

Lent 2020 – using “Saying Yes to Life”

Thanks to our friends at Lancaster Priory for allowing us to adapt their very helpful guide to using “Saying Yes to Life”.

There is lots of good, exciting material in this book – to make the most of it, group leaders will benefit from reading it all (a will other group members!), and some preparation will be required. But for those who are don't have time, a lot can be gained by reading and discussing the pages suggested overleaf, perhaps also using the discussion questions and prayer at the end of each chapter.

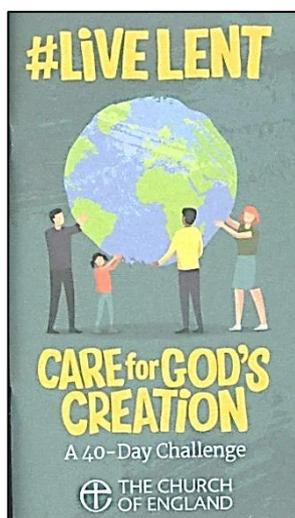
Do check out <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources> too - some good interviews and resources, as well as excellent course notes from Bristol Diocese.

Feel free to adapt this to suit your own groups' needs and inclinations.

This year we are using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what he has created, to share in God's own joy and ingenuity in making a difference for good.

Ruth imaginatively draws on the story of Creation in Genesis 1, relating themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures and humankind to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern. Her account culminates in the Sabbath rest of God and the new life which he offers all of us and his Creation in the Resurrection of Jesus which we will celebrate at Easter.

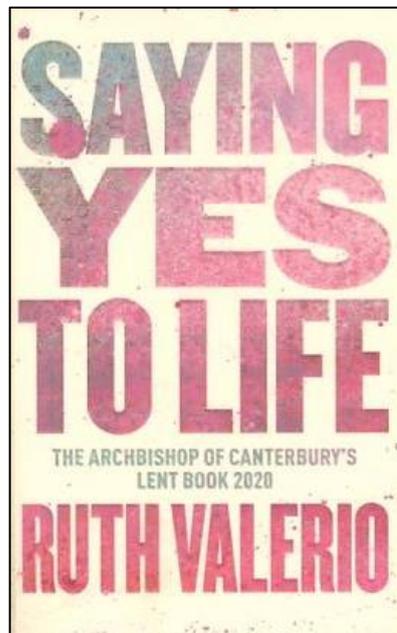
You can share in our Lenten journey in various ways. If you join a **Study Group**, you can meet with others through the five weeks of Lent, looking each week at one of the Creation themes, reflecting together on its meaning and discussing what we can do in our own personal and shared lives to meet its challenge.



Overleaf, you will find a list of the themes and extracts from Ruth Valerio's book which we are using as a starting point for our reflection and discussion in each of the study groups in Lent.

Instead of or as well as joining a group, you can use the **#LiveLent booklet** *Care for God's Creation* or the downloads from www.churchofengland.org/livelent to see daily bible readings, reflections, prayers and actions to make your own care for God's Creation real. The *#LiveLent for kids* booklet is a great resource for families and children to share in the Lenten journey.

In his Creation, God says 'Yes' to life. Do you want to share in God's own desire for what Creation is and might be?



26 February Ash Wednesday 'In the beginning'

First week of Lent 'Light'

Week beginning Monday 2 March

Study Group topic: Let there be light (pages 6-9)

Second week of Lent 'Water'

Week beginning Monday 9 March

Study Group topic: Streams of Living water (pages 26-33)

Third week of Lent 'Land & Plants'

Week beginning Monday 16 March

Study Group topic: Living in the land (pages 54-60)

Fourth week of Lent 'Stars & Seasons'

Week beginning Monday 23 March

Study Group topic: To everything there is a season (pages 84-89)

Fifth week of Lent 'Creatures of sea & sky'

Week beginning Monday 30 March

Study Group topic: Every living thing with which the water teems (pages 120-123)

Holy Week ... 'Human beings'

Week beginning Monday 6 April

Study Group topic: Sharing our common home (pages 155-159)

And as an extra ...

Easter Week ... 'The Seventh Day'

Week beginning Monday 13 April

You may like to have a final session to reflect on the whole course, and to look at the Conclusion: Resurrection churches, Resurrection lives (pages 164-169)

A suggestion:

At the end of each session, or at the end of the course, you could ask your group members to make a commitment to doing something which will make a difference – to their lives or the wider world. The Easter Week session could be an opportunity to review those commitments and encourage one another to live them out in the light of the Resurrection!

An alternative approach:

Each chapter contains three broad themes: some theological reflection on God and creation; wonder and delight at an aspect of the natural and scientific world; and inspiring examples of action churches are taking in different parts of the world.

For each session, why not ask one group member to read each of these three themes in the chapter, and then tell the group about the idea (or ideas) which most struck them, inspired them, challenged them...?

