

Friday 7 January- 1pm, Epiphany lunch and worship

17-28 January- Home groups: God speaking when hope is in short supply (Joel and Habakkuk)

Friday 4 February-2pm, central meeting: God speaking when we need to see things differently (Zechariah and Zephaniah)

14-25 February-Home groups: God speaking when we need a good shake (Malachi)



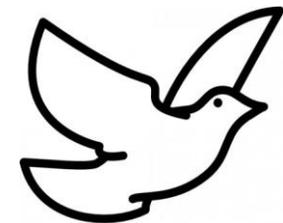
GOD SPEAKING

THEN AND NOW

Autumn/Winter 2021-2022



The Saltwood &
Lympe
Benefice



We are going to spend the next few months exploring how God has been communicating with his people from Biblical times to today.

We start by taking an overview of prophecy in the Old and New Testament- what was it for? how did it work? what's the possible relevance to us of words uttered long ago in contexts wholly different from ours? Then we'll look at some specific themes and challenges, exploring whether what some of the Biblical prophets said can serve as a challenge or encouragement to us.

In doing so we'll take a particular look at extracts from 12 Old Testament writers called 'the Minor Prophets'. They came to be called minor not because they weren't important but because their books were relatively short compared with those of the so called 'Major Prophets' (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel).

These aren't intended as scholarly studies into ancient Jewish history. And we won't just be looking at the Old Testament. Our objective is to let the Holy Spirit, who inspired these prophets, speak to us about our situation and teach us more about:

- **what matters to God**
- **how human beings are meant to live**
- **why society and its values are really important.**

Material will be distributed to group leaders so that the programme can flow seamlessly between central meetings (at The Barn, Rectory Lane) and home groups. Home group dates, times and meeting places are for each group to decide to fit members' convenience. Please note, the timing of the central meetings will change when the clocks go back (apologies to those still working for whom this may be difficult). The schedule is:

Friday 10 September- 7pm, central meeting: Series overview: Taking the long view; prophecy down the ages.

20-30 September: Home groups: God speaking when corruption is everywhere (Amos)

Friday 15 October-7pm, central meeting: God speaking when our vision is too small (Jonah)

25-29 October-Home groups: God speaking when faithfulness is out of fashion (Hosea)

Friday 12 November-2pm, central meeting: God speaking when things are looking up (Haggai)

22-26 November- Home groups: God speaking when we're feeling very angry (Nahum and Obadiah)

Friday 3 December- 2pm, central meeting: God speaking when things are a mess (Micah)

Rest of December- No home group studies (optional meetings for a meal)

