

PLEASE NOTE...

1. Weekend Away: our Spring Weekend Away takes place 26th-28th April @ Ashburnham Place, with Glen Scrivener. Glen is a speaker, writer and filmmaker who directs the charity Speak Life. He has written several books including "321: The Story of God, the World and You" and "Long Story Short: The Bible in 12 Phrases". He lives in Eastbourne with his wife, Emma, and daughter, Ruby, and spends most of his time fusing his two favourite activities: being creative and sharing Jesus.

Glen is going to be speaking on the topic of "3-2-1-Go", helping us understand the Good News of Jesus more deeply, and how we can share it more effectively.

Head to the registration desk after the service and make your booking!

2. Is Christianity hate speech? How should Christians navigate speaking about their faith in a shifting culture? Join us and other local churches this Thursday as Prof Tom Simpson helps us consider this issue. 7:45pm for 8pm, Thursday 21 March, St John's Blackheath SE3 7TH.

3. What's the evidence for Jesus' resurrection?

Join us as Andrew Sach considers this topic at our next Big Questions event. 7 - 8pm, 31st March
Upstairs @ Greenwich Tavern, SE10 9JH.

4. Easter Sunday: join us on Easter Sunday (21st April) for a special all-age service at 4pm. There is no Sunday school that week, but there will be crèche.

5. Grace Groups meet this Wednesday: we encourage all members of the church to join a Grace Group to get to know each other, to pray, and to hear from God's word. Why not come this week to try it out? 7.30pm for food, groups from 8 – 9.15pm, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College.

6. Looking further ahead: for the long-term planners amongst us, some dates for your diary:

- Last Grace Group of term: 3rd April
- 2019 Weekends Away:
 - 26th – 28th April 2019
 - 11th – 13th October 2019

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Sunday 17th March 2019

Welcome!

Andrew Latimer is leading
Andrew Sach will be preaching

"The Bible in the British Museum"

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."
John 3:17

SONG: The splendour of the King

CHILDREN'S TALK

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you
And against our fellow men,
In thought and word and deed,
In the evil we have done
And in the good we have not done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may serve you in newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen.

Common Worship, © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006

NOTICES (children leave for Sunday school & crèche)

CONGREGATIONAL READING: Luke 3:16-17

SONG: Rock of ages

SONG: There is a fountain

READING: 1 Kings 19:13b-18 (p.301)

SONG: God the uncreated one

READING: 2 Kings 3 (p.308)

SERMON

PRAYERS

QUESTION TIME: Text questions to 07520 632065

SONG: Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

BLESSING

Next Sunday service 24th March
2 Kings 4

“The Bible in the British Museum” 2 Kings 3

A trip to the British Museum to see the Moabite Stone...



“I am Mesha, son of Chemosh-gad, king of Moab, the Dibonite.... Omri was king of Israel, and oppressed Moab during many days, and Chemosh was angry with his aggressions... and Chemosh said to me, Go take Nebo against Israel, and I went in the night and I fought against it from the break of day till noon, and I took it ... and I took from it the vessels of Jehovah, and offered them before Chemosh.”

1. Israel looks doomed

- Elisha the judge has arrived

And the LORD said to [Elijah], “... Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.” (1 Kings 19:16-17)

- Jehoram is an evil king (vv1-3)

- The sense of déjà vu is overwhelming

1 Kings 22	2 Kings 3
Ahab asks ‘Jehoshaphat king of Judah’ for military assistance (v2)	Jehoram asks ‘Jehoshaphat king of Judah’ for military assistance (v7)
Jehoshaphat replies ‘I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses’ (v4)	Jehoshaphat replies ‘I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses’ (v7)
Jehoshaphat asks, ‘is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may enquire?’ (v7)	Jehoshaphat asks, ‘is there no prophet of the LORD here, through whom we may enquire of the LORD?’ (v11)
Micaiah sought for (vv8-9)	Elisha sought for (vv11-12)
Micaiah prophesies terrible defeat (vv17-28)	...

- The supply lines have failed (v9)
- God is surely against them (v10, v13)

2. God unexpectedly saves Israel!

- God preserves the Israelites with water (vv16-17, 20)
- God defeats the Moabites with water (vv21-24)

3. “And there came great wrath against Israel” (v27)

- The wrath of Chemosh?
- The wrath of Israel?
- The wrath of God?

CONCLUSION:

Amazingly there is salvation before judgment! But there is still judgment.

Coffee question

What should we do with a period of salvation before judgment? How are we in danger of mistaking the delay for no judgment at all?