

MAYHEM?

“Is there a message in the mayhem?”

Today

After an introduction and prayer Chris and Simon will speak. Following their talks breakout rooms will become available for approximately 20 minutes of discussion. The wrap-up will take place around 12PM. We may extend the groups afterwards.

Chris Birtles

Chris was part of the original church planting team for what became the Thames Valley churches of Christ in which he serves as a trustee. His special interest is the ‘big story’ of the Biblical narrative. He works in finance and in his spare time enjoys the beautiful heathland of the Surrey/Hampshire borders on his bike.

Simon Dinning

Simon is completing his MSc in Biblical Studies and runs an Apologetics ministry. He lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Simon has been married to Nadine for 15 years and is a father of 4. His first degree was a BSc Hons in Physiotherapy and he worked as a Physio for several years. In his spare time he loves to spend quality time with his family and train in his home gym.



Why does suffering happen?

Where is God in suffering? How can we grow and develop as we go through times of trial?

In this session, we will explore what key passages from the Bible say about these and other related questions – starting with the creation account. We continue by considering the ministry of Jesus, and how the writings of the apostles and prophets give us hope now and for the future as they point to the ultimate hope.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you from the lessons we just heard?
2. How has your understanding of God developed as a result of recent events?
3. How can we grow and help others in times like these?



HOPE Worldwide

We are delighted to partner with HOPE Worldwide UK.

HOPE worldwide is part of a global network of charities that work in over 70 countries in a variety of sectors including: education and training; health and social care; and disaster risk reduction, response and recovery. HOPE worldwide programmes in the UK help people experiencing homelessness and recovering addicts. To support our international relief for those affected by COVID-19, please go to <https://www.hopeworldwide.org.uk/covid-19/> and select 'COVID-19 International Relief'

Thames Valley churches of Christ

The TVCOC fellowship was established in 1990 by an intrepid small group of men and women.

We are a diverse community with young and old, students and teens, singles and families all warmly welcomed. If you would like to get to know us better, contact us via the [website](#) or tvcochrist@gmail.com.

Further Resources

To help prepare for this session you might like to watch the following YouTube videos which help us understand the 'big picture' before we focus on particular questions in the session.

'Heaven and Earth' by the Bible Project (6 mins)

'Why does God allow suffering?' by Simon Dinning

'Why should God allow us to suffer?' by Simon Dinning

'God with us' by Chris Birtles

God's Miracle at Dunkirk.

Some useful scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Revelation 21:1-4
- Leviticus 26:14-28 - Warning of plagues
- 2 Kings 13:14-20 - Elisha's illness
- Luke 13:1-5 - Why these things happen?
- John 9:1-3 - Why these things happen?
- Matthew 4:23, 9:35, 10:1 - Jesus heals every disease
- Isaiah 55:8-9 - God's ways beyond ours
- Difference between Asa / Hezekiah - 2 Chronicles 16:12 / 2 Chronicles 32:34

NEXT Week

The focus for Saturday 6th June is - how do we respond?

Dr Andy Ezeilo and Rob Payne will be exploring how we can respond to what we're seeing and experiencing. What doors is God opening because of the virus? How do we best serve others and bring hope?

In this session, we will look at what we can learn from the way the early church responded to times of trial, and consider how our prayers, gifts and resources can help bring hope.

If you have not already done so, you can register [here](#).