

St George's Book Reading Group

Malcolm Guite 7 Sonnets on Our Father

You can look these up on-line, or ask if you would like a hard copy printed out for you. You can also google different versions of the Lord's Prayer: both the variations that come from the numerous different English translations of the Bible, and the Lord's Prayer re-writes that later authors have created to help us think afresh about words that can lose some of their impact because they have become in some ways too familiar. In some ways, we ought to be shocked by the Lord's Prayer. We certainly ought not to take it so much for granted that we rattle it off without thinking about it.

Rev Malcolm Guite is remarkable to look at: more hair than face! He has been quoted often in our church newsletters or prayer sheets as a writer on poets and other writers, and as a writer of his own verse and narrative. He is linked to both Cambridge and Durham Universities.

The 7 Sonnets are probably best read initially as a whole, and then, on different days, each individually and reflectively a number of times. They are, of course, only 14 lines each, but are packed with things to chew on all day and every day.

Here is my selection of lines to remember and ponder, one from each sonnet:

1. *As though your Father were my Father too*
2. *Familiar things we'll never understand*
3. *And everywhere the triumph of the weak*
4. *Are all themselves the fingers of your hand*
5. *Are ours to hold or utterly let go*
6. *The fount of blessing let himself be cursed*
7. *Throw all we hold into that holy fire*