



# LENT COURSES 2023

We're not preparing a specific diocesan Lent course this year but recommend the Five Branches or Faith in our Future courses, which help to focus on the diocesan vision.

## Our Five Branches:

[https://monmouth.contentfiles.net/media/documents/2022\\_Vision\\_Course.pdf](https://monmouth.contentfiles.net/media/documents/2022_Vision_Course.pdf)

## Faith in our Future:

[https://mcusercontent.com/b3afd1b0d0adb8d4215f17201/files/d560f536-2fff-9319-62c6-7f8a841dc14e/Faith in our Future 2022.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/b3afd1b0d0adb8d4215f17201/files/d560f536-2fff-9319-62c6-7f8a841dc14e/Faith_in_our_Future_2022.01.pdf)

For those who have already done these courses, or who want other Lent resources, the following are a brief selection (which are available to order/ buy at various bookshops or online booksellers).

## YOU CAN BE SERIOUS! MEETING JESUS AFRESH IN JOHN'S GOSPEL (York Courses)

(ISBN 9781915843067)

During the first five Sundays of Lent, four of the Gospels are from the Gospel according to John. By basing each of the five sessions in this course on the previous Sunday's Gospel, David Wilbourne provides a brilliant connection to the preaching and teaching that has just taken place.



The course covers:

Session 1: Temptation . . .

On checking every word that comes out of the mouth of God

Session 2: Strangers in the night . . .

Nicodemus came to Jesus under cover of darkness: finding God in surprising places

Session 3: The winner takes it all

'You worship what you do not know': upping our game with worship

Session 4: I was blind but now I see

'A god who can be understood is no god'

Session 5: Them bones, them bones, them dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

Contrasting events in John with parables in the Synoptics

The course booklet is accompanied by a lively CD, in which David Wilbourne and guests from various denominational backgrounds, put forward their thoughts on the themes of the course.

**AN EASTER BOOK OF DAYS** (available from booksellers or to buy online)  
Bishop Gregory Cameron

(ISBN 9781786224606)

This is designed for personal reading this Lent and Easter, re-introducing you to the characters of Easter. However it can also be used as a book to be read and discussed as a group.

Bishop Gregory explores 25 characters from the stories of Lent, Holy Week and Easter from the perspectives of scripture, history and legend and asks how they can enrich our practice of faith today. As well as the familiar figures – Christ himself, Mary his mother, Mary Magdalene, the disciples, Pilate, the soldiers, and the thieves crucified with Jesus, he explores aspects of the story not found in scripture, such as Veronica wiping the face of Jesus as he carried his cross.



Considering biblical accounts alongside folk legends, he also explores the rich traditions that have built up around the cross and the crown of thorns, as well as tales of how the robin got its red breast, or what happened to the disciples after the ascension, creating a richly textured guide to the Easter season.

## A PLACE FOR US

(ISBN 9781915412171)

For small groups or personal reading.

A Place for Us is a Lent course based on the recent film production of West Side Story directed by Steven Spielberg and featuring the songs of Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein. Through study and discussion of key scenes from the movie, related to Lent passages from scripture, Lavinia Byrne and Jane McBride help us to reflect on fear, love, betrayal, death, and reconciliation.

The course is based on five weekly sessions exploring the following themes:

- Belonging
- Otherness and Difference
- The Gift of Love
- The Promise of a Place for Us
- The Tragedy of Betrayal

For each session, preparatory material including a Gospel reading is provided for the reader to reflect on the themes before meeting with a study group. Resources are then offered for the group, including a suggested film clip, discussion points and questions, exercises, a Psalm, and a poem by Phil Lane.

## MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE: A LENTEN STUDY

Cynthia M. Campbell; Christine Coy Fohr

(ISBN 9780664267797)

The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus sharing meals with disciples, friends, even tax collectors and Pharisees. Whether multiplying bread to feed a whole



crowd, relaxing with his inner circle, or telling curious elites stories about even greater banquets, Jesus imparts wisdom as he shares the wine and grants forgiveness as he distributes the fish. This eight-chapter resource provides biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time, such as whom should we invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and left behind in our culture today.

Illustrations by artist Kevin Burns complement each chapter and invite further meditation on the Gospel story and its meaning for our lives.

Each chapter includes questions for small group discussion or personal reflection. A guide for church leaders offers suggestions for preaching this book as a sermon series and incorporating food-related outreach and hospitality efforts.

## WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS

(ISBN 9780715123447)

The Way of the Cross is 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.

This seasonal companion provides the sequence of fifteen meditations appears in full, including opening and concluding prayers. Each is accompanied by three short reflections from different perspectives 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.



## **GROWING GOOD** (Church Urban Fund)

As a diocese we hoping to work further with some of this material later in 2023 or in 2024, however this can be used as a Lent course now. Growing Good is a free course for churches, offering six sessions to help your congregation grow in faith and make a difference in your community.

During Lent and throughout the year, Growing Good helps churches reach out through loving service and social action, grow spiritually through discipleship and invite everyone to be part of God's work transforming work.

<https://growing-good.org.uk/lent-2023>

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS JUSTICE AND PEACE** (Embrace the Middle East)

In a world crippled by injustice - both here and in the Middle East - journey with us through the Egyptian Coptic observance of Lent over seven weeks. Reimagine Jesus' reign of justice and peace as proclaimed in the gospels.

The guide includes:

Scriptural reflections based on the seven-week Coptic observance of Lent  
Prayer and worship ideas  
Easy to use leaders guide to help those facilitating small groups

<https://shop.embraceme.org/products/lent-study-guide-2023-single>

