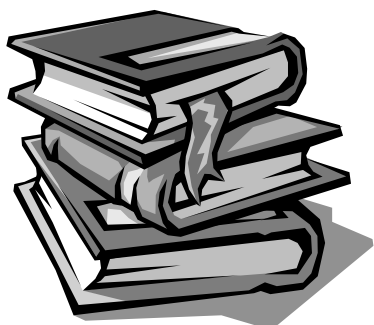


## Lent Reading

Lent begins at the end of February, here is a selection of Lent Books for you to consider.



### **Archbishop's of Canterbury Lent Book - I Thirst by Stephen Cottrell £8.99 0 31025069 2**

Some of the last words Jesus uttered while hanging on the cross were "I thirst." These sorrowful words are simple, yet very human. Jesus Christ, the thirsty one, shares deeply in the mess and muddle of human living. The cross is about the suffering and the longing of Jesus; it shows us his pain and his love.

This book - the 2004 edition of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book—helps penetrate the deep mystery of a God who goes on loving, no matter what. No matter how exorbitant the cost, no matter the obstacles in his way, Jesus was determined to be obedient until the end. As Stephen Cottrell peels back the layers of meaning in this simple cry of longing, he prays that readers will experience, as if for the first time, the magnificent and all-pervading love of God. Cottrell hopes that as we come to the great festival of Easter, we will know afresh that the one who thirsts is also the one in whom our own thirsts are quenched. Only by exploring the remarkable love of this nailed-to-a-cross God can we begin to understand our own mortality and suffering. Included is a foreword by Rowan Williams, the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

### **Small World**

**by various authors £4.95 0 2325.2522 6**

The CAFOD Lent Book for 2004 that offers reflections on the daily scripture readings for Lent aiming to draw out their social justice message for the reader to contemplate.

### **Knowing & Growing**

**by David Adam £5.99 1 8441.7177 9**

This 8-week course, taking readers from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, is perfect for those who want to explore the way to abundant life, for those who seek to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

### **Jesus Opening our Hearts**

**by Paula Clifford £4.99 0 3407.8718 X**

Christian Aid's Lent book focusing on relationships and the call to love one another. It explores the intimate level of our personal relationships and our corporate responsibilities to those in need around the world.

### **Thorn, Fire and Lily**

**by Jane Mossendew £10.99 0 8264 7064 5**

A beautiful book of daily meditations from Ash Wednesday to Easter day, exploring how plants featured in the book illuminate Lenten themes such as prayer and fasting. Complete with charming line drawings on many plants to further your reflections.

**If you want to know what God has to say to you,  
see what Christ was and is.**

C H Spurgeon

**The Harmony of Heaven****by Gordon Giles £7.99 1 8410.1334 X**

This book brings together daily Bible readings and comment for every day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Monday and reflections on music that has some special relevance to this season, such as the Messiah.

**Cheer up, it's Lent!****by Tony Castle £5.99 1844171671**

For many families the only time they are together, during the week, is when they eat together. If Lent is to happen at all in the Christian family, as a shared experience, it has its best hope for success at the family meal. With the help of *Cheer up, it's Lent!* - and a little organisation and determination to make it work - you can transform Lent into a true preparation for Easter for all the family.

**A Talent for Living****by Martin Kitchen £7.99 0 281 05622 6**

Each of the chapters is dedicated to one of the roles that different people fulfil: helpers, listeners, healers, peacemakers and teachers. With the help of Scripture, poetry and current understanding of human nature, we are encouraged to reflect on the different talents, styles and callings that we each have.

**Christian Aid Update: Where the Money Goes**

In Christian Aid Week, May 2003, BPC collectors drew in well over £1,800 - mainly from streets within our parish. This money, added to similar sums collected by church members throughout the UK, will by now be making a real difference to the lives of people in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world. You may like to read of some projects which have been set up with the help of Christian Aid: each of them aims to enable communities to become self-sufficient.

In South Africa in the area around Capetown aid workers have set up *Zenzele* – the word means “Do It Yourself”. The organisation works with those denied education under apartheid, to provide training in carpentry, metalwork and sewing and to help people set up their own businesses.

In Malawi where food is very short and people lack the knowledge to farm profitably, the Christian Services Committee teaches women how to grow crops successfully and sell them at a fair price.

In Cambodia, where public services were dismantled in years of oppression and conflict, Health Unlimited builds medical centres in the remotest areas and trains local people to dispense treatment and to give advice on prevention of common but potentially fatal diseases.

It is vital that we maintain our present level of support, which has gradually grown over the last few years. We should all be assured that we are contributing to the goal of Christian Aid, which is “We believe in life before death”.

*Gloria Toplis*