

encourage and inspire. The variety is impressive, but then it reflects the diversity of human life as we know it. Published by Darton, Longman and Todd. ISBN 978-0-232-53109-1 Cost £8.

Thursday July 20th: "Poverty" The Inclusive Church Resource. Just one of the Inclusive Church resource books, but certainly not the least important. We forget, at our peril, that many of the first Christians were from the have-nots rather than the haves; and that at times the institutional Church has been both a powerful resource for poor people, and a powerful defender of privilege. Darton, Longman and Todd. ISBN 978-0-232-53068-1 £8

August : No Meeting

Thursday September 14th: "Tyger, Tyger" by William Blake. A Penguin Classics mini-book (80p). We know Blake as author of Jerusalem. Discover more of this extraordinary writer. "I went to the Garden of Love, And saw what I had never seen."

Thursday October 19th: "Autumn—An anthology for the changing seasons" edited by Melissa Harrison. This four part series is excellent value :an up-to-date collection of prose and poetry, much of it written for this collection. Very much a dip into and read in full at leisure book, ISBN 978-1-78396-248-8 £9.99

Thursday November 16th: "Walking Backwards to Christmas" by Stephen Cottrell. Behind the scenes Old Testament and New Testament stories bearing on Christmas. A fresh way of looking at what we know by heart, though perhaps never understand. Another freebie if you want to read it and join us.

Thursday December 14th: Maybe light relief with Charles Dickens Mr Pickwick's Christmas?

Remember: Suggestions always welcome

*St George the Martyr,
Shirley
BOOK READING GROUP
January 2017*



*The Group meets once a month
On a Thursday evening
At 31 Woodmere Avenue
7.45 p.m. light refreshments
Book reading 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

*All are welcome - including "one book" members
See parish website for notes
Ring 8654 6190 to arrange a visit*

What sort of books?

Members decide what they want to read - by helping to choose the books, and, of course, by coming when a book they are interested in is on the reading list. But we often find (a) that a book we weren't sure about is well worth reading, and (b) that there are as many views on a book as there are people present.

The books are ones that help us explore the knowing and the living of our faith. Some are published as "religious" books. Some are published as "people" books. Some are published as "story" books. Whether serious or light-hearted, they "make you think".

Not everyone who has been part of the group would describe themselves as "book people", and we always include books with an extract-only option (no need to read the whole book, since the emphasis is on the extract), very short books (50 or so small pages), and books made up of short sections that can be sampled rather than all read.

The usual meeting pattern (after tea/coffee and cake - gluten free if required), is discussion of overall impressions, followed by focus on passages that caught our attention. The discussion can then go all over the place... always fruitfully! "I haven't got much to contribute, but....." is often followed by the most illuminating contribution of the evening.

Feel welcome to suggest a book. Feel welcome to sign up for discussion of a book choice that attracts, intrigues, or indeed irritates you. We can cope with unexpected readers, but it is good to know in advance so we can guarantee enough cake and chairs,

Should I have read the book before the meeting? It really does help YOU to take part if you have at least read the book in part, though we have had evenings when some people haven't got much beyond the Introduction. So best to get the book and read it before the meeting, if other demands on your time allow. Do ask if you would like the book ordered for you; or if you would like an extract rather than the whole book.

Welcome to another way of exploring the world of books and the world of faith.

The Provisional Programme

We do sometimes have to change dates because of a potential clash with other parish activities. At the moment, the programme looks like this:-

Thursday January 12th: *"The Bible, Science and Human Origins"* - This is an article, by a team of writers, from the October 2016 edition of the magazine "Science and Christian Belief". For some Christians, the fact that the Bible has an Adam and Eve story means that in human history there was an Adam and an Eve whose story is told in the Book of Genesis, and whose story is fundamental to who we are today. If science says something different, science is wrong. This article is not easy going (it couldn't be!), but it is well worth reading and re-reading to explore the different ideas about our beginnings.

Thursday February 16th: *"A Good Year" by Mark Oakley.* Seven writers, including two Archbishops (the rest are just Bishops!) write about the meaning and best use of the seasons of the Church's Year. A book published by SPCK last year. ISBN 978-0-281-07703-8.

Thursday March 16th: *"The Nail" by Stephen Cottrell.* This is a great book for the time leading up to Passiontide and Easter. There is always the danger for life-long Christians to think that there is nothing new to say. The Bishop of Chelmsford encourages us to fresh insights, including reflections on the experience of some of the main character in the Passion story. (This book is a freebie if you want to read it and join us to discuss it.)

Thursday April 20th: *John Sentamu's "Faith Stories"* - 20 true stories of faith changing lives today. An inspiring collection of personal stories from the Archbishop of York. These are "If he/she can, maybe I can" accounts of people doing good things despite bad problems. Published by Darton, Longman and Todd. ISBN 978-0-232-52978-4 Cost £8.

Thursday May 18th: *"As Kingfishers catch fire" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.* A Penguin Classic mini-book (80p!) of poems and other writings by a Christian writer who throws words about with gay abandon. These are writings to be read and re-read, and experienced more than understood. "The world is charged with the glory of God."

Thursday June 22nd: *John Sentamu's "Hope Stories"* Another 20 true stories that