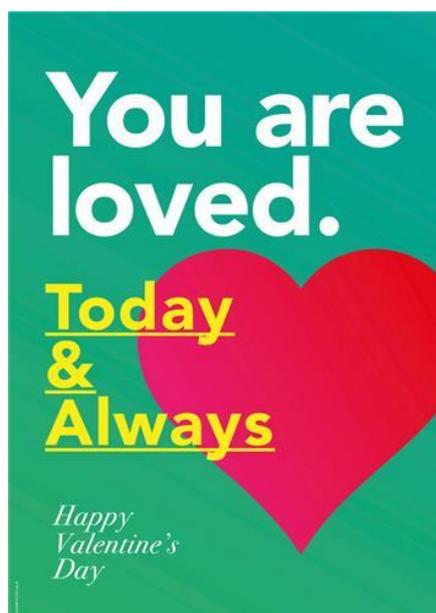


A Service for St Valentine's Day



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

<https://youtu.be/W6lvqtwixYE>

Or following the service on the service sheet below:

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

The English Origin of Valentine's



The Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 496 to be celebrated on February 14 in honour of Saint Valentine of Rome, who died on that date in AD 269. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 16th centuries

The first real association of Valentine's Day with romantic love, or "love birds," comes from Geoffrey Chaucer's poem *Parlement of Foules*. Dating from 1382, it states: "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate." William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (1600–1601) refers to both Saint Valentine's Day and the phrase "to be your Valentine," showing that Valentine's Day was established in British culture by that time.

Preparation

Welcome by Revd Brigid Main

Greeting

Praise God! For the Lord our God the almighty reigns!

All Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.

Happy are those who have been invited
to the wedding-feast of the Lamb.

All Amen. Praise the Lord!

Hymn Here Is Love as vast as an ocean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8tkz6fCVBq>

Confession

The minister may introduce the confession

God shows his love for us

in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him

by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence may be kept.

Come, let us return to the Lord and say

All Lord our God,

in our sin we have avoided your call.

Our love for you is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us;

deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us;

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the God of love
bring *us* back to himself,
forgive *us our* sins,
and assure *us* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Psalm 23 The King of Love My Shepherd is
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il1OeQfkVyl>

Reading: this week read by Jayne

The first reading is from: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Love Is Indispensable

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

The Gospel is from John 15:9-15

Alleluia, alleluia.

God is love;

let us love one another

as God has loved us.

All Alleluia.

John 15:9-15

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Response to God’s Word

Sermon by Diane Lystor

Valentine’s Day.

1 Corinthians 12.31-13.8 John 15. 9-15

May my words be in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

“Remain in my love.”

Some years ago, Dr. Han Suyin wrote that “Love is a many splendored thing.” The “love” she was referring to, was the love she shared with an Australian War Correspondent who sadly lost his life in the Korean War.

That love, opened up for this intelligent, well educated woman a whole new understanding of life, what really matters, just what two people can mean to each other and achieve together.

Love is “splendored” because it crosses boundaries, is filled with, and in its turn creates magnificent features and marvels. A deep, profound love that lasts throughout the changing scenes of life can illuminate the soul.

Love is what we are celebrating today – Valentine’s Day! Not simply with flowers, chocolates and cards with big red hearts on them, although it is always lovely to receive them! We also give thanks to God for the power, strength and joy of this emotion.

There are several legends regarding St. Valentine of Rome, some more fanciful than others! But we can be fairly sure that he was a 3rd Century Priest or Bishop in the Roman Empire who ministered to the persecuted Christians. His devotion to Christ and success with healing the sick brought him to the attention of the Emperor who, after a friendly start, then decided to have poor Valentine executed.

Valentine is believed to have written a letter to a young woman (whose eyesight he had miraculously restored) on the morning of February 14th the day of his execution signing it “your Valentine” and this date has been observed as his Feast Day since 496 AD. I wonder what he would think of today’s celebrations in his name because there is no hint of a romantic involvement for him at all!

The same can be said with regard to St. Paul: there is no doubt that Paul relied on the friendship of women throughout his ministry, Lydia and Priscilla being just two of them. He also depended heavily on his friendship with men such as Silas, Timothy, Luke, Titus and others.

His need for them is often expressed in his letters; he needs their company, companionship, understanding, devotion to ministry. He needs them to take news to other Christian communities and to bring HIM news too – he longs for their company. He just needs them to be there with him.

When Paul first arrived in Corinth he was in low spirits: he had suffered a bruising time in Athens where the philosophers made short work of his

teachings. What did this little bald headed Jewish ex Pharisee tent maker have to tell them about worship and spiritual matters!

At the beginning of this letter, Paul confesses to the Corinthians that he had come to them “in weakness and fear and with much trembling.”

Poor man: fortunately, on his arrival he met another Jewish couple Aquila and Priscilla who had been expelled from Rome for their faith and the three forge a lasting friendship. At first, he works with them in their tent making business, until Silas and Timothy arrive bringing with them a gift of money that will enable Paul to give up tent making and concentrate on his ministry.

It is not easy going: worship of every pagan god you can think of is alive and well in Corinth! This fledgling Church is made up of lively argumentative people, so it should not be a surprise that as soon as Paul moves on to Ephesus they fall into trouble, arguing and fighting among themselves.

Paul is deeply troubled to hear what is happening and what we know as 1 Corinthians is his response to it and contains some of his most beautiful writing, especially on love. Paul knows how the power of the love of Jesus Christ can transform lives because it has done so for him. Paul now lives for Jesus, in Jesus, with Jesus. The Spirit of Jesus fills his life, every fibre of his being. It galvanises him into travelling from one place to another, always preaching, teaching, bring the message of the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Yet, he cannot do it all alone. He may have thought he could to begin with but very quickly Paul learns that he needs the friendship, help and companionship of other Christian workers who not only love Jesus but understand and love Paul too. He could not have been an easy character to work with, but these loyal friends sustain him over the years.

Their devotion both the Gospel and to Paul are a living example of what Jesus is teaching his closest friends in today's Gospel reading. “Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

To love each other is the only new command that Jesus makes. It sounds simple, but Jesus knows it will not be so and goes on to tell them just how much he is prepared to do for his followers. His example will reveal the

depth of his love as joyous obedience to God and selfless service of others. Our role is to continue his love – branches of the vine.

Jesus is teaching this to the twelve who will between them betray, desert and deny him in his hour of greatest need, and he is aware that they will do this. Yet he still puts all his trust in them, as he does us too. We are all fallible human beings. Yet we can achieve wonderful, fantastic things through the love of Jesus in our lives. Above all we can help each other achieve them too, just as Paul's devoted friends helped him! They weren't merely names added on at the end of his letters, they were vital to his missionary work. Without them he could not have achieved what he did.

Likewise the Disciples: that motley ramshackle bunch who hid away in the upper room fearing for their lives, once filled with the Holy Spirit became unstoppable bearers of the Love of Jesus Christ, the Wounded Healer who showed them the way.

So, Love in all its forms, from passion through to companionship, is a magnificent thing! Breaks down barriers, solves seemingly insurmountable problems, brings help, comforts, encourages, enjoys other people's success, understands, sustains and supports. It has inspired writers, poets, composers and lyricists throughout the ages. It is given, received, cherished and valued. Love is and will always be a many splendored thing.

And so, dear friends, in the name of Jesus Christ – Happy Valentine's Day.

Amen.

Hymn A New Commandment <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yy7W8avlXIY>

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

**All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom,
as we pray in the words you gave us

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

This form, or some other form, may be used

We pray for the family of the Church,
for loving relationships, and for the life of families around us, saying

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, born in poverty and soon a refugee,

be with families today who are poor

and live in hunger and want in our country and throughout the world.

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, as you grew in wisdom and in favour with God and the people

in the family of Joseph the carpenter,

bring wisdom and the presence of God

into the work and growth of families today.

We especially think of this time of all those involved in the education and

care of our children, whether in school or at home.

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, as you blessed marriage in the wedding at Cana,

be with those preparing for marriage this year, for:

Alice & Alex

Jason & Tina

Tom & Melissa

Lewis & Megan

Phil & Shelley

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, as you healed Peter's mother-in-law,

bring healing to those in our families who are ill today ...

We pray for:

Ken Bloomfield
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: has recovered from Corona and pneumonia. Following intensive treatment, he now requires long term mental and physical therapy but the good news is that he is over the worst of it. Haley and Tom and all Pascal's family send thanks to all who have prayed for Pascal over this worrying time.

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

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, when you were dying you called Mary and John

to care for one another,

provide today for those who lose their families:

the bereaved and childless, orphans and widows ...

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

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 **Tony King**, who's funeral was last Thursday.

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.

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, as you ate breakfast on the beach with your disciples
after you were raised from the dead,
bring the whole Church on earth and in heaven
into your risen presence to eat at the eternal banquet.

Jesus, Lord of love,

All in your mercy, hear us,

accept our prayers and be with us always.

Amen.

The Collect

God of wonder and of joy:

grace comes from you,

and you alone are the source of life and love.

Without you, we cannot please you;

without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.

Send your Holy Spirit,

and pour into our hearts

that most excellent gift of love,

that we may worship you now

with thankful hearts

and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Peace

The minister introduces the Peace with these words

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

We share the peace with each other:

Hymn My God Loves Me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht7lnPyzOdY>

St Valentine's Day vow of Love

*If you have someone special in your life you may wish to say this vow of
Love to each other:*

Person 1

I vow to love you as you love me,
through all hardship, darkness,
and pain to reach for our joys,
our hopes,
and always with honesty and faith.
All I have in this world I give to you,
I promise to hold and keep you,
comfort, protect, and shelter you,
for all the days of my life.
Amen

Person 2

I vow to love you as you love me,
through all hardship, darkness,
and pain to reach for our joys,
our hopes,
and always with honesty and faith.
All I have in this world I give to you,
I promise to hold and keep you,
comfort, protect, and shelter you,
for all the days of my life.
Amen

Concluding Prayers

Eternal God, we offer our thanks that through our earthly lives
you speak of your eternal life.

We rejoice in the wonder of creation,
the gift of human life
and the many blessings that our relationships bring.
Renew in us the fruits of your Holy Spirit;
that love, joy and peace may abound in our homes,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All Heavenly Father,
We offer you our souls and bodies,
our thoughts and words and deeds,
our love for one another.
Unite our wills in your will,
that we may grow
in love and peace
all the days of our life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending Out

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Final Hymn Love Divine All Loves Excelling ❤️

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8>

Final Blessing:

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

Services this week:

Ash Wednesday 17th February

Let Ash Wednesday be the day that you give up who you have been for who you can become:

Ash Wednesday Spiritual Communion

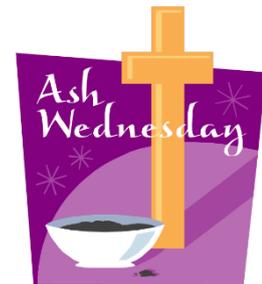
Steven Poss is inviting you to a Ash Wednesday Spiritual Communion
Time: Feb 17, 2021 07:30 PM Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82930479342?pwd=NHk1RmtpdEJnYkpRRjZ5Q2d2aEw4QT09>

Meeting ID: 829 3047 9342 Passcode: 997969

How to make your own Ash for Wednesday. [How to Make Ashes for Ash Wednesday - YouTube](#)

See the websites for the service sheet:



Notices

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.

Spiritual Communion

Sunday Morning Zoom live Communion Service at 10am.

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Feb 14, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81732587875?pwd=K2lxZFR4OG9JUVg1NGNZV3czT1QzUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 3258 7875

Passcode: 523752

Bible Study

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 43 and 44

Time: Feb 15, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347014282?pwd=UHRjSE1Od1E0akZ0Zk5sRUNTRWx0QT09>

Meeting ID: 813 4701 4282

Passcode: 595282

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Feb 17, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83721719840?pwd=ZmpxbG55OVNFVlIGYjYvb0ZSTDd1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2171 9840

Passcode: 489101

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](#).

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

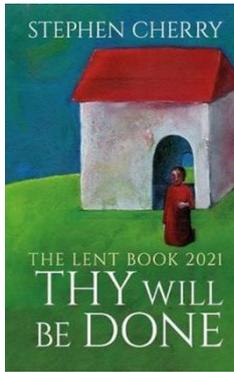
Module Lent 7 - Jesus and the Entrepreneurial Kingdom Enabling Innovative strategies for Kingdom mission

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](#)

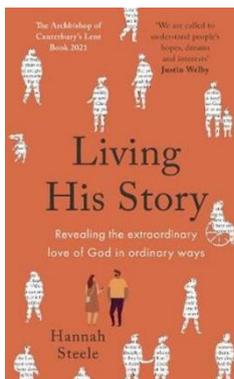
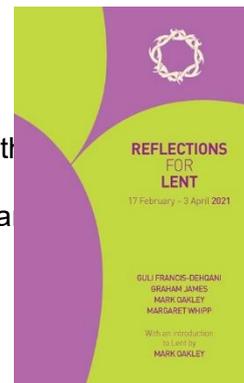
At a time of change, uncertainty and widespread anxiety, we need to discover again the freshness of our most familiar spiritual resources. **Stephen Cherry's** Lent Book *Thy Will be Done* does exactly this by inviting the reader to immerse themselves in the most central, important and iconic of Christian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

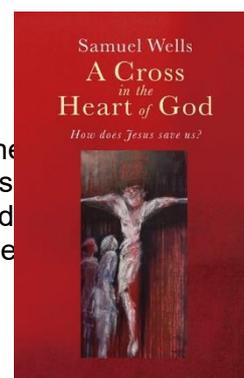
In *Living His Story*, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, **Hannah Steele** uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing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

A promotional graphic for the USPG Lent Course 2021. On the left, a woman in a school uniform is shown from the chest up, looking down at a pink cross she is holding. The background is a blurred indoor setting with green plants. The text 'USPG LENT COURSE 2021' is overlaid in large white letters on the left side. On the right, a light blue background 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'.

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@uspq.org.uk who will send booking details.