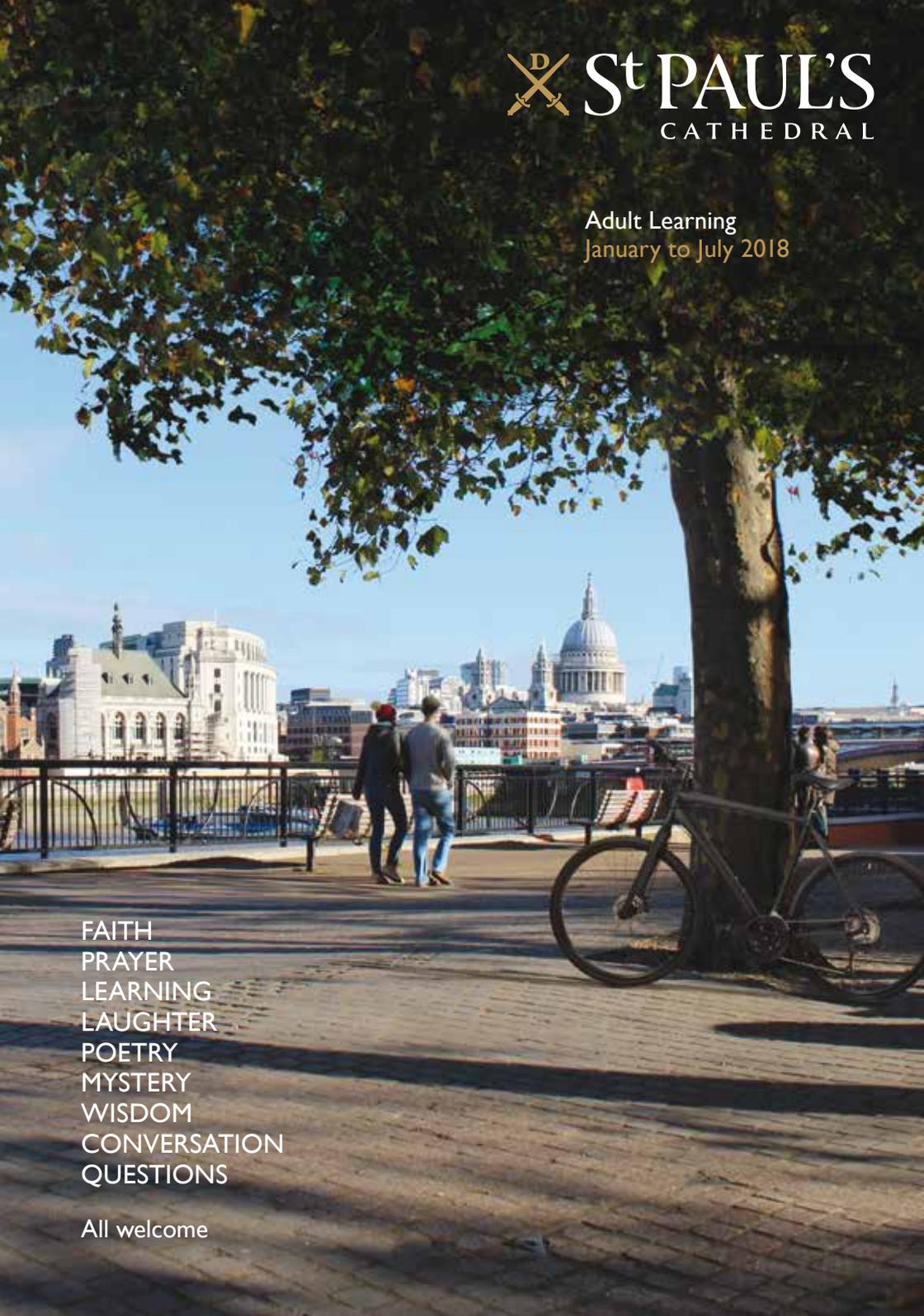




# St PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Adult Learning  
January to July 2018



FAITH  
PRAYER  
LEARNING  
LAUGHTER  
POETRY  
MYSTERY  
WISDOM  
CONVERSATION  
QUESTIONS

All welcome

# Free Events in St Paul's Cathedral

## Scandal and Glory: The Cross in the Bible and Poetry

Paula Gooder and Mark Oakley

Tuesday 13 March

6.30 – 8.00pm

Admission Free



Is Christ on the cross our brother in suffering or our King in triumph? Jesus' death is at the heart of Christianity, but the four Gospel accounts are very different and the cross has been seen as both the throne of God's glory and the place of ultimate desolation and defeat. In addition we have 2,000 years of interpretations, paintings, poems, theologies and liturgies that add to the complexity, and sometimes to the confusion.

The cross is also commonly interpreted as the event which reconciles God and humanity in love. But how does that happen? And what does Jesus mean when he tells us that we must take up our cross and follow him?

Paula Gooder and Mark Oakley will look at different aspects of the cross through the gospels and poetry, exploring some of what we might learn from it not only of sin and reconciliation, but also of new life, love, freedom and creation made new.



Paula Gooder is Director of Mission, Learning and Development in the Birmingham Diocese. A much-loved Biblical scholar, writer and teacher, her best-selling books include

*Journey to the Empty Tomb*, *Body: Biblical Spirituality for the Whole Person* and *Heaven* (all SPCK).



Mark Oakley is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, overseeing its learning and visual arts programmes. His latest book, *The Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry*

(Canterbury Press), was published in 2016 to great acclaim.

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The evening will be chaired by Canon Tricia Hillas, and include plenty of time for questions and answers.

To register for free places for these events please go to [www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning)

## Who am I? Identity, Faith and Being Human

John Swinton and Rowan Williams

Monday 16 April

6.30 – 8.00pm

Admission Free



What is it that makes you who you are? In the West we live with a passionately autobiographical sense of self – I am who I am so long as I can tell my own story. Research tells us that people are more afraid of dementia than cancer because loss of identity is the worst thing we can imagine.

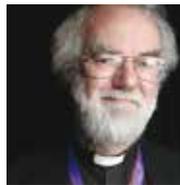
But are there other ways to think about this? Beginning from the experience of people whose identity is seemingly dissolving in dementia, two of our greatest theologians will consider what it really means to be a human being.

They will reflect on what roles our bodies, communities, faith and memories play, and ask how God in the person of Christ invites us to a radically new consideration of our humanity in all its variety and vulnerability, including its place in the very heart of the divine life.



John Swinton is the Director of The Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability and the Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. His theology

is founded in his background in nursing, ministry and healthcare chaplaincy. His books include *Dementia: Living in the Memories of God*, winner of the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize for best contemporary theological writing, and *Becoming Friends of Time: Disability, Timefulness, and Gentle Discipleship* (both SCM Press).



Rowan Williams is the Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge and was formerly Archbishop of Canterbury. He is a poet and theologian and the author of numerous

academic and popular works of theology, including *Being Christian*, *Being Disciples*, and *Being Human: Bodies, Minds, Persons* (all SPCK).

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The evening will be chaired by Canon Tricia Hillas and include plenty of time for questions and answers.

If you do not have easy access to the internet, please fill in the form at the back of this leaflet to register.

# Sunday Forum

A series of free lunchtime talks on the first Sunday of the month exploring Christian spirituality, life and ethics with some of the best Christian thinkers and writers of our time. Each event includes plenty of time for questions and answers.



## Pilgrimage

Sally Welch

Sunday 4 February

1.00 – 2.00pm

Why do pilgrims walk so much? What do they learn? And does it do them any lasting good? Sally Welch has been going on pilgrimage for over 20 years and her new book is a guide to the art and practice of pilgrimage through some of the most beautiful and ancient pilgrim routes in the UK and abroad.

She will share her experiences and some of what she has learnt about how to go on pilgrimage well including what it has taught her about, among other things, trust, travelling lightly and the joys of companionship. She will also reflect on how insights gained on the journey can be incorporated into the spirituality of everyday life.

The Revd Dr Sally Welch is the Vicar of Charlbury in the Diocese of Oxford. Her books include *Walking the Labyrinth* (Canterbury Press 2013), *How to be a Mindful Christian* (Canterbury Press 2016), and *Pilgrim Journeys: Pilgrimage for walkers and armchair travellers* (BRF 2017).

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There is no Sunday Forum in January or April.



## Songs of the Spirit

Megan Daffern

Sunday 4 March

1.00 – 2.00pm

The Psalms are a unique treasury of spiritual insights, central to both Jewish and Christian devotional life. They were also Jesus' own prayer book, and are full of themes and experiences which fitted and illuminate his life story, as they do ours. But they move from exquisite beauty and praise to despair and even vitriolic anger, and need wise interpretation.

Megan Daffern describes them as Songs of the Spirit; timeless, making connections between past and present, and allowing us to come closer to God in prayer. She will explore some of what she has learnt from studying, translating and praying these extraordinary songs of hope, challenge and wisdom.

The Revd Dr Megan Daffern is Chaplain at Jesus College Oxford and lectures in Old Testament at the University of Oxford. Her latest book is *Songs of the Spirit: A Psalm a Day for Lent and Easter* (SPCK 2017) which includes her own fresh translations of the Psalms.

## God-Soaked Life

Chris Webb

Sunday 6 May

1.00 – 2.00pm

God's presence permeates our lives and activities, reverberating throughout all creation. Chris Webb says that it can be easy to miss that in the ordinariness of our daily lives but that we can learn how to open ourselves to the presence of God and, despite all our weaknesses and failings, find new lives of freedom and joy.

In this talk Chris Webb will explore ways to practise silence, prayer and reading Scripture through which we can experience God's kingdom; not as far away, a remote and future promise, but here, now.

The Revd Chris Webb OSB is Deputy Warden of Launde Abbey and Diocesan Spirituality Adviser to the Diocese of Leicester. His latest book *God-Soaked Life: Discovering a Kingdom Spirituality* (Hodder 2017) is an exploration of spirituality through the lens of Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God.



Seating is first-come, first-served: please come early to ensure your place.

## Paradoxology

Krish Kandiah

Sunday 3 June

1.00 – 2.00pm



Many of us have big questions that the Christian faith seems to leave unanswered. If God is both compassionate and all-powerful, why is the world full of suffering? Why does God seem to sanction genocide in the Bible? If God is always present, why doesn't it feel like that?

Krish Kandiah says that we need to look questions like these in the face, and that not doing so is neither healthy for us nor honouring to God. He says the paradoxes that seem as if they ought to undermine belief are actually at the heart of a vibrant faith, and that it is only by continually wrestling with them – rather than trying to pin them down or push them away – that we can really move forward, individually and together.

Dr Krish Kandiah is an award-winning author whose books include *Paradoxology* and *God is Stranger* (both Hodder Faith). He is a lecturer at Regents Park College, Oxford, honorary research fellow at the University of St Andrews and an ambassador for Tearfund.

## Was Jesus Political?

Selina Stone

Sunday 1 July

1.00 – 2.00pm



We live in extraordinary times. How can we think and act as Christians in response to the urgent, sometimes overwhelming politics that we experience every day? Where do politics, theology and faith meet? And how is it that different Christians can hold completely opposing views, all claiming the gospel as their inspiration?

One way to think afresh about this is to look at Jesus' own actions and teaching, ask whether they were or were not political, and what we can draw from that for our own engagement in public and political life. Selina Stone will explore key aspects of Jesus' life, teaching and parables, and ways we can bring our faith into action for the common good, whatever our circumstances.

Selina Stone is Tutor and Lecturer in Political Theology at St Mellitus College, London and previously worked at the Centre for Theology and Community, in Parliament and as a community organiser in Brixton. Her PhD is in the impact of Pentecostal theology and ministry on issues of social justice.

Sunday Forum is in the Wren Suite in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. Admission is free and unticketed. Seating is first-come, first-served: please come early to ensure your place.

# Retreat in Daily Life



## Transforming Prayer: Retreat in Daily Life Sunday 18 March – Saturday 24 March

At the heart of faith, prayer is at once the simplest and the most mysterious of tasks, and yet it can feel like one of the most difficult. And, in the busyness of our daily lives, many of us know that what we need more than anything is to find time to stop and reflect. This retreat in daily life offers the opportunity to explore these deep needs and desires.

Making this retreat simply involves a commitment to pray for 15-30 minutes and to meet with a personal retreat guide every day, while otherwise going about your daily life.

One-to-one meetings with an experienced retreat guide offer the opportunity to focus on your experience of prayer and your own personal faith journey. The guide's role is to accompany and help find tools for exploring and deepening faith, rather than to direct or proscribe.

This is an opportunity to make a retreat in a simple, low-cost way, and yet many have described it as transformative. Please get in touch for more information.

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This retreat is organised with the London Centre for Spiritual Direction, and we are very grateful for their partnership.



£60, bursaries available. To book or for more information about the retreat, please contact Jen Powell at St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8337 or [adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk).

# Saturday workshops and study afternoons

## Gifts and Stars:

### The Music of Epiphany

Patrick Craig

Saturday 6 January

2.00 – 4.30pm



Epiphany is a feast of abundance and transformations, set in the very dead of winter.

On Epiphany itself, the Magi, led by a star, bring extravagant gifts to a young mother and her baby in a stable, and the meeting changes everything. The Church Season of Epiphany also includes Jesus' Baptism, when he goes into the Jordan to be baptised and emerges to find out who he really is, and the Wedding at Cana, transformed when he turns water into huge quantities of the best wine.

We will explore the season's meanings through its wonderful music, which portrays camels, stars and much more, as well as its poetry and stories.

Patrick Craig is a professional singer who is a long-standing member of St Paul's Cathedral Choir and The Cardinal's Musick, and who recently completed a thousand concerts with The Tallis Scholars. He is also the Founder-Director of the all-female professional choir Aurora Nova who sing regularly at St Paul's Cathedral.

## Jesus of Nazareth:

### Searching for the Historical Jesus

Helen Bond

Saturday 10 February

2.00 – 4.30pm



Around the year 30 AD, in an insignificant province of the Roman Empire, a Jewish prophet, teacher and healer met with a shameful and brutal end on a Roman cross. 2,000 years later, this obscure figure has over two billion followers and is acknowledged as the most influential person ever to have walked the earth.

As people of faith, we know Jesus through the Gospels. But scholarly enquiry into the historical figure of Jesus has brought new insight and illumination. In this study afternoon we will look at Jesus in his historical context: his Jewish heritage, his message, friends and enemies, his execution, and ask what difference this understanding makes to us as Christians in the 21st century.

Professor Helen Bond is Professor of Christian Origins at the University of Edinburgh. She has contributed to a number of BBC TV documentaries, and her books include *Jesus: A Very Brief History* (SPCK 2017) and *The Historical Jesus: A Guide for the Perplexed* (T&T Clark 2012).

*And it was good:*

## **Thinking Theologically about Evolution**

Michael Reiss

Saturday 10 March

2.00 – 4.30pm

The scientific consensus is that humans have been on the Earth for some 200,000 years of its 4,700,000,000 year history. There have been arguments about what this means for the creation stories in the Bible, but the growing understanding of the Earth's history challenges us to expand all our ideas of God.

In addition it raises fascinating and perplexing questions about, for instance, the Earth's beauty and the violence which is also seemingly inherent to it. Why do so many of us find the natural world so beautiful? And is there an answer to the dilemma of the brutality that seems built into evolution – 'nature red in tooth and claw'?

Michael Reiss will explore some of the questions that science and the study of evolution raise for us about the wonder of God's world and our place in it.

The Revd Professor Michael Reiss is a Bioethicist, Professor of Science Education at the UCL Institute of Education, University of London and a Priest in the Church of England.

This event is a part of British Science Week.



Bursaries are available for those for whom the charge would make it difficult to attend: please contact us for details.



*Such a fast God:*

**R.S.Thomas' Poetry and Faith**

Mark Oakley

Saturday 14 April

2.00 – 4.30pm



R.S. Thomas is one of the finest poets of the 20th century. His subject matter is the search for God, and his insights into the life of faith – from rebellion to reverence – are razor-sharp. Seamus Heaney described him as 'a loner taking on the universe, a kind of Clint Eastwood of the spirit'.

Mark Oakley says his poetry has woven through his life and faith for over 30 years. He describes him as '*a poet of counterpoint: of God's absence and his presence, his silence and his resonance, his shadow and his brightness*' and says that his poetry makes '*a place where meaning is forged in mystery*'. In this study afternoon he will introduce Thomas' work and what it might teach us about the breadth and depth of God and our own search for him.

Mark Oakley is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, overseeing its learning and visual art programmes. His latest book, *The Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry* (Canterbury Press), was published in 2016 to great acclaim.

*Let my people go:*

**Theologies of Liberation**

Anthony Reddie

Saturday 5 May

2.00 – 4.30pm



Liberation Theologies begin with the reality of people's lives. Originating in the experience of life in South American and African countries, they ask searching questions about the nature of God's liberating love and our responsibility and relationship to each other. Considered controversial because they advocate a preferential option for the marginalised and oppressed, what can they teach us about how to live in God's light as 21st century Christians? In this participative study afternoon, we will explore how the church can be a place of liberation, and how we as individuals can be allies and agents of change.

Professor Anthony Reddie is a Learning and Development Officer for the Methodist Church and Professor Extraordinarius in Theological Ethics at the University of South Africa. He is the author of numerous books, including *Black Theology* (SCM Press) and *Nobodies to Somebodies: A Practical Theology for Education and Liberation* (Epworth Press).

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me:*

**The Old Testament Prophets Today**

Janet Tollington

Saturday 2 June

2.00 – 4.30pm

What can the Old Testament prophets teach us? It's easy to think of them as remote and severe, but Janet Tollington says they can continue to speak to us vividly, not always telling us what we want to hear but always bringing good news.

In this study afternoon we will explore what a prophet is, how they communicate God's word to us, and what they can teach us about how to tell true prophets from false in our own times. We will look in particular at Isaiah, a collection of writings by prophets of the 8th-5th centuries BC speaking into very specific circumstances, and Jeremiah, a book about the nature of prophecy itself.

The Revd Dr Janet Tollington is an Old Testament scholar and a Minister in the United Reformed Church. She has taught Hebrew and Old Testament at Westminster College Cambridge within the Cambridge Theological Federation, an ecumenical body for lay and ordained ministry training. A much-loved teacher, she is in high demand as a speaker.



Bursaries are available for those for whom the charge would make it difficult to attend; please contact us for details.

# Reflective Days



## *To God alone be glory: J.S. Bach's St Matthew Passion*

Andrew Carwood  
Saturday 17 March  
10.00am – 5.00pm

J.S. Bach is our greatest musical theologian. He wrote brilliant, innovative music, loved and performed as much today as ever, and also had a unique capacity to illuminate great spiritual and theological truths. His setting of St Matthew's account of the Passion is not only an absolutely faithful telling of the whole narrative from Jesus' anointing at the house of Simon the leper to the moment he is laid in the tomb, but also an extraordinary and expansive musical meditation on its meaning.

In this reflective day, we will explore the whole sweep of Bach's St Matthew Passion, including his meditations on the roles of Peter, Judas, Pilate, the bystanders and Christ himself, and how the music finally takes us with agonising beauty to the foot of the cross.

Andrew Carwood is the Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, an internationally regarded singer and conductor, and the Founder-Director of the award-winning early music ensemble The Cardinal's Musick. He will conduct Bach's St Matthew Passion at St Paul's on 21 March as part of the Cathedral's Passiontide devotions.

**£45 per reflective day.** Bursaries are available for those for whom the charge would make it difficult to attend: please contact us for details.



*I call you by name: Discerning God's Call for Your Life*

Julia Mourant

Saturday 9 June

10.00am – 5.00pm

Do you ever wonder if God has a plan for your life? Julia Mourant says that God calls each of us, with all our gifts and vulnerabilities, to contribute our gifts to the world and to each other and so find life in all its abundance. But the reality is it can feel profoundly difficult to know what that call might be.

This day will offer the opportunity to explore your vocation, whoever you are, and whatever stage of life you're at. It will include practical, prayerful ways through which we might discover God's will for us, in particular by paying attention

to how God speaks through our imaginations, hopes, dreams and desires, and through times of change, challenge and surprise.

Julia Mourant is an Anglican priest and Scholar in Residence at Sarum College, Salisbury. A spiritual director and vocations advisor of many years' standing, she has an MA in mentoring and coaching, has taught spiritual direction at Sarum College, and is the author of *Listening to Your Life: 30 ways to discern direction for your future* (Canterbury Press 2016).

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We are very grateful to our partners at St Katharine's for their generosity in co-hosting our reflective days.

# Other ways to learn, engage, and get involved at St Paul's

**St Paul's Cathedral** has been here for over 1,400 years and its primary purpose has always been as a place of worship and prayer.

For full details of daily and Sunday services please go to [www.stpauls.co.uk/worship](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/worship)



**St Paul's Institute** seeks to foster an informed Christian response to the most urgent ethical and spiritual issues of our times: equality, stewardship and the

meaning of the common good. See [www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk) or contact [institute@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:institute@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)



**St Paul's Schools and Families Department** offers curriculum based learning opportunities for school groups and families throughout the year.

To enquire or make a booking please contact the administrator on 020 7246 8353 or via email: [schoolsandfamilies@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:schoolsandfamilies@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)



**St Paul's Collections Department** organises specialist tours, pop-up displays, collection-based talks and other events throughout the year. See the Collections pages

on the Cathedral website for more information. [www.stpauls.co.uk/collections](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/collections)



**Friends, Patrons and Supporters of St Paul's** enjoy the fellowship of each other and of being a part of the wider St Paul's family, whilst also helping the Cathedral to

undertake its work and fulfil its purpose. For more information, see [www.stpauls.co.uk/support](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/support) or email [friends@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:friends@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)

# Book online at [www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning)

Please only use this form if you do not have easy access to the internet.

To book places or tickets for any of our events please go to [www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning)

We are happy to accept credit and debit card payments online. Alternatively, if you do not have easy access to the internet, please use this form.

Events fall into three categories:

**A: FREE AND UNTICKETED**

**B: FREE, WITH REGISTERED PLACES**

**C: TICKETED\***

\*It is important to us that people are not excluded by the charge we have to make for some events. If the cost makes it difficult for you to attend, please be in touch about our simple bursary scheme.

## A: FREE UNTICKETED EVENTS

SUNDAY FORUM Free: no need to register for places, just come along

## B: FREE EVENTS: PLEASE REGISTER FOR PLACES

NO. OF PLACES

13 March Scandal and Glory

16 April Who am I?

## C: TICKETED EVENTS

NO. OF TICKETS

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS AND WORKSHOPS: £15 each\*

6 January Gifts and Stars

10 February Jesus of Nazareth  
*SOLD OUT. Tick box to be added to the waiting list*

10 March And it was good

14 April Such a fast God

5 May Let my people go

2 June The Spirit of the Lord is on me

REFLECTIVE DAYS: £45\*

NO. OF TICKETS

17 March To God alone be glory

9 June I call you by name

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

18-24 March *Please contact Jen Powell for more information and to book on 020 7246 8337 or [adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)*

Please make cheques for these events payable to **St Paul's Cathedral**.  
To pay by credit or debit card, please book online at [www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning)

Ticketed Events Payment total

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To join our mailing list, please email us at [adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:adultlearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk) or fill in the form above. Your details will only be used to send the information you have requested, and will not be released to any third party.

# Adult Learning at St Paul's Cathedral

Explore the challenges, contradictions and joys of being a Christian with some of today's liveliest contemporary theologians, Christian thinkers and speakers. Events are open to everyone, and all are welcome.

Autumn 2018 events will be published in the summer. Events book up quickly; to be the first to hear what's happening, join our mailing list by going to [www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning) or, if you don't have easy access to the internet, by sending us the form inside this leaflet.

Films and podcasts of past events, with speakers including Justin Welby, Esther de Waal, Tom Wright, Rowan Williams and Margaret Silf, are at [www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning).

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