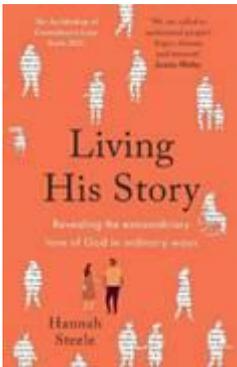


Dear all

I have just finished reading the first chapter of our Lent book, Living His Story. (Note to self – for goodness sake, remember what it's called when you mention in on Sundays!).



I have tended to find the Archbishop's Lent books a bit of a mixed bag in the past, but, at least on initial impression, this seems to be a corker! Essentially it is about evangelism, and how to do it, given that sharing our faith, or witnessing, is a call on all Christians. The first chapter looks at 4 negative feelings or beliefs that we might have – that evangelism is for the experts, that it's morally dubious, that it is irrelevant, and that it is hard work – and proceeds to debunk these ideas.

The thought that struck me strongest was about telling 'my' story – Mary Magdalen's Easter witness "I have seen the Lord". How have we 'seen the Lord' in such a radical and life-changing way? Perhaps we need to keep our eyes open more, and (in that old-fashioned, but still perceptive phrase) count our blessings.

A reminder that the Lent Course will take place on Zoom, Thursdays 2.30-3.30ish pm. The Zoom details are: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8109399155?pwd=STVVTU44RzJxTFFHbTY1MnI0bjJZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 939 9155

Passcode: 1w2C9a

Please note that, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February the Lent Course will take place in the **MORNING**, at 10.30am.

**Service details** for this coming Sunday, Lent 1.

Readings – Genesis 9: 8-17; 1 Peter 3: 18-end; Psalm 25: 1-19; Mark 1: 9-15.

Hymns: Forty days and forty nights; Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us.

**Stones with ash crosses:** my apologies, there will be a delay in delivering the stones. I decided that, in order to be as COVID-safe as possible, I ought to leave 72+ hours after the service. I therefore hope to deliver them after the service on Sunday morning. I do still have a small number spare if anyone else would like one.

**Churches Together in the Deepings** has circulated some simple [Lent reflections](#), which I have attached to this email. They are rather good!

Today's musical offerings (apologies for adverts – it's how they are able to make content free!):

Firstly, the Psalm for this Sunday, Anglican chant...

[Psalm 25 - YouTube](#)

And, for total contrast, a version by Graham Kendrick...

[To You O Lord I lift up my soul \(Psalm 25\) Graham Kendrick - YouTube](#)

Anthems recommended for this Sunday include

[O for a Closer Walk with God - YouTube](#)



Stay safe.

Blessings and love

Mark