

And it was good

Responding to God's Gift of Creation



And it was good provides an opportunity for Anglicans around the Communion to explore together during Lent 2012 two vital themes:

Our understanding of and responsibility for creation, taking seriously the commitment expressed in the Anglican Fifth Mark of Mission '**To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth**'.

How Anglicans in different parts of the world use and interpret the Bible.

And it was good comes out of the ongoing work of **The Bible in the Life of the Church** project, it offers individuals and groups across the Anglican Communion an opportunity to join in the work of this international project, and to share their insights with others.

And it was good is a five-session course inviting Anglicans to walk together through the weeks of Lent, leading into Holy Week. It aims to help us discover how key aspects of the life, ministry and death of Jesus Christ also shed light upon these two themes.



Each session contains these sections:

 **Bible Exploration** - two biblical passages related to aspects of creation. Brief notes are linked to each passage.

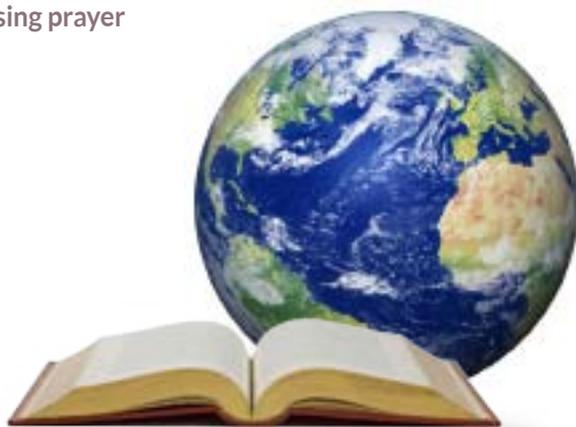
 **Reflection** on how our understanding of the biblical text and the theme can be enhanced by the different experiences of Anglican Christians throughout the world.

 **Reading the Bible with Anglicans around the world**, reflecting on what our exploration suggests to us about the ways that other Anglicans read the Bible.

 **Questions for discussion** linked to the theme of creation and to our use of the Bible.

 **Sharing our insights** with Anglicans in other parts of the world.

 **Closing prayer**



More practical help

*If you are using **And it was good** in a group situation, there will be a number of practical details you need to keep in mind. It is especially important to ensure that all members of the group feel able to participate in the session and in discussion as fully as they would wish. In particular:*

- Because of the many different contexts in which we hope this course will be used Bible passages for study are not printed out.*
- Each group or individual is likely to have with them a particular translation.*
- It is important however that each person in the group has a proper opportunity to read or hear the Bible passages for themselves.*

There are probably more questions for discussion than you need for one session. We assume that you will choose from these the ones that best fit your situation.

Some of these issues are culturally specific. How they are handled will vary from place to place in the Anglican Communion, so specific suggestions for 'group process' are not offered.

During Lent and Eastertide 2012 a forum will operate on the Anglican Communion website, on which comments and insights can be posted. We suggest that churches and dioceses who have 'links' in another part of the Anglican Communion may wish to find a way of working together with their link partners during the course.



Week One:
The Hope of Something New



Week Two:
Our Place in the Created Order



Week Three:
Jesus: The Centre and Heart of All Creation



Week Four:
Creation Blesses the Lord



Week Five:
Creation Groans in Painful Hope