

# MAYHEM?

“Is there a message in the mayhem?” - session 3

## Andy Boakye

Dr. Andy Boakye (BSc. Medical Biochemistry; BA Theology, MA Biblical Studies, PhD New Testament Criticism [University of Manchester]) is a Lecturer in Religions and Theology. He is chair of the Religions and Theology Research Seminar.

Andy spent 10 years in Christian ministry. He recently popularised 'Ask Andy' sessions - encouraging teenagers to ask thorny questions about faith.

Andy is husband to Chi and father to Aaron and Storm.

## Malcolm Cox

Malcolm ministers to the Watford church of Christ and is part of the Thames Valley churches of Christ staff. His degree in music (BMus, Birmingham University), is supplemented by a diploma in Theology from the London School of Theology.

A prolific author, podcaster and YouTuber, he focusses on spiritual disciplines, teaching and corporate worship. His wife of over thirty years, Penny, is a GP in London. They live in Croxley Green, near Watford and have two adult children.



## “How may we live differently in the future?”

In what ways may followers of Christ want to live differently as a result of the pandemic? Can we perceive the Spirit prompting us to think and live differently? How does the virus change the way we think about our mission, lifestyles, social responsibilities, and our impact on the planet?

In this session, we will consider how the world is changing and what role Christians and churches play in responding to and bringing about change.

Andy's points: 1. We cannot be trapped in our own traditions; 2. We ought to pursue a creative, innovative discipleship; 3. God's love is a certainty, life is NOT.

Malcolm's points: Start with Jesus and aim at love. Aim to discern/experiment with the best way to experience and offer the love of Christ bearing in mind the new reality.



## 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](mailto:tvcochrist@gmail.com).

## *Discussion Questions*

1. What stood out to you from the talks and what have you been learning through this time?
2. How do you think God wants you to grow and use your gifts and resources to respond to the current challenges in our world?

## *Further Resources*

Andy's book: "Death and Life: Resurrection, Restoration and Rectification in Paul's Letter to the Galatians (2017)."; recent television appearances: BBC Radio 4 show "Beyond Belief" and the Channel 5 documentary "Crucifixion Mystery"; podcast details: 'Euangelion': Interpreting Scripture and Life has a complete series on Galatians and is available at <https://anchor.fm/andrew-boakye>

Malcolm's book: "An elephant's swimming pool - a devotional guide to the gospel of John"; resources including links to his weekly newsletter as well as podcasts and YouTube materials can be found here: <https://www.malcolmcox.org/>; podcasts on Douglas Jacoby's site: Creation Care I and Environmental Stewardship, by Dr. Penny Cox; The Theology of Ecology, by Malcolm Cox.

## *Some useful scriptures*

Andy's talk: Acts 10:9-16; Ruth 4:16; Esther 4:9-17

Malcolm's talk: Luke 10:27; John 13:34-35; John 15:12; Acts 7:60; Acts 10:45; 2 Timothy 4:10; John 13:15; 14:26; 15:5; 16:33; 17:9; Matthew 7:121

## **The Future**

What is next for events such as these? We are a group of like-minded friends who decided to step out on faith and arrange this series of talks and discussions. Should we do more? We would like your feedback on what was helpful, what you suggest we do differently in the future, whether you would be interested in attending similar events, and what topics interest you.

Please fill in the Zoom poll on Saturday and the survey we will send out via email.

God bless, Malcolm (on behalf of Andy, Simon, Rob, Andy & Chris)