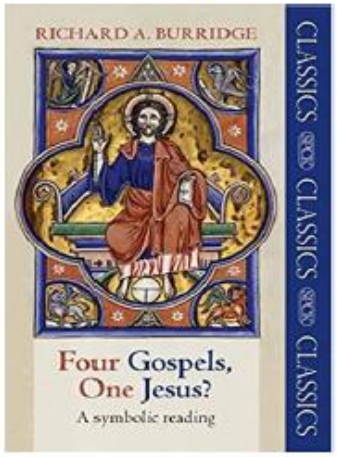
STUDY GROUP ON MARK'S GOSPEL

A study group course on the Gospel According to St Mark, following last year's successful Lent study group about Jesus' crucifixion sayings. In response to requests, this group will provide an opportunity to "go deeper" in three directions: deeper into the text itself and its original meaning; deeper back to its origins, background and historical setting (as much as we can discover that today); and, thirdly, deeper forward to its meaning and significance for us today. The group will meet in person in the Church Hall at St Luke's, but there will also be the opportunity to participate remotely via Zoom (using a laptop, tablet or smartphone; no extra software needed), **7.30-9.30pm on Wednesdays in October and November**, hosted by our vicar, the Rev'd John MacKenzie, and led by the Rev'd Canon Professor Richard Burridge (for log in and more details, email one or both of them, or to sign up: john@saintlukeschurch.org.uk or richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk).

Session 1 (Oct 12) **What are the Gospels?** What kind of books? How to interpret them?
Session 2 (Oct 19) **Ministry in deeds and words**: miracles & parables (Mark 1-8.26)
Session 3 (Oct 26) **Who, what, when, where, why, and for whom?** Mark's setting.
Session 4 (Nov 2) **Who is this?** The identity of Jesus, 'Christology' (Mark 8-10)
Session 5 (Nov 9) **Entry into Jerusalem and ministry in the temple** (Mark 11-14)
Session 6 (Nov 16) **The Last 24 Hours of Jesus' Life:** Arrest & crucifixion (Mark 14-15)
?Discussion: (Nov 23) *Informal discussion in church, or a break, because of clash with PCC.*
Session 8 (Nov 30) **'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord'** Advent, Christmas, and Resurrection

All welcome. Those who wish to undertake background reading before each session might like to read parts of Chapter 2 of *Four Gospels, One Jesus? A Symbolic Reading* (SPCK 2013).



"solid scholarship, theological acumen, imaginative and sensitive interpretation, a real gift for the telling analogy"
+Rowan Williams

"wonderfully accessible, reliable guide, indispensable, a disarming light touch"
+Desmond Tutu



St Mark's lion and his opening words in St Luke's East Window

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Four-Gospels-One-Jesus-Symbolic/dp/028107030X/ref=cm_cr_arp_d_product_top?ie=UTF8 **or buy direct from Richard:**

The Rev'd Canon Professor Richard A. Burridge richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk

THE ROUGH MARK:

THE LONDON PREMIÈRE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14th 2022, 7.30-10pm

Starring JUSTIN BUTCHER as 'Mark the Narrator' and **ANDY HARRISON** as 'All the Other Voices', with author **RICHARD BURRIDGE** reading the words of Jesus

St Luke's Church is glad and honoured to host the London première with the first live performance of the whole of the *Gospel According to St Mark* in a new translation by the respected biblical scholar, the Rev'd Canon Professor Richard Burridge. It will also be simultaneously **live-streamed online** to encourage a wider, even international, audience. Richard has been translating gospel passages for his own prayer reflections since a 35-day silent Jesuit retreat at the home of St Ignatius in Loyola in the Basque country within Spain in 2019, and he has now finished Mark and Matthew's gospels, with Luke and John still to go. . . .! Richard's solo performances of various sections of Mark to other New Testament scholars have already been received with acclaim.

The **principles followed in the translation** are to reflect as closely as possible the Greek text, keeping literally to the word order, to the original tenses (e.g. Mark suddenly jumps into the present tense over 150 times – but sadly English translations usually ignore this habit), to word-plays and puns in the Greek, or reflecting its Semitic background, recognizing that Greek was clearly not the author's mother-tongue. The resulting word order of verbs preceding nouns has even led to the translation being nick-named the 'Gospel according to Geoffrey Boycott' or 'Yoda the Jedi Master'!

Experience this live oral performance like the ancients! With first-century literacy rates at only around 10-15% of people being able to read and write, ancient texts were received by hearers *through the ears* by being read out loud or even performed, rather than *through the eyes* as in the modern habit of silent reading. Ancient texts were written on 35-feet long scrolls, one of which could be recited in a single evening, rather than today's habit of hearing or studying small passages of a single story on our own.



Detail of Mark's lion symbol and his opening words in the East Window, St Luke's Church

* **Doors open at 7pm** with informal bar available. **Live tickets in advance/at the door £10** (£7.50 concessions), to cover production and performance costs with profits going to St Luke's Church.
* **To reserve a seat with advance card payment** please email treasurer@saintlukeschurch.org.uk
* **Any questions**, or for **further details**, and for **log-in details for the online live-stream** (also online donations welcome of at least £5), please email richard.burridge@manchester.ac.uk