

Sunday January 31st 2021

Epiphany 4 Candlemas Service for all the Church Family



This Sunday you have the choice of viewing the whole service on this link:

<https://youtu.be/OG17LUuz0n8>

Or following the service on the service sheet below:

Notices and Zoom info at the end of this service sheet:

The Presentation in the Temple

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, usually called Candlemas, commemorates the presentation of Christ in the temple. This occurred 40 days after the birth of Christ, as prescribed by Jewish law.

The service starts with a procession with lighted candles through the church to the altar, accompanied by the singing of the Nunc Dimittis with the antiphon. Then the blessing of the Candlemas candles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXcVF1Z6y-8>

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen
thy salvation;*

*Which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people;*

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles

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*and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.*

Hymn 1

Lord God, You Now Have Set Your Servant Free (arr. R.V. Williams)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbTU4f47CrQ>

Welcome

Dear friends, it was nearly forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you

The Lord bless you.

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

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who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Saying sorry to God

Confession

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do
and think and say;

Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,

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Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise

Blessed is the Lord

All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

All and in our song we will praise our God.

We will not have the hymn: Earth Was Waiting

Hymn 2 Earth Was Waiting, Spent And Restless

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpBuWUxV-l8>

Hearing and responding to the Word of God

1st Reading: *By Chris Orrin* The first reading is from Malachi 3.1-5

3 The LORD Almighty answers, "I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger you long to see will come and proclaim my covenant."

² But who will be able to endure the day when he comes? Who will be able to survive when he appears? He will be like strong soap, like a fire that refines metal. ³ He will come to judge like one who refines and purifies silver. As a metalworker refines silver and gold, so the LORD's messenger will purify the priests, so that they will bring to the LORD the right kind of offerings. ⁴ Then the offerings which the people of Judah and Jerusalem bring to the LORD will be pleasing to him, as they used to be in the past.

⁵ The LORD Almighty says, "I will appear among you to judge, and I will testify at once against those who practice magic, against adulterers, against those who give false testimony, those who cheat employees out of their wages, and those who take advantage of widows, orphans, and foreigners—against all who do not respect me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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2nd Reading: by Roger Scurrall The second reading is from Hebrews 2.14-18

¹⁴ Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, ¹⁵ and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that it is not the angels that he helps. Instead, he helps the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ This means that he had to become like his people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High Priest in his service to God, so that the people's sins would be forgiven. ¹⁸ And now he can help those who are tempted, because he himself was tempted and suffered.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We will now have the hymn: **Will you come and follow me**

Hymn 3 Will you come and follow me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAYM8pWCwWk>

The acclamation to herald the Gospel reading by Revd Brigid

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

All Alleluia.

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

All Alleluia.

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Reading: The reading is from Luke 2.22-40 by Revd Brigid Main

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Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ²³ as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." ²⁴ They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

²⁵ At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him ²⁶ and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. ²⁷ Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

²⁹ "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.
³⁰ With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:
³² A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against ³⁵ and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart."

³⁶⁻³⁷ There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old.^[a] She never left the Temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying. ³⁸ That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

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Sermon: By Revd Steven Poss

The Presentation of Christ In The Temple (Candlemas)

Malachi 3:1-5 - The Coming Messenger

Hebrews 2:14-18 - Exaltation through Abasement

Luke 2:22-40 - Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

Sermon – ‘God can relate to our suffering’

Today in the Church is Candlemas (also spelled Candlemas), also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Feast of the Holy Encounter, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22–40. In accordance with Leviticus 12: a woman was to be purified by presenting a lamb as a burnt offering, and either a young pigeon or dove as sin offering, 33 days after a boy's circumcision. It falls on February 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of and the conclusion of the Christmas–Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them after Candlemas. On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, Orthodox and Roman Catholics) also bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year; for Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World.

This week we have had the very sad news of over 100,000 deaths here in the UK due to Covid-19. We pray for all of the families and friends and the medical and care staff affected on the front line and we pray that God will give them his strength, comfort and peace. On Sunday at midday, we are joining in with church's to ring our bells 100 times in remembrance of them and we ask you to take a moment to remember them at this time.

We hear in our Gospel reading, we hear in verses 34 & 35:-

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34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

The words I have underlined that ‘a sword will pierce your own soul too’ directed to Mary, must of taken her aback and also recalled the gift of myrrh from the Magi which was also present at the crucifixion in Mark 15:23. I say this because Mary must of thought that these were referring to Jesus’ death, something like us all we try to push aside and rather not think about.

Our souls have been pierced in all different ways through this pandemic and it has brought us face to face with death. In our reading from the letter to the Hebrews, it reads:-

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters[n] in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Here it says that Jesus shared the same things as us, so that he may destroy the one who has power over of death. It goes onto say that he became like us in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest, to make an atonement for the sins of the people. Through these challenging times, let us remember that the baby Jesus we celebrated at Christmas and today with his parent’s visit to the Temple, that he has shared the same things as us and that he is also our high priest that reigns in the heavens above. He is our high priest who is merciful and faithful and is there for us, especially at these difficult times.

The last verse says that ‘because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested’. May God help us in our sufferings and like Anna and Simeon, let us be faithful and patient in these times at homes and pray that God will lead us and the world out of this

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pandemic. May we like them offer ourselves into the service of God who brings us new life, through his purification of us through his love, mercy and forgiveness and on this Candlemas day, let us light a candle or candles in remembrance of the 100,000 plus people who have died and remember these candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

We now sing the hymn; Immortal invisible God only wise

Hymn 4 Immortal invisible God only wise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spE-BE23qxA>

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Prayers of Intercession: by: Ella Hand

Let us Pray

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.

In our Deanery – we pray for our local churches that need support at this time:

*for Althorne Church where the building is suffering from subsidence,
for Stow Maries for the need of a new Roof due to lead theft,
for North Fambridge Church and their planned closure,
for Latchingdon church and it's structural problems,
for the roof work at Creeksea starting at Easter
and for all the Churchwardens, PCC's and congregations.*

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:

look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

We offer prayers for everyone, as everyone is struggling somehow in this Pandemic. The families who are grieving, the parents especially at this time trying to juggle working from home and home schooling their children, loads of pressure on whole families, and people who are living on their own and so lonely and are desperate to work for their own sanity.

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:

look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray this week for:

We pray for Fr Stan Swift's and Sally's Grandson Elliott who has been diagnosed with Leukaemia, for his Mother Linda and sister Katie.

Beryl Habgood

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Jeff Grimshaw

Beryl Dixon

Josh Pitman

Georgia

Andy Smith

Sue Wilson

Ernest Norman has now moved to a nursing home for palliative care, but he has recovered enough to be visited by his two daughters and zooming the rest of his family.

A prayer for the dying:

Dear Lord, Help **David Bishop** discover your peace. Let him receive your comfort. Help him to be at rest knowing that you care for him, and that you love him. Calm his soul as he moves into the afterlife. May he spend eternity with you; may he live forever in your presence.

We pray for his wife Lesley and their family at this time.

We pray for all those we know and all those in in our parishes and who have COVID 19, that they may recover and be aware of your healing powers. We pray that all those we know keep safe in these worrying times.

We especially pray for those in hospital:

Pascal: Haley's father who is slowly coming out of a Covid coma and is breathing unsupported during the daytime. We pray that he continues to improve and we pray for his family at this difficult time.

We also pray for all the people from our parishes who have this virus.

We pray for and all in **Down Hall** who are unwell, and continue to pray for the staff, residents, and their family members of those in **Down Hall and The Swan Care Homes**. We also pray for those who are suffering and are known only to you.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:

look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

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(You can add Prayers for the departed here)

We pray for those who have passed away,

For Chris's aunt **Freda Howard** who's funeral is on 4th March.

For our dear Thursday Club member **Trudy Dobby**, we think of her daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Brian and her son Graham.

For **Louisa Elizabeth Parker** from St Lawrence, we remember Carol and Christine, her daughters, and family as they prepare for the funeral at Chelmsford Crematorium on 4th February

For **Dave White** from Down Hall, we think of his family at this time.

For **Ian Webb**, we think of Margaret and Ian's family.

For **Ewa Huszak** who's funeral was on Monday in Wolverhampton.

For **Tony King**, who's funeral is on Thursday 11th February.

For **Tony Gibson** who's funeral at Chelmsford Crematorium on 4th February.

And finally, for Abi's grandad **Ronnie Whalley** we pray for Ronnie's family at this sad time.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:
look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,

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and showed them the infant King.

Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray together:

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Final Responory

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;

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may we be filled with the light of your love.

All Praise to Christ our light.

The Conclusion

We stand near the place of new birth.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

We turn from the crib to the cross.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

Thanks be to God.

Final Blessing

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins,
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst us, and remain with you always.
Let us go forth in the name of Christ

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thankyou for joining our Service this week, please keep safe.

If you need any help or support at this time please contact your local church for us to help.

We finish with the last hymn: O Jesus I have promised

Hymn 4: O Jesus I have promised:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQFLOCoYaPI&t=15s>

A service from New Patterns for Worship. Compilation copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002.

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Notices

Spiritual Communion

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Jan 31, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79684959356?pwd=cIIHeTc2NFVTcExhOVc3cE5wck5tUT09>

Meeting ID: 796 8495 9356

Passcode: e6M8c5

Bible Study

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 39 and 40

Time: Feb 1, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83446782237?pwd=U1NJbk5yQmVNbkZzVFgxVTREOUxBdz09>

Meeting ID: 834 4678 2237

Passcode: 257489

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Feb 3, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84255399487?pwd=MDFxb01BdWt2WHZ5Vk9JM3R0dzIyUT09>

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Meeting ID: 842 5539 9487

Passcode: 182806

Deanery Verger's Course

Coronavirus: Archbishops invite nation to pause, pray and remember 100,000 people 'known to God and cherished by God'

The Bradwell Area Vocations day will take place by Zoom this year on Saturday 27 February between 10am and 2pm. For further information and to register, please click [here](#).

Evangelism in a Digital World, Tuesday 2 February, 7pm We'll be joined by Ali Johnson, Digital Evangelist at Cliff College as we discuss evangelism in the complex and growing online space. Register [here](#).

Art can speak to our deepest feelings, calling forth our own creative response to the creativity of the artist. A painting or sculpture can move us beyond words to some deep feeling, some movement of the heart towards God. A guide to praying with art >>

Finding graces in lockdown - David Lonsdale writes for Thinking Faith Chelmsford Diocese first three Generous God, Generous Disciples Webinars are now open to book.

The Parish Giving Scheme, Thursday 4 February, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

In this webinar we'll explain how the Parish Giving Scheme can help you to encourage and enable giving in your parish. We'll be joined by Richard Jones who is the Lead Parish Giving Adviser for the Diocese of Hereford. Richard will explain how the scheme works and how you can get started. There will also be an opportunity for discussion and questions. Register [here](#).

Everyday Faith Article

[The State Will Be Transformed — NEWPOLITY](#)

We are delighted to announce that our postponed Embrace Annual Lecture will be available to watch online in January and February.

Our speaker this year is the writer and broadcaster John McCarthy, following on from his 2012 acclaimed book *You Can't Hide the Sun – A journey through Israel and Palestine*.

The event will be broadcast at the following times:

- Afternoon 1st February

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- Morning 3rd of February
- Evening 4th of February

[The Embrace Annual Lecture — Embrace the Middle East \(embraceme.org\)](http://embraceme.org)

Lent 2021 – 17 February is Ash Wednesday

Lent will soon be with us from 17 February. I am thinking of doing the following course – ‘Where is God?’, let me know what you think of it or any other suggestions you think we should study. Some other courses can be found at [5-Session Courses - York Courses](#)

Also, below are some recommended books to read and below is a suggested USPG Lent course to register onto.

[Where is God...? - York Courses](#)

Where is God ...?

1. when we seek happiness? – 10-12 & 7.30pm-9pm – Thursday 25 February
2. when we face suffering? – 2-4pm Monday 1 March & 7.30pm-9.30pm – Thursday 4 March
3. when we make decisions? – 10-12 Monday 8 March & 7.30pm-9pm – Thursday 11 March
4. when we contemplate death? – 10-12 Monday 15 March & 2pm-4.30pm – Thursday 18 March
5. when we try to make sense of life? – 12-2 Monday 22 March & 2pm-4.30pm – Thursday 25 March

The course booklet, written by Canon John Young, includes questions aimed at provoking wide-ranging discussion. Each group needs a copy of the course audio, plus a course booklet for each member. In addition many groups find the transcript, which cross-references to the tracks on the recorded material, invaluable.

The participants on the course audio are **Archbishop Rowan Williams, Patricia Routledge and Joel Edwards. Dr Pauline Webb** provides the thoughtful Closing Reflection at the end of each session.

Diocese Lent Modules

Here is a list of the diocesan Lent Modules for 2021. Across the Diocese, leading up to Good Friday, there will be a series of courses offered under the title Lent Modules. The courses are open to anyone and with the exception of modules 2 & 5, will be carried out using Zoom. The cost has been kept to a minimum, starting at £15 for a two session course, rising to £25 for 5 session courses. For more information, please contact Revd Steven.

Module Lent 1 - The Upside-down Kingdom of God

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Module Lent 2 - Lost Christianities

Module Lent 3 - Science and Faith - is there a place for scientists in the Church

Module Lent 4 - "The Book of Job – Why does God let innocent people suffer?"

Module Lent 5 - Pilgrimage and Saints

Module Lent 6 - Living as a Christian in the scientific and technological world of today and tomorrow

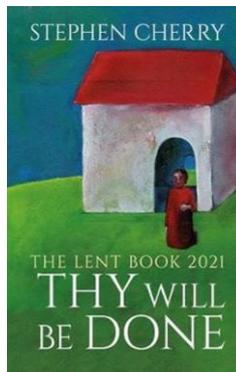
Module Lent 7 - Jesus and the Entrepreneurial Kingdom Enabling Innovative strategies for Kingdom mission

Module Lent 8 - The history, beliefs and practices of Jehovah's Witnesses

Module Lent 9 - Seeing Jesus: Art and Meditation to prepare us for Easter week

Module Lent 10 - The Big Screen and the Bible

Module Lent 11 - Surprised by Prayer



[Thy Will be Done](#)

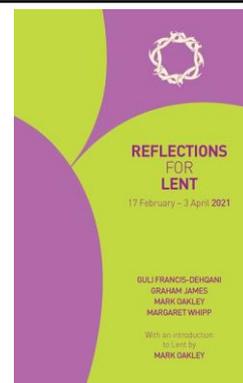
At a time of change, uncertainty and widespread anxiety, we need to discover again the freshness of our most familiar spiritual resources. **Stephen Cherry's** Lent Book *Thy Will be Done* does exactly this by inviting the reader to immerse themselves in the most central, important and iconic of Christian prayers - the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father.

Was £9.99 Now £7.99

[Reflections for Lent 2021](#)

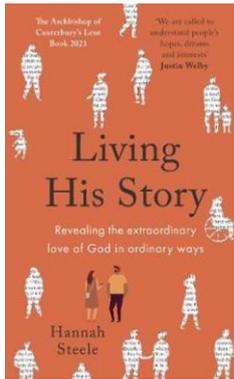
Reflections for Lent is designed to enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (17 February - 3 April 2021). It offers reflections on readings from the Common Worship Lectionary, written by some of today's leading spiritual and theological writers - **Guli Francis-Dehqani, Graham James, Mark Oakley** and **Margaret Whipp**.

Was £4.99 Now £4.49



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[Living His Story](#)

In *Living His Story*, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, **Hannah Steele** uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural gifts.

Was £9.99 Now £7.99

[A Cross in the Heart of God](#)

The Canterbury Press Lent book for 2021 focuses on the significance of the story at the very centre of Christianity: the crucifixion. **Samuel Wells** writes as a theologian and pastor to explore the cross in the purposes of God and how this act brings about salvation. A study guide with questions and prayers makes this ideal for Lent groups as well as individual reading.

Was £12.99 Now £10.99

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Supporting good mental health resources

The effects of mental health problems are huge, and given the challenging times we are living in with coronavirus, it's more important than ever that we take steps to support good mental health. For more information, click below:-

[Supporting good mental health | The Church of England](#)

USPG Webinars

15th February, 7.30pm GMT/UTC: Bray Day

(USPG and SPCK Founders Day)

Past and Present: Pastoral Care across space and time

Over the last year churches have wrestled with the question: How is pastoral and spiritual care given remotely, at a distance? It's a question that has been asked before. Indeed, it lies at the heart of USPG and what it means to be a global mission agency.

Sunday January 31st 2021

Epiphany 4 Candlemas Service for all the Church Family

This Bray Day we will be releasing a fascinating digital archive, a freely available online exhibition of sources and letters from the time of the Society's foundation. This is the result of work undertaken over the last year by USPG in collaboration with scholars at the University of Leeds exploring themes of pastoral care in USPG's archive.

This work focusses on letters exchanged between missionaries in North America and the Caribbean and the Society's headquarters in London. It sheds an extraordinary light on the concerns and issues of pastoral caregiving in the early work of USPG. Pastoral caregiving remains a critical part of the global work of USPG particularly in the context of Covid 19. This evening will provide a rich exploration of the connections between the past and the present.

Speakers:

Bishop Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

Dr Alison Searle, University of Leeds

Dr Jo Sadgrove, USPG

We are grateful to our collaborators at the University of Leeds and to the AHRC for their support of the academic project which underpins this initiative - ***Pastoral Care, Literary Cure and Religious Dissent: Zones of Freedom in the British Atlantic (c 1630-1720)***.

[You can register for Bray Day here](#)

Lent 2021 Webinars: For such a time as this

Sunday January 31st 2021

Epiphany 4 Candlemas Service for all the Church Family



USPG LENT COURSE 2021

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A free six session course exploring ecological justice with case studies and Bible studies from around the Anglican Communion.

VISIT
www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION

The world is in crisis; Creation is groaning. People and the Earth have been crying out for many years. But for too long, many people - particularly those in the global North - have chosen not to listen, instead remaining complicit in destruction and continuing to increase inequalities. In such a time as this, what have Christians got to offer?

Our doctrine of creation suggests that it was never meant to be like this, but that human nature is tarnished or fallen. The biblical narrative of salvation provides a remedy and challenges us to play our part in the process of redemption and re-creation. This is the journey that we will take together over the six sessions looking at the implications for our daily lives both as individuals and as communities of faith and hope.

We are here for such a time as this. Called to respond with words and actions. USPG partners with churches across the world in their mission of transforming lives through education, health care and justice for all. USPG's partner churches offer us insights, hope and encouragement in the ways that they are confronting the issues of ecological justice in their own context: and in doing so, challenge us to respond: are we ready to accept the challenge?

USPG will be facilitating a group that will gather on zoom with contributors to the course and other global partners, to study this course together on the six Mondays during Lent, on:

STUDY 1 For such a time. With the Asian Theological Academy.
Monday 22 February 10am GMT/UTC

STUDY 2 Creation. With the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.
Monday 1 March. 10am GMT/UTC

Sunday January 31st 2021

Epiphany 4 Candlemas Service for all the Church Family

**STUDY 3 The Fall. With the Diocese of Belize, Province of the West Indies.
Monday 8 March. 2.30pm GMT/UTC**

**STUDY 4. Salvation . With the Diocese of Lebombo, Mozambique.
Monday 15 March. 2.30pm GMT/UTC**

**STUDY 5. Restoration. With the Green Schools, Church of South India.
Monday 22 March. 10am GMT/UTC**

**STUDY 6. ReCreation. With the Asian Rural Institute, Japan.
Monday 29 March. 10am BST**

To be a part of this online group please email Gwen Mtambirwa
at gwenm@uspg.org.uk who will send booking details.