall, but Tunstall refused his support, so Tyndale left for Germany, taking refuge in those towns that had adopted Lutheranism, where he could go ahead with his project. A full edition of the New Testament in English was printed in Worms in 1526, five hundred years ago this year, and copies were smuggled into England.

The same Bishop Tunstall from whom Tyndale had hoped would support him, condemned his translation, buying up copies to burn them, whilst Cardinal Wolsey called it heretical. Henry VIII asked the Holy Roman Emperor to extradite Tyndale back to England for trial, but he refused. He then further aroused Henry's wrath by publicly opposing his annulment. Eventually, an English agent, Henry Phillips, betrayed Tyndale to the authorities in Catholic Antwerp. He was tried for heresy, strangled and burned.

It was a sad end for a man who sought only to increase access to knowledge of the Gospel of Christ, something one might think would be a commendable aim. When we look at that monument, let us think of the sacrifice it took to enable a basic freedom you would think we could take for granted... the right to read the scriptures for ourselves and make our own decisions about Jesus. I can only encourage you to take up that right that men like Tyndale won for you, and read our now freely-available English translations, and make up your own mind.

