



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES

LENT COURSES, BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR 2021

AN INTRODUCTION

Lent can often seem an unsettling season, filled with the disciplines of self-examination, penitence, repentance and self-denial. It is also a wild place: a place to grapple with God, a place to relearn dependence on him, as we choose to strip back to the essentials and travel out into the desert places this season offers.

For all of us Lent 2021 is going to feel different to other years, as we live through the challenges and restrictions of a third Lockdown. For some of us, this Lent will be a time of static waiting as we are obliged to shield within the confines of our homes, for others Lent will be a time of immense turbulence, hard work, or precarious uncertainty. However and wherever this Lenten season finds us, may we commit to living it with refreshed intentions and renewed imaginations, finding inspired ways to journey towards Easter, catching unexpected glimpses of the sunlight of God's grace along the way. For as Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: *'Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, or anguish, or persecution, or hunger, or deprivation, or danger, or death? (...) I am certain that nothing will be able to separate us from the love that God has shown us in Jesus Christ our Lord.'* Romans 8:35, 38-39

Living His Story: Revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways: The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021

By Hannah Steele ISBN-10 : 028108517X

How can we convey the love of God to our neighbours in a post-Christian world that has largely forgotten the gospel of Jesus Christ? In Living His Story, Hannah Steele uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. This is a Lent devotional that will change the way you think about evangelism and fill you with confidence in sharing God's love with the people around you.

Set out in six chapters, this book can be used by individuals or in online Lent groups, as you prepare for Easter.

Scripture from the Margins

The Bible shows us again and again that God is on the side of the poor and the oppressed. People on the margins. But all too often, when we read scripture in our churches, we focus on other aspects of the story, or we are so familiar with the text that we don't notice the challenging things it has to say to us.

Scripture from the Margins is a series of Bible studies that encourage people to focus on the voices and perspectives in scripture that we don't usually hear. These studies can be used for individual reflection, Zoom house groups or virtual Bible study groups. For more information, visit

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible/>

Caring for Creation

New for Lent 2021 - this resource is produced by the York Course and written by Brian Davis. Many of us find it hard to face up to the reality of climate change, and make the necessary changes to our lifestyle. We need to understand why this is so, and how our faith can help us. A hope based on faith in God should enable us to open our eyes and see what is actually happening to our planet today, and still believe there is much that we can do, individually and together, with God to guide and strengthen us. This resource is perfect for Zoom house groups! For more information, visit

<https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/product/caring-for-creation/>

Walking the Way of the Cross

By Stephen Cottrell, Paula Gooder and Philip North ISBN-10 : 0715123440
Walking the way of the Cross contains a series of scripture-based devotions for personal or group use in Lent and Holy Week. Similar in intent to the traditional Stations of the Cross, it focuses wholly on the biblical narrative of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each sequence is accompanied by three short reflections by three of today's very best spiritual writers: - Paula Gooder offers reflections on the scriptural narratives; - Stephen Cottrell considers the story from the perspective of personal discipleship; - Philip North explores the story's challenge to mission and witness.

#LiveLent 2021 church resources: God's Story, Our Story

We witness to God's story and the impact this has made to our story so that others might also find their story taking on new meaning in the light of God's love. Rather than just being a Lenten discipline, this year's #LiveLent is a joyful invitation to make witness a normal part of the Christian life. The daily reflections will be made available through a booklet available from Church House Publishing, as well as a free app, emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts. Webinars will be offered early in 2021 to help churches plan how to make the best use of the range of resources and content for both individuals and groups. For more information, visit

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

A cross in the heart of God

- Reflections on the death of Jesus - by Revd Samuel Wells ISBN-10 : 1786222930

The Canterbury Press Lent Book for 2021 focuses on the significance of the story at the very centre of Christianity: the crucifixion. Sam Wells, (Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, London) explores the cross in: the Old Testament (Covenant, Test, Passover, Atonement, Servant, Sacrifice) the Epistles (Forgiveness, Obedience, Foolishness, Example, Reconciliation, Boast) the Gospels (Finished, Judged, Betrayed, Pierced, Forsaken, Mocked). Written with characteristic clarity and wearing its considerable learning lightly, A Cross at the Heart of God is a study guide with questions and prayers, ideal for virtual Lent groups as well as individual reading.

Come, Pray the Prayer I need this day

After the last year in which churches around the world have been closed and congregations scattered, the SSJE Brothers invite you to “Come, Pray.” Join them in the receiving the daily gift of prayer – at home or wherever you find yourself - through a variety of different resources including a daily email, weekly videos and the opportunity to join the community for online and streamed worship. Across the weeks of Lent, the Brothers will discuss the rich and varied ways we pray, together in church and in our personal prayer. For more information, visit [SSJE.org/comepray](https://ssje.org/comepray)

For such a time as this

USPG Partners in Global mission

The world is in crisis; Creation is groaning. In **such** a time as this, what have Christians got to offer? 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 you are invited to take over six sessions as USPG’s partner churches offer insights, hope and encouragement in the ways that they are confronting the issues of ecological justice in their own contexts: and in doing so, challenge us to respond: are we ready to accept the challenge? For more information, visit

<https://www.uspg.org.uk/engage/support5/forsuchatime/>

Christians Together in Britain and Ireland: The Poet’s Gospel

- A Lent study for these unorthodox and strange times -

This year CTBI in partnership with John Alan Davis are offering an interpretation of the gospel, written in blank verse with rhymed parables. Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of CTBI, comments: ‘This gospel version, written in verse, is the outcome of a deep engagement with God in Christ. To listen to the sound files of this gospel being read out loud is to be taken onto a journey with someone who has clearly walked and experienced all of life’s contours.’ For more information about this exciting and imaginative offering, visit

<https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2021/>

A Prayer for Lent 2021

Loving God,

As we prepare for our Lenten journeys,
we ask that you will travel with us.

When the way seems steep, be our strength.

When uncertainties cloud the horizon, assure us of your presence.

When pandemic restrictions affect our plans, gift us with inspiration.

Remind us, in new and wonderful ways,
that you are indeed our 'with-us' God.

And that you are calling us to live your story of hope.

Amen

Spread the word

Please use this guide to inform your choice of Lent materials for 2021, and pass it on to others to whom it would be helpful, especially those in your church communities who might not know what is available to individuals, or who would benefit from following a program.



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