

PLEASE NOTE...

1. Is God anti-gay? Join us for our next Big Questions event next week on the 26th May, with an interview and discussion led by Andrew Latimer.

7 - 8 pm, upstairs at the Greenwich Tavern, SE10 9JH.

2. Jesus: A Sceptic's Guide: please take note of events planned so far, and think whom you could invite, and what other events we could hold.

29th June - Summer in the Park

30th June - If heaven were opened, what would you see? & Big Questions

1st July

2nd July

3rd July

4th July - wine tasting at the Fan Museum (contact jessica.livesey@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk to book)

5th July

6th July

7th July - What is life: Tragedy or Comedy?

3. 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? 7.30 pm for food, groups from 8 – 9.15 pm, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College.

4. Christianity Explored: a DVD-based course that we run for sceptics, enquirers or anyone wanting to go over the foundations of Christianity. There is plenty of opportunity to ask questions, or just to listen if you prefer. It usually runs for seven Wednesday evenings but why not just come once to see if it is for you.
explore@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk.

5. Looking further ahead:

- Autumn Weekend Away
11th – 13th October 2019

6. Giving: Grace Church is funded by the donations of its members. To support our work and give tax efficiently please email treasurer@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk (40-52-40 / 00027789).

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Sunday 19th May 2019

Welcome!

Andrew Latimer is leading
Andrew Sach will be preaching

“Windows in Heaven”

*“God has caused us to be born again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”
1 Peter 1:3*

SONG: Forever (Give thanks to the Lord)

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: Lamentations 3:16-24

SONG: Give to our God immortal praise

SONG: When this passing world is done

READING: 2 Kings 6:24-7:2 (p. 312)

SONG: Come behold the wondrous mystery

READING: 2 Kings 7:3-8:6 (p. 313)

SERMON

PRAYERS

SONG: See what a morning

BLESSING

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Next Sunday 26th May – 2 Kings 8:7-9:13
“The Hard Stare”

“Windows in Heaven”

2 Kings 6:24-8:6

It's a terrible thing to be hope-less...

Israel faces a terrible siege (6:24-31)

The boot is now on the other foot
(compare Israel's siege against Moab in 2 Kings 3:26-27)

There is the bitterest echo of the glory days
(compare Solomon's happy resolution of a dispute
between two mothers in 1 Kings 3:16-28)

... especially when you are sure that God himself is against you...

“They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high
and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down
throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all
your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD
your God has given you. And you shall eat the fruit of
your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom
the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in
the distress with which your enemies shall distress you.”
(Deuteronomy 28:52-53)

... so what's the point of turning to God?

“This trouble is from the LORD! Why
should I wait for the LORD any longer?”
(6v33)

**But there is a Saviour who speaks a word of
hope, even to the dead!**

Elisha, though he's the assassin, has done a lot
of saving people

Salvation, by military victory,
for the whole nation (3:1-27)

Salvation for a faithful remnant,
the 'sons of the prophets' (4:1-44)

Salvation for a Gentile (5:1-27)

Salvation for a faithful remnant,
the 'sons of the prophets' (6:1-7)

Salvation, by military victory,
for the whole nation (6:8-7:20)

And he speaks a word of hope (7:1)

And he's the one who can raise the dead
(8:1-6)

Elisha ⇒ Jesus!

Embrace this hope! Do not reject it!

The promise comes true, exactly (7:16)

But the unbeliever misses out on the blessing
(7:17)

APPLICATION (and Coffee Questions)

- 1) How do we respond to hardship in general, or
God's discipline? Do you recognise the king's
response of spiritual apathy?
- 2) What difference does it make to have a word of
hope spoken by a resurrected Saviour? How
should that change the way we respond to God's
discipline?