

PLEASE NOTE...

1. Newcomers: please stay around after the service for tea and cake (on the ground floor); we'd love to welcome you properly! If you'd like us to keep in touch, fill in your contact details on the relevant page of our Term Card.

2. Spring Weekend Away 24-26th April: bookings open today for our next weekend away at Ashburnham Place, Sussex. Mike Cain from Emmanuel Bristol will be speaking on Hope to the Hopeless from Ezekiel 34-37. As usual there will be a full children's programme. Book via the church website or at the desk downstairs.

3. Truth: Isn't it more humble to say we don't know?

Our monthly "Big Questions" series continues 29th March from 7-8pm at the Spanish Galleon, SE10 9BL. Andrew Sach will give a talk followed by Q&A.

4. Bitesize Theology: this term, for those who are able to arrive early for Grace Groups (see below), we are offering a 20-minute introduction to key Christian doctrines.

This week: *Substitution*. Come at 7:15pm for a prompt start.

5. Grace Groups/Christianity Explored: we meet every Wednesday in small groups to study the Bible together downstairs in this building from 7.45-9.15pm. There is pizza for those who want it. At the same time we run a Christianity Explored course for anyone wanting to go over the foundations of Christianity. No need to sign up; just turn up and try it for one week.

6. Talks Online: you can catch up or listen again to the Sunday sermons either on the church website, via our iPhone or Android app, or via smart speaker (users on Amazon Echo devices just need to say "Open Grace Church Greenwich" and Google Home/Assistant users "Talk to Grace Church Greenwich")

7. Giving: Grace Church is funded by the donations of its members. To support our work and give tax efficiently please contact treasurer@greenwich.church (40-52-40/00027789)

8. Looking ahead:

- Book Discussion: "The 10 Commandments" (30th March)
- Book Discussion: "Dominion" (4th May)



**GRACE CHURCH
GREENWICH**

Sunday 1st March 2020

Welcome!

Andrew Latimer is leading
Andrew Sach will be preaching

"God's Top Ten: Don't Lie"

*"God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.*

*Has he said, and will he not do it?
Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"*

Numbers 23:19 (ESV)

SONG: Behold our God

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

SONG: O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer

READING: 1 Kings 21:1-19 (page 303)

SONG: Speak, O Lord

READING: Exodus 20:1-17 (page 61)

SERMON

PRAYERS

SONG: Beneath the cross of Jesus

LORD'S SUPPER

SONG: How great is your faithfulness

BLESSING

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Grace Church takes seriously the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns, please contact our Safeguarding Officer, Kate Squire (safeguarding@greenwich.church) or the Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding Officer, Kate Singleton (020 7939 9423). See www.greenwich.church/safeguarding



Next Sunday 8th March – God's Top Ten: Don't Covet

“God's Top Ten: Don't Lie”

Exodus 20:16

Bear the Family Likeness of the God of Truth

- In the Ten Commandments, God calls his rescued people to be *like him* (Exodus 20 cf. Leviticus 11:45)
- God “never lies” (Titus 1:2); indeed “it is impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18)
- But the devil is “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44)
- Christians, having been rescued from our old way of life, are to stop lying and instead bear God’s likeness (Colossians 3:9-10)

Lying brings harm to our neighbour

- False witness can be a means of stealing (e.g. Leviticus 6:1-7; Mark 10:19)
- False witness can be a means of killing (e.g. 1 Kings 21:1-19)
- False witness can be a means of killing someone’s reputation - “slander” is a broad term (2 Corinthians 12:20; 1 Peter 2:1)

Lying will be found out (a warning or a comfort)

- Sometimes by other people (cf. Ecclesiastes 10:20; Deuteronomy 19:16-19)
- Always by God (e.g. 1 Kings 21:1-19; Luke 12:3; Acts 5:1-10; Revelation 21:8)

Jesus understands the pain of being slandered; and the joy of being vindicated!

- They bore false witness about him (Matthew 26:59-63)
- God vindicated him (e.g. Acts 2:36)
- Better to be slandered, alongside Jesus, than to be the slanderer!

APPLICATION

Don’t be a slanderer

- But there is a right way to be a whistleblower (Matthew 18:15-17)

Don’t be quick to believe slander (Deuteronomy 17:6)

- Especially against an elder (1 Timothy 5:19)

Don’t despair when you are slandered (Revelation 3:9)

Don’t despair if you have been a slanderer (Colossians 3:9-10)

COFFEE QUESTIONS

- How can we develop a slander-free culture at Grace Church Greenwich?
- What will you do the next time you hear someone slandering a brother or sister?
- What will you do the next time you discover that you have been slandered?
- What will you do the next time you catch yourself slandering someone?