

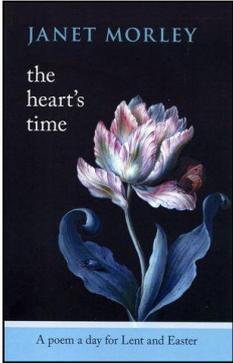
Books for Lent 2021

With Lent approaching – it begins on Ash Wednesday, 17th February – we are encouraging you to join a reading group. Similar to the book groups we had during Advent, these will simply be intended to help us engage with the book better by sharing our experience of it with others.

With help from Emily at the Hope Centre, we're recommending the following titles (*each book costs £9.99*):

The Heart's Time – Janet Morley

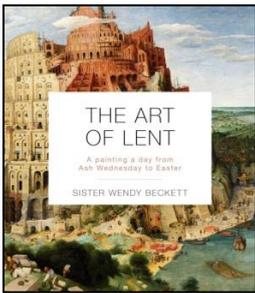
For those who read and enjoyed "Haphazard by Starlight", here is another by Janet Morley.



A day-by-day Lent book aimed at the individual reader, in which a poem appropriate to the themes of the season is read, along with a short reflection from the editor and a couple of questions to ponder. The purpose is to use a poetic text as the basis for 'slow reflection' during Lent and Eastertide.

'I think this is a brilliant Lent book, and one I would use. It is a marvellous anthology, but it offers so much more: critical insight into the poems, cultural and theological insight into their spiritual resonances and guidance as to how to read them prayerfully.' Angela Tilby

The Art of Lent – Sister Wendy Beckett



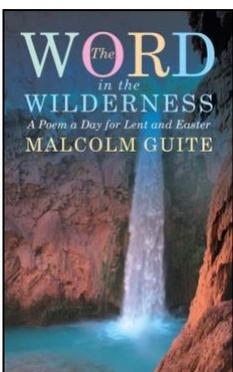
During Advent many of you enjoyed studying various paintings so here is another selection for you to peruse.

Join Sister Wendy on a journey through Lent, and discover the timeless wisdom to be found in some of the world's greatest paintings. Illustrated in full colour with over forty famous and lesser-known masterpieces of Western art, this beautiful book will lead you into a deeply prayerful response to all that these paintings convey to the discerning eye.

'For those who want to appreciate the spirituality behind some of the world's greatest works of art, this book will be hugely inspiring - not only during Lent but at any time of the year.'

Dr Janina Ramirez, art historian and broadcaster.

Word in the Wilderness – Malcolm Guite



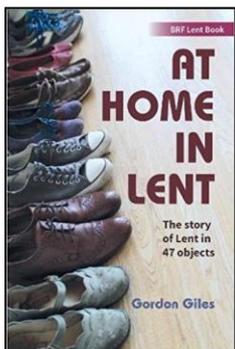
If you enjoy poetry here is another selection that may appeal.

For every day from Shrove Tuesday to Easter Day, the best-selling poet Malcolm Guite chooses a favourite poem from across the Christian spiritual and English literary traditions, and offers incisive seasonal reflections on it.

Lent is a time to reorient ourselves, clarify our minds, slow down, recover from distraction and focus on the values of God's kingdom. Poetry, with its power to awaken the mind, is an ideal companion for such a time.

This collection enables us to turn aside from everyday routine and experience moments of transfigured vision as we journey through the desert landscape of Lent and find refreshment along the way. Following each poem with a helpful prose reflection, Malcolm Guite has selected from classical & contemporary poets, from Dante, John Donne and George Herbert to Seamus Heaney, Rowan Williams and Gillian Clarke, and his own acclaimed poetry.

At Home in Lent – Gordon Giles



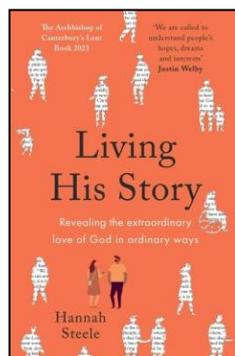
If you didn't get to experience "*At Home in Advent*", or you did and wish to join Gordon Giles again in looking at familiar objects, that you have the opportunity with this book.

Here is an original way of approaching Lent, one that will encourage you to consider your own faith journey in the light of the Easter story. Inspired by Neil MacGregor's Radio 4 programme, '*A History of the World in 100 Objects*', Gordon Giles spends each week in a different room gleaning spiritual lessons from everyday household objects. As a result, you might discover that finding God in the normal pattern of life transforms how you approach each day. Running as a thread through it all are the seven Rs of Lent: Regret, Repentance, Resolution, Recognition, Reconciliation, Renewal and Resurrection.

"In 'At Home in Lent' Gordon Giles has elevated the everyday to the realm of spiritual reflection and meditation in a way which is both simple and profound. Gordon's reflections are helpfully reminiscent of expressions of Celtic Spirituality, where we find prayers for the cooking pot and for lighting a fire. A most accessible guide and accompaniment with which to navigate Lent, with just the right amount of challenge and affirmation, particularly for those leading busy lives."

Revd Preb Dr Neil Evans, Director of Ministry, Diocese of London

Living His Story – Hannah Steele



Last year we studied "Say Yes to Life" – the Archbishop's choice for 2020. This is his choice for 2021.

We are fascinated by stories. Every culture has them, passed on from generation to generation. Stories tell us who we are, where we belong, and how we relate to those around us. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the story at the heart of the universe, and yet the church in the UK now finds itself in a culture largely unaware of this joyful reality. How do we reveal the revolutionary love of God to our neighbours in such a strange post-Christian world? *Living His Story* aims to help us through showing how the parables of Jesus open up an enticingly different way of seeing things. Illuminating the reality of the new kingdom he is ushering in, Jesus seeks to challenge and subvert the normal understanding of how things are or should be. And because the parables so often speak of the Kingdom of God, they are pertinent as we try to get our heads around the somewhat peculiar word evangelism. If evangelism is first and foremost an invitation to enter into God's story, then the parables can help us picture what it means to embrace this new kingdom, to adopt a life-giving alternative way of being in the world, which subverts all our other narratives.

- Brilliantly balances theological reflection, fresh interpretations of biblical passages and real-life stories.
- The author's definition of evangelism as 'simply sharing the love of God with people' will be disarming and motivating to many
- Written in the midst of a world crisis, so vividly real and highly relevant to readers' lives

Arrangements

To order a book please email teamrector.macc@gmail.com or phone 01625 426110 (we get a discount for orders of 10 or more placed at the same time). **For the books to arrive in time please ensure you get your requests in by 10th February.** You can, of course, order individually if you prefer.

If you wish to join or help facilitate a small reading group, please let Martin or one of the following know and we can put you in touch with others who'll be reading the same book: Sallie Bancroft or Tricia Atherton at St Michael's; Carole Boardman, Jenny Fox-Eades or Richard Lowe at St Peter's.