The call of Lent is to ‘remember you are dust’. But remember what exactly? It is most familiar as a call to penitence. And so it is. But it also an invitation to dream. For from the beginning God does his most creating work with dust. He still does. We are dust with a destiny.

So our study day will be a time to explore together the dust of our beginnings in the hands and imagination of God. We will be focussing on the first chapters of Genesis and the creation poem at the end of Job.

Rev David Runcorn

Having held a wide range of roles within the church (including vicar in West London, chaplain at Lee Abbey Community, lecturer and tutor at Trinity College Bristol, Director of Ministry Development in the Diocese of Lichfield, Associate Director Ordinands and Warden of Readers) David Runcorn is now a free-range priest, retired and living in Devon. He writes on areas of faith, spirituality, sexuality, prayer and human development.

Open to all clergy
Please email claire.eade@bristoldiocese.org to reserve your space
Prayer Spaces in Schools

Monday 23 January 2023
1.30-4.00pm

St Mary Magdalene Church (opposite a Post Office/Garage)
The Street
Hullavington
Wils
SN14 6DU

Prayer Spaces in Schools is an inclusive, creative approach to spiritual development

Prayer spaces in schools enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore faith, prayer and life’s questions in a safe, creative and interactive way. They work best when developed in partnership between local church and school. Children engage in a series of multisensory prayer or reflection activities from which they can make their own meaning.

Prayer spaces are a spiritual development experience and can support learning in a range of curricular and extra-curricular areas. They provide a quiet, reflective space where children can consider how they relate to themselves, to others, to the world and to the Divine. There will be a focus on outdoor prayer spaces which also support children to connect with nature.

Open to all

Please click on the link to register -
Prayer Spaces in Schools Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite
The training will help delegates:

- understand the SIAMS schedule and any recent new expectations (including Collective Worship and Post Covid evidence)
- Understand the new organisation structure for SIAMS (Nationalisation of organisation)
- Understand the Church of England Vision for Education and how this relates to your school vision.
- Understand how to develop an Action Plan for your school to respond to the SIAMS schedule.

Open to all

Click on the appropriate link below to register:

SIAMS - What to Expect (FACE TO FACE) Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite

SIAMS - What to Expect (ONLINE) Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite
The aim of the day is to introduce leaders to our work on reconciliation in churches, and explore resources from the Reconciled Church Group (https://www.trchurch.co.uk/)

It will cover:

- Introduction to TRC Group and why now - Owen Hylton
- TRC Course - Rosie Hopley
- Retreat Update - Chris Nicholson, Church Pastor, City Hope Bermondsey and TRC Retreat Coordinator
- Theology of Reconciliation - Owen Hylton
- Praying for reconciled churches and communities - Angela Kemm Church Leader, City Church Cambridge and TRC Lead, and Joseph Bediako Church Pastor, Forestdale Community Church, Croydon and TRC Regional Events Coordinator

Open to all church leaders.

Please book by emailing trchurchuk@gmail.com. There is a suggested donation of £15 per person.
Intentional Discipleship – A Global Perspective

Thursday, 9th February, 2023
7.30-9pm

Zoom

Led by John Kafwanka

Wherever the Christian faith is found around the world, discipleship is a challenge. John Kafwanka worked for the Anglican Communion for 14 years, latterly as Director of Mission and is not a parish priest in London. He joins us to look at how the waves of intentional discipleship have flowed around the Anglican Communion and how we might learn from this for our practice in the Diocese of Bristol.

Open to all.
Register to attend via Eventbrite
The Society of the Sacred Cross
Tymawr Convent

Centenary Year of Women of Prayer

On St. Telio’s Day 1923, a small group of women came from Chichester, Surrey, to Tymawr, near Monmouth, to begin a life of contemplative prayer dedicated to God and living off the land. The present day community of contemplative sisters invite you to join them in this programme of Quiet Days honouring Women of Prayer.

There will be 7 Quiet Days in 2023, starting on Saturday **11 February 2023** entitled **Contemplative Prayer and Mission** led by **Dr Jane Williams** who is McDonald Professor in Christian Theology at St Mellitus College. She is the author of a number of books, including *Lectionary Reflections; Why Did Jesus have to Die?*; and *The Art of Christmas*. Introducing the Quiet Day, Jane writes: “Whether we notice it or not, our practice of prayer is deeply connected to the character and purposes of God. Far from being a private, life-style choice, to be a pray-er is to be drawn into the action of God for the world.”

Each **Quiet Day** begins at 9.30am with the Office of Morning Prayer, followed by our speaker for the day and time for rest and prayer before the midday Eucharist. After a ‘bring your own’ lunch, our speaker will lead the afternoon session, which will end with Vespers at 4.30pm.

Please book your place for each Quiet Day by email to **SSCchaplain@gmail.com** or by post to The Chaplain, Tymawr Convent, Lydart. Monmouth NP25 4RN.
Supporting Children & Young People with Bereavement and Loss

Thursday 23 February 2023
4.00-5.30pm
Hillside House

The training will look at:

- factors affecting grief
- Children's understanding of death related to stages of development
- Supporting bereaved children in school
- Children's perspectives on their experience of a bereavement

Please click on the link to register:

[TWILIGHT - Supporting Children and Young People with Bereavement & Loss Tickets, Thu 23 Feb 2023 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/twilight-supporting-children-and-young-people-with-bereavement-loss-tickets Thu-23-Feb-2023-t1600)

Open to all
How to read the Bible without switching off your brain
Saturday 25th February 2023,
11.00 a.m. – 4.00 pm (Coffee from 10.30 am)
Manvers St Baptist Church, Bath (in the Pulteney Room)
Led by Rev Dr Simon Taylor

Following a time as Priest In Charge of St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol, Simon moved to Derby as Canon Chancellor. He returned to Bristol in 2019 as Director of Ministry Development. Amongst his publications is a book with the same title as this address.

To book: please email – dj455475@hotmail.com and your booking will be acknowledged. Please include a phone/mobile number for contact purposes. We are able to provide this conference at a cost of £5 per person, payable on the day.

Modern Church encourages open, respectful debate on Christian faith: modernchurch.org.uk
Collective Worship in CofE Schools

Monday 6 March 2023
2.00-3.30pm
Online

A time to reflect and focus on Collective Worship

- Space to consider your school’s priorities and key purposes for Collective Worship
- Some ideas as to how Collective Worship can ensure your school’s vision, values and sense of community
- Examples of great strategies for planning and assessing the impact of worship on the life of your school

Click on the link below to register
Collective Worship in a CofE School Tickets, Mon 6 Mar 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite

Open to all
Beloved Community: seeing exclusion through the lens of intersectionality

This event is jointly sponsored by Bristol Cathedral and Mosaic (Movement of supporting Anglicans for an inclusive church).

Saturday 18th March 2023
10am-4pm

Speakers include:
• Steve Chalke
• Mike Royal
• Katy Tupling
• Sally Hitchener
• Al Barrett

Workshops will take place throughout the day, including:
• Luke Larner, working class ministry
• Accessible worship

Accessibility:
• BSL and text to speech will be available throughout the conference
• Large print copies of papers distributed on the day will be provided
• Assistance dogs are welcome throughout Bristol Cathedral
• A separate quiet room for people who need some time away from the talks will be available
• Limited blue badge parking is available on site available for blue badge holders (please get in touch when you book your tickets by emailing visitorexperience@bristol-cathedral.co.uk and we will do our best to reserve a space for you).
• If you have any access requirements that aren't covered here or would like to let us know what we can do to make this event more accessible to you, please do get in touch by emailing visitorexperience@bristol-cathedral.co.uk or calling 0117 926 4879.

Tickets available now:
STANDARD £20 - Our standard price for the conference
SUPPORTER £40 - A premium price which helps us provide a subsidised rate for those who need it
SUBSIDISED £10 - A subsidised price for anyone and everyone who needs it

Open to all
Register and purchase a ticket via Eventbrite
Join CTE for a webinar which considers how the church might be an evangelising community with speakers from Estonia, New Zealand, USA and UK.

CTE’s Group for Evangelisation presents a webinar on the theme of 'The Church as an Evangelising Community.' Chaired by Trey Hall the director of evangelism and growth at the Methodist Church in the UK we bring an range of speakers to share on the theme of the church as evangelising community.

Dr Alison Kolosova lives in Russia and is an Orthodox Christian working at the University of Tartu in Estonia.

Revd Mawethu Ncaca is a South African Episcopalian Priest ministering in North Carolina.

Revd Dr Jeff Conklin-Miller is Vice Principal for Mission, Learning Lead and Tutor in Evangelism and Missiology at Cliff College.

Dr Jay Mātenga is Director of the Global Witness Department for the World Evangelical Alliance.

Each speaker will share on the topic for 10 mins with opportunity for participants to ask questions via group chat on Zoom

Open to all
Register and purchase a ticket via Eventbrite
SAVE THE DATE

‘Everyday Faith workshops and celebration’
- April 23rd 2.30-5pm Swindon (Christ Church)
- May 21st 2.30-5pm Bristol (Redland Parish Church)

OTHER TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Church of England runs a series of webinars to resource your church and church leaders: https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/church-england-webinars

The Centre for the Study of the Bible and Violence (based in Bristol Baptist College) has a series of “Small Group Study Videos” about domestic violence and coercive control: https://www.csbvbristol.org.uk/study-videos/
ADVANCE NOTICE

Black Light
Thursday evenings from 4 May to 29 June, 7-9pm (8 Sessions with a mid-course break)
Online
Trainers include: Les Isaac, Ron Nathan, Bev Thomas, Robert Beckford, Clare Williams, Israel Olofinjana, Gale Richards, Stuart Murray Williams, Dan Yarnell and Harvey Kwiyani

Run as a collaboration between Urban Expression and the Ascension Trust, the Black Light course was developed 24 years ago by Les Isaac and Stuart Murray Williams, who became friends when Stuart was teaching at Spurgeon’s College and Les did some teaching there – so it’s not a knee-jerk response to current issues, but it does engage with contemporary concerns about racism and injustice.

The hosts and presenters are followers of Jesus, church leaders and leaders of mission agencies, black and white, from different backgrounds and with different areas of expertise.

Black Light
- EXPLORES the presence of black people in the Bible, church history and Britain today
- EXAMINES the legacies of Christendom and colonialism
- FACES the ongoing challenge of racial justice in church and society
- REVIEWS the impact of African Christians in Europe and explores partnership possibilities

More information is available from https://www.blacklightcourse.uk/

Normally £80 per person, we have block booked 10 places on the course running in May and June.

Open to all.

If you would like to take up one of these places, please let Claire Eade (claire.eade@bristoldiocese.org) know.
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches people how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue. MHFA won’t teach you to be a therapist, but it will teach you to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis – and even potentially stop a crisis from happening. On completing the course, you will receive a nationally recognised qualification as a Mental Health First Aider.

On the course you will:

- Learn how to recognise warning signs of mental ill health, and develop the skills and confidence to approach and support someone while keeping yourself safe.
- Learn how to empower someone to access the support they might need for recovery or successful management of symptoms. This could include self-help books or websites, accessing therapy services through their GP, their school or place of work, online self-referral, support groups, and more.
- Gain an understanding of how to support positive wellbeing and tackle stigma.

You will need to pay for your own course manual which costs £30. Your parish may cover this for you. The diocese will provide the course to you free of charge (the usual cost is £300). If this cost is preventing you attending, please be in touch.

**ONLINE**
21st, 22nd, 28th Feb and 1st March 2.00pm – 5.15pm

**IN PERSON**
18th and 19th April 9am – 5pm  St Nicholas Church, St Nicholas St, Bristol, BS1 1UE.

Applicants need to be able to attend all sessions of the course. There is also individual learning between the sessions.

Open to all.
This course is aimed at church leaders, lay and ordained, and in particular those engaged in pastoral care and those overseeing that care.

If you would like to attend one of these courses, to register interest for future courses, or for more information, please contact: Mentalhealthfirstaid@bristoldiocese.org
Zoom Reading Group

Roughly every other month, a group of clergy and LLMs read a book together and gather to discuss it on Zoom. Come to them all, or simply to those that particularly interest you. Reading the book is helpful, but you don’t need to have finished it to attend the group.

- “To be able to keep sharp and accountable to others in a reading group is certainly just what I need” – Clergy person
- “I really enjoy the reading group” - LLM

Books can often be bought from the publishers, or from any bookshop. Three online booksellers worth checking are:

- Aslan Books  [https://www.aslanchristianbooks.com/]
- Bookshop  [https://uk.bookshop.org/]
- Eden  [https://www.eden.co.uk/]

Books for Early 2023

26th January, 2023
12 noon - 1.30pm


Why do churches fight "Worship Wars?" Why do discussions about how to conduct worship often split into two vitriolic polarities over "traditional" versus "contemporary" styles or into two opposing camps? These "worship wars" prevent us from being the Church. In *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down*, Marva Dawn writes to help local parishes and denominations think more thoroughly about worship and culture so that they can function effectively in contemporary society.

Register to attend via Eventbrite
Fellowship can be a problematic word. For some people it implies little more than social activities, light refreshments or some form of club. In this conversation, we are talking about something much deeper - linked to community, connection and belonging. It is usually used to translate the Greek word koinonia in the New Testament which has implications of common identity or participation. In this project, we have found it helpful to talk about "relationality" - the manifold ways in which we are connected. Whether we talk about fellowship, koinonia, community or relationality, the key issue is the same. We live in a world of broken relationships but are called to unity in Christ.

Register to attend via Eventbrite
Praying for Uganda

You would be very welcome to join a fortnightly prayer meeting for the Uganda Link. This includes friends from the Church of Uganda.

Meetings will be at 5.30 pm on alternative Thursdays starting on the 12th January 2023.
(12th & 26th Jan, 8th & 22nd Feb, 8th & 22nd March, 5th & 19th April)

No need to book. Simply use this Zoom link (which will be the same each time):
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2179060100
Meeting ID: 217 906 0100