



FOOTSTEPS IN PRAYER

FOOTSTEPS IN PRAYER - A YEAR LONG JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

This document gives information on each of the books of the Bible in the Footsteps in Prayer journey with links to the PDFs of the prayer stations themselves.

FOOTSTEPS IN PRAYER OLD TESTAMENT

WEEK 1 - GENESIS

A book of beginnings. In the beginning...

Genesis takes us from the beginning of creation, to humanity's turning away from God, to God's saving plan for his world. We see God's calling of Abraham to be the father of a nation who will be God's chosen people, called to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. We see this promise being passed on to Isaac and to Jacob. We meet Joseph, whose brothers' intention was to harm him, but which God turned to good. We end Genesis with a story of forgiveness and with the people of God joining Joseph in Egypt.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Genesis go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/genesis>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 2 - EXODUS

From Pharaoh to Freedom.

Exodus takes Jacob's family, who have settled in Egypt and prospered, into a time of adversity and enslavement when the ruling powers see the Hebrew people as a threat. God raises up Moses and prepares him for the task of bringing His people out of slavery and into the promised land. Exodus tells us of the life of Moses, his meeting with God at the burning bush, his confrontation with Pharaoh, of the Passover and how God works to enable his purposes. Exodus ends with Moses meeting with God on Mount Sinai and receiving the Law.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Exodus go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/exodus>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 3 - LEVITICUS

Derek Tidball says in his IVP commentary, 'Leviticus is good news. It is good news for sinners who seek pardon, for priests who need empowering, for women who are vulnerable, for the unclean who covet cleansing, for the poor who yearn for freedom, for the marginalised who seek dignity, for animals that demand protection, for families that require strengthened government, for communities that want fortifying and for creation that stands in need of care. All these issues, and more, are addressed in a positive way in Leviticus...Leviticus serves as a preliminary sketch of the masterpiece that was to be unveiled in Christ'.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Exodus go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/leviticus>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 4 - NUMBERS

The book of Numbers is perhaps best known for the blessing of Aaron. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Yet Numbers is not a book we will have heard many sermons about. It is a book that has been known by two other names that come from words in the first verse of the book in the wilderness and the Lord spoke. This book is about God speaking to his people in the wilderness. It is a book that was important to Jesus and New Testament writers and is a book that can inform us today.

Raymond Brown helpfully divides the book into four parts: getting ready - about the Israelites' year's stay at Sinai having left Egypt and receiving the law; setting out - the initial stages of the journey to the promised land; drawing back - when the people refuse to enter the land; marking time - the period of waiting in the wilderness; and pressing on as the next generation looks to the future and Moses hands the leadership over to Joshua.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Numbers go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/numbers>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 5 - DEUTERONOMY

"Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." Deuteronomy is a retelling of the story of the Exodus - but it is a retelling in a very different way. It is Moses's autobiography, in which he erases himself from history. It tells of how Moses the prince of Egypt, who would have expected mummification and a pyramid grave, with his children inheriting his power, dies leaving no body, no grave and no dynasty. In the words of Micah Goodman, it tells of taking the Jews out of Egypt, but also tells of taking Egypt out of the Jews. It tells of a people moving from the security of slavery to the uncertainty of liberty. It tells of a people being asked to trust and serve only the Lord God.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Deuteronomy go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/deuteronomy>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 6 - JOSHUA

Joshua is one of the hardest books to read in the Old Testament. It seems to be full of violence and death, and indeed it is the book that the new atheists hold up as being the evidence that the God of Israel is not a God of love. David Firth points out in his commentary that an eighth of the book of Joshua is devoted to the story of Rahab and Achan. Rahab, is a Canaanite prostitute, who confesses faith in Yahweh and who with her family is saved from the destruction of Jericho. Mentioned in both Matthew and Hebrews she becomes part of God's people and is an ancestor of Jesus. Achan, on the other hand, is an Israelite who turns away from Yahweh and disobeys God and as a result suffers the wages of sin, death. Israel is more than a biological group of people, it is those who have committed themselves to Yahweh's purposes. Those who choose actively to oppose God are excluded. Those who choose to follow God are included.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Joshua and go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/joshua\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/joshua) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 7 - JUDGES

When Israel forgets its God, might makes right'. So says the commentator in the Bible Project video on the book of Judges - a book that is not for the faint hearted. A phrase in the book that is repeated a number of times is 'everyone did what was right in their own eyes.' And this is what the book portrays - repeated cycles of deliverance by God leading to peace which are then thwarted by the people turning from God, doing what is right in their own eyes, leading to judgement. The final part of the cycle is that of repentance as once again the people seek God and are delivered. Judges shows us what happens when our decisions go against the call of God. The wages of sin is death. As Israel turns away from the God who loves and saves them, they seek their own self-destruction. The tragedy of the book of Judges demonstrating the depravity of humanity, also has a two glimmers of hope - of a final lasting deliverance and of a coming king. And so the stage is set for kingship in Israel, and for a King that will rule his people. 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders ... and he will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness' (Isaiah 7).

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Judges go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/judges\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/judges) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 8 - RUTH

Ruth is the most beautiful story of God's providence. It doesn't shy away from the traumas of life, the brokenness of suffering, but it does place it within the bigger picture. Ruth, like Rahab, chooses to follow Yahweh, the God of Israel, and in doing so, like Rahab, takes her place in the genealogy of Jesus described by Matthew. The Moabitess chooses to follow the God of Israel. In the story of Boaz, the kinsman-

redeemer, we also begin to see a story that heralds the work of The Redeemer. We are like Ruth and are in need of rescue. We cannot do it ourselves. We need a kinsman-redeemer named Jesus. We also see a hint of Jesus the bridegroom, and us, the church, his redeemed bride. And maybe also a hint of the Lord's supper where we too are asked to sit down and dine.

If you would like to find out more about the book and pray with of Ruth go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ruth\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ruth) and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 9 - 1 AND 2 SAMUEL

Samuel is a book about politics, personality, potential, power, preaching and prayer. While it, along with Kings, tells the history of a people, it is really more a collection of stories about people. The two main characters are Samuel and David. The stories are not for the faint hearted. Infertility, incest, rape, polygamy, murder, family discord, betrayal, temptation, disloyalty, civil war, deceit and the use and misuse of power. But is it also a book about loyalty, friendship, love, respect, faithfulness and the appropriate use of power.

Above all it is a book about the faithfulness of God. Bookended by two psalms, one of which is sung by Hannah and is resonant with the Magnificat, the storyteller ensures that 'the whole story is read in the context of the God who turns the world's values upside-down, the living Rock who gives power to the weak, transforms failures and longs to bless those who serve him.' (Mary Evans, *The Message of Samuel*, IVP).

These seven days of prayer focus on the call of Samuel and of David, and on the faithful God who is our rock in whom we can take refuge, our shield and the horn of our salvation.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of 1 and 2 Samuel go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/1-and-2-samuel\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/1-and-2-samuel) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 10 - 1 AND 2 KINGS

The books of 1 and 2 Kings take a people at the peak of blessing at the end of 2 Samuel to a place where everything seems lost and all has been stripped away. John Olley in his *Bible Speaks Today* commentary tells us 'Kings can be read simply as an account of the sinfulness of kings that led initially to the fall of Samaria and the end of the northern kingdom of Israel, and ultimately to the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile.

It is a story of wilful and persistent idolatry and associated injustice that resulted inevitably in the fulfilment of the curses that had been part of the covenant warnings given by God.' Yet then, as now, times of turmoil

encourage and challenge us to reflect on life and reassess our values and direction of travel and to respond to God's call through the prophets: seek me and live.

We encounter Elijah and Elisha, with miracles resonant of so many of the miracles of Jesus, from provision of food to resurrection of the dead. We also, again, find the place of women elevated. Women are not seen as the cause of the problems, but as Scott Cormode in his introduction to Kings at the end of the prayer station indicates, women are shown as models of how God will provide for God's people.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of 1 and 2 Kings go to [this weblink](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/1-and-2-kings) (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/1-and-2-kings>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 11 - 1 AND 2 CHRONICLES

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book. While on the surface it is a repeat of the books of Samuel and Kings it is actually more than that, as is given away by its place in the Jewish scriptures, where it is the last book of what we call the Old Testament. It summarises the whole story of the people of God and concentrates on the positive aspects of David and Solomon, rather than their failings, as it models good kingship and holds these against the stories of bad kingship. It was probably written 200 years after the Jewish people return to Israel from Babylon and the author reframes the story of the past and gives hope for the future. This hope centres around a new temple, the coming of a messianic king and a reuniting of the people of God. This is reflected in the numerous family trees, and on the emphases on the lineage of the messianic king and priesthood. 1 Chronicles starts with the word Adam. 2 Chronicles ends with the words of Cyrus the King of Persia promising return and temple: "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up, and may the Lord their God be with them."

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles go to [this weblink](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/1-and-2-chronicles) (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/1-and-2-chronicles>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 12 - EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

Ezra and Nehemiah, written by the same author, were originally one book. They tell of the return of some of the Jewish people from Exile in Babylon through the lives of three key leaders. Firstly Zerubbabel, who brings a large number of people back and rebuilds the temple. Next Ezra, who returns about 60 years later, restores community and teaches the Torah. Finally Nehemiah comes back and restores the walls.

The Bible Project summary link at the end of the prayer station is worth a watch as it captures the essence of these two books very succinctly and powerfully. Three leaders are sent by a ruler to do restoration work. They encounter opposition.

All three stories have disappointing endings. The hope accompanying restoration is not long lived. The returning people of God do not see the hoped for Messianic king, a faithful people of God or the presence of God in the restored temple to which all nations come to worship. In the last chapter of Nehemiah, Nehemiah sees that the hope of the work of Zerubbabel, Ezra and himself has not been fulfilled. This leaves the Bible reader with a question - what is going on and what is God going to do next?

And so the words and work of God through Jeremiah and Ezekiel are cued and the next part of the salvation story of God. 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.' (Ezekiel 36:26)

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of Ezra and Nehemiah go to [this weblink](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ezra-and-nehemiah) (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ezra-and-nehemiah>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 13 - ESTHER

Esther. The book of Esther does not mention God anywhere, but it is a book in which God's presence can be seen and detected at so many points. It is the amazing story of two women and of a people saved from destruction. It tells of Queen Vashti, who says no to being treated as an object and who pays the price - and in doing so opens the door for Esther. It tells of Esther, chosen by beauty contest to be the new queen of Persia 'for such a time as this'. It tells of her cousin, Mordechai, who has brought her up since the death of her parents, and how both he and Esther become involved in palace politics. It tells of Esther who calls her community to fasting and prayer. It tells of the intervention of God in the many happenings of life, for example Mordechai 'happening' to overhear a plot against the King's life and being credited with reporting this. It tells of the King 'happening' to hear this same story recollected at a pivotal point, resulting in the saving of Mordechai's life. It tells of God at work in the mess and complexity of life in a non-Jewish world where people were not following his law and commandments, and of his saving of his people from annihilation.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Esther go to [this weblink](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/esther) (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/esther>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 14 - JOB

There is an often quoted story of a rabbi who encouraged people to study the Jewish law, the Torah. He told them it would put scripture on their hearts. He was asked by one of his listeners why on their hearts and not in them. His answer was that only God can put scripture in our hearts, but that by reading scripture we can put it on our hearts. Then, when our hearts break, the words fall in.

Suffering is a time when the word of God can hold us as we see the bigger picture and know the longer story, and like Job, know our redeemer lives. The book of Job asks the question: why is there suffering in the world? The answer is simply that we live in a world that is not designed to prevent suffering, but that suffering does not have the last word. The God who creates the universe and who knows each of us by name holds the bigger picture. He walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death, and he shares in our suffering. He is there to hear our lament; in due time he can help us understand and reframe our suffering, telling a new story; he can help us make meaning of suffering. And he is a just God who holds the bigger picture and the longer story: it's Friday, but Sunday's coming. He is the God in whom we can trust. God's response to Job, rather than the false counsel of his 'comforters', are words to hide on and receive in our hearts as we navigate the journey of suffering ourselves and with others.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Job go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/job\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/job) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 15 - ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes, along with Job and Proverbs is seen as a wisdom book. In Proverbs the overarching message is live a good life and you will be blessed. Job, on the other hand, is about suffering and in particular how the righteous suffer. Being righteous does not result in blessing. Ecclesiastes holds this paradox, and it is a book about the mess of life.

In Ecclesiastes, the passage of time is certain and death is the great equaliser. Wealth, career, status and pleasure are hevel. Fearing God does prevent suffering. The key is to accept that life is completely out of our control and put our complete trust in God, enjoying the simple pleasures, sacraments of the present moment, as God gifts them to us. Family, friendship, food and sunshine.

The author concludes that while it is impossible for us to understand, even if we read and study endlessly, there is hope of a time of judgement when God will clear away all of the hevel and bring true justice. Perhaps it is therefore not so strange how Ecclesiastes impacts on culture in such a powerful way. The Byrds and Joan Baez singing 'Turn, Turn, Turn' are still heard on the radio and TV. The words of Ecclesiastes 'All are from the dust, and to dust all return' are reflected in the words from the Book of

Common Prayer used at funerals: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Ecclesiastes go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ecclesiastes\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ecclesiastes) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 16 - SONG OF SONGS

The Song of Songs has been interpreted in various ways. It has been seen as Hebrew love poetry. It has been seen as an allegory of God's relationship with Israel. It has also been seen as an allegory of Christ the bridegroom and his church, the bride. This is well explored in the Bible Project overview.

In this prayer station the written text is from The Passion translation and the links to the passages being read are to the NIV. The music for each day is taken from Patrick Hawes' choral work, the Song of Songs. As we read, and pray and listen, may our desire be like that of John the Baptist, that Christ will become more and we become less (John 3:30).

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Song of Songs go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/song-of-songs\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/song-of-songs) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 17 - ISAIAH

We now move on in our journey to the prophetic books in the Old Testament. They are often divided into the major and minor prophets. Isaiah is the first 'major' prophet. He writes before the fall of Samaria until the time of King Hezekiah. Like the other prophets he speaks into what is happening at the time of his writing and what will happen in the near and more distant future including many prophecies that relate to the coming Messiah. Isaiah is the most quoted book in Handel's 'Messiah' for a reason. It tells of a Holy God who is lifted high, and yet is Immanuel, God with us. It tells of a story with a destination and of a people with a purpose. At the heart of Isaiah's message is the grace of God for a sinful world

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Isaiah go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/isaiah\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/isaiah) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 18 - JEREMIAH

Jeremiah was called as a young man and served as a prophet for over 40 years, but he did not have an easy life, and appears to have been taken to Egypt at the time of the fall of Jerusalem. He is an example of perseverance in ongoing adversity and suffering. Like many of the prophetic books Jeremiah does not have a clear, chronological or linear structure. It is composed of many different types of writing including poetry,

narrative, autobiography, sermons and messages against the nations. It was partly written by Jeremiah's scribe Baruch.

Jeremiah writes later than Isaiah, becoming a prophet in the time of Josiah, the king in Jerusalem who rediscovered the book of the law in the temple. Jeremiah's own story and the place of Jerusalem serve to effectively hold the book together. Jeremiah is called to speak of God's justice and God's grace - of uprooting and tearing down and of planting and building up.

Jeremiah was a bit of a theologian and in his writing he breathes new life into, and interweaves, the truths about God found in earlier scriptures. He writes of Israel's unfaithfulness using the metaphor of adultery and prostitution. He writes of God's judgement and promised restoration. He also writes of the promised Messiah and the new covenant for the people of God in whom the word of God will be so ingrained in their hearts that they will follow God all their life long.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Jeremiah go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/jeremiah\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/jeremiah) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 19 - LAMENTATIONS

Paul Murray in his book *Scars* writes: 'by naming, through poems and stories, the black stone of affliction - the stone that had no name but weighed heavily on our hearts - the weight of the stone is somehow lifted. We are touched by God's grace, and healing begins'. This reflects the journey that people take through trauma which leads ultimately, if processed, to post-traumatic growth.

For the traumatised person or community to begin to heal, the story of the trauma needs to be told and witnessed in a safe space. It needs to be reframed and meaning then needs to be made from the trauma.

Lamentations is a book of poetry in which a story of trauma is told. It comprises five poems, each being given a structure that reflects the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This is in sharp contrast to the disorder of the experience and memories of trauma itself. The poem gives voice to the anonymous author's account of the siege of Jerusalem and the devastation which followed. Like the psalms of lament, lamentations is about protest - protesting to God and to anyone who will listen. It is also about providing a place to process confusion. While there is a glimpse of reframing and meaning making in Lamentations 3:22-23, the overwhelming feel of the book is about bearing witness to the story of overwhelming trauma. A book for our time.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Lamentations go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/lamentations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/lamentations) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 20 - EZEKIEL

“And the name of the city from that time on will be: the Lord is there.” So ends the book of Ezekiel, a book that starts with Ezekiel’s vision of God in exile in Babylon, the God whose glory Ezekiel describes as leaving the temple in Jerusalem because of the sin of the people.

Ezekiel is a strange book, full of images, metaphors, visions and street theatre and it can be difficult for us today, living in relative affluence in a different time, to understand and relate to what is written. In our ignorance we try and make God and God’s story fit into our presuppositions about what life should be like.

A similar questioning can fill our minds when we read the end of the psalm set by the rivers of Babylon where Ezekiel sat, that talks of heads of infants being dashed against rocks. The psalmist is traumatised, exiled, weeping and angry and he is not hiding his pain but is demanding God’s justice.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Ezekiel go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ezekiel\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/ezekiel) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 21 - DANIEL

Daniel is a book that promises hope for every generation. It tells of faithfulness in times of persecution, as the kingdoms of the earth turn away from God. It tells of the people of Israel waiting patiently for God to vindicate their suffering. The stories of Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael tell of the struggles faced in going against the flow, but also tell of the faithfulness of God.

Suffering and death of the faithful are not seen as reasons to deny the faithfulness or power of God. In the words of the three men being threatened with the fiery furnace, our God is able to save us, but even if he does not that is not a reason to turn away from him.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Daniel go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/daniel\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/daniel) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book. A YouTube meditation on the book of Daniel can be found here: https://youtu.be/RIJO5n_7ErE.

WEEK 22 - HOSEA AND JOEL

Hosea

Hosea's ministry overlapped with that of Isaiah. He came from Israel, the Northern Kingdom, at a time when people were turning back to the Canaanite fertility religion, and worshipping the Baals. The book is an anthology of prophecies that have been gathered together in two main parts. The first part is really a biography of Hosea's marriage used as a way of demonstrating the infidelity of Israel, the Lord's Bride, and of the steadfast love of God for his people. The second part interweaves messages of judgement and hope, two themes that permeate the prophets, ending with an invitation to return and a promise of healing and restoration.

Joel

Joel, means the Lord is God.

Joel is a collection of prophetic poems. His initial description of a plague of locusts tells of a past event with a call to repentance, that he himself responds to. He moves on to looking at a coming day of the Lord, a day of disaster for Jerusalem. There is a call to repent with torn hearts and not with torn garments - a true repentance that can rely on the mercy of God who is slow to anger and abounding in love. God's response to repentance is merciful. Then Joel looks forward to the future day of the Lord, when evil will be addressed, creation will be renewed and God's spirit will fill all his people.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of Hosea and Joel go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/hosea\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/hosea) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outlines of the books.

WEEK 23 - AMOS AND OBADIAH

Amos

But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

These words pick up two of the key themes of Amos: righteousness and justice. There is a need in God's kingdom for righteousness - equity despite social difference. There is a need in God's kingdom for justice and for people to address inequality and lift up the poor rather than trample them underfoot.

Obadiah

We then take a leap of time to the shortest book in the Old Testament, the book of Obadiah. Obadiah tells of how the people of Edom, descendants of Esau, in their pride stood by as Judah was invaded. They pillaged and plundered their neighbours and treated refugees badly. But pride comes before a fall. What they have done to Judah, says Obadiah, will be done to them.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of Amos and Obadiah go to [this weblink](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/amos) (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/amos>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outlines of the books.

WEEK 24 - JONAH AND MICAH

Jonah

Plants or people? What is more important to Jonah - who seems more concerned about a plant that dies than the people of Nineveh facing destruction? Jonah is unusual in the minor prophets as, rather than focussing on the prophesies of God, it focuses on the life of the prophet. Jesus uses the story of Jonah's three days in the belly of the big fish, as an illustration of his death and resurrection, which he calls the sign of Jonah. You can take a virtual tour of some of the archaeology of Nineveh in the British Museum here <https://www.britishmuseum.org/.../galleries/assyria-nineveh>.

Micah

Micah lived around the time of Hosea and Isaiah. His message, warning of judgement and offering forgiveness for those who repent, was to the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. His writing is poetic and encourages the listeners (1:2; 3:1; 6:1) to listen, to hear.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of Jonah and Micah go to [this weblink](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/jonah) (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/jonah>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outlines of the books.

WEEK 25 - NAHUM, ZEPHANIAH, HABAKKUK AND HAGGAI

Nahum

The word Nahum means comforter. Nahum is a short and somewhat gloomy book. It addresses the issue of violence and human suffering perpetrated by people on other people. It shows how God is moved by the death of the innocent and the reality of God's justice and judgement. It is a message of judgement on the suffering inflicted by Assyria, and a word of comfort for Judah.

Habakkuk

Habakkuk shows us that we can question God and complain when bad things happen. Protest and lament have their place, but do not have the final word. While bad things do happen to good people, God is in control and is holding it all.

Zephaniah

Zephaniah means 'Yahweh has hidden/protected'. The book begins by describing God's judgement and there is a focus on the Day of the Lord. The book finishes with an announcement of joy and of hope as

God rejoices over his people with singing. As with the other minor prophets, we are reminded that God is in control, and that our only real safety is found in him. We are encouraged to wait on the Lord as we obey his will and are patient.

Haggai

Haggai is the first of the three minor prophets who prophesy after the exile in Babylon. The other two are Zechariah and Malachi. Haggai is a book about priorities. Why do you live in panelled houses while the Lord's house lies in ruin?

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk and Haggai go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/nahum>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outlines of the books.

WEEK 26 - ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI

And so we come to the last two books of the Old Testament.

Zechariah

Zechariah means 'God remembered'. He writes in the time of Haggai, when the people of Israel had returned from Babylon to rebuild the temple. The book of Zechariah tells of a God who is at work and who will accomplish his plans not by might, nor by power, but by his spirit (Zechariah 4:6). This God will live again with his people, but they must first repent and turn again to him.

Malachi

Malachi means my messenger. Malachi is the last of the minor prophets and is written, as are Haggai and Zechariah, after the return of the people to Jerusalem. Whereas Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the people to finish the temple building, the key themes of Malachi are: God's love; the sin of priests and people and the coming of the Lord.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of Zechariah and Malachi go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/zechariah>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outlines of the books.

FOOTSTEPS IN PRAYER NEW TESTAMENT

WEEK 27 - MATTHEW PART 1

Each of the gospel writers writes with a different perspective - and in Matthew we very much see Jesus as King. The Kingdom is a key concept used by Matthew. So as you engage with the Gospel of Matthew do take time to notice Jesus the King - the Messiah and fulfilment of the Old Testament expectation.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Matthew go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 28 - MATTHEW PART 2

This is the second prayer station in the gospel of Matthew - the remaining O Antiphons, the birth of Jesus and the flight to Egypt. We read of the magi (Matthew doesn't tell us about the shepherds) as we remember that Holy Night.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Matthew go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 29 - MARK PART 1

Matthew emphasises Jesus as King, and in Matthew we have thought of and prayed with the narratives of the coming of the King. We now continue into the gospel of Mark. Mark portrays Jesus as the suffering servant of God who comes to serve and to offer his life. Mark notices the small details and everything happens immediately. In this prayer station we pray with some of the passages from the earlier parts of the ministry of Jesus in this action packed Gospel.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Mark go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 30 - MARK PART 2

We now move into praying with the second part of the gospel of Mark as the servant ministry of Jesus develops and more people encounter the good news He brings.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Mark go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 31 - LUKE PART 1

We now to pray with the gospel of Luke and the next stages of the life of Jesus as described by this Gentile doctor and companion of Paul - who also wrote the book of Acts. Bruce Milne says in his BST commentary on the book of John that a gospel is 'the telling of the story of Jesus in such a way that the unique significance of his person and work impacts on the reader, enabling him or her to meet Jesus for themselves and be guided into following him.' Luke tells the story in own unique way where we encounter Jesus as the perfect human being and pattern for our lives. The themes in Luke also include the place, treatment and care of women, the poor and children. We also read of the enabling Holy Spirit, hospitality, healing miracles and of praise and joy.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Luke go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 32 - LUKE PART 2

Our next prayer station continues in the gospel of Luke as we pray with a number of the parables and stories of Jesus. The images are by Gordon Lamb and more of his work can be found here <https://www.facebook.com/GordonLambatGalleryUpstairs>

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Luke go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 33 - JOHN PART 1

In the beginning was the Word. The words that begin the Gospel of John echo the words at the beginning of the book of Genesis - In the beginning God. The Gospel of John is different in approach to the other Gospels. It is located more in Jerusalem and we hear of Jesus and his relationships and encounters with the people there. It focusses on the Jewish festivals and we encounter three years of Passover. Right from the beginning Jesus is revealed as God. It is more 'theological' than the other three Gospels, with longer more complex passages of Jesus' teaching. In the the first prayer station in the Gospel of John we will be praying with what are commonly known as the seven signs.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of John go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 34 - JOHN PART 2

I am the bread of life

I am the light of the world

I am the door

I am the good shepherd

I am the true vine

I am the resurrection and the life

I am the way, the truth and the life.

The words I am were written in Greek in an emphatic way and actually read 'I - I am....'

In the book of John we pray with the seven I am statements of Jesus. Thanks to Sarah Anderson for the wonderful artwork.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of John go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 35 - HOLY WEEK IN THE GOSPELS

This prayer station encourages us to pray with the touch of Jesus in our lives, and our reaching out to touch him. The narratives are taken from all four Gospels and take us from the anointing at Bethany to the breaking of bread at Emmaus as Christ reframes the whole traumatic story of Holy Week.

If you would like to engage with the Holy Week narratives prayerfully go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture.

WEEK 36 - ACTS PART I

'In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen'. So begins the book of Acts, the second book we have in our bible written by Luke. In it we read of the spreading of the good news of the Gospel as it begins to move from Jerusalem to Samaria and to the ends of the earth. We also begin to realise the cost of discipleship as disciples are martyred for their faith. Many of the images in this prayer station are by Paul Hobbs. They include 'icons' from his powerful conceptual work Unknown Martyrs. These are 13 images portrayed as icons commemorating modern Christian saints and addressing contemporary persecution. More images and a booklet giving details of the people represented and the symbols used can be found through his website.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Acts go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 37 - ACTS PART 2

Tomorrow we continue our journey in Acts which takes us through Paul's missionary journeys and finally to his in prison in Rome. Most of the images in this week's prayer station are by Karen Herrick of Harlequin Arts. The cards that form the basis of the images were themselves created from textile art. They can be found on her website where there are a wealth of resources and even creative retreats to attend on line in our current time. <https://www.harlequinarts.co.uk>

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Acts go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/gospels-and-acts>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture, and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 38 - ROMANS

Paul probably wrote to the Christians in Rome while he was in Corinth in AD 57 - which links with Acts 20:2-3. He wrote to unite Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome and the main theme of the letter is the cross of Christ. Christ is the only one who can overcome the power of sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit those who die to sin enter into a new life in Christ. In Romans we read of a sovereign God who will fulfil his promises to Jew and Gentile alike.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Romans go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 39 - CORINTHIANS

Corinth lies on a strip of land that connects the Peloponnese from the rest of Greece. It was a perfect place for trade and commerce and served as a political and commercial capital. We read of Paul's first visit to Corinth in Acts 18 where he meets Priscilla and Aquila, fellow tent makers. Paul appears to have made three visits to Corinth - the first one lasting about 18 months. It appears that Paul wrote four letters to Corinth - though we only have records of two of these. 1 Corinthians is thought to have been written c AD 54/55 and 2 Corinthians c AD 57. Paul's relationship with the Corinthian Church, as we can tell from his letters, wasn't always easy - but in his writing we see his deep pastoral heart and his desire to see the members of the young church grow in faith and maturity as disciples of Jesus.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Corinthians go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 40 - GALATIANS

Paul wrote his letter the Galatians in about this 48 AD, and the letter is quite a difficult and critical one. False teachers have been convincing the Galatians that they need to be circumcised and as a result the church has become divided. Into this Paul encourages a return to the simple truth of the Good New of Jesus.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Galatians go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 41 - EPHESIANS

Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians in about 62 AD while he was in prison in Rome. The three main themes of this letter are Christ's reconciliation of all things to himself and to God, new life and unity. This letter along with the letters of Colossians and Philemon were taken by Tychicus and Onesimus to their recipients

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Ephesians go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books of the week.

WEEK 42 - PHILIPPIANS

Philippians is a book about Jesus. It tells of who Jesus is, what he has done, what this means for the Philippians and what it means for us today. It is a book of joy, the word joy being used five times and rejoice eight times. It is also a book that encourages us to think differently. Thanks to Ian Paul for the photographs from Philippi.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Romans go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books of the week.

WEEK 43 - COLOSSIANS

The Greek word for thanks gives us the word Eucharist. Colossians is a book about thankfulness. As we enter the season of Easter we are thankful.

Seven times in the book of Colossians Paul talks of thankfulness or gratitude. As we read this book, we are reminded of what and how we can be thankful for each and everyday. This is not a thanks FOR all

circumstances, but a thanks IN all circumstances. Indeed, a thankful heart has been recognised as a key aspect of maintaining wellbeing in times of adversity.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Colossians go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 44 - 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

1 Thessalonians is probably the earliest of Paul's letters, written from Corinth after Timothy returned from Thessalonica telling Paul how the new Christians had held firm under persecution. 2 Thessalonians was probably written not long after. It considers the second coming of Christ. The believers are encouraged and are reminded, as in the words of the Bible Project summary 'What you hope for shapes what you live for.'

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 45 - 1 AND 2 TIMOTHY

As we look back over our lives we can see people who have had a significant impact on us - family, friends, teachers, mentors and soul friends. We know from the New Testament that Timothy was impacted by his mother and his grandmother in his journey of faith. We also know that for Timothy, Paul was a mentor. When we read the letters of 1 and 2 Timothy we need to remember we are only hearing half of the conversation, so when we get to some of the more difficult passages it is worth thinking what the other side of the conversation might have been - and into what situation Paul actually speaking.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of 1 and 2 Timothy go to [this weblink \(https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations\)](https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 46 - TITUS PHILEMON AND HEBREWS

Titus

The book of Titus is a letter from Paul to a church leader - Titus, who was leading the churches on the island of Crete. Paul writes to encourage leaders facing opposition. He teaches how leaders were to be chosen and how believers can live whole and healthy lives.

Philemon

The book of Philemon is just one chapter, in which there are three key characters - Paul the letter writer, writing from prison; Onesimus, the runaway slave who had come to faith; and Philemon, the slave owner.

The letter is a plea for Philemon to forgive (and many would say to free) the runaway servant, now brother in the faith.

Hebrews

The author of the book of Hebrews is unknown. What we do know is that they were writing to a group of Hebrew believers, for whom the symbolism would strike deep chords as the words echoed and resonated with the words of the old covenant given on Mount Sinai. Hebrews presents us with Jesus, the incomparable, perfect, spotless, sacrificial lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus the Messiah is prophet, priest and king. Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The prayer station is held together by the artwork of Denise Weyhrich, the curator at Seeds Fine Arts, Saddleback Church. Each of her works, and the way they are created and installed, are hugely symbolic and resonate with the truth of the gospel. Do visit her website to see more of her work.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with these books go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 47 - JAMES

The book of James is thought to have been written by James the brother of Jesus in about AD 48-49, and therefore may have been the first New Testament book to have been written. It has been described as the Old Testament book of Proverbs in New Testament clothing. It encourages the people of God to act as the people of God - faith being manifest in how we live. A number of the images in this prayer station are taken from a series of interactive prayer stations curated by Gilly Franklin, of St George's Church in Stamford, for a New Wine Ladies' Day entitled Planting the Heavens.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of James go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books of the week.

WEEK 48 - 1 AND 2 PETER

The letters of Peter are as applicable to us today as they were to the people that Peter was originally writing to. In his first letter he guides the leaders of the church to shepherd the flock carefully - not becoming puffed up and conceited or abusing their power. The second letter is a letter of encouragement for believers suffering persecution who are encouraged to shine as a light in a dark place.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the books of 1 and 2 Peter go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

Week 49 - JOHNS LETTERS and JUDE

In the three letters of John we find emphasis on light - the light that has already come. We are encouraged to walk in truth. We are also told to love 'let us love one another, for love comes from God'. Jude, the penultimate book of the bible is a short letter, which is a book of warning teaching of the need to avoid false teachers. The poem is by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with these books engage with them prayerfully go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the books.

WEEK 50 - REVELATION PART 1

And so we reach the last book in the Bible- the book of Revelation. We will be spending two weeks in this book-the first week we will be praying with the narratives of the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3. The second week we will be praying with John's vision of the new heaven and new earth. The images are from Jaqui Parkinsons amazing pieces of textile art that have been displayed at a number of Cathedrals over the UK. The pieces are the size of bedsheets. Jaqui's book on the creation of the art can found on her website. There are links to her websites in the prayer station but for ease the Revelation Threads link is here <http://www.revelation-threads.co.uk/>

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Revelation go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 51 - REVELATION PART 2

And so to Week 2 in Revelation. Holding on to God's promises in times of adversity can sometimes be hard. This week we spend time chewing over small morsels of Revelation 21. Let the words dwell in us deeply as we live today in the here and now - and are aware that we also live in the light of eternity.

If you would like to find out more about and pray with the book of Revelation go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>), and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book.

WEEK 52 REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY - PSALM 23

This is the final prayer station in the Footsteps in Prayer journey. May you be blessed by the Good Shepherd as you look back - look to the present - and look to the future, stepping out with God into the next stage of your journey with him.

If you would like to spend time reflection over the last year with Psalm 23 go to this weblink (<https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/letters-and-revelations>).

A YouTube playlist to accompany this journey can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3gaOnoa>

A YouTube playlist of meditate reflections on the journey can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3pJBhSf>

Playlist of all of the Psalms can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3pl7068>



Textile art Intentional Journey by Karen Herrick of Harlequin Arts 2021