

Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Epiphany 2 Service for all the Church Family



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

<https://youtu.be/iVXguqDGwlg>

**Or following the service on the service sheet below:**

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

### *Hymn 1*

Weave Us Together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiTS6RPYTNE>

### *Welcome*

Welcome to our Joint Benefice service

Today we are thinking about inter-faith understanding, tolerance and harmony as today is 'World Religion Day'. The third Sunday in January is recognised by many religions as a day on which to pray for inter-faith understanding, tolerance and harmony

### *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.**

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### *Collect*

**Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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.**

### *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;

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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,  
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.**

*Hymn 2* I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zr9SMm1gII>

### *Hearing and responding to the Word of God*

*Reading* by Eunice Siggins

1 Samuel 3.1-20

### **The Lord Appears to Samuel**

**3** In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the LORD, and visions from him were quite rare. <sup>2</sup> One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room; <sup>3</sup> Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, <sup>4</sup> the LORD called Samuel. He answered, "Yes, sir!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "You called me, and here I am."

But Eli answered, "I didn't call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

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<sup>6-7</sup> The LORD called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the LORD, because the LORD had never spoken to him before. So he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

But Eli answered, "My son, I didn't call you; go back to bed."

<sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am."

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy, <sup>9</sup> so he said to him, "Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, and called as he had before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel answered, "Speak; your servant is listening."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to him, "Some day I am going to do something to the people of Israel that is so terrible that everyone who hears about it will be stunned. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will carry out all my threats against Eli's family, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> I have already told him that I am going to punish his family forever because his sons have spoken evil things against me. Eli knew they were doing this, but he did not stop them. <sup>14</sup> So I solemnly declare to the family of Eli that no sacrifice or offering will ever be able to remove the consequences of this terrible sin."

<sup>15</sup> Samuel stayed in bed until morning; then he got up and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. <sup>16</sup> Eli called him, "Samuel, my boy!"

"Yes, sir," answered Samuel.

<sup>17</sup> "What did the LORD tell you?" Eli asked. "Don't keep anything from me. God will punish you severely if you don't tell me everything he said." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything; he did not keep anything back. Eli said, "He is the LORD; he will do whatever seems best to him."

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and made come true everything that Samuel said. <sup>20</sup> So all the people of Israel, from one end of the country to the other, knew that Samuel was indeed a prophet of the LORD.

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This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn 3* Will you come and follow me

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

*Reading:* John 1.43-51 By David Siggins

### Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come with me!" (<sup>44</sup> Philip was from Bethsaida, the town where Andrew and Peter lived.) <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the book of the Law and whom the prophets also wrote about. He is Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

<sup>46</sup> "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," answered Philip.

<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said about him, "Here is a real Israelite; there is nothing false in him!"

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you."

<sup>49</sup> "Teacher," answered Nathanael, "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you when you were under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than this!" <sup>51</sup> And he said to them, "I am telling you the truth: you will see heaven open and God's angels going up and coming down on the Son of Man."

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*Sermon:* By **Simon Duggan**, Authorised Local Preacher, St Lawrence  
read by Will McAllister

### **'God is speaking, but are we listening?'**

1 Samuel 3: 1-20 - Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

John 1: 43-end - Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

Normally we probably communicate with many different people every day, at work, in the shops, on the bus, at church. Curiously I understand that our words are only part of what people will 'hear'. The tone of our voice, the expression on our face, the gestures we make, will all 'speak' too. I am sure we have all tried to have conversations where the other person is looking over our shoulder, or is checking a text message on their phone, (or has their eyes closed during a sermon). It makes it difficult to really believe they are listening!

During 2020 it was perhaps even more challenging. We might have had to resort to e-mails and phone calls for the first time to communicate with people that we would normally speak to 'face to face'. And if it was 'face to face', it was probably more likely face-mask to face-mask! Obviously with masks on it is harder to see facial expressions, and often it's harder to simply hear what has been said. Perhaps the younger generation are totally used to communicating through tweets and texts, in a language that baffles me! And they seem to be able to hold three 'conversations' at the same time. But I find it easier to have just one conversation at a time!

When Jesus was meeting his disciples for the first time, as we read in John 1, he is doing it 'face to face'. Philip instantly follows him without any objection. But when Philip speaks to Nathanael his reaction is perhaps a bit rude, "can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Even though he knew that the prophets had said that the messiah would come from Nazareth!

When Jesus speaks to people today, we see similar reactions. Some, like Philip, instantly follow Jesus, without a miracle, or a prophetic word like Jesus gave Nathanael. But others, also like Nathanael, almost ridicule that Jesus could be the son of God. "And anyway, he lived 2000 years ago, how is that relevant to me today!"

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Samuel, that we read about in 1 Samuel 3, was just a boy when God spoke to him, and probably it was the first time God had spoken to him. But also, it was a time when 'The word of the Lord was rare', verse 1. And so, Eli even didn't realise it was the Lord until the third time! I think we need to consider this very carefully in our present circumstances. We are now in a third lock down with the virus and 'perhaps' God is speaking to us?

Although Eli was in charge at the temple, he had turned a blind eye to the sins of his two sons and ultimately it would lead to the Ark of the Covenant being captured in battle by the Philistines (chapter 5). However, Eli was still wise enough to make sure that whatever God said to Samuel he would listen to. Perhaps the challenge for us today is are we ready to listen during this virus if God is speaking to us! This might be individually, or perhaps corporately, or nationally as the virus is affecting the whole country, and even the whole world.

2020 was a usual year for all of us, to say the least. Many of us probably spent a lot more time indoors, with 'time on hands' so to speak. I have one friend in the West Midlands who has become an avid constructor of jigsaw puzzles! But how many of us used the forced lock down to spend more time listening to God, either through reading the bible, reading Christian books, or listening to teaching online? Although in 1 Samuel 3:1 it says that 'The word of the Lord was rare', was that because the Lord had given up speaking, or that the people had given up listening? And could we ask the same question today? Perhaps because we think of a 'God of love' we cannot imagine that God has brought about this virus. And I personally don't think He did. But I do believe God is wanting to speak to us through it, if we are prepared to listen. Brilliantly Eli was prepared to listen, but he didn't actually do anything about God's word, and ultimately the Ark was lost and wouldn't return for twenty years. To me it would be so sad that if at the end of this pandemic we were still ignoring the voice of God when he chooses to speak to us, and that it took another twenty years before He spoke to us again.

So perhaps there is a challenge for us in the readings from 1 Samuel and John. 'When' (and I prefer to say 'when' instead of 'if') God speaks to us, will we be ready to listen? Will we be like Philip and immediately go with Jesus (wherever he wants to take us)? Will we be like Nathanael and ridicule that it could even be God speaking? Will we be like Samuel and be unable to

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respond because we have never heard the word of the Lord before? Or will we be like Eli and accept the word, regardless of what it might be?

With the way the virus is going right now it seems likely that we are going to be in some form of lock down for at least another couple of months. We have no idea really when we might be able to meet together again 'face to face' in church. So, it could be that God is allowing us the time to listen to Him. With Samuel it was actually on the fourth 'attempt' that God got through to him. Hopefully we won't have to have a fourth lock down after this one. But if we do may we be ready to hear whatever God is saying to us, individually, corporately, or nationally even!

**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.**



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*Prayers of Intercession*: by: Mick Grimes read by Mick and Pam

**Let us Pray**

*Prayers for World Religion Day*

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*"Like the bee gathering honey from the different flowers, the wise person accepts the essence of the different scriptures and sees only the good in all religions. - Mahatma Gandhi"*

We give thanks once again for this opportunity to distantly meet and worship on this World Religion Day.

In the spirit of love and compassion, let us pray.

Spirit of Life, gods of many names, be in our hearts and minds as we come together today to pray for our world. We come together as people of privilege, grateful for this blessing and hopeful for our future. Let us know that each from our own tradition comes today to lift our spirit in unity. Knowing that we are a part of an interconnected web of life, let us acknowledge and embrace our oneness.

We pray that we may be loving and able stewards of this world. We pray that we acknowledge our differences as we seek out our common ground, each of us working toward the good of all. We recognize that there is hurt and sorrow, deeds that confound us, and actions for which we can find no justification. Yet, we also know that there is untold good, folks that work every day for the benefit of all people. Let us stand with them.

We pray that we have the strength to recognize the inconvenience of our soul work and to overcome the inertia that invades us during these difficult times. We pray that while we recognize the occasional tiredness in our bones and in our hearts, that we call upon the strength of our higher power that we might be the best person that we are called to be. Yes, let us be the good we want to see

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in others. Let us work to be the change that we seek. As we renew these goals in our hearts, let us say, **Amen.**

Covid 19 continues to disrupt our lives, so we humbly ask you to guide leaders of all nations to make the good and fair decisions. We pray that the vaccine will go a long way to restoring life to normality. Show your mercy to those people of every denomination, suffering from this disease, not only in the UK but worldwide. Give strength to relatives and friends and hold close those fearful of the future. Look upon our nurses, doctors and health workers and those suffering from stress, anxiety and other mental health issues during these uncertain times.

**Lord hear us.**

Lord, we ask you at this time to care for those in poverty or suffering injustices whatever faith they follow. We ask you to end inequality and for help to those who need it most. Disease and hunger are a serious threat to the poorest in your world. We pray that they will receive aid which will help ease their pain.

**Lord hear us.**

### An Interfaith Prayer for Peace

*O God, you are the source of life and peace.*

*Praised be your name forever.*

*We know it is you who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.*

*Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.*

*Your power changes hearts.*

*All faiths remember, and profoundly affirm,*

*that they are followers of the one God,*

*Children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;*

*enemies begin to speak to one another;*

*those who were estranged join hands in friendship;*

*nations seek the way of peace together.*

*Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these*

*truths by the way we live.*

*Give to us:*

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*Understanding that puts an end to strife;  
Mercy that quenches hatred, and  
Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.  
Empower all people to live in your law of love  
**Amen.***

Gracious God, we raise before you those who are ill, hospitalised or recuperating and for those we know within our parishes, families or circle of friends that need your help:

We pray for:

Jeff Grimshaw  
Ernest Norman  
Molly Garwood  
Mike Batt  
Beryl Dixon  
Jean Winn  
Cally Thorpe  
Josh Pitman  
Georgia  
Andy Smith  
Sue Wilson  
Trevor Cole

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

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 still in a coma but is showing some signs of improvement.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

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

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

We pray for those who have passed away, for **Ewa Huszak** who will be sadly missed by Roman and family, also for **Tony King**, thinking of Lynn and his family at this sad time, for **Tony Gibson** remembering his wife Marion, and for **Louisa Elizabeth Parker** from St Lawrence, who died on Saturday 9th January, we remember Carol her daughter and family as they prepare for the funeral at Chelmsford Crematorium on 4th February.

Finally, for **Stephen Wills** from Tillingham, and his Mother **Rosemary Wills**, who were buried at Bradwell on Friday.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

Dear Lord, finally we continue to pray for our schools. We pray for the Teaching, Administration, Cleaning and Maintenance Staff, and all the Pupils, parents and carers involved in home learning from St Nicholas School Tillingham, St Cedds School Bradwell, Ormiston Rivers, William de Ferrers and The Plume Academy. We pray that you will support and strengthen them in their work and learning during this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

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

*The Lord's Prayer*

**All** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

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**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 Blessing*

Great God, you are one God,  
and you bring together what is scattered  
and mend what is broken.

Unite us with the scattered peoples of the earth  
that we may be one family of your children.

Bind up all our wounds  
and heal us in spirit,  
that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ,  
our Master and Saviour.

*All* **Amen.**

Blessing, honour and glory be ours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever.

*All* **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.***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Hymn 4:* You are Beautiful Beyond Description

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbxOJ03wASo>

*Final:* WORLD RELIGION DAY 3rd Sunday in January

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

*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.

Time: Jan 17, 2021 10:00 -12:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76926589590?pwd=Y1hkbkpCb2F1bE5wdGJWSmdvZTMwQT09>

Meeting ID: 769 2658 9590

Passcode: Dz22te

#### **Bible Study**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 35 and 36

Time: Jan 18, 2021 07:30-9:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86573511177?pwd=RjJiOGRxWmRhRGFRamczZ1N3ZFpIUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 7351 1177

Passcode: 022789

#### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 – January 18-25**

You can now download resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021. The pamphlet includes daily reflections plus an order of service.

[Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](https://ctbi.org.uk)

We invite you to join us on an ecumenical prayer journey, accompanied by Lay Centre alumni and friends.

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 - Join us for an eight-day ecumenical prayer journey, Jan.18-25 \(laycentre.org\)](https://laycentre.org)

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### 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?
2. when we face suffering?
3. when we make decisions?
4. when we contemplate death?
5. when we try to make sense of life?

**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

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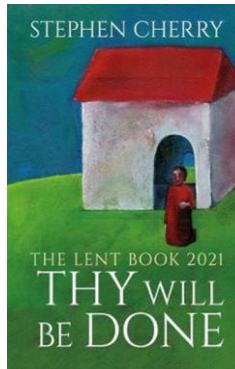
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Module Lent 8 - The history, beliefs and practices of Jehovah's Witnesses

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.

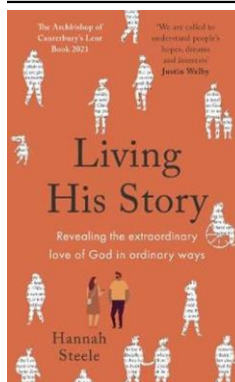
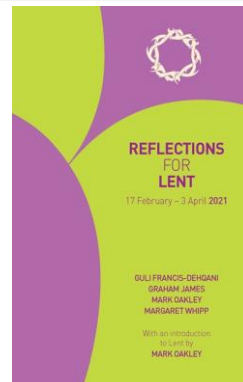
Was £9.99 Now £7.99

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### [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

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### [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

**28<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm GMT/UTC:**

**A View from here: global mission in a post-pandemic world**

A promotional graphic for a USPG webinar. The left side features a dark blue vertical bar with the text 'USPG PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION WEBINAR' in white, bold, sans-serif font. To the right of this bar is a background image showing a pair of hands holding a glowing, wireframe globe. The right side of the graphic has a light blue background with a pink vertical bar on the far right. Text on the right side includes the title 'A VIEW FROM HERE: GLOBAL MISSION IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD' in pink, the date and time '2pm, Thursday 28th January 2021 via Zoom' in dark blue, the word 'BOOKINGS' in pink, and the website 'www.uspg.org.uk' in dark blue. At the bottom right is the USPG logo, which consists of the letters 'USPG' in pink with a small star above the 'G', followed by the text 'PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION' in a smaller, dark blue font.

**USPG  
PARTNERS  
IN GLOBAL  
MISSION  
WEBINAR**

**A VIEW FROM HERE:  
GLOBAL MISSION IN A  
POST-PANDEMIC WORLD**

2pm, Thursday 28th January 2021  
via Zoom

**BOOKINGS**  
[www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)

**USPG<sup>+</sup>** PARTNERS IN  
GLOBAL MISSION

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### A View from Here: Global mission in a post-pandemic world

Covid-19 has been a multi-faceted and global crisis. We live in a more fragile world with deeper inequalities, resurgent nationalisms and the climate crisis. As nations have looked to their own Interests, how can Anglicans nurture a deeper solidarity and re-imagine global mission for our post-pandemic world?

Chaired by the Rt Revd Dr Joanna Penberthy, Bishop of St Davids, Church in Wales, and USPG trustee, the Revd Duncan Dormor, USPG General Secretary, will be in conversation with theologians Dr Cathy Ross of CMS and the Revd Dr Muthuraj Swamy of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide.

[You can register for this webinar here](#)

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)***.

Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Epiphany 2 Service for all the Church Family

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

Lent 2021 Webinars: For such a time as this

A banner for the USPG Lent Course 2021. On the left, a young woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a school uniform, is looking down at a pink cross she is holding. The background is a green plant. The text 'USPG LENT COURSE 2021' is overlaid in white. On the right, a light blue box contains the text 'FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS' in pink, followed by a description of the course, the word 'VISIT' in pink, and the website 'www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime'. At the bottom right is 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](http://www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime)

**USPG<sup>+</sup>** 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:

Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Epiphany 2 Service for all the Church Family**

**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](mailto:gwenm@uspg.org.uk) who will send booking details.