



Bedale Benefice

LENT 2021



As a community of Christians does Lent mark us out as God's faithful?

Observing Lent, a taking on something & learning a little, questioning ourselves, praying some & preparing for Holy Week and Easter. So, choose something from these resources, then borrow or buy a copy of one of the resources. Read, watch, listen, pray and think on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit; forgiveness & faithful development this Lent.

PRAYER A number of options.

1. Join morning (8.30am) or evening prayer (4pm) on the conference call facility details online or in the magazine.
2. Use the #LIVE LENT booklet available in church.
3. Use this prayer for the church each day

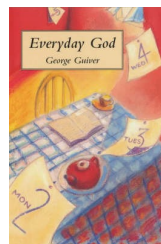


O God who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions & power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

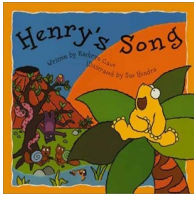
READING

Certain books have been chosen (although you may choose one for yourself) and offered in the hope that your conversations with each other and God may be inspired. The books are of varying length, subjects and styles. All are available to borrow from the church or purchase on Amazon etc. Try and read within a week and pass on or return to church.

Everyday God— George Guiver



Everyday God is a short book by Father George Guiver of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, West Yorkshire. 'The Creed starts, I believe in....'. It does not start 'I believe that...' In other words it does not ask us for an opinion about ideas. It is an invitation to trust a person'. To trust a person, we need to know them. To know God we need to talk with him in prayer as we would to anyone we are trying to get to know. Guiver puts things in such a practical manner, so much sensible & easily understood advice.

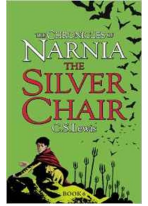


[HENRY'S SONG](#) - Kathryn Cave

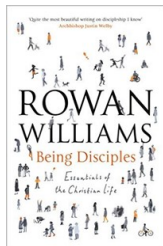
A story for everyone who's been told they're just not good enough to sing, or dance, or play, or join in, or do anything they love. It's such a glorious morning, Henry bursts into song - loud and joyful and full of surprises. His singing is not appreciated by his neighbour. The maker of all things wakes up too and when it's quiet again, the creatures decide to sing a proper song to put the maker in a good mood again. But Henry can't join in: he'd spoil it...or would he...?

[The Chronicles of Narnia – THE SILVER CHAIR](#) – C.S. Lewis

A mission of mercy sends two more children to the magical world created by C.S. Lewis. Eustace and Jill are two misfit schoolchildren who discover that a garden shed on the school's grounds is actually a gateway to the magical land of Narnia. Eustace had visited Narnia years before, and is troubled to discover King Caspian has aged considerably. Caspian is troubled by the disappearance of his son, Prince Rilian, who had been kidnapped years earlier. With the help of the King's helper Puddlegum and the lion, Eustace and Jill set out to find the lost prince and reunite him with his father.



[BEING DISCIPLES: Essentials of the Christian Life](#) – Rowan Williams



This brief book lifts up for discussion essential elements of the Christian life. To be a Christian is not simply to believe. It has to do with life's story. I believe that this book will be helpful to all who seek to dive deeper into the life of faith. In the wake of political turmoil, who do you follow? When faced with difference and divergence, whose example do you copy? What does it mean to follow a clear path in the

midst of cultural confusion? This little book's aim is simple: to help readers to see more clearly, love more dearly and follow more nearly the way of Jesus Christ.

[WATCHING](#)

If you do not get to read a book for Lent how about watching a film? Below are three film choices to watch, of different styles, some have obvious religious themes. Why not invite someone to watch a film with you? Then have a conversation with yourself, God and other people in your family, friends or church.

[Chariots of Fire](#) Dir: Hugh Hudson (1981)

A historical drama film which tells the fact-based story of two athletes in the 1924 Olympics: Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, & Harold Abrahams, an English Jew who runs to overcome prejudice. Alongside the music from Vangelis, the title is also musically inspired by the line from the poem/hymn Jerusalem. A quote from Eric Liddell, "I believe that God made me for a purpose. But He also made me fast, and when I run, I feel His pleasure."



[Frozen](#) Dir: Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee (2013)

Based on a Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, Frozen tells the story of a fearless princess who sets off on a journey alongside a rugged iceman, his loyal pet reindeer, and a naïve snowman to find her estranged sister, whose icy powers have inadvertently trapped the kingdom in eternal winter. Somewhat 'un-disney' the story twists and turns with some wonderful song. Just let it go....!

[City of Angels](#) Dir: Brad Silberling (1998)

This film concerns angels, love, free will and commitment. The film stars Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan and is set in Los Angeles (did you see what they did there?) A beautiful love story full of music and angst.



[LISTENING](#)

Music is another activity that can transport individuals towards the spiritual. Each piece of music has been chosen for its significance to a particular individual.



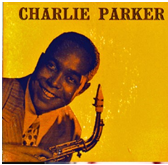
[Come Healing](#) - Leonard Cohen

One of Cohen's later Songs from the album "Old Ideas". Its message of kindness and gentleness combined with Cohen's wonderful delivery give this song a tenderness that is hard not to enjoy.

[An Eala Bhan \(The White Swan\)](#) - Julie Fowlis

The words are a poem written by a soldier from Scotland in the trenches of WW1. He says that if he "could fly like the white swan, he'd fly home to her". If he returns he will marry his love, but if not he wishes her to think of him fondly and to not be sad. Lyrical language and also a beautiful story.





Summertime - Charlie Parker

Charlie Parker's recording of Summertime, partly for the phenomenal sax player Parker was and is a testament to his hard work. Partly as a celebration of musical diversity, epitomised by this song: and operetta's opening soprano aria composed by a Jew (George Gershwin) in New York, played here by a Jazz saxophonist from the complete opposite end of the musical spectrum coming together to create something wonderful.

Arms of the Angel - Sarah McLachlan

A song inspired by articles that Sarah McLachlan read about musicians turning to drugs to cope with the pressures of their life & their subsequent overdose.

McLachlan empathised with the sometimes hopelessness of life saying: "I've been in that place where you've messed up and you're so lost that you don't know who you are anymore, and you're miserable... I've done plenty of other things to escape." McLachlan said that the song is about "trying not to take responsibility for other people's problems and trying to love yourself at the same time". The song featured in the film 'City of Angel' another resource this Lent.



BIBLE STUDY



Two thoughts for bible study, on your own or in small groups.

'#Live Lent' is a small booklet of daily readings and meditations that can be used for the 40 days of Lent. The booklet will be available before Lent and there are various other resources accessible online. Just type '#Live Lent' into your search engine.

Starting on Shrove Tuesday and every week until the final gathering Tuesday 23 March there will be a gathering on Zoom at 7pm.

Follow the link (available digitally on the website.)

Meeting ID: 832 9480 0784 Passcode: 130526

During each session we will look at the readings set for the following Sunday and talk around how each set of scriptures speak to us. The appropriate readings will be available beforehand from the Benefice of Bedale web site from the beginning of Lent.

Join in and grow a little this Lent.