**Book Group 2019**

**Wed 6 Feb Glenn Pemberton, A Life that is Good**

(This is only available in print – not kindle!)

Somewhere out there is the “good life,” and we’re all scrambling to get it. Glenn Pemberton maintains in this book that we find the so-called good life not in good things but in living well―and the biblical book of Proverbs teaches us how to live that life.

Though based on solid biblical scholarship, *A Life That Is Good* is not a textbook, commentary, or comprehensive study. It is instead a readable, practical guide to the wisdom found in the ancient book of Proverbs―wisdom on everyday living, speech, relationships, justice, money, and much more.

**Wednesday 13 March Graham Tomlin Looking Through the Cross**

Everything looks different in this world through the lens of the Cross. This book deals with reconciliation, humility, identity, power, suffering, life and atonement. These are familar themes for a Lent book but in Dr Tomlin's hands they are given exciting new meaning which will touch the hearts and minds of men and women in a turbulent modern world.

Dr Tomlin is a theologian of the first rank, but he is also a writer with a keen pastoral commitment, celebrated for his common touch.

**Wednesday 10 April Russell Moore, The Storm-Tossed Family: How the Cross Reshapes the Home**

Christianity Today’s book of the year for 2018.

Why do our families have so much power over us? In *The Storm-Tossed Family* teaches readers whether you are married or single, whether you long for a child or shepherding a full house, you are part of a family. Family is difficult because family—every family—is an echo of the gospel.
Family can be the source of some of the most transcendent human joy, and family can leave us crumpled up on the side of the road. Family can make us who we are, and family can break our hearts. Why would this social arrangement have that much power, for good or for ill, over us?

**Wed 1 May David Kinnaman, Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You're Irrelevant and Extreme**

Many Christians today feel overwhelmed as they try to live faithfully in a culture that seems increasingly hostile to their beliefs. Politics, marriage, sexuality, religious freedom--with an ever-growing list of contentious issues, believers find it harder than ever to hold on to their convictions while treating their friends, neighbours, co-workers, and even family members who disagree with respect and compassion. This isn't just a problem that affects individual Christians; if left unaddressed, the growing gap between the faithful and society's tolerance for public faith will have lasting consequences for the church.

**Wed 5 June John Stackhouse, Why You're Here: Ethics for the Real World**

What are Christians to be and to do in the world? What does faithfulness look like in these complex and confusing times? Christians are often told either to take over the world in God's name or to withdraw into faithful sanctuaries of counter-cultural witness. John Stackhouse offers a concise, vivid, and practical alternative based on the teachings of Scripture about the meaning of human life in this world and the next. *Why You're Here* provides an accessible, concrete program for the faithful Christian living in today's world, fraught as it is with ambiguity, irony, and frequent choices among unpalatable options. Stackhouse speaks directly to everyday Christians who are searching for straightforward advice on some of their most complex quandaries and the challenges inherent in staying true to the Bible's teachings.

**Wednesday 10 July Eileen Shuller, The Dead Sea Scrolls: What Have We Learned 50 Years On?**

(Not very expensive second hand)

Beginning with the question, what have we learned from the Dead Sea Scrolls, Eileen Schuller presents a discovery made over 50 years ago, that everyone has heard at least something about already, and takes the reader through, decade by decade, highlighting key events and accomplishments in scrolls scholarship. Each chapter presents specific areas where the scrolls have made a distinctive contribution to how we think about key questions in the development of early Judaism and early Christianity.

**Wed 4 September Graham Greene, The Power and Glory**

During a vicious persecution of the clergy in Mexico, a worldly priest, the 'whisky priest', is on the run. With the police closing in, his routes of escape are being shut off, his chances getting fewer. But compassion and humanity force him along the road to his destiny, reluctant to abandon those who need him, and those he cares for.

**Wed 2 October Paula Gooder, Phoebe: A Story**

Sometime around 56 AD, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome. His letter was arguably his theological masterpiece, and has continued to shape Christian faith ever since. He entrusted this letter to Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cenchreae; in writing to the church that almost surely met in her home, Paul refers to her both as a deacon and as a helper or patron of many. But who was this remarkable woman? In this, her first novel, Biblical scholar and popular author and speaker Paula Gooder tells Phoebe's story - who she was, the life she lived and her first-century faith - and in doing so opens up Paul's theology, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped Paul's thinking, and the faith of the early church.

**Wed 13 November Michael Mayne, Learning to Dance**

(Again not in kindle! But cheap second-hand)

Few writers have explored the borderland between faith and contemporary living more eloquently and engagingly in recent years than Michael Mayne. In Learning to Dance he creates a magical weave of poetry, science and spirituality, touching on the longings, doubts and hopes of all of us.