

## Views from the Pews – Martin Luther

I have been thinking about Dr Martin Luther. He is important to us. He was born in Eiselben in North Germany in 1438. He died in 1546. He was an Augustinian monk who married a nun, Katherine von Bora and they had a family.

Starting off intending to be a lawyer Luther changed to studying theology at the University of Wittenberg. In his spiritual and moral wrestling his salvation light was switched on when he realised that salvation is a gift from God through faith.

He thought that the Papacy was corrupt and set out his views in 95 Theses or statement fixe4d to the door of the Cathedral at Wittenberg on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517.

The Papacy reacted to his protestations and King Henry VIII of England made himself head of the Church of England rather than the Pope. Hereby he was able to secure a divorce from Katherine of Aragon and marry his new love Anne Bolelyn, she of the bewitching eyes; Queen Elizabeth I was the result of that union.

Luther was keen on Disputations, writing pamphlets and preaching. He managed to get himself both excommunicated and outlawed during his lifetime.

In 1532 he wrote advice on how to be a good preacher. Here is his checklist:

1. Be a teacher
2. Have a good head
3. Be eloquent
4. Have a good voice
5. Have a good memory
6. Know when to stop
7. Be diligent in personal affairs
8. Stake your life on what you say
9. Encourage harassing
10. Bear all patiently
11. Be learned
12. Say what people need to hear

13. Take no pay but pay to preach
14. Have a handsome exterior
15. Unless God himself gets him going nothing will come of it
16. If you are feeling down spend less time with books but seek good friends, sing and dance.

John Lloyd