

Welcome to this **Lent 1**

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/NR9H18nyZt4>

If you wish to join the live Sunday Morning **Zoom Communion** today at 10:00am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87541637394?pwd=U2U4QzhiTjV2ZEpYck9Sd0JrNXZGUT09>
Meeting ID: 875 4163 7394 Passcode: 346480

*If you have a Smart Tv enter this in YouTube: **Lent 1 Sunday Communion Service amsndb***

Welcome by Shirley outside St Lawrence Church Centre

Welcome our 62nd Joint Benefice online service over the last 49 weeks, this week recorded here at St Lawrence Church Centre:
This is the first Sunday in Lent, traditionally a time of prayer and penance.

This prayer is called; **The Fast Life Prayer** for Lent

Dear Lord may we:
Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.
Amen.

Author Unknown

We will now sing the hymn 'All Hail the Lamb'

Hymn 1: All Hail the Lamb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzAeZz3zyP4>

Revd. Steven

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

The Collect and first reading by Ann

The Collect for the first Sunday in Lent:

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reading 1 **Genesis 9:8-17** *first reading* by Ann

⁸God said to Noah and his sons, ⁹“Look. I now confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, including the birds, the domestic animals, and every living creature of the earth with you, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature of the earth. ¹¹I confirm my covenant with you: Never again will all living things be wiped out by the waters of a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the guarantee of the covenant I am making with you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all subsequent generations: ¹³ I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ then I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures of all kinds. Never again will the waters become a flood and destroy all living things. ¹⁶ When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will notice it and remember the perpetual covenant between God and all living creatures of all kinds that are on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the guarantee of the covenant that I am confirming between me and all living things that are on the earth.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Reading 2 1 Peter 3:18-22 By Penny

¹⁸ Because Christ also suffered once for sins,

the just for the unjust,

to bring you to God,

by being put to death in the flesh

but by being made alive in the spirit.

¹⁹ In it he went and preached to the spirits in prison,

²⁰ after they were disobedient long ago when God patiently waited in the days of Noah as an ark was being constructed. In the ark a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water. ²¹ And this prefigured baptism, which now saves you—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who went into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels and authorities and powers subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We now sing the hymn 'Shout to the North'

Hymn 2 Shout to the North <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcqxmlBqWBk>

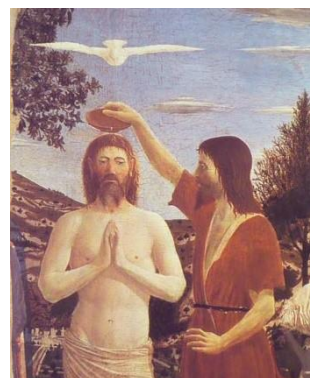
Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15 By Vicky

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

⁹ Now in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight." ¹² The Spirit immediately drove him into the wilderness ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, enduring temptations from Satan.



He was with wild animals, and angels were ministering to his needs.

Preaching in Galilee and the Call of the Disciples

¹⁴ Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel^[m] of God. ¹⁵ He said, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon written By Simon Duggan – Authorised Local Preacher – St Lawrence
read by Revd Steven

Genesis 9.8-17

1 Peter 3.18-22

Mark 1.9-15

Sermon

What have we been doing during 'lockdown'?

Back in 1915 there was an army recruitment poster that we could easily relate to today. It said “Daddy what did YOU do during the war?” And perhaps today it could say “what did you do during the lock down?” This could mean for us, for society, or for the Church! In WW1 the poster was perhaps meant to challenge men to sign up from guilt. For today I am hoping this thought is more of a challenge to make us think, and hopefully reflect on the past year or more, of the virus and 'lock down'.

It seems that many people are just looking forward to things getting back to 'normal' (whatever that might mean for different people). Obviously for the families of the 100,000+ who have died, and probably for all the doctors and nurses that treated them in hospital, life will never be quite the same again. Although a 'normal' might be a great relief! I don't believe that God sent the virus, but I truly believe that God wants to speak to us through it. And perhaps it is worth considering the fact that we have just begun our second Lent under lock down! Perhaps IF is God wanting to teach us something through it, we didn't learn it last time, so we are having to take the test a second time? (Hopefully we will get it this time, and not have to take the test a third time!).

So perhaps by reflecting on the readings for today we can learn some things about previous 'lock downs', and how they impacted people. Thinking about Noah in the reading from Genesis seems quite appropriate with all the rain we have had over the past few months! The reading comes from the moment when Noah and his family step out of the Ark after 150 days of lock down. Obviously, they spent the time caring for the animals. But have you ever considered what must have been going through their minds? They had seen all their friends and neighbours drown. All houses, farms and signs of civilisation gone. Although in Chapter 6 verse 9 it says that 'Noah was a just man', there is no record of how the family felt about going into the Ark, and I'm guessing they had a lot of questions for Noah about God. Probably over the past year people, or even you, have questioned what is God doing? And perhaps there is a challenge in Chapter 6 verse 5 which says that 'The Lord saw that the wickedness of men was great in the earth'. Perhaps God is wanting us to really reflect on the state of our world, especially during this season of Lent. And although God has promised He won't destroy the world in a flood again, He will return to judge the world. Interestingly the sign that God gave to say he would never flood the earth again is the rainbow, and during the first lock down

especially this became a sign that people displayed in their homes as a sign of hope.

Another sort of lock down relates to the second reading of 1 Peter 3. It recalls the three days of Jesus being in the tomb. During that time, he went and preached to the captives of hell and broke the chains of death. And the most wonderful part of that 'lock down' was that at the end He rose again! At the beginning of the 'lock down' the disciples were distraught and lost, not knowing what to do. Perhaps we can relate that a little bit to today, many people feel lost and confused by the lock down and don't know what to do with themselves. Admittedly now that a third of people have had a vaccine jab there is perhaps light at the end of the tunnel. For the disciples it was the light that burst forth from the empty tomb that turned things around for them. Probably very quickly the three days seemed like just a moment, but during the three days it probably seemed like an eternity. For us today the virus might seem like it has been with us forever. But things are changing.

The third scripture is obviously very appropriate for today as it recalls Jesus going out into the wilderness (a form of lock down!). Although the bible says in verse 12 of Mark 1 that after Jesus was baptised the Spirit 'immediately drove Him into the wilderness', there is no record as to whether Jesus knew that about to happen? We know that Lent has begun, because it's part of the Church calendar. But the virus came with no warning, and we weren't ready for it. With Jesus I believe that God prepared Him for the wilderness by having Him baptised first. And I think that Jesus knew that His three-year ministry was about to begin leading up the Cross and His Resurrection. But I wonder how often we ponder on what was Jesus thinking about for the forty days? The temptations from the devil I am guessing came at the end of the forty days when He was the most hungry. But for the rest of the time was He thinking about why the Father had sent Him? About what He was to say and do? And perhaps from His human side, would He be strong enough to fulfil all that the Father had called Him to?

During Lent people traditionally spend the time preparing for Easter by perhaps having extended times of bible study or prayer. Perhaps giving up something, or some activity like a hobby, to focus more on God. This is all brilliant, but perhaps it is made easier in some ways because we know the date it will end, and we can then go back to 'normal'. Probably one of the most asked questions over this past year has been “when will the lock down end?” Or “when will the schools re-open?” Or “when can we hug our relatives again?” Jesus knew that

He would rise from the tomb after three days, and He actually told His disciples that several times. But they forgot! Noah was given no indication of how long the flood would last. And we haven't had any idea how long this lock down would last. I think initially people thought it might be a couple of months. But that was probably more wishful thinking which is why people still booked summer and Christmas holidays!

At the beginning I asked the question what have we been doing during lock down? If, as I suggested, God is seeing it as a bit of a test, or a challenge, when we get to the end will be able to say we've passed? Noah presumably passed the test because he saved his family and all the animals. Jesus passed the test of the wilderness because He went on to fulfil His ministry. But what about us? Have we changed? Have we moved away from evil things that have been dominating our lives? Has the Church changed perhaps in the way it shares the gospel and loves people? Has society changed? Sadly, over the past year there have been many signs of people being selfish, but perhaps these have been far outweighed by people helping one another. Doctors, nurses, and care staff have shown such dedication that it's almost impossible to put it into words.

But the critical question is have we changed? Have we spent the past year reflecting on our attitudes? Have we spent more time in God's word and prayer? As we haven't been able to go out, we should have been able to do that quite readily. Have we spent time reflecting on the moral values of society and the world? We may be getting through the pandemic, but there are still millions around the world trapped in slavery, in people trafficking, in poverty, or in war. And the financial implications of this pandemic is probably going to make those problems even worse. If we haven't done things right in the past year, we now have the opportunity to spend the days of Lent improving our attitudes and our walk with the Lord.

Sadly, one of the first things Noah did after the flood that we read in Chapter 9 verse 21, was to plant a vineyard, make some wine, and get drunk! Perhaps this is a warning for us, and especially society, not to go 'crazy' when the lock down finishes. I am guessing that the doctors and nurses will probably just want to sleep for a month. Probably the pubs might be swamped, and lots of people will be booking holidays. But perhaps even now we need to consider who around us will need a visit? Perhaps a celebration for a birthday or an anniversary that was missed? And perhaps particularly help in celebrating the life of someone that passed away over the past year, but couldn't be remembered at the time.

The memory of the past eighteen months is probably going to last a long time. When someone says “what did you do during the lock down?” will we be able to say we saw God move amazingly, or that we were able to help our neighbours. Or will we say we just waited until it got back too 'normal'.

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 ‘Be Still for the presence of the Lord’

Hymn 3: Be Still for the presence of the Lord
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Prayers of Intercession: by Shirley

Let us pray-

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things
and to give ourselves to him this Lent.
Give your Church the courage
to give up her preoccupation with herself

and to give more time to your mission in the world.

[We pray for especially for the parishes in our deanery who need your support at this time.

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace.

We pray for all the areas in the Far and Middle East, Africa and South America where there is disturbance, unrest and persecution.

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

We pray for all who are stressed with the Covid Lockdown, we also pray for Teachers, parents, carers and children struggling with home education.

May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.

We pray for:

Sadie Russell

Dede Starsmeare

Ken Bloomfield

Fr Lionel Webber
Fr Stan Swift's and Sally's Grandson Elliott
Beryl Dixon
Sue Wilson
Ernest Norman

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch,
and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death
and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.
We pray for the families of those who have passed away,

For **Tony Hutson** We pray for his wife Haley and for Sophia and Luke at this
difficult time.

For **Diane Mc Morland** We pray for her husband David and Family and for her
brother Phil Tylor.

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

For **Trudy Dobby** who's funeral service on at St Thomas' last week.

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.

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross,
walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony,
and walk with us and all your Church
through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
**give us strength and hear our prayer,
here and in eternity. Amen.**

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

We now sing the hymn 'Who Is There Like You'

Hymn 4 'Who Is There Like You' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYkce-EhNuQ>

Collection:

During this hymn a collection would normally be taken:

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

The Peace. Revd Steven

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.**

For Bradwell St Thomas'
Congregation please go to:

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

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

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
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: To God be the Glory

Final Hymn To God be the Glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

© Archbishop's Council 2000 Opening prayers & confession from New Zealand
Prayer book

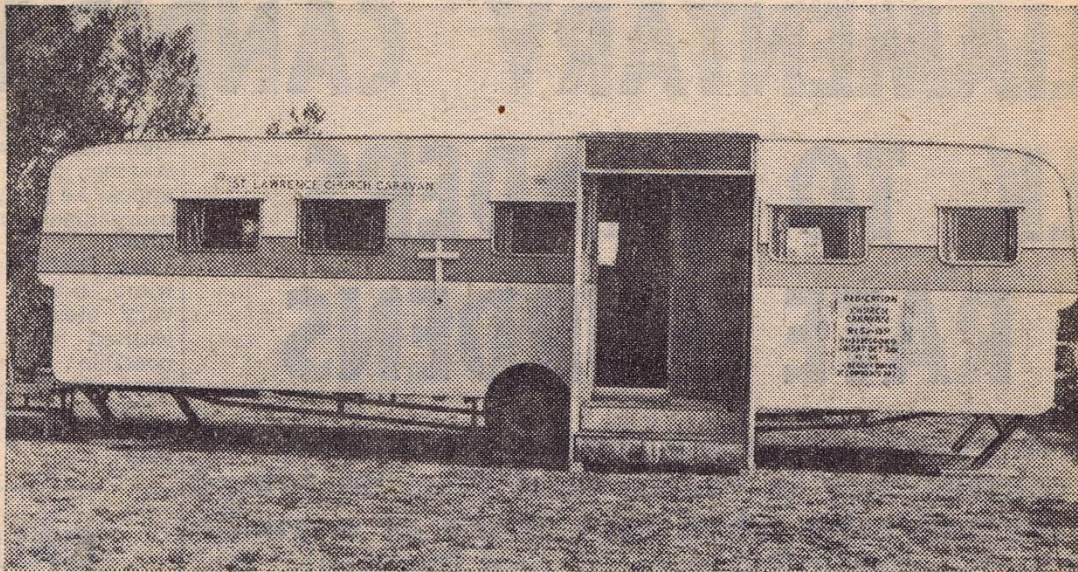
St Lawrence Bay Church Centre



The Centre started in a caravan as a mission to bring the church to the people by Revd Sidney John Burling in the 1960s. The caravan was located on land belonging to Mr W and Mrs I Medley. The caravan was later replaced by the hall we see today, although the extension came later. Later the land was purchased by the church so there could be a permanent presence in the community. Ivy faithful served the church as Churchwarden and was responsible for the centre for many years. The Centre has been looked after for many years by Shirley Lea, Shirley was saying that her Mother-in-law purchased the caravan when the new Centre was built. Clive and Lesley (also running Pebbles), Simon, Eunice, Penny and many others with Shirley have supported the Centre for many years, with Jane and many also running the successful Café Extra.

The Centre served as a Parish Hall as well as a Church until in 2012 St Lawrence opened a village hall, but still hosts various clubs.

Below are pictures in information on the opening of the Church Centre in the 60s.



Taking the (caravan) church to the people at St. Lawrence

CONGRATULATING St. Lawrence on their initiative in getting a caravan church (seen above), the Bishop of Chelmsford (the Rt. Rev. John Tiarks) said on Friday he hoped the venture might possibly start enterprises of the same kind where suitable in other parts of the Diocese.

The church caravan, sited close to the main road at Beachy Drive, will be used for communion services and get-together meetings.

Its dedication by the Bishop was watched by over 30 people, including the Chairman of St. Lawrence Bay Parish Council (Coun. C. V. Tidbury).

The Bishop said it was a great joy to him to conduct the brief service of dedication and he thanked the Rector (Rev. S. J. Burling) and all who had helped in the provision of the caravan.

"I hope it will be very well used and I am sure that it will be," added the Bishop

SPECIAL DAY

The Rector said it was a very special day for them all in the St. Lawrence Bay part of St. Lawrence. They had been thinking of the caravan church effort in Jubilee Year

and were pleased that everything had gone well.

Mr. Burling said the Parish Church of St. Lawrence was so far away from the people of the estate so they had taken the church to the people, those who lived there and those who spent their holidays there.

He said that in the past they had been using various houses and the Stone Yacht Club for meetings and the celebration of Holy Communion, and for that he wished to thank all who had helped so willingly.

Those meetings had been tremendously helpful, reflected the Rector. "We prayed and talked together about what we possibly might do here."

He said that after getting the opportunity of the caravan their problem was to find a home for it. "And it was quite a problem," he said. "Although this is a

caravan parish finding a permanent site for it was not an easy matter."

The Rector paid tribute to the Chairman of the Parish Council, who had been so helpful, and the others who had assisted their project in many ways. Mr. Martin, who had offered another site, was warmly thanked. "But we felt that site was too far away from the centre of things," said the Rector.

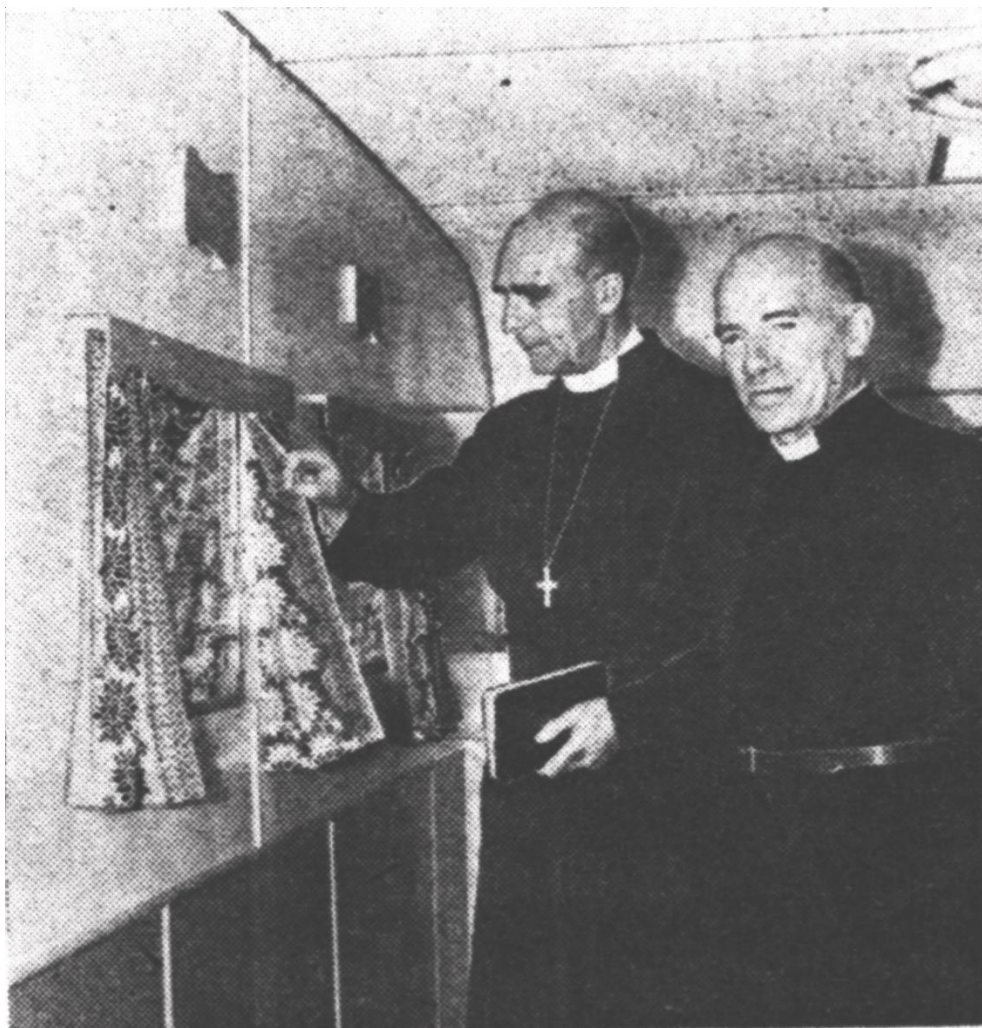
He said Mr. and Mrs. W. Medley had very kindly offered to give a home to the caravan and he felt it was a wonderful place—in the middle of the parish and really ideal.

COST £175

The caravan church cost £175, of which the Diocese have promised a grant of £100 and the local people have already raised £6 10s. towards repaying the loan.

The caravan is at present unfurnished, with the exception of a carpet, but there has already been a gift of secondhand chairs.

"We intend to have other suitable furnishings, keeping in mind the need to conserve space," said the Rector.



The Bishop of Chelmsford (Rt. Rev. John Tiarks) and the Rector of Bradwell and St. Lawrence (Rev. S. J. Burling) inspect the caravan church, and below are some of the congregation who attended the dedication service.



Notices

Spiritual Communion

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Feb 21, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87541637394?pwd=U2U4QzhiTjV2ZEpyck9Sd0JrNXZGU T09>

Meeting ID: 875 4163 7394

Passcode: 346480

Bible Study

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 45 and 46

Time: Feb 22, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83621322991?pwd=Q05BcW14KzNMSXFrTVB3cDhHc2 1zQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 2132 2991

Passcode: 034049

Lent Course – Where is God?

I am doing the following course – ‘Where is God?’. The times of the sessions and the link to order the booklet is here:-

[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

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

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Feb 24, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84519513550?pwd=OUILQ0d0ZjhUWnl2VzBIN21ZSFArZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 1951 3550

Passcode: 794892

Lent Course – Where is God? – Morning Session

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lent Course - Session 1 (Morning)

Time: Feb 25, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81092777808?pwd=c2tmYVJUb1YzY2ZYdEFqdU84YjFwZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 9277 7808

Passcode: 897512

Lent Course – Where is God? – Evening Session

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lent Course - Session 1 (Evening)

Time: Feb 25, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84159721891?pwd=QnJFc3prK1RDc085MDg2ZkUvMjF3QT09>

Meeting ID: 841 5972 1891

Passcode: 242757

Lent Resources for all ages

Lent is the time in the church year when we begin to prepare for Easter. A time to reflect and say sorry. It is often a time when people give things up or take up new things to focus on their commitment to God. We have drawn together a whole selection of resources, books and ideas for people to do at home.

A Lent family challenge from Together at Home

[View the challenge and download](#)

Lots of Lent ideas from Flame Creative

[View ideas from Flame creative](#)

Helpful activity ideas on giving, fasting and praying with children

[View the resource](#)

Ideas and resources such as an Easter Countdown calendar from God Venture

[View and download the resource](#)

Growing Together Pages are a collection of resources for households (people of all ages) to explore or nurture Christian faith in their own time and at their own pace. The following pages have been written in direct response to the challenges brought by Covid-19. [Click here for more information.](#)

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/.../1pXzcyxZjvPqeITsyh92jAK.../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](#).

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](#).

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

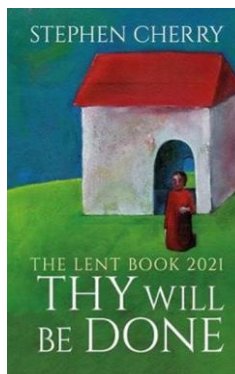
Module Lent 7 - Jesus and the Entrepreneurial Kingdom Enabling Innovative strategies for Kingdom mission

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](#)

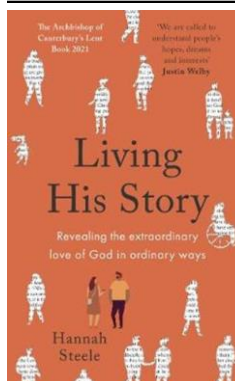
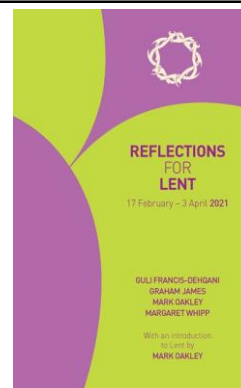
At a time of change, uncertainty and widespread anxiety, we need to discover again the freshness of our most familiar spiritual resources. **Stephen Cherry's** Lent Book *Thy Will be Done* does exactly this by inviting the reader to immerse themselves in the most central, important and iconic of Christian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

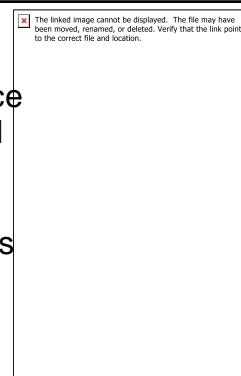
In *Living His Story*, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, **Hannah Steele** uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing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

Lent 2021 Webinars: For such a time as this

A promotional graphic for the USPG Lent Course 2021. On the left, a woman in a school uniform is looking down at a pink cross she is holding. The text 'USPG LENT COURSE 2021' is overlaid on the image. On the right, a light blue box contains the text 'FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS', a description of the course, a 'VISIT' link to the website, and the USPG logo with the tagline 'PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION'.

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.

LGBT+ History Month: A message from the Archbishops 11/02/2021

A message from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on LGBT+ History Month



Across the United Kingdom, for a number of years, February has been associated with LGBT+ History Month and many throughout our parishes, up and down the country will be marking this.

LGBT+ history month is about acknowledging and learning from past hurt, and building a society where LGBT people can and must live their lives free from hate and violence. We welcome this observation of the place and contribution of LGBT people in our society and in our church, and assure people of our prayers.

End