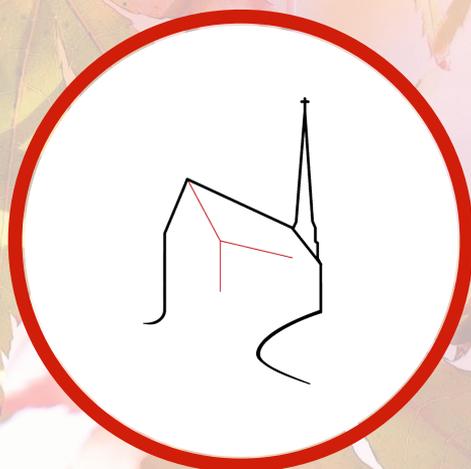


Autumn 2020



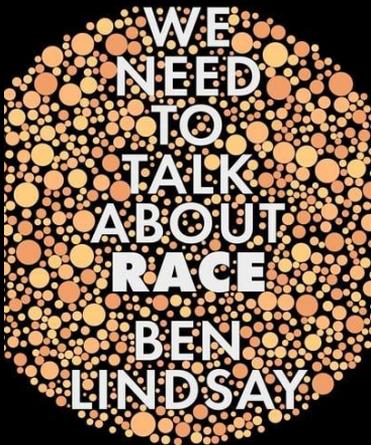
St Paul's Beckenham



For Everyone

We Need to Talk - Book Club

'A MUST-READ FOR THE UK CHURCH' **JUSTIN WELBY**
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



UNDERSTANDING THE **BLACK EXPERIENCE**
IN WHITE MAJORITY CHURCHES

An Opportunity for safe and honest discussion about race, history and privilege.

Join us as we reflect on the black experience of white majority churches in the UK.

This is a conversation sweeping the nation, we are pleased to host it this autumn at St Paul's Beckenham.

Thursdays 8pm on Zoom throughout September

- 3/9 - Chapters 1 & 2
- 10/9 - Chapters 3 & 4
- 17/9 - Chapters 5 & 6
- 24/9 - Chapters 7 & 8

Buy the book

Online

<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/we-need-to-talk-about-race>

Beckenham Bookshop via Rosemary

r2dear@hotmail.com

sign up today: vicar@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk



What: Parish Discussion Group

When: 8:00pm Every Thursday in September (3rd, 10th, 17th, 23rd)

Where: Online via ZOOM, though provision for those off-line will be available.

Sign Me Up! Email Rev. Simon, vicar@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

At Length

Many of us will remember the controversial moment when the statue of Edward Colston was pulled from its plinth, and thrown into Bristol harbour. What followed was a complex and impassioned debate about race, history and privilege. On Social Media millions of black squares were posted in a matter of hours, and #blacklivesmatter became a trending hashtag. In recent weeks, much energy has been spent labouring the point that "life after the lockdown will be different." But there is a parallel truth which also requires equal emphasis: life after the death of George Floyd must be different. Historic institutions, places of industry, commerce and education have been thinking deeply about these events, and questioning how they will shape the cultures of our places of work, learning, and worship.

These events have been cause for self-reflection for the Church of England too. The archbishops of Canterbury and York, with the members of the general synod, have entered into discussion about how the structures and systems of church governance may need to be challenged and changed. For ourselves, it is important to ask: is this dialogue represented at the local parish level? How can we at St Paul's enter into the conversation that is happening right now across all spheres of public life? Surely as Christians we have a great deal to contribute to the discourse currently shaping our nation.

This September, I am inviting you to join a parish-wide conversation based on Ben Lindsay's Book, *We Need To Talk about Race: Understanding Black Experience in White Majority Churches*. The book, endorsed by Justin Welby, was written by a pastor of a neighbouring church in Kings Cross, and is specifically designed to help congregations engage and discuss issues of race in a positive and constructive way. Whether you are new, feel on the fringes of church life, or are a regular member at St Paul's, we would love you to join us online, each Thursday evening in September, at 8:00pm.

For many of us, this will not be a comfortable or easy conversation. And yet, as we lean into the discomfort, and step out in faith and fellowship, we will find a safe pasture where we can share experiences and raise difficult questions in an open and non-defensive way. I am sure, that conducted in a right spirit before Almighty God, this will be a life-affirming event for our wonderful parish.



For Seekers

Alpha Course Online

Begins Monday 21st September, 7:30pm



**Done with
small talk?**

#TryAlpha



Alpha is a free, short course which explores the Christian faith. It is open to all, to seekers and sceptics alike, where no question is off the table.

The course will meet online on Monday evenings during the autumn term, from late September to mid November.

**Pause Netflix.
Try Alpha Online**

For more details visit our website, or to book your place, contact the church office via :

Web.: www.stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Email: admin@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Tel.: 020 8650 0501 / 020 8650 3400

It's never been easier to join!



What: Alpha Course Online

When: 7:30pm, Monday evenings starting from 21st September

Where: Online via ZOOM.

Sign Me Up! Email: admin@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk Tel. : 020 8650 0501

At Length

Alpha is a free, short course which explores the Christian faith. It is open to all - to seekers and sceptics alike, where no question is off the table. Each evening includes a short film which invites warm and open discussion about life's big questions. This is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in matters of faith and spirituality, but who may feel that coming to church is a little intimidating. Now that the course is online, you need not leave the comfort of your own home; just let Alpha come to you. It has never been easier to join.

The course will meet online on Monday evenings during the autumn term, from late September to mid November.

21/9 - Is there more to life than this?

28/9 - Who is Jesus?

5/10 - Why did Jesus Die?

12/10 - How can I have Faith?

HALF TERM BREAK

2/11 - Why and How should I Pray?

9/11 - Why and How should I read the Bible?

16/11 - Who is the Holy Spirit?

23/11 - What about the Church?

Time and again, the Alpha course has proved to be a warm, non-threatening forum to explore the Christian faith. It is a place where lasting friendships are made.



Contemporary Culture and Christian Doctrine



An opportunity to audit a module taught for the diocese of Rochester.

Join us we seek to connect our faith with contemporary culture, and consider how the historic Christian Gospel addresses the live issues of our day.

The module will be delivered online, and pending Covid-19 guidance, will be taught in the church building.

Auditing the Course

Members of the parish are most welcome to audit the course for free, but are politely reminded that this is an assessed module for those attending through the diocese as part of their training for Licensed Lay Ministry.

For more details, or to book your place, visit our website or contact Rev. Simon

Website: www.stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Email: vicar@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Tel. : 020 8650 3400



What: Taught Module: Contemporary Culture and Christian Doctrine

When: Saturday 26/9 and 28/11 (Full Days - 9:00am to 3:00pm)
Tuesdays 13/10 and 3/11 (Evenings only - 7:30pm - 9:30pm)

Where: Online via ZOOM, and pending Covid-19 guidance, in the church building.

Sign Me Up! Email: vicar@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk Tel : 020 8650 0501

At Length

The study of Christian doctrine can be misrepresented as an academic exercise that has little practical bearing on the way we express our faith. Yet such a view undermines the richness of the very faith we seek to proclaim. What we believe matters, and the content of our faith gives shape and structure to all that we say and do. As the foundations underpin a house, so too Christian doctrine gives structure and solidity to our hope in Jesus Christ - even in an unstable and changing world. This course will reflect on live issues in contemporary culture, with the conviction that the historic Christian faith speaks into these areas with relevance and authority. Students will be encouraged to think creatively, drawing upon Scripture, reason, experience and tradition to discern links between Christian doctrine and current affairs. Students will have freedom to explore questions such as "What does the Trinity teach us about Brexit?", "What does the Atonement mean for those grieving the effects of Covid-19?" or "How does Creation speak to those wrestling with questions of identity?"

This module is well suited to students who wish to learn more about theology, and who wish to apply their learning creatively to the challenges of contemporary culture. This course is designed to familiarise you with the core doctrines of the Christian faith, as they are presented in the Apostles' Creed. By engaging with the historic tenets of the Christian faith you will strengthen your foundation, and discover a greater confidence in the Christian gospel. A great deal of emphasis in this module is given to discussion, and to your developing ability to articulate historic truth in a contemporary, creative and engaging way.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a familiarity with the key doctrines expressed in the Apostles' Creed.
2. Reflect creatively and maturely to identify links between Christian belief and current affairs.
3. Articulate theologically sophisticated and sensitive responses to contemporary issues.



