

**PRESS RELEASE - 26 NOVEMBER 2010 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



*Spring Harvest presents...*

**The Good Book Tour; the story of the Bible in common English**

*Featuring Lacey Theatre Company, poet Gerard Kelly and historian Derek Wilson.*

To engage with Biblefresh, and to begin exploring the biblical theme for their main event this year, Spring Harvest is joining forces with a few of Britain's Cathedrals and some larger churches to commemorate 400 years of the King James Bible and celebrate the retelling of scripture for every generation. They're joined by poet Gerard Kelly and historian Derek Wilson for an eight-date tour, sharing insights and reflections on the text, set alongside Lacey Theatre Company's extracts from the award-winning 'Word on the Street' (formerly 'the street bible'). Ancient meets modern, text meets expression and people meet scripture in an ever-unfolding story. It will be an opportunity to explore how the Bible has shaped and influenced our culture, and to enjoy an evening of theatre, poetry and more.

During the evening Derek Wilson will be sharing the fascinating journey of the Bible into English, drawing on material from his new book, 'The People's Bible; the Remarkable History of the King James Version.' He says of the tour, "This is a fantastic opportunity to relive the remarkable story of the foundational book of the English speaking world and the amazing men and women - scholars, artists, poets, businessmen, missionaries and others - who lived for this revolutionary enterprise and, in some cases, died for it."

Lacey Theatre Company have made adapting and performing scripture one of their specialities over the last seven years, helping many connect with the Bible in new ways as they explore creative and contemporary ways of communicating it. Artistic Director Elin Jeynes says, "We're particularly excited about performing in some venues that have been around for as long as, or longer than the Bible in English, bringing together centuries of the story of the Bible in Britain and seeing how it still speaks today." Abby Guinness is part of the theatre company, and is herself known for adapting Bible stories for contemporary audiences. Her book, 'The Word of the Wives' contains 26 conversations with biblical WAGs, telling their husbands' stories through fresh eyes.

There will also be poetry and thoughts from author Gerard Kelly who comments that "In the 400 years since the Bible first hit the streets in English, this book has done more than any other to shape our society. It has not only given us words with which to talk about God: it has opened up to us the worlds of science and art; of knowledge and beauty. The Bible has formed our language, shaped our expectations and crafted our culture. Even now, from texts first written tens of centuries ago, it speaks to us, in a story that finds new life and new expression at every new turn of our journey." He hopes that people will "Join us for an evening to celebrate the past, present and future impact of God's book: the good book."

Tickets are £5 and are available in advance from the venues and online. Check out [www.thegoodbooktour.com](http://www.thegoodbooktour.com) for more information and to buy tickets. People will also be able to pay on the door as capacity allows. Tour dates and venues are as follows:

## UK Tour 2011

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – One Church, Brighton  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Peterborough Cathedral  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – Wakefield Cathedral  
Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Manchester Cathedral  
Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Rising Brook Baptist Church, Stafford  
Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Malmesbury Abbey, Wiltshire  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Millmead Centre, Guildford  
Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Exeter Network Church at The Maynard School, Exeter

### Notes:

-Spring Harvest 2011 is themed 'Route 66: Biblical direction for the road we travel' and will be an exploration of the Bible; 66 volumes by more than three-dozen authors that make a library of lives, a repository of reference, a treasure-chest of truth. Find out more at [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org)

-Gerard Kelly is an experienced theologian and church leader who, with his wife Chrissie, now runs the Bless Network and Bethanie, a centre for missional formation in France. He is also a successful poet and author of many books. He is co-writing the Theme Guide for Spring Harvest 2011. [www.blessnet.eu](http://www.blessnet.eu)

-Lacey Theatre Company was founded by Rob Lacey (author of 'The Word on the Street' (formerly 'the street bible') and has been successfully touring the UK for 7 years, to all sorts of venues, with fresh, engaging biblically-based material. [www.laceytheatrecompany.com](http://www.laceytheatrecompany.com)

-Derek Wilson is an acclaimed historian, a television presenter and the author of many books including, 'The People's Bible; the remarkable history of the King James Version'. [www.derekwilson.com](http://www.derekwilson.com)

Please contact Abby Guinness for more information.

[abby.guinness@springharvest.org](mailto:abby.guinness@springharvest.org)

07798 861847