

**An Litir Bheag**  
**le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

*An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 295 (which corresponds to Litir 599). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.macleam@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.macleam@bbc.co.uk).*

*I'm going to read a verse from the Bible. It's from the New Testament. Here it is: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*That is a new translation of the Gospel according to John, Chapter 1, Verse 1. Gaelic is a living language. It changes through time. It's sensible to make a new translation of the Bible from time to time. Otherwise there will be two languages – the Gaelic of the community and the Gaelic of the Bible.*

*The Scottish Bible Society made a new translation of the Book of John. It's in modern [today's] Gaelic. It came out recently. It's easier for learners of the language. And for young people.*

*I'm going to make a comparison between verses from the first chapter of the Book of John in the old Bible and in the new edition. Here are verses 9 to 12. I'm starting with the old edition: This was the true light that lights every man that comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own country,*

*Tha mi a' dol a leughadh earrann às a' Bhìoball. Tha i às an Tiomnadh Nuadh. Seo i: Anns an toiseach bha am Facal, agus bha am Facal còmhla ri Dia, agus b' e am Facal Dia.*

*'S e sin eadar-theangachadh ùr dhen t-Soisgeul a rèir Eòin, Caibideil 1, Earrann 1. 'S e cànan bèd a tha anns a' Ghàidhlig. Bidh i ag atharrachadh tro thìm. Tha e ciallach eadar-theangachadh ùr a dhèanamh dhen Bhìoball bho àm gu àm. Air neo bidh dà chànan ann – Gàidhlig na coimhear-snachd agus Gàidhlig a' Bhìobaill.*

*Rinn Comunn Bhìobaill na h-Alba eadar-theangachadh ùr de Leabhar Eòin. Tha e ann an Gàidhlig an latha an-diugh. Thàinig e a-mach o chionn ghoirid. Tha e nas fhasa do luchd-ionnsachaidh a' chànain. Agus do dhaoine òga.*

*Tha mi a' dol a dhèanamh coimeas eadar earrannan às a' chiad chaibideil de Leabhar Eòin anns an t-seann Bhìoball agus san iris ùir. Seo earrannan 9 gu 12. Tha mi a' tòiseachadh leis an t-seann iris: B' e so an solus fìor a tha 'soillseachadh gach uile dhuine 'tha 'teachd chum an t-saoghal. Bha e anns an t-saoghal, agus rinneadh an saoghal leis, agus cha d'aithnich an saoghal e. Thàinig e a*

and his own people did not accept him. But as many as accepted him, he gave them power to be the children of God, even to them who believe in his name.

*Here now is the same piece in the new edition:* The true light, that lights every person, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and although the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to his own people, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who accepted him, to those who believed in his name, he gave them the right to be the children of God.

*There's a difference, isn't there? The new translators used the old form of the Bible in Greek. They did a good job.*

*dh'ionnsuidh a dhùthcha féin, agus cha do ghabh a mhuinntir féin ris. Ach a mheud as a ghabh ris, thug e dhoibh cumhachd a bhi 'n an cloinn do Dhia, eadhon dhoibhsan a tha 'creidsinn 'n a ainm.*

Seo a-nise an aon phìos anns an iris ùir: *Bha an solas fìor, a tha a' soillseachadh a h-uile neach, a' tighinn dhan t-saoghal. Bha e anns an t-saoghal, agus ged a chaidh an saoghal a dhèanamh troimhe, cha do dh'aithnich an saoghal e. Thàinig e gu a chuid fhèin, ach cha do ghabh a chuid fhèin ris. Ach dhan fheadhainn a ghabh ris, dhan fheadhainn a chreid na ainm, thug e dhaibh còir a bhith nan cloinn do Dhia.*

Tha diofar ann, nach eil? Chleachd na h-eadar-theangairean ùra seann dreach a' Bhìoball ann an Greugais. Rinn iad obair mhath.