

St. Paul's Forum

Public Debates on Love, Suffering, Death, Happiness

During October 2010, St Paul's Cathedral will hold a series of dialogues exploring fundamental themes of human life.



The dialogues will be hosted by Canon Giles Fraser, (pictured) Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, who will be joined by theologians and other experts to talk frankly about some of the biggest questions and mysteries of human life.

Admission is free and unticketed, and doors open at 6.00pm.

If you would like to attend any of these popular events, please sign the list on the Notice Board and we can form a Holy Cross group and travel together.



Suffering - Tuesday 5 October, 6.30 – 8.00pm

For many, the reality of suffering and evil throw God's love into doubt: how can God do these terrible things, or allow them to happen? Is there any meaning in suffering? What is forgiveness, and what does it do?

Sheila Cassidy, doctor, writer, psychotherapist and former political prisoner and Frances Young, Biblical scholar and theologian.

Love - Tuesday 12 October, 6.30 – 8.00pm

Is love really all we need? Love is the perennial theme, with thousands of novels, songs, poems and films about it every year, and for many of us, it gives the greatest meaning to our lives. But have we privatised love? Do we have too narrow a view of love as just romantic? What about caritas, love as a civic virtue, love as a political force, love for the stranger?

Oliver James, clinical psychologist, author and broadcaster, and Lucy Winkett, Rector, St James's Piccadilly.

Death - Tuesday 19 October, 6.30 – 8.00pm

Death is the great contemporary taboo as well as the great universal. Life must be prolonged at any cost, and some say the new temples in our cities are the great hospitals. But have we lost the art of dying well? And if we found it, how would it change the way we live?

Stanley Hauerwas, Professor of Theological Ethics, Duke Divinity School and Sr Frances Dominica, founder of the children's hospice movement

Happiness - Tuesday 26 October, 6.30 – 8.00pm

So many of us have so much and yet so few of us seem to be happy. Depression is often said to have reached epidemic proportions in the UK and other parts of the West, and happiness seems elusive or at best transient. What does happiness really mean, and how can we find it?

Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor, St Paul's Cathedral and Susie Orbach, psychotherapist