



# Book Club



Occasionally when I read a book with a Christian emphasis if I find it interesting, or easy to read, or very helpful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century I recommend it to colleagues and friends to read. One such book has come across my bookshelf recently. In July of 2020 the then Bishop of Chelmsford , Stephen Cottrell, and previous Bishop of Reading was Installed as the Archbishop of York and Primate of England. During his time served as a Priest he was Canon Pastor at Peterborough Cathedral as well as working in the Diocese of Wakefield, and being a lifelong supporter of Huddersfield Town FC. (I have now found out who three of their fans are!)

The first book which was published of his after becoming the Archbishop of York was “*Dear England*”. It is a response to the question “What made you become a Priest?” The book is the answer he wishes he’d had the time to give to the stranger’s question. It is also the letter he’d like to write to a divided country that no longer sees the relevance or value of Christianity.

*Dear England* is the story of how Christian faith can make sense of life, giving a framework for how we deal with our biggest questions and deepest longings; and how its values and ideals can shape the way we live in – and bring change to- the world. It has three parts to the letter; Finding Hope; Taking Heart; Changing the world and has 179 pages.

**As I read it, I thought how good it would be to discuss the contents and ideas with others. So I am proposing to have a maximum of three one hour sessions when those who wish to discuss the book with me can meet in late September and review a section at each meeting, or we can just meet once to discuss it if we don’t think there is enough for three sessions!**

**If you would like to take part in this please let me know either by phone 01858 575331 or email [Kairen.ball@gmail.com](mailto:Kairen.ball@gmail.com) and I can send you some starter questions for you to consider for each chapter so we at least have a starting point for each discussion.**

The book details are *Dear England* by Stephen Cottrell, published by Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 978-1-5236095-0, costs £10.99 hardback or £6.99 from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Of course the book can be purchased from other Independent booksellers including Waterstones in Market Harborough (check they have it in stock before making a special journey.)

I am really looking forward to hearing from you, and hope you want to join the discussion.  
Kairen

