

## ***Faith in the Old Testament:*** midweek Workshops

An opportunity to explore two of the series themes in greater depth through discussion, Bible study, and hands-on activities.

Tuesday 23 June at 2.30pm: **Considering Creation**

Tuesday 21 July at 2.30pm: **Responding to Suffering**

## ***Faith in the Old Testament:*** Movie Screenings

No Biblical epics here – yet each film is influenced by one or more of the Old Testament series themes...

Wednesday 17 June:

Wednesday 24 June:

Wednesday 1 July:

Wednesday 8 July:

Wednesday 15 July:

Wednesday 22 July:

*Sorry – for reasons of  
copyright licensing, Film  
Titles cannot be publicised  
in this downloadable version  
of the information leaflet!*

*All screenings begin at 8pm, and there is no charge for admission (donations are welcome). List of planned titles correct at time of going to press, though it may be necessary to make substitutions.*

## ***Faith in the Old Testament***

A six-part series, 14 June – 26 July 2009

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ:  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד

- *Themed Sunday worship*
- *Two interactive workshops*
- *Movie screenings*

**The United Church (Methodist & United Reformed)**

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A member of **Crowborough & Rotherfield Churches Together**

# ***Faith in the Old Testament:***

## **Sunday Worship themes**

### **Sunday 14 June at 10.30am \***

#### **How to read the Old Testament - *principles to guide us***

Humanly written? Divinely inspired? A unified collection of writings, or the product of a diverse set of situations and purposes? And how might the Old Testament be relevant to us today? This introduction to the Series gives an overview of the territory.

**Preacher: Revd Steve Mann, Methodist Circuit Superintendent**

### **Sunday 21 June at 10.30am**

#### **Tales from the Dawn of Time - *Genesis: fact or fiction?***

How does the Bible's account of the very earliest things inform our understanding of the world? Given the strength of scientific evidence, must we dismiss the early chapters of Genesis as mere folk-tales? Or is there still truth to be found here?

**Preacher: Mr Colin Riley, URC Lay Preacher**

### **Sunday 5 July at 10.30am**

#### **Law-Abiding Citizens - *is this what the Lord requires of us?***

Food restrictions, death penalties, rules declaring when people are to be treated as 'unclean' – are these simply archaic and redundant?

What was/is the purpose of the Old Testament Law? How can we discern whether/which parts of it might be binding upon us?

**Preacher: Mr Alan Crook, Methodist Local Preacher**

### **Sunday 12 July at 10.30am \***

#### **Lambs to the Slaughter? - *making sense of sacrifice***

Worship in the Old Testament was characterised by sacrifices – sometimes of grain, but more prominently of animals. Does this reveal God as a threatening overlord who must be appeased by such ritual offerings? Just what effect could sacrifice have?

**Preacher: Revd Dominic Grant, Minister at the United Church**

### **Sunday 19 July at 10.30am**

#### **War: What is it Good For?**

##### **- *handling violent texts in a peace-loving church***

Was ancient Israel's conquest of the 'Promised Land' a divinely-authorized campaign of genocide? Why is God so often portrayed in the Old Testament as a warrior-king directing Israel's military strategy? What are we to make of the violence of the Old Testament?

**Preacher: Mr Simon Barrow, co-director of Ekklesia think-tank**

### **Sunday 26 July at 10.30am**

#### **Keep the Faith - *discovering God in hardship and lament***

Much of the Old Testament addresses God amid the frustration of failure, personal or national disaster, and exile. How did the people of the Old Testament make sense of suffering – and what might they have to teach us about holding on to God when the going gets tough?

**Preacher: Revd Dominic Grant, Minister at the United Church**

- *On dates marked with a \* the service will include Communion.*
- *It is planned to make recordings of all sermons in the series available online, and on CD at the conclusion of the series.*