

Richard's Ramble

Recently, I delivered a talk to Ground Level on the subject 'Where is God when the world seems to be falling apart' (if anyone wants a copy of the paper I prepared in this, please let me know). The background to this talk was the present crisis and all that is going on in the world as a result. However, the talk broadened to include a reflection on suffering generally. One of the thoughts that came out of this is that suffering is part and parcel of being human in a fallen world. All of us, at some stage, will enter into suffering, whether that be sickness, oppression, debt, or emotional crisis. There is no easy way through such suffering. The Bible offers no easy answers (see Job). However, what is promised throughout is that, in the midst of our suffering, Jesus is there with us. He who suffered more than us all enters in to our suffering and walks through it with us.

As charismatic Christians, we are used to the idea of living in victory, however, this notion has become a little distorted. The expectation of some is that we should live in health and wealth. Victory is not the absence of suffering, but rather the peace and presence of God in the midst of the storm.

I leave you with the promise of Paul: 'we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed' (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

God Bless, Richard



PDP Online

'PDP online' is a virtual gathering for blokes who meet once a fortnight on Friday evenings at 7.30pm for an hour by video conference. Our aims are unchanged: To put the world to rights and to enjoy a drink together.

If these aims appeal to you then do please join us. You will have to make your own beverage arrangements until we are in a position to resume meeting at the Monk's Walk and sample once more their selection of ales.

A written brief is circulated beforehand in which we consider something of topical interest in the recent news and everyone is free to contribute or just listen

as they wish. Recent topics have included the Black Lives Matter campaign, the government's response to the COVID pandemic and the place of political satire as an entertainment.

If you would like to find out more or come along, please speak to Peter Spencer [07971 831599] or email

peters@beverleycommunitychurch.org for further details. **Peter**



What the Dickens?

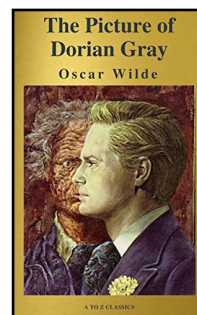
Book club

Third Thursday each month

Next meeting 17 September 7.30-8.30 pm.

The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

Let us know if you are joining us & we will send you meeting place or zoom link. **Vicki & Angie**



Very Interesting Wednesday

2nd Wednesday each month join us on zoom 7.30-8.30 to consider interesting and sometimes challenging things. There will be short talks, a personal story and lots of time to ask questions and discuss.

9th September. Suffering - where's God when people suffer? Can God help us in difficult times? Does God allow people to suffer? Is God to blame? Vicki Bonaccorso will share her experiences and thoughts on suffering. There will be opportunity to ask questions and for discussion.

14 October 11 November, 9 December

Bring your own beverage.

All welcome but let me know if you are coming so I can send you the link.

Angie