

# **LIFE & LEARNING @ LUDLOW**

**Unscrambling issues of life and faith**



**Programme**

**October 2016 to April 2017**

**The Parish Church of St Laurence, Ludlow  
(A member of Churches Together Around Ludlow)**

## **About Life & Learning**

Life & Learning is the name of an adult learning programme which seeks to broaden understanding and initiate debate on theology, social issues and the arts.

The programme offers a range of opportunities for study and learning. It is intended to stimulate the interest of people of faith who want to reflect deeply on how their faith impacts on their engagement with the world around them, and also appeal to those with no strong faith commitment who are interested in exploring the Christian perspective on contemporary issues.

Arranged by the Parish Church of St Laurence, Ludlow, (a member of Churches Together Around Ludlow) the events are open to all people from the town and beyond, regardless of religious affiliation.

Copies of this leaflet can be downloaded from our website: [www.stlaurences.org.uk/lifeandlearning](http://www.stlaurences.org.uk/lifeandlearning). We also welcome enquiries at:

Life & Learning @ Ludlow  
2 College Street  
LUDLOW  
Shropshire SY8 1AN

Email: [lifeandlearning@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:lifeandlearning@stlaurences.org.uk)

Tel: 01584 872073

## **Programme**

### **October 2016 to April 2017**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Saturday 22 October 2016 at 10.30am – 3.30pm (bring a sandwich lunch or enjoy a light lunch at the Mascall Centre Café)</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Ludlow Mascall Centre</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>£12 (including coffee during a morning break)</b>

### **The Gospel of St Matthew: Israel, Rome and the Reign of Heaven**

*A study day led by the Revd Dr Chris Moore*

We rarely sit down and read a gospel in a single sitting, which makes it all too easy to miss the overall structure of the books and to miss the force of their arguments. The Gospel of Matthew radically casts Jesus in the light of the history of Israel and tackles the issues of a nation under Roman occupation. It issues a challenging call to follow Christ who fulfils the mission of Israel and inaugurates the reign of heaven on earth. Come along and gain an overview of this thrilling account of the meaning of Jesus.

The Revd Dr Chris Moore is Rector of Fownhope, to the south-east of Hereford. His doctoral research focussed on the nature of Christ as presented in the Gospels of Mark and John, and he has lectured in the New Testament at the West of England Ministerial Training Course and at Bristol Baptist College.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursdays 3, 10, 24 November and 1 December 2016 (no session on 17 Nov) at 10.30am until 12 noon, with coffee available from 10am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Ludlow Mascall Centre</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>£6 (including coffee) per session; £20 for series</b>

### **Dante's Divine Comedy**

*An exploration led by the Revd Canon Chris Pullin*

The greatest Christian allegory ever written, and (it has been claimed) the greatest single achievement of the Middle Ages, Dante's *Commedia Divina* is a source of inspiration and enlightenment even today. In four sessions Chris Pullin, Canon Chancellor at Hereford Cathedral, will introduce this amazing three-part poem, exploring some of its imagery and explaining some of the theology and philosophy that underlies it.

The four sessions comprise:

- on 3 November: Introduction to Dante's Divine Comedy
- on 10 November: *Inferno*
- on 24 November: *Purgatorio*
- on 1 December: *Paradiso*

Participants might like to buy CH Sisson's single volume translation, available in Oxford World Classics (ISBN 978-0-19-953564-4), as a personal companion for the course; Penguin Classics has translations (three volumes each) by both Dorothy Sayers and Mark Musa – these are preferable in some ways to Sisson's translation, but will prove more expensive and voluminous.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 19 January 2017 at 10am – 12 noon</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Ludlow Mascall Centre</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>£8 (including coffee during a mid lecture break)</b>

**Restoration, Retrieval and Renewal:  
Recovering Healing Ministry in the Church**

*Some critical reflections by the Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy*

Are the healing miracles of Jesus just awesome demonstrations of divine power? Or were they, in fact, also politically subversive, socially challenging and religiously reforming acts too? In this lecture, Martyn Percy looks at modern healing movements in the churches, and compares them to the gospel healing accounts. How do they measure up? How and why are healing ministries today different from those practiced in the past?

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy is the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, one of University of Oxford's largest colleges, as well as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Oxford. From 2004-14 he was Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Prior to that he was Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute and has also been Chaplain and Director of Studies at Christ's College, Cambridge.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursdays 2, 9, 16 and 23 February 2017 at 10.30am until 12 noon, with coffee available from 10am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Ludlow Mascall Centre</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>£6 (including coffee) per session; £20 for series</b>

### **Women in the Early Church**

*A series of talks given by the Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer*

Women clearly played some important roles in ministry within the early Church. We have numerous names in the letters of St Paul, all adding to evidence that they played a major role in the operation of the Church - as deacons, as hosts to the Church, as ministers to women and children. However they were much more than this. There were women scholars - not able to write in their own names but able to influence their male colleagues, women who travelled extensively and brought back much information about worship and operation of the Church. Some of the Church Fathers, such as Jerome, had a following of women with whom they discussed faith and practice.

After the sixth century the role of women becomes increasingly passive, though we have to remember the powerful women who were Abbesses in the Anglo-Saxon Church: women such as Hilda of Whitby and Etheldreda of Ely, headed up monasteries which housed both men and women.

The four lectures comprise:

- on 2 February: Women in the New Testament
- on 9 February: Women and their pursuit of scholarship
- on 16 February: The women friends of Jerome
- on 23 February: Women travellers in the Holy Places

Before her retirement Canon Palmer was Sub Dean at Guildford Cathedral. She now lives in Hereford and makes regular contributions to Life & Learning @ Hereford Cathedral.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursdays 16, 23, 30 March and 6 April at 10.30am until 12 noon, with coffee available from 10am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Ludlow Mascall Centre</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>£6 (including coffee) per session; £20 for series</b>

## **Social Justice and the Bible**

*A series of lectures given by the Revd Dr Neil Richardson*

Party political manifestos don't normally refer to God, and politicians, as someone famously said, 'don't do God'. But the Bible has much to say about social justice. How we interpret its teaching for today is rarely straightforward, but Christians must surely try.

The four lectures will explore the Bible's foundational ideas of the 'righteousness' and 'justice' of God and how the Christian Church should engage with politics and work for the common good. (Is baptism really about joining the human race?). Thorny issues can hardly be avoided. The Bible seems to say that poverty is created by rich people. Do we agree with the Old Testament scholar who insists that equality is an essential part of social justice? And if 'the earth is the Lord's' (Psalm 24.1), what does that say about land ownership and our dysfunctional housing market?

Prior to his 'retirement' as a Methodist minister, Dr Richardson served as Principal of Wesley College, Bristol and President of the Methodist Conference of Great Britain. These days, as well as preaching, he continues to devote his ministry to exploring and writing on the contemporary relevance of the Bible.

**Life & Learning @ Ludlow**  
**Application Form for October 2016 – April 2017 Programme**

*(Numbers that can be accommodated at all events are limited. Please complete and return as soon as possible to: Life & Learning @ Ludlow, 2 College Street, Ludlow, SY8 1AN)*

**Please enrol me / us on the following:**

**The Gospel of St Matthew** £12

**Dante's Divine Comedy**

Entire series	£20	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 November only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 November only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 November only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 December only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Recovering Healing Ministry in the Church** £8

**Women in the Early Church**

Entire series	£20	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 February only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 February only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 February only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 February only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Social Justice and the Bible**

Entire series	£20	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 March only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 March only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 March only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 April only	£6	<input type="checkbox"/>

I enclose a cheque payable to 'Ludlow PCC' for £.....

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

*Your details will not be disclosed to any third party. If you prefer not to receive information about future events, please tick this box*