

Name that Bible!

The English Channel island of Guernsey, just off the coast of France, is British but actually not part of the United Kingdom. It's a bridge to the continent of Europe, if an island can be called a bridge. Guernsey makes for an ideal vacation spot and I was there last week, basking in the hot summer sunshine on offer.

On holiday you can browse through second hand shops to your heart's content, and so I did. I chanced upon a Bible I had published way back in 1982. It was in good condition and a snip at just one pound. The Revised Authorised Version was the first British text edition of what most of us know now as the New King James Version, and I released it under the venerable Samuel Bagster imprint.

How we struggled to find a good title for the NKJV which British readers would accept! We never called the King James Bible anything but The Authorised Version. The RAV was not a success as a name or indeed as a British text version and it took over ten years for the now re-named NKJV to make any headway in the UK.

To me, the great appeal of the NKJV is that it is a 'bridge' version. It sounds and reads like the KJV, but is more contemporary. Ironically, the translators made it more olden by setting the pronouns and possessive related to Deity (Him, His) in capitals, something which the 1611 KJV never did, and is quite out of fashion today.

Guernsey is a small island paradise for British and French visitors - with the best of both cultures. The NKJV has that richness too, a sense of majesty in a modern setting, a bridge between the old and the new. No wonder it is such a popular Bible choice for many readers.

Nicholas