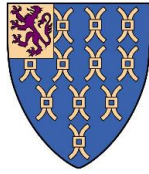
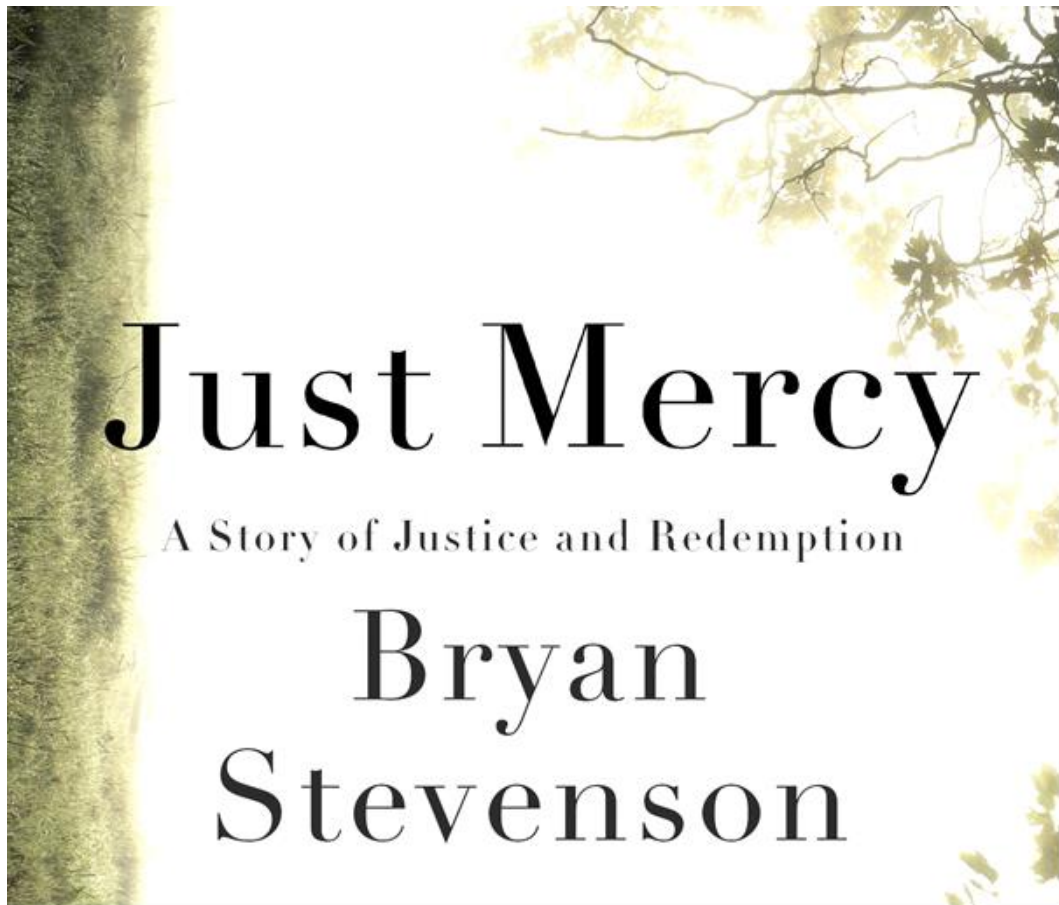


The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn



*LENT*

*2020*



Treasurer

The Rt Hon Lord Justice David Richards

Dean of the Chapel

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Vos

Preacher

The Venerable Sheila Watson

## *LENT*

### *JUST MERCY*

*Lent* – the traditional time for Christians to tighten belts literally and metaphorically with prayer, fasting and almsgiving (reviewing our charitable spending).

*Why* – to see more clearly what loving God and loving our neighbour might mean; and, in a world which is often unjust, what a just and merciful God means.

The need for justice and mercy, for loving our neighbour as ourselves, challenges us in body, mind and spirit. What does it mean to take seriously the historic 1948 United Nations Charter on Human Rights? “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in such a spirit.”

To aid our reflections and actions, this Lent, in addition to our regular Wednesday lunchtimes and Sunday mornings, we are focussing on two related themes.

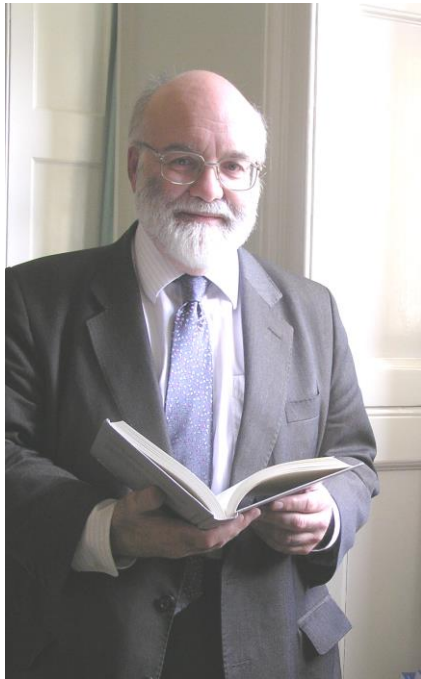
Our Lent recommended reading is Bryan Stevenson’s powerful memoir of the potential for mercy to redeem us as he fights for the rights of wrongly convicted inmates of death row: **Just Mercy** which Lord Briggs writes about in this leaflet. It is also a major film on in London in January and February

Our Lent Chapel almsgiving is for the Diocesan Lent Appeal for ALMA, the diocesan partnership of Angola, London and Mozambique, to help communities respond to the challenges of climate change in their areas in a practical and pastoral way.

And as a bonus we have a top class Biblical scholar to assist us with unpacking our Bibles as well as an expert on John Donne, our most well-known former Preacher and one of the foremost poets of all time not just his own 17thC. Do check out the programme attached!

*Sheila Watson, Preacher*

## TWO LENT SPECIALS



**Tuesday 24TH MARCH 6.30PM:**  
**A HISTORY OF THE BIBLE. Does modern scholarship threaten belief or contribute to faith?**

An evening at St Paul's Cathedral with **John Barton**, one of the great Biblical scholars of our time and author of the 2019 best seller, *A History of the Bible*.

**(NB Booking essential. The Preacher has 15 places at St Paul's for a group from the Inn. Please contact the Preacher, Sheila Watson, ([preacher@lincolnsinn.org.uk](mailto:preacher@lincolnsinn.org.uk)) BY MARCH 10 to secure a place. There will be a possibility of supper and discussion afterwards.)**

**Sunday MARCH 29<sup>th</sup> 11.30AM:**  
**John Donne Sunday** with *Dr Beatrice Groves of Trinity College Oxford* – an opportunity to learn more about John Donne former student and then Preacher of Lincoln's Inn, Dean of St Paul's and metaphysical poet. The next in the series of musical commissions based on Donne's Litany, *As sin is nothing, let it nowhere be* by Cheryl Francis-Hoad will be given its first performance.



## *WEDNESDAYS IN LENT*

**ASH WEDNESDAY** 1.05pm Said Holy Communion Service  
**February 26th** 5.30pm Sung Eucharist

## *WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIMES*

**FREEDOM AND CALM:** a time to free ourselves from our usual concerns and become more *mindful* in *meditation, prayer* and *discussion*.

**Wednesdays, March 4; 11; 18; at 1.00 – 1.45pm** in the Chapel but please feel free to come and go as the lunch break allows. At each of these, there will be a brief introduction by the Preacher, drawing on poetry and spiritual traditions over the centuries; quiet time and a chance to exchange ideas.

### **LUNCHTIME CONCERT: Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 1pm in Chapel.**

An opportunity to enjoy beautiful music at free lunchtime concert by outstanding students from the Royal College of Music. This month Hattie Buttworth will be performing a selection of cello works: *Cello Suite No. 3 in C major* (J.S. Bach), *Theme and Variations* (Jean Sibelius) and *Thrinosis* (John Tavener). All are welcome to come and go as your break allows.



***OUR LENT BOOK: JUST MERCY by BRYAN STEVENSON***

*Lord Briggs writes:*

We habitually speak of judges and court systems delivering justice. Sometimes, particularly in Lincoln's Inn, we add equity: that softening of the hard edges of the common law to give effect to the dictates of conscience. But we speak and think insufficiently about a vital third component in what judges and courts are there to deliver, namely mercy. It is a word we often use in prayer, particularly when we take our lead from the Prayer Book, but we struggle to accommodate it within the compass of the daily grind of court work, all the more so if (like me) we are not regularly engaged in the criminal courts.

I have found this little book to be a revelation in giving real, practical substance to this vital third component of mercy. Bryan Stevenson is a young lawyer who has dedicated his working life to the defence and relief of (mainly) black prisoners in the USA, either on death row or serving 'whole life' sentences. His calm, matter of fact description of struggling for these prisoners against the almost overwhelming odds of prejudice, hate, revenge and indifference barely conceals his powerful sense and depiction of institutional injustice. The often-gripping narrative builds towards his conviction (read out in chapel by a visitor from the African Prisons Project at the Wigs and Mitres service last November) that the quality of a society's justice system is to be measured by the way in which it treats the poor and the helpless, not the rich and the powerful.

I commend this book to anyone preparing for, or undertaking, a legal career at any level. It has worked a sea-change in my approach to being a lawyer, and is now seldom far from my thoughts.

*Join the Preacher and Lord Briggs for a discussion on the book (please turn over for more details).*



# Just Mercy

A Story of Justice and Redemption

## **JUST MERCY REFLECTION:**

**Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 5.45pm** in Rooms 6-7 in the Ashworth Centre.  
*Join Lord Briggs and the Preacher for the discussion on our Lent book.*

*If you are interested in taking part, please book a place by letting Aleksandra know ([chapelclerk@lincolnsinn.org.uk](mailto:chapelclerk@lincolnsinn.org.uk) or 020 7693 5198) by Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>.*



For those looking for services in London during Holy Week, St Paul's Cathedral is our Cathedral and has services daily

<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/>

## *SUNDAYS IN LENT at 11.30am*

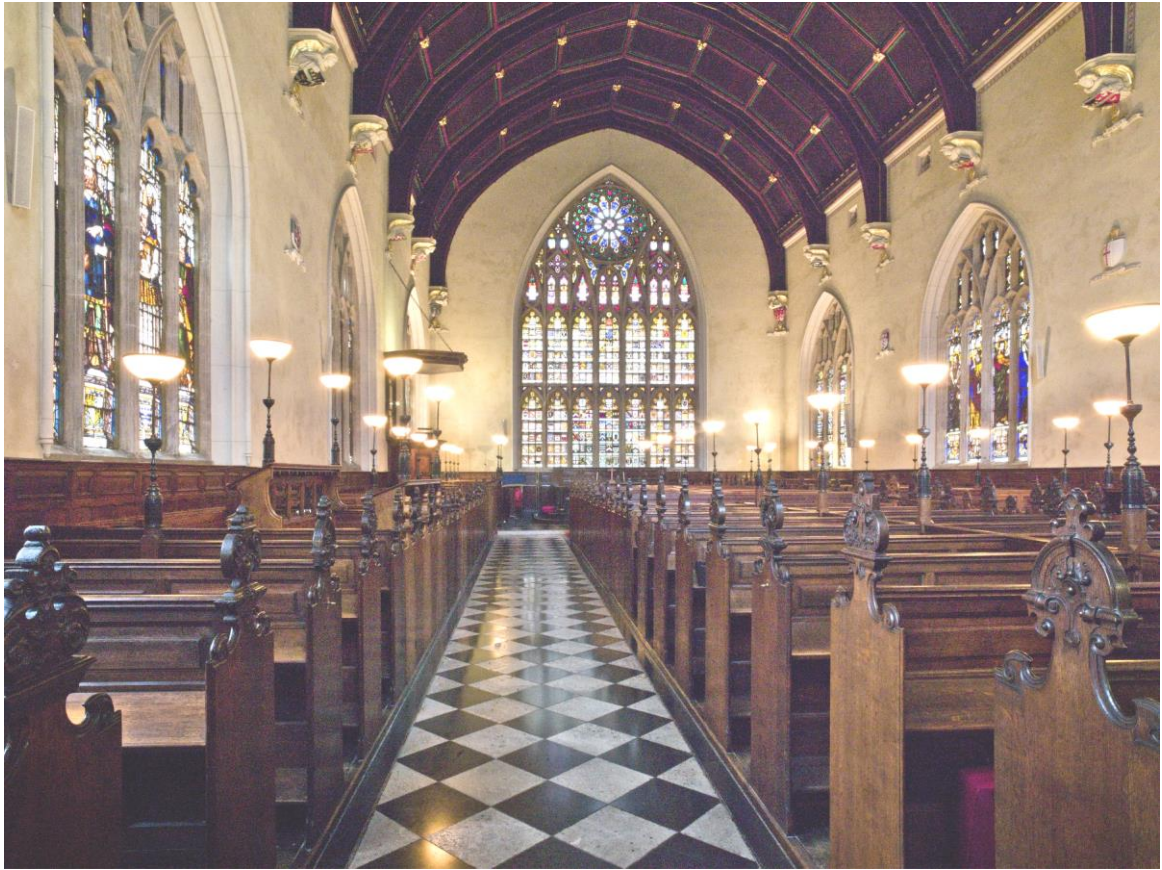
### MARCH

1	Sunday: Lent 1	Choral	Matins and Sermon <i>Gibbons</i> Short Service <i>Byrd</i> Emendemus in melius
8	Sunday: Lent 2	Choral	Matins and Sermon <i>Bairstow</i> The Lamentation <i>Gibbons/Bairstow</i> Jesu, grant me this, I pray
15	Sunday: Lent 3	Choral	Matins and Sermon <i>The Lent Prose</i> <i>Attrib. J.S. Bach</i> Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich den BWV Anh 159
22	Sunday: Lent 4 <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Choral	Matins and Sermon <i>Jackson</i> in G <i>Bruckner</i> Ave Maria
29	Sunday: <i>Passion Sunday</i>	Special Service	<b>John Donne Sunday</b> Dr Beatrice Groves of Trinity College Oxford.

### APRIL

5	Sunday: Palm Sunday	Sung Eucharist	<b>Blessing of Palms and dramatised reading of the Passion.</b>
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The first Sunday service of **Easter Term** is APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> at 11.30am.



For further information visit: [www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/about-us/chapel/](http://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/about-us/chapel/)