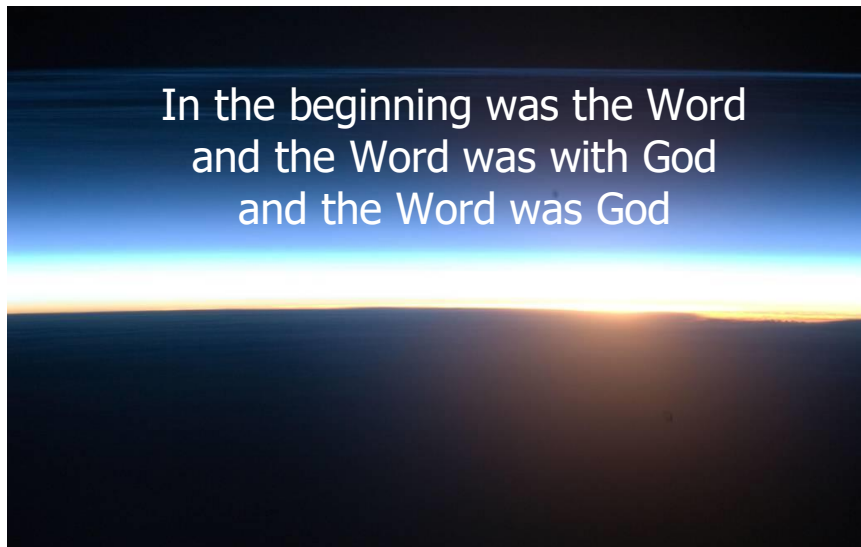


Welcome to this 2nd before Lent – Sexagesima

Sunday Communion Service



Instructions: Ctrl-Click on the link in blue to activate the whole recorded service with all the hymns etc. <https://youtu.be/uCcQdcsZnPo>
If you have a Smart Tv enter this in YouTube: **St Thomas Church Lent amsndb**

For the Zoom service, see notices at the end of this service sheet

Welcome by Cassy outside Dengie Church

Welcome our 47th week of our Joint Benefice online services recorded here at St James' Church in Dengie:

Lord Jesus Christ,
Your name above every other name, we praise you.
We pray that your name is blessed now and forever,
in good times and in bad, from east to west.
Your name is worthy of praise.
Your name is powerful.
Your name rules over the nations.
Your glory is higher than the heavens.
Your name is beautiful.
Let us praise the name of the Lord together.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

We will now sing the hymn 'Angels voices ever singing'

Hymn 1: Angels voices ever singing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nig-VqlyGzA>

Welcome

Welcome to this holy table;

welcome to you,

for we are Christ's body,

Christ's work in the world.

Welcome to you whose baptism makes you

salt of the earth and light to the world.

Rejoice and be glad.

Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen.

Christ is our light,

the joy of our salvation.

Thanksgiving and Praise

Christ is the living water

cleansing, refreshing, making all things new.

Christ is the living bread;

food for the hungry,

strength for the pilgrim and the labourer.

So now we offer our thanks

for the beauty of our land

for the wild places

for the mountains, the coast and the sea.

We offer thanks and praise to God for this good land;

for its trees and pastures,

for its plentiful crops

and the skills we have learned to grow them.

Our thanks for our villages and the cities we have built;

for science and discoveries,

for our life together,
for this church,
for the continued life of prayer in this place.

Forgiveness

We come seeking forgiveness
for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

Rejoice and be glad,
for Christ is resurrection,
reconciliation for all the human race.

The minister and people say

We shall all be one in Christ,
one in our life together.
Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world

We now sing the Gloria

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen

The Collect and first 2 readings by Julian

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Reading 1 Proverbs 8.1,22-31

The Gifts of Wisdom

8 Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

Wisdom's Part in Creation

²² The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

²³ Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸ when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Reading 2 Colossians 1.15-20

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We now sing the hymn 'As the deer pants for the water'

Hymn 2 As the deer pants for the water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBppKZ0eJlQ>

Gospel Reading John 1.1-14 by Cassy

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon by Revd Steven Poss

Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 - The Gifts of Wisdom

Colossians 1: 15-20 - The Supremacy of Christ

John 1: 1-14 - The Word Became Flesh

Sermon – The Pre-existent Jesus

Today is the second Sunday before Lent and all three of our readings are about the Pre-existent Jesus, before he came to earth as a baby.

In our reading from Proverbs, we hear:-

22 The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

23 Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth.

Wisdom is pretty sure of itself in this reading, wisdom takes to itself the most exalted role in creation, having been created right at the beginning and then being right alongside the Lord as creation continued. The language is rich and evocative: 'When he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above... then I was beside him.' Wisdom's confidence is enchanting: 'I was daily his delight'. So what do we make of such extravagant claims?

If this Wisdom is Jesus Christ, then we can see in Proverbs, as speaking of the same mediator who centuries later, by a river, heard a voice from heaven saying: 'With you I am well pleased.' Jesus was daily the delight of his Father at Jesus' baptism.

In our reading from Colossians, St Paul is writing to the Church in Colossae, which is modern day Turkey and was under intense pressure from the society around it with ideas from Greek philosophy, oriental mysticism and came to different ideas around the person of Jesus, mainly that he was an angelic being.

St Paul is quite clear about who Jesus was before he came to earth, as he writes:-

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Here Paul is saying that Jesus is the image of the invisible God and supports our first reading in saying that that he was the firstborn of all creation and that in Jesus, all things in heaven and earth were created. This amazing revelation informs us that Jesus was at the centre in all creation, which explains the order behind our universe and that the cosmos is not a chaos because Jesus and his wisdom is at the centre of it.

In our Gospel reading, we hear the famous prologue from John which we usually hear at Christmas. Here, John writes:-

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

John is describing Jesus as the “Word” and confirms that Jesus was with God in the beginning and that all things came into being through him. This “Word” is similar to the “Wisdom” used in our first reading from Proverbs, but this takes a different dimension from the “Wisdom” behind creation, but the “Wisdom and Word” which becomes flesh, human, like you and I and dwells amongst us. Here we can see in the flesh God visible in the person of Jesus and hear God speak to us through Jesus’ teachings.

Here is our God who we are to put our trust in and is he who we are to follow in his ways, so that we can have the life and peace he came to bring to us. During these challenging times, we can become anxious and bored and also very stressed for those who are trying to work and home-school their children! Whoever, we are, Jesus’ words and wisdom is vital for us in these days.

As we approach Lent, let us read one or all of the gospels, namely Mark, Luke, Matthew and John and let us learn more about Jesus who is wisdom and word of God. Let these words speak to us in our lives, so that we may have life, hope and peace in the one who came to us in great humility to redeem us.

Let us make a commitment to be faithful in worship to Jesus, pray to Jesus: keep in contact with him like you do with someone you really care about. Do good, generous, kind and sacrificial acts for others. Be filled with hope. Look for the best and celebrate it. And if you're really new to faith, or returning after a long time, start by asking Jesus to come into your heart and be part of your life. Jesus is the blueprint for humanity, and in him we're called to discover what being truly human, made in the image of God, means in practice. The more we open ourselves to Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to be within us and shape us, the more we will become the body of Christ in this place and in our world, and recognise the image of God in other humans too, Amen.

Amen

Profession of faith

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

We now sing the hymn 'Jesus stand among us'

Hymn 3: Jesus stand among us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0IL51DjdMc>

Prayers of Intercession: by Cassy

Let us pray-

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of the world and our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
and the schooling of our young people,
and all in any kind of need at this time:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Dear Lord we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for:

Fr Lionel Webber

Fr Stan Swift's and Sally's Grandson Elliott

Beryl Dixon

Josh Pitman

Georgia

Andy Smith

Sue Wilson

Ernest Norman

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

We especially pray for those in hospital:

Pascal: Haley's father who is now out of a Covid coma but is presently
having memory problems. We pray that he continues to improve and
we pray for his family at this difficult time.

We pray for and all in **Down Hall, The Swan, and Mansion House** care homes,
the residents, and their families.

We especially pray for **the staff** who are working so hard in very difficult
conditions.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the families of those who have passed away,

For **Diane Mc Morland** who passed away at Mansion House this week. We
pray for her husband David and Family and for her brother Phil Tylor.

For **David Bishop**, we pray for his wife Lesley and their family.

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

For **Trudy Dobby** who's funeral service on at St Thomas' on February 15th.

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

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 **Tony Gibson** and **Louisa Elizabeth Parker** whose funerals were on 4th February

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, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us

We are **not** people of fear:

we are people of courage.

We are **not** people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are **not** people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are,

whatever it costs

For as long as it takes

wherever you call us.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We now sing the hymn 'Dearest Jesu, we are here'

Hymn 4 Dearest Jesu, we are here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5y96ZX3iyY>

Collection:

During this hymn a collection would normally be taken:

Please arrange for your donations to go to your local Church:

For Bradwell St Thomas' Congregation please go to:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6203/> and click Please donate to the running of the Church

The Peace

God is love
and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

**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.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

The president and people receive communion.

Post Communion

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Prayer after communion

All We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.

Notices for the week Revd. Steven.....

Final Blessing

Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light that scatters the darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights,
hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people
and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with joy
as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All Amen.

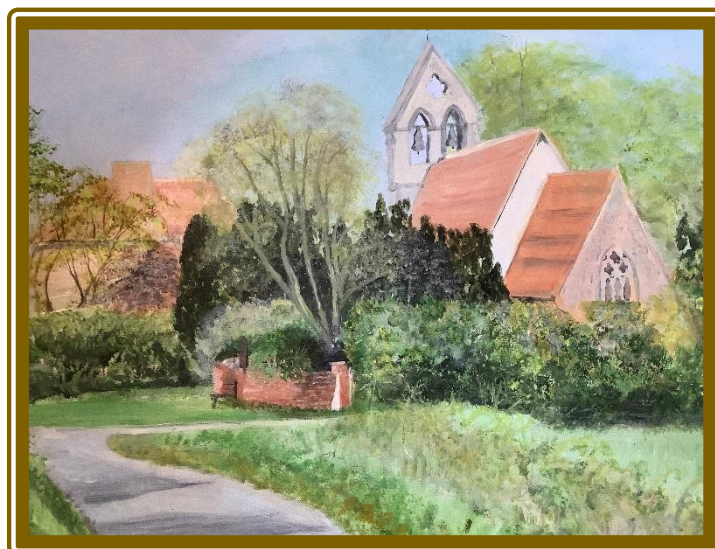
Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
We go, giving thanks to God

We sing our final hymn: Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones

Final Hymn Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHq1gbyYe9w&t=5s>



Notices

Spiritual Communion

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Feb 7, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423586935?pwd=aklxWEhFRjZZNnZxelYvbVRHOHVvdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 2358 6935

Passcode: 565699

Bible Study

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 41 and 42

Time: Feb 8, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81968455496?pwd=UTIXMjF5ckY0Nm5mdjEwVC93TmFrUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 6845 5496

Passcode: 674040

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Feb 10, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81235729724?pwd=VW01cFQzOHlrSUE3UE5WaFpIU29vdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 3572 9724

Passcode: 779752

Deanery Verger's Course

The Deanery is looking to run a course for anyone who is interested in becoming a Verger. A Verger usually assists the Vicar in services such as Funerals and Weddings, meeting and greeting guests and generally assisting that the service runs smoothly. If you are interested in this, please speak to Revd Steven.

Chelmsford Cathedral - We're really excited to be launching a new community art project with a group of textile artists,

The Material Girls

. Called Good Lament and Hard Hope the project explores the challenges of the pandemic and wants to help enable people to express their grief and hope through hand-made fabric postcards. The postcards will then be used as part of an art installation in the Cathedral in the summer of 2021.

Everyone is invited to get involved and send us their postcards. The Material Girls have made an incredible start already, check out their website helpful tips and inspiration <http://www.the-materialgirls.co.uk/community-project.html>

You can download a how-to make a fabric postcard help sheet from our website, <https://drive.google.com/.../1pXzcyxZjvPqelTsyh92jAK.../view>, and we'll be sharing pictures of the wonderful creations we've already received very soon!

The Retreat House, Pleshey

are running three online retreats exploring how people have seen and found hope in these troubled times, and how this hope may resource ourselves and our communities. Come and share in Good News stories from Church, NHS and parish communities, and see how we are all being called to be part of something new! Find out more and book at <http://ow.ly/f2IL50DnD67>

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](#).

Launch Webinar, Monday 8 February, 1pm The Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2021 builds on last year's Lent Appeal to support the work of the Five Talents Microfinance Charity in our link diocese of Marsabit, Kenya. To find out how you can get involved in the appeal and support it within your own parish, please join us at our launch webinar on Monday 8 February at 1pm. The webinar will include interviews with Revd Elema and Bishop Qampicha from Marsabit and a representative from Five Talents. To register, please click [here](#).

Stewardship Resources Webinar, Thursday 11 February, 7.30pm In this webinar we will highlight the key resources that are available for parishes to support stewardship and giving. Register [here](#).

Marketplace, Tuesday 23 February, 7.30pm This webinar will signpost some of the commercial opportunities that are available to parishes to help generate additional income. Register [here](#).

Diocesan and Parish Finance, 16 March, 7.30pm Join Interim Chief Operations

Officer, Maureen Cole and our new Finance Director, Michaela Southworth for an overview of diocesan and parish finance. Register [here](#).

Recordings of our first two Generous God, Generous Disciples webinars can now be watched [here](#).

Generous God, Generous Disciples Lent Bible Studies Throughout Lent, we'll be hosting a series of bible studies on the theme of stewardship and giving as part of Christian discipleship. For further information, please click [here](#).

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

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

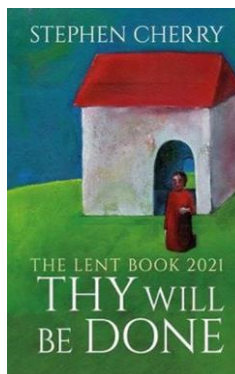
Module Lent 7 - Jesus and the Entrepreneurial Kingdom Enabling Innovative strategies for Kingdom mission

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](#)

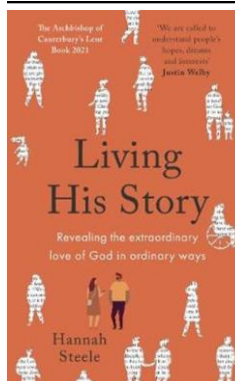
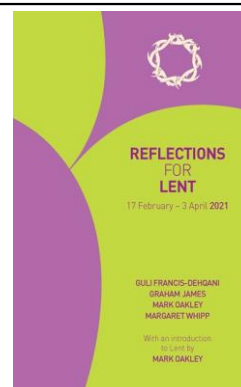
At a time of change, uncertainty and widespread anxiety, we need to discover again the freshness of our most familiar spiritual resources. **Stephen Cherry's** Lent Book *Thy Will be Done* does exactly this by inviting the reader to immerse themselves in the most central, important and iconic of Christian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



[Living His Story](#)

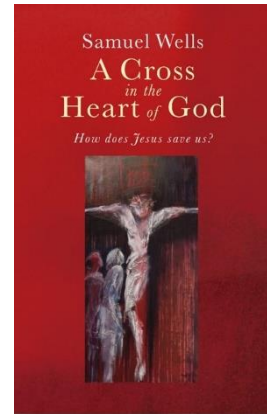
In *Living His Story*, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, **Hannah Steele** uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing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



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.

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



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**

**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.