

How bona to varda your dolly old eke

POLARI

Polari (also seen as 'Palare') is a gay slang language, which has now almost died out.

It was more common in the 1930s to the 1960s when gays had more need of a private slang. Polari itself was never clearly defined: an ever-changing collection of slang from various sources including Italian, English (backwards slang, rhyming slang), circus slang, canal-speak, Yiddish and Gypsy languages.

POLARI

A bit of vocabulary

acqua	water
bijou	small
bona	good
cackle	speak
chavie	child
dolly	pleasant
dowry	a lot, much
eke	face
fakement	thing
fang carsey	dentist
fantabulosa	excellent
lally	leg
lattie	house
mince	walk
munge	darkness
nanti	no, nothing
ogle fakes	spectacles
omi	man
palone	woman
riah	hair
troll	go
varda	see, look

The Bible in Polari

The whole of the Bible has been translated into Polari

Here's Genesis Chapter 1.

In the beginning *Gloria* created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was *nanti* form, and void; and *munge* was upon the *eke* of the deep. And the *fairy* of *Gloria* trolled upon the *eke* of the *aquas*.

And *Gloria* cackled, Let there be *sparkle*: and there was *sparkle*. And *Gloria* *var-dad* the *sparkle*, that it was *bona*.

The Bible in Polari

Here's a bit of "*Matilda*" Chapter 9

And *Josie* knowing their thoughts *cackled*, Wherefore think ye *nana* in your *thumping cheats*? For whether is easier, to *cackle*, Thy *kertervers* be forgiven thee; or to *cackle*, Arise, and *mince*? But that ye may know that the *omi chavvie* of *omi* hath power on earth to forgive *kertervers*.

Then saith *she* to the sick of the palsy, Arise, *lell* up thy bed, and *troll* unto thine *lattie*. And *she* arose, and *trolled off* to his *lattie*.

For those who want more, you can find the whole lot at

www.thesisters.demon.co.uk/bible/

My name's Julian and this is my friend Sandy

Polari was introduced to the wider world by the BBC radio comedy show "Round the Horne" which ran from 1965 to 1968.

The camp duo, Julian and Sandy, were played by Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams, with Kenneth Horne as the "straight" man.

