

Online Lent resources for 2022

1. Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. They work in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, to tackle the root causes of poverty. Their partners at the 'Life on the Breadline' research programme have launched a Lent course for 2022, developed from three years of research with Church leaders, Christians and community groups across the UK.

The course has six sessions which can be followed individually or in a group. Each session follows the same format which is planned to take an hour – combining prayer, a short video, a Bible passage, guided reflections, discussion questions, and take-away actions:

1. Christian responses to poverty
2. 'Love thy neighbour' – poverty and inequality
3. Race, ethnicity, austerity and faith
4. Deficits and assets
5. Housing (in)justice
6. Poverty and structural inequality

To download, go to:

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/lent-course-for-2022-life-on-the-breadline/>

2. Daily reading notes for Lent from Waverley Abbey Resources. For a free daily devotional to guide you through the Lent season, go to:

<https://www.waverleyabbeyresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EDWJ-Lent-2022-daily-readings.pdf>

3. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI): Following Christ in the Footsteps of the Saints. For Lent 2022, the CTBI are offering a course based around a pilgrimage commemorating St Winefrede (Gwenffrewi). This journey through Lent draws upon 16 individual resources on St Winefride put together by their Mission Theology Advisory Group and links to a 70-mile pilgrimage from Holywell, Wales, to Shrewsbury in April and May 2022, led by Bishop Sarah Bullock from the Anglican Diocese of Lichfield. These optional extra resources

will help you follow the St Winefride 'thread' which runs through this Lent material. The resources take you more deeply into the traditional accounts of St Winefride, whose story has many touchpoints with our modern world – sexual harassment and coercion, misuse of power, the place of faith and the right to follow Jesus, and the contemporary need for healing and hope.

Each station on the journey for Ash Wednesday and for each week in Lent starts from a piece of Scripture set for the day, and offers something to talk about, something to reflect on, something to do and something to deepen our Christian lives as disciples as we seek to follow Jesus Christ more faithfully. Each station on the way then concludes with prayer. Depending on how you like to engage with Lenten material, you can pick one of the sections and concentrate on that, or use some or all of them in the course of a session or even over a week.

Station 1 – questions and conversation starters if you like to talk about a topic.

Station 2 – food for thought – maybe something you haven't thought about before.

Station 3 – something to do: practical action for you to engage with your community.

Station 4 – something to take you deeper into being a follower of Jesus.

Station 5 – a prayer to say together or to think about after the session.

To download the resources, go to: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2022/>

4. Let Wisdom Speak – 2022 Lent Devotional by All We Can - operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund. With this resource, you are invited to listen to the voices of Joanna Adeyinka-Burford, Dr Selina Stone, Revds Sonia Hicks, Helen Cameron and Chan Kaur-Mann, the stories of All We Can's partners and the reflections of several Methodist Women in Britain, in a devotional resource designed for you to journey with throughout the Lenten season. There are also live broadcasts on YouTube to link to as well as online study groups, and a weekly email. To download, go to:

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/lentonline/>

5. Shapes for Living, a five-week Lent course from the Diocese of Canterbury

Jesus says, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called 'to work for the flourishing of all people and the flourishing of the whole of creation'. 'Life in all its fullness' is the gift God wants for all of us. But if we are to live that calling well we will need to find a sustainable, nurturing shape for our own lives, so easily over-busy with the stressful and overwhelming demands of modern living.

This course:

- offers a fresh way of exploring what is traditionally called a Rule of Life
- is about the whole business of being alive – with ourselves, each other and God
- is a way of growth, transformation and flourishing
- helps to hold us true to our beliefs, values and priorities.

To download a booklet and listen to videos accompanying the course, go to:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/shapes-for-living/>

6. Growing Good, a six-week course from the Church Urban Fund. This course is based on a three-year research project from Theos and CUF that explored the relationship between social action, growth and discipleship in churches across England. This research identified five common themes shared by churches that are growing in faithfulness and fruitfulness: presence, perseverance, hospitality, adaptability, participation. To download the resources, go to: <https://cuf.org.uk/our-campaigns/growing-good-for-lent-2022>

7. Live Lent: Embracing Justice – the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. This course invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray - for the church and the world far and near - that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4:24). For each day of Lent, the booklet for adults (£1.99) offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge. There is also a range of digital resources. Each week follows a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all. To find out more, go to:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2022-church-resources-embracing-justice>

8. The Lent Encounter 2022 from the Bible Society. This course gives a chance to encounter Jesus afresh this Lent, as you journey through his life and ministry. The course starts with his baptism and explore themes such as restoration, teaching the beatitudes and the power of God's word. Daily reflections are sent by email, and will include video links to pilgrimage and reflection around the Holy Land. To sign up, go to:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-lent-encounter/>

9. Lent for everyone. There are a number of Lent reading plans and devotionals on Bible YouVersion App / website, including a 53-day one by NT Wright. Go to: <https://www.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/83-lent-for-everyone>

10. Brand new Lent resource from Diocese of Oxford: Come and See from the Diocese of Oxford. This brand new resource is suitable for people both young and old, including those who have never been to church. It focuses on the Lord's Prayer. Go to <https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see> to sign up to receive resources each day through Lent.