

# The Everyday God

Ways to use the book during Lent

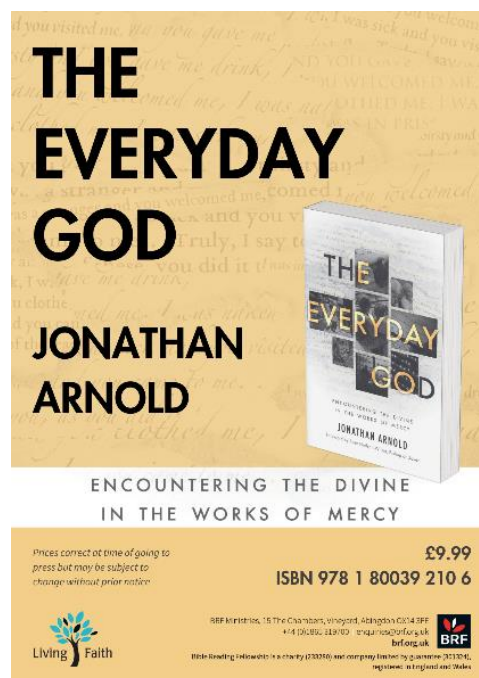
*February 2025*

# Compelling stories of loving our neighbour

*‘The everyday God is a God who is for everyone... who appears in everyday events and ordinary people. He calls us to move out of our comfort zones and into his liminal space on the margins of our society, to see the face of Christ in a stranger...’*

Jonathan Arnold, director of the social justice network in the diocese of Canterbury, delves deep into the heart of the biblical mandate to love one’s neighbour. Through a tapestry of real-life stories, he unveils the power of practical faith, illustrating how it can ignite transformation among the homeless, refugees, the poor and vulnerable, imprisoned and marginalised, as well as those living with dementia, disability and disease.

In these pages, you’ll witness how acts of social and environmental justice, intertwined with mercy, have the potential to reshape lives, offering a vivid portrait of the profound impact of embracing the everyday God. As he reflects upon Jesus’s teaching in Matthew 25:34–40, Arnold challenges us to discover God’s presence in the most unexpected places and join in with where he is acting, whether inside or outside our churches.



# Weekly Lent group course

## Guide for each week

### Preparation

Read the recommended pages set out below

Week	Dates	Section
1	3–9 March	Foreword, Prelude and Overture
2	10–16 March	Chapters 1 and 2
3	11–23 March	Chapters 3 and 4
4	24–30 March	Chapters 5 and 6
5	31 March – 6 April	Chapters 7 and 8
6	7–13 April	Chapters 9 and 10
7	14–19 April	Chapter 11 and Conclusion

### During the session

Discuss, use the questions at the end for reflection and do the spiritual exercises together or in your own time.

### Questions for reflection having read *The Everyday God*

1. Reflect on what your story is with God
2. Where is God acting near you – in your home, family, work, wider community, in the nation, in the world?
3. What is God saying to you about the works of mercy?
4. What have you discovered about yourself and others this Lent?

# Private reading and devotion

## Guide for daily reading and prayer

Day	Pages	Section
1	11–14	Foreword and Prelude
2	15–20	Overture (part 1)
3	20–25	Overture (part 2)
4	26–32	The melody of mercy (part 1)
5	32–36	The melody of mercy (part 2)
6	37–41	The song of justice (part 1)
7	42–45	The song of justice (part 2)
8	46–50	The chimes of the church (part 1)
9	50–55	The chimes of the church (part 2)
10	55–59	The chimes of the church (part 3)
11	61–64	Feeding the hungry (part 1)
12	64–68	Feeding the hungry (Sharon's story)
13	68–72	Feeding the hungry (Matt's story)
14	72–75	Feeding the hungry (Liz's story)
15	75–81	Feeding the hungry (Helen's story and spiritual exercise)
16	83–85	Giving drink to the thirsty (part 1)
17	85–92	Giving drink to the thirsty (part 2 – Patrick's story)
18	92–95	Giving drink to the thirsty (part 3 and spiritual exercise)
19	97–101	Finding a home
20	101–104	Finding a home (Jo's story)
21	104–108	Kelly's story
22	108–111	Finding a home (part 2 and spiritual exercise)
23	113–116	Welcoming the stranger (part 1)
24	116–123	Welcoming the stranger (Domenica's and Chris' stories)
25	123–133	Welcoming the stranger (David's and Kirrilee's stories)
26	133–138	Welcoming the stranger (Martin's story and spiritual exercise)
27	139–141	Visiting the sick (part 1)
28	141–149	Visiting the sick (Dominic's story)
29	149–154	Visiting the sick (Julia's story and spiritual exercise)
30	155–160	Visiting the imprisoned (part 1)
31	160–169	Visiting the imprisoned (Nick's story)
32	169–172	Visiting the imprisoned (reflection questions and spiritual exercise)
33	173–175	Burying the dead (part 1)
34	175–182	Burying the dead (Emma's story)
35	182–184	Burying the dead (questions for reflection and spiritual exercise)
36	185–192	Caring for creation (part 1)
37	192–197	Caring for creation (Teresa's story and spiritual exercise)
38	199–204	Conclusion (part 1)
39	204–208	Conclusion (part 2 – Coda: my story)
40	213–216	Soundbites

## **Questions for reflection having read *The Everyday God***

1. Reflect on what your story is with God
2. Where is God acting near you – in your home, family, work, wider community, in the nation, in the world?
3. What is God saying to you about the works of mercy?
4. What have you discovered about yourself and others this Lent?