

## Celebration

### You will need

- A sponge cake
- Serviettes (enough for the staff)
- Birthday candles to denote 400 (you can buy the numbers separately)
- Matches
- Damp cloth (for safety)
- Party hats and safe party items
- A King James Bible
- A play time treat for all the pupils (take note of allergies, diabetes, etc.)

### Introduction

Show the cake and invite pupils to talk about birthdays and anniversaries and how we celebrate them. Use some of the party items. Ask what number the candles indicate. Who or what might be 400 years old?

### Core material

Show the King James Bible and explain that it is 400 years old in 2011. Four hundred years ago, King James asked fifty of the cleverest people in the country to make a new translation of the Bible, which they did in 1611. It is called the King James Bible (sometimes called the 'Authorised Bible'). Talk about how it became a very popular Bible. It was the Bible most people used for hundreds of years. The King James Bible is written in an older form of English but it sounds very beautiful.

Read Psalm 23:1-4

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Pupils may like to listen to a sung version of this psalm. <http://nethymnal.org/html/m/lmysheph.htm>  
Lyrics and tune

Psalm 23 has also been recorded by 'The choirboys' (the theme tune to the Vicar of Dibley).

The words of the King James Bible affect the way we speak now. This Bible introduced new words or made words that were not commonly used parts of everyday speech.

'beautiful'      'alarm'      'bravery'

Many new sayings came into the language from the Bible:

'Clear as crystal',  
'from time to time',  
'rise and shine',  
'just say the word'



At the time most people did not know they were reading a Bible that would change English forever. What mattered to them was that they had a Bible in English, and that it was printed in small versions so that ordinary people could have one for themselves. A hundred years before, the translator William Tyndale had said that he wanted ordinary working people to have the Bible, because then they would be about to read about God and Jesus for themselves. By 1611 that became a reality. Since then between 2.5 and 6 billion Bibles have been printed.

Ask pupils to look at the candles while the prayer is said.

*Father, we thank you for those translators who worked so long ago. We thank you for their talents, their hard work and their vision for the future. As we celebrate the King James Bible, we pray for all those translators working today to translate the Bible into the different languages of the world.*

*Amen*

### Prayer/reflection

Light the candles and cut the cake. Ask pupils to take pieces to members of staff on serviettes. Explain that pupils will have a special treat before break in their classrooms.

