

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STOURBRIDGE

Dear Friends, Happy New Year! Many of you were keen to join a CTiS Lent Study course last year, until it was cut short by coronavirus. Churches Together would like to offer this opportunity again this year, albeit by zoom. Three churches have agreed to offer courses – on different topics and on different days. Other churches are welcome to join this plan and suggest topics and dates of their own; but we hope you will avoid two courses running at the same day and time.

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, 17 February, and Palm Sunday is on 21 March. So every course will have six sessions.

We give details of the courses below, with the next step if you would like to join any of them. All the leaders would greatly appreciate the enrichment which participants from different traditions offer each other in group discussion. Please note that places in each group are limited, simply to ensure it does not become too big for its purpose.



St Mary's, Oldswinford: Revd. John Flitcroft. Tuesdays 7.00pm from 16 February.

God of Surprises. This course explores how to find the pearl of great price in ourselves, our sharing the very life of God. We'll be reading the book *God of Surprises* by Gerard Hughes, (D.L.T. 1985), which provides practical guidance to deepen our lives of prayer. For fuller details and to join the group, please [click this link](#) or email Rev'd John at: st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com

Birch Coppice Methodist Church: Revd. Josephine Soon. Thursdays 7.00pm from 18 February.

The Death of Death and the Death of Jesus Christ. This course will look at the Cross and the death of Jesus Christ using the Bible and two books (John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* 1986 and John Owen, *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ* 1959). For fuller details and to enrol, [please click this link](#). Or contact Revd. Josephine at <https://www.valeofstour.org.uk/contact>

Stourbridge Quaker Meeting: John Lampen. Fridays, 7.30pm from 19 February.

Finding peace and building peace. This course will explore the different aspects of peace – within ourselves, in our families and workplaces, and in the wider world. Its approach is practical: how can we find our own inner peace? how can we be bringers of peace to the world? is peace within and between nations a hopeless quest? A short article will be sent out to study before each session. For fuller details and to enrol, please [click this link](#). Or contact John at johnlampen@me.com

Please share this information with your congregations in as many ways as possible: newsletter, website, printed copies &c. At a time when we are so restricted, every church activity which brings us together is valuable.

To join any of these courses on Zoom, you will need a computer or tablet, internet access, and the Zoom application which can be downloaded free of charge from <https://zoom.us/download>. When you enrol, you will be given the zoom link to join the meetings. Zoom meetings can be joined using a smartphone, though this is less satisfactory for an hour's discussion; the zoom link will contain the telephone number you should use to join, and the meeting ID (a number you will enter on your phone) and possibly a password.