

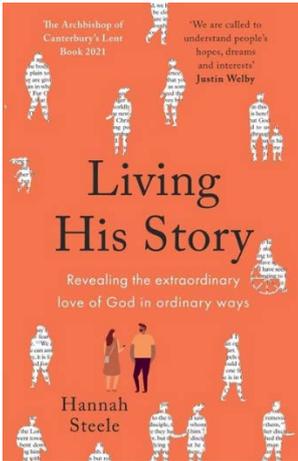
THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

24th January 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

NOTICES

Lent

Sadly, for the second year running, Lent looks like it will be disrupted by lockdown – beginning, at least, at a time when meeting in person will not be possible.



We therefore need to keep it simple this year, but the simple solution also looks to be an excellent one. The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book this year is *Living His Story* – a book about how the whole church can proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to others. This seems to me a great opportunity to prepare ourselves to burst forth into

new mission, once restrictions ease. Like any purpose-built lent book, it's divided into an appropriate number of chapters, themselves nicely sub-divided, and with some questions to provoke discussion in each chapter.

I have obtained a discounted set of the book for £7.99 each (reduced from £9.99) to help make this a more practical proposition. It's always difficult to manage purchasing of lent books, so it will help me greatly if you could sign up as soon as possible. Books will be available from me at Kirkby or Broughton Mills services, hopefully from this Sunday, or you can pick one up 'covid securely' from my doorstep if you get in touch in advance: stephen@kdbchurches.com or 715259.

If you are a Kindle user, you can download the eBook for just £5.99, and save resources too.

Discussion groups will take place by Zoom over seven sessions. There is no need to attend every week, or at the same time, but it would be helpful to know, when you order your book, what your plans are likely to be, so that I can keep numbers within sensible limits. At present, I propose to hold groups at the following times:

Tuesday 7.30pm (starting 16th February)
Wednesday 2pm (starting 17th February)
Wednesday 7.30pm (starting 17th February)

Login details will be circulated in due course. For those who cannot access Zoom, I will try to insert some material into the weekly sermon and perhaps create some short summaries of our discussions.

Please pray for...

Please remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, their families and their friends. This week we particularly think of Phyllis Hibbert (funeral in Seathwaite 19th January), Beatrice Murray (funeral in Kirkby on 26th January) and Mark Stephenson (funeral in Broughton Mills, to be arranged).



Food bank

Thank you to all those within and outside the congregation who have been leaving food donations in the boxes at St Cuthbert's and St Mary's, as well as making bulk donations directly to me.

My perception, from my own work and from speaking to other clergy in the area, is that those who are strictly shielding are much fewer in number this lockdown and are better prepared with arrangements for shopping etc. than in the first lockdown. I am for example, making many fewer collections and deliveries of prescriptions than before, and doing very few shopping runs for people. However, all the signs are that poverty and unemployment continue to be a problem for many.



Please therefore continue to support the food bank. Remember only to include non-perishable, basic items with a good remaining shelf life. Cleaning and hygiene products such as soap or laundry detergent, dog

and cat food are needed as well as food. Please **do not** include home-made, opened or refrigerated items, or goods very near or past their expiry date, as it is almost impossible to use any of these.

You can also donate to the Foodbank financially: cheques can be made payable to "Barrow Foodbank" and sent via me or to the Foodbank's HQ at Abbey Road Baptist Church in Barrow. If you no longer have a cheque book, I can direct you to the bank transfer instructions online.

You might also like to engage with the Trussell Trust's vision, *Together for Change*, for a UK in which Food Banks are no longer necessary. It can be found here:

www.trusselltrust.org/about/our-strategic-plan/

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Genesis 14:17-20

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed him and said,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth;
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'

And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Psalms 128

¹ Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
² You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
⁴ Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.
⁵ The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
⁶ May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

Revelation 19:6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;

⁸ to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure'—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹ And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' ¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'



John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Correction

Broughton PCC is this week, on Wednesday 27th January at 7.30pm.