

Lent at St Mary's Church



Wednesday 26th February is Ash Wednesday.

We have services as follows:

9.30am in St Mary's: Communion service with the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead for the beginning of Lent

2.20pm in St Mary's Junior School: Service with the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead for the beginning of Lent

7.30pm in St Margaret's Bygrave: Communion service with hymns and the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead for the beginning of Lent.

**Please try really hard to come to one of these!
You won't regret it.**

The Archbishop's Lent book 2020

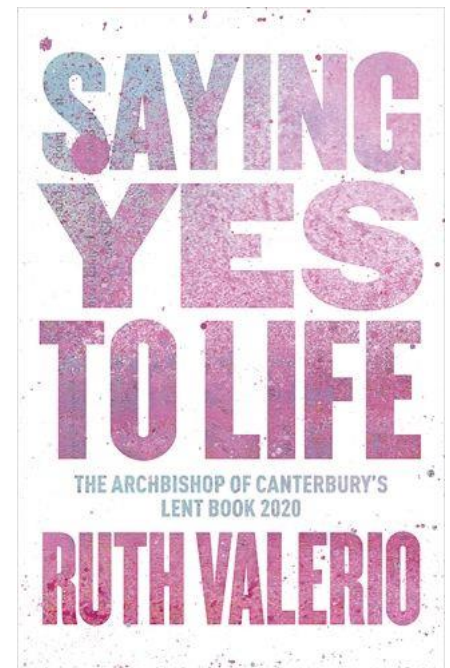
'Ruth Valerio's book is perfect for individuals and groups to think, reflect, pray and be challenged together.'

JUSTIN WELBY, from the Foreword

Saying Yes to Life lifts our focus from natural, everyday concerns to issues that are having an impact on millions of lives around the world. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what he has created: to share in God's joy and ingenuity in making a difference for good. Ruth Valerio imaginatively draws on the Days of Creation (Genesis 1) as she relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.

Foundational to *Saying Yes to Life* is what it means to be human and, in particular, to be a follower of Jesus. Voices from around the world are heard throughout, and each chapter ends with discussion questions and a prayer to aid action and contemplation.

To order a copy, sign the sheet at the back of church or, better still, ring the Christian Bookshop 481285



LENT



Count your blessings with **Christian Aid** this Lent. Available today we have a booklet with daily activities (something to do, something to pray, something to think about or something

to give) for everyone in the congregation. There are also special posters for children on the same theme which will link with what we are doing in our schools. We also hope to have collecting boxes for Christian Aid available.

Lent Groups

We have four Lent groups running this Lent:

Mondays at 8pm starting Mar 2nd at 3 The School House (please note that the venue will change each week for this group – check the weekly pewsheets for the details of the venue)

Tuesdays at 7.30pm starting Mar 3rd in the Rectory

Thursdays at 10.30am starting Feb 27th in the Church Hall

Sundays at 7pm (see below)

They will be based around the six days of creation plus the day of rest and will relate these to the 'I am' sayings, Jesus' nicknames for himself in St John's Gospel. They will be loosely connected to the Lent book, *Saying yes to life*.

Day 1	light and darkness	<i>I am the light of the world</i>
Day 2	water	<i>Jesus offers living water</i>
Day 3	land, sea and vegetation	<i>I am the true vine</i>
Day 4	sun, moon and stars	<i>I am the good shepherd, I am the gate for the sheepfold</i>
Day 5	fish and birds	<i>I am the bread of life</i>
Day 6	animals and human beings	<i>I am the resurrection and the life</i>
Day 7	Sabbath rest	<i>I am the way, the truth and the life</i>

Each evening will include bible discussion relating the Old Testament to the New, a chance to think about practical action connected to the Lent booklets and an opportunity to write prayers on topics arising out of the discussions

It will be quite possible to attend only one or two Lent groups or to swap between Lent groups, and still get a lot out of them.

We also have a special group for young people on Sundays at 7pm in the church hall with food, starting on Feb 23rd. This will be on similar themes.