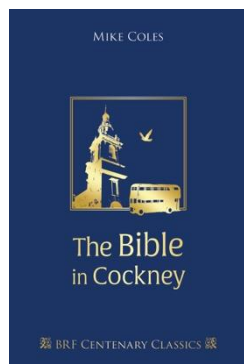


PRESS RELEASE

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The Bible in Cockney

BRF Centenary Classic

Mike Coles

Hb, ISBN 978 1 80039 090 4, £14.99

The Bible in Cockney caused quite a stir when it was first published in 2001, with extensive press and media coverage. Now reprinted in a special centenary edition, the content is as fresh and engaging as ever. Written by Mike Coles, in the hope that it might ‘enable people of all ages to enjoy reading Bible stories

in a very down-to-earth way,’ this is a humorous and non-threatening introduction to the Bible with appeal to Christians and non-Christians alike, and to ‘those who wouldn’t normally read the Bible at all because they see it as out-of-date or dull.’

Helpful, illuminating and entertaining

Inspired by his experience as a teacher in the East End of London, where many of his pupils struggled to relate to traditional biblical language, Mike Coles set out ‘to bring these Bible passages down to earth.’ He found that retelling many famous passages in Cockney rhyming slang caught people’s attention – ‘The biblical language and message suddenly means something.’ Included in the introduction is a helpful short history of Cockney, emphasising the fact that it remains ‘an exciting language... always changing, with new rhymes being added and old ones falling out of use. Nowadays, for example, if you’re popping out for a curry, it’s “I’m off for a Ruby” (Ruby Murray – curry).’

The Bible in Cockney includes: nine Old Testament stories from ‘Would you Adam-and-Eve it...’ and ‘Noah and ‘is big nanny goat’, to ‘The story of Jonah and the bloomin’ big fish’; a complete Cockney ‘translation’ of Mark’s gospel; the Lord’s Prayer; and a glossary of Cockney rhyming slang.

‘I hope you have a good ol’ read,’ says Mike, ‘but don’t get confused with “read and write” which means “fight!”’

About the author

Now working as a funeral celebrant in Essex, Mike Coles was for many years head of religious education at Sir John Cass’s Church of England Secondary School in Stepney, East London. He hated RE when he was at school, and vowed that he would never make the children suffer as he had to! When he moved to the East End, he fell in love with Cockney rhyming slang and started to use it in his lessons. The children loved it, he decided to write down some of his stories and – well, here they are.

For more information click [here](#).

For a review copy or author information, please contact:

Eley McAinsh, Press and Media Officer eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk or +44 (0)1865 319700 | enquiries@brf.org.uk

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