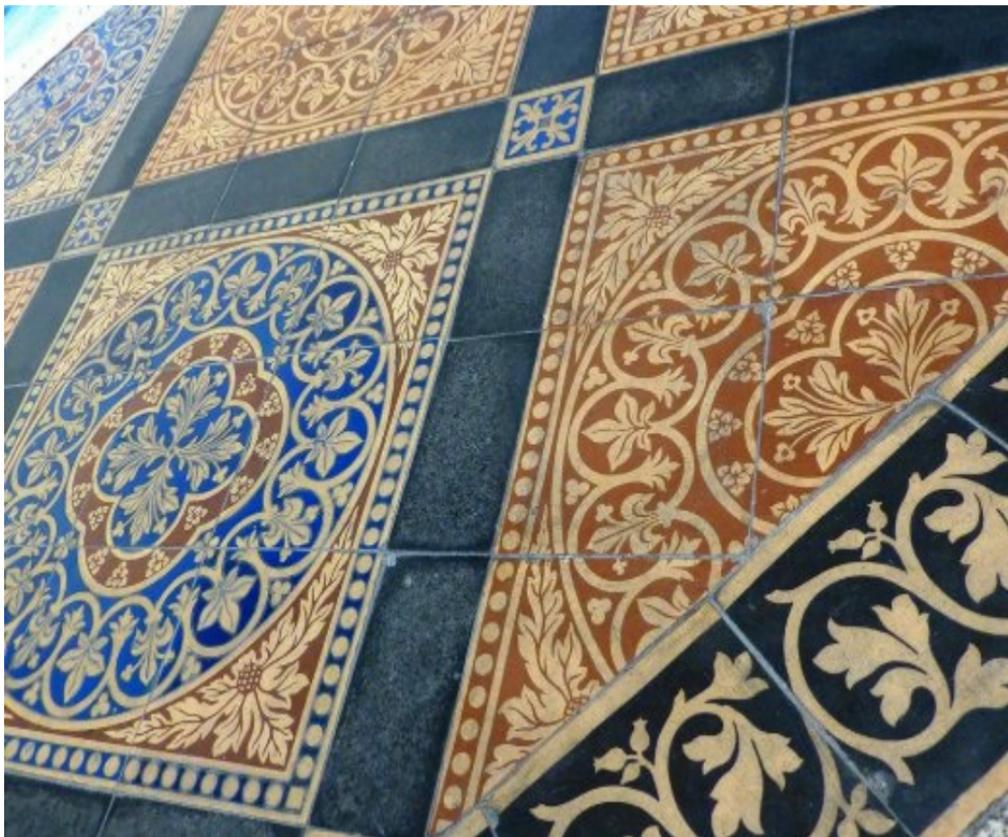


Thy Kingdom Come



***Chevening,
St. Botolph's, Church & School***

Thy Kingdom Come – Chevening Church



Chevening St. Botolph's CEP School 2017
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ISBN - 978-0-244-01351-6

Readings - Bible Gateway (NIVUK version)
<https://www.biblegateway.com>

Published 2017

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**This book is sold at cost price
so that as many people as possible
may read it if they would like to.**

Thy Kingdom Come – Chevening (St. Botolph's) Church

St. Botolph's joined in with the Archbishops' prayer initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

This book was made in an attempt to capture some of spirit of the initiative; and to inspire readers to continue contemplation and prayer throughout the year.



In response to the
Most Revd Archbishop Justin Welby and
Most Revd Archbishop John Sentamu's prayer
initiative.

Thanks to...

**Rector Chris Smith and Mary Chamberlin
at Chevening, St. Botolph's Church**
for the inspiring visual representations
and thought-provoking questions.

We hope you enjoy the book...

Thy Kingdom Come

Jesus used everyday objects and pictures to help people understand more of what He wanted to teach them, and Chevening Church have used familiar ideas and themes in seven prayer stations aimed to link to displays around the church. There were all-inclusive questions, irrespective of age; and many stations were interactive. Hopefully, this book is able to capture some of this and will encourage readers to have a go at their own kinaesthetic constructions at home. Dig out your building blocks and test how shakeable your kingdom is!

Each station's box symbolises the gift of the Good News for all of us. Each station a catalyst to thinking about Jesus' words, uniquely 'unpacking' what our first response might be. The lights around the church are to remind us that Jesus is the 'light of the world'. The light blue colour matching the Reredos or relief sculpture behind the altar,

is present in each of the stations and can be seen as the 'living water' (John 4:1-15) that Jesus longs for us to receive and tell others about.

'The Great Banquet' (Luke 14:15-23)



Luke 14:15-23 New International Version - UK
(NIVUK)

The parable of the great banquet

¹⁵When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’

¹⁶Jesus replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, “Come, for everything is now ready.”

¹⁸‘But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, “I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.”

¹⁹‘Another said, “I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.”

²⁰‘Still another said, “I have just got married, so I can’t come.”

²¹‘The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.”

²²“‘Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.”

²³‘Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.



Jesus is inviting you to the
Great Banquet of the Kingdom.
How special does that make you feel?



**If anything holds you back
from replying 'yes' what is it?**

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:1-7)



Matthew 18:1-7 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The greatest in the kingdom of heaven

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'

²He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Causing to stumble

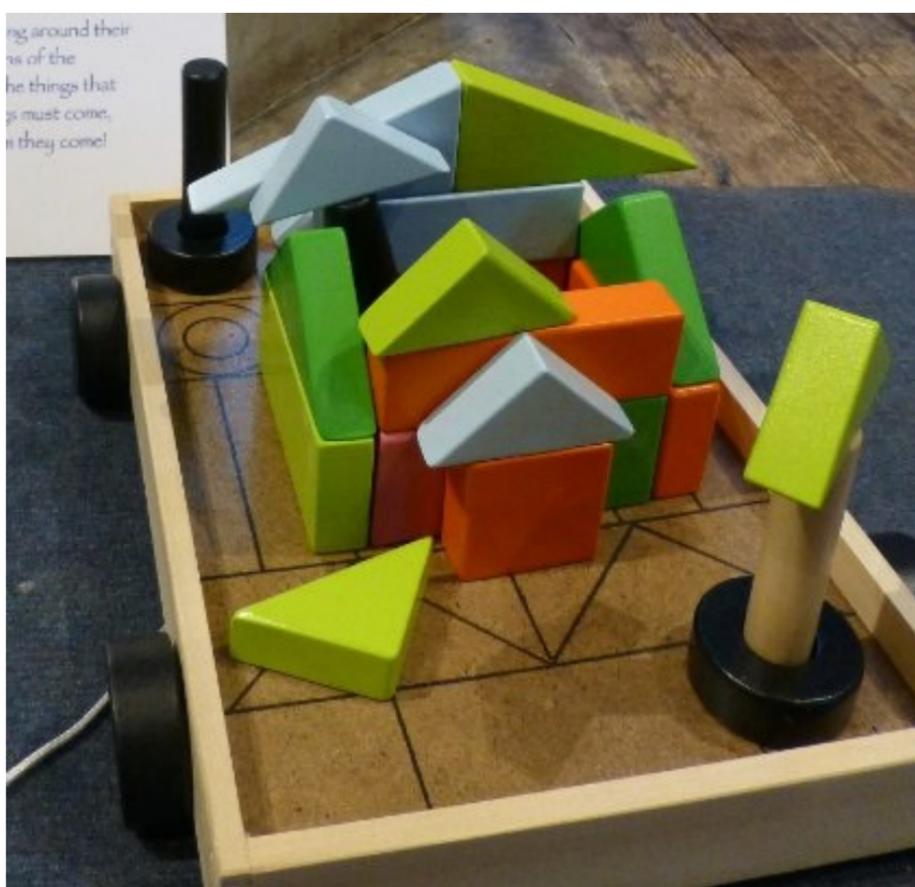
⁶‘If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung round their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

Who is the greatest in God’s Kingdom?



A small play tent here is an analogy of how prayer can make you feel in a safe place talking to God, and can be folded and erected - used for shelter wherever you are.

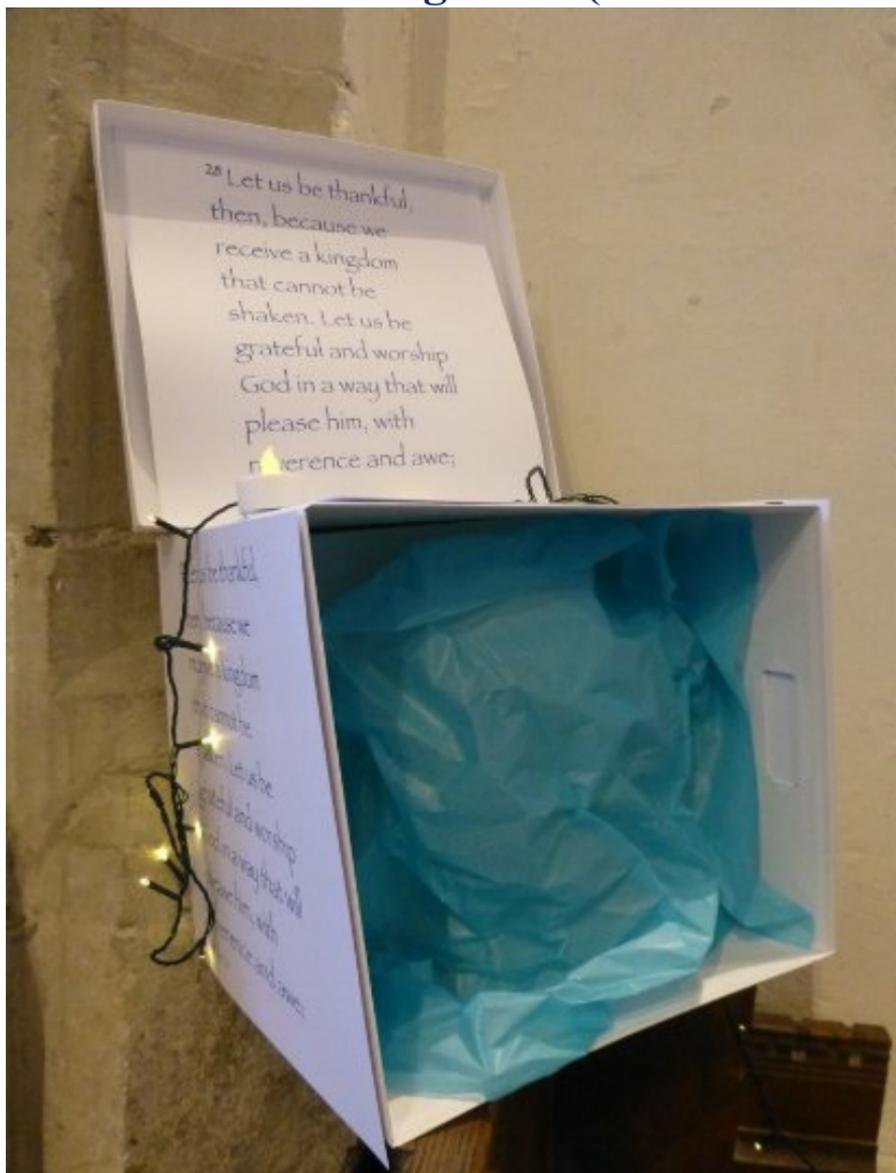
If you are a child, Jesus says it's easier for you to enter God's Kingdom. Why do you think that is? What advantages do you have?



If you are an adult, what can you learn from children about approaching God's Kingdom?



The Unshakeable Kingdom (Hebrews 12:28)



Hebrews 12:28 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

The loose bricks with words such as ‘money, popularity, fashion, etc are all things the world values. They can be built on top of a tray. However, lifting the tray, whatever has been built, quickly tumbles down as the tray is moved.



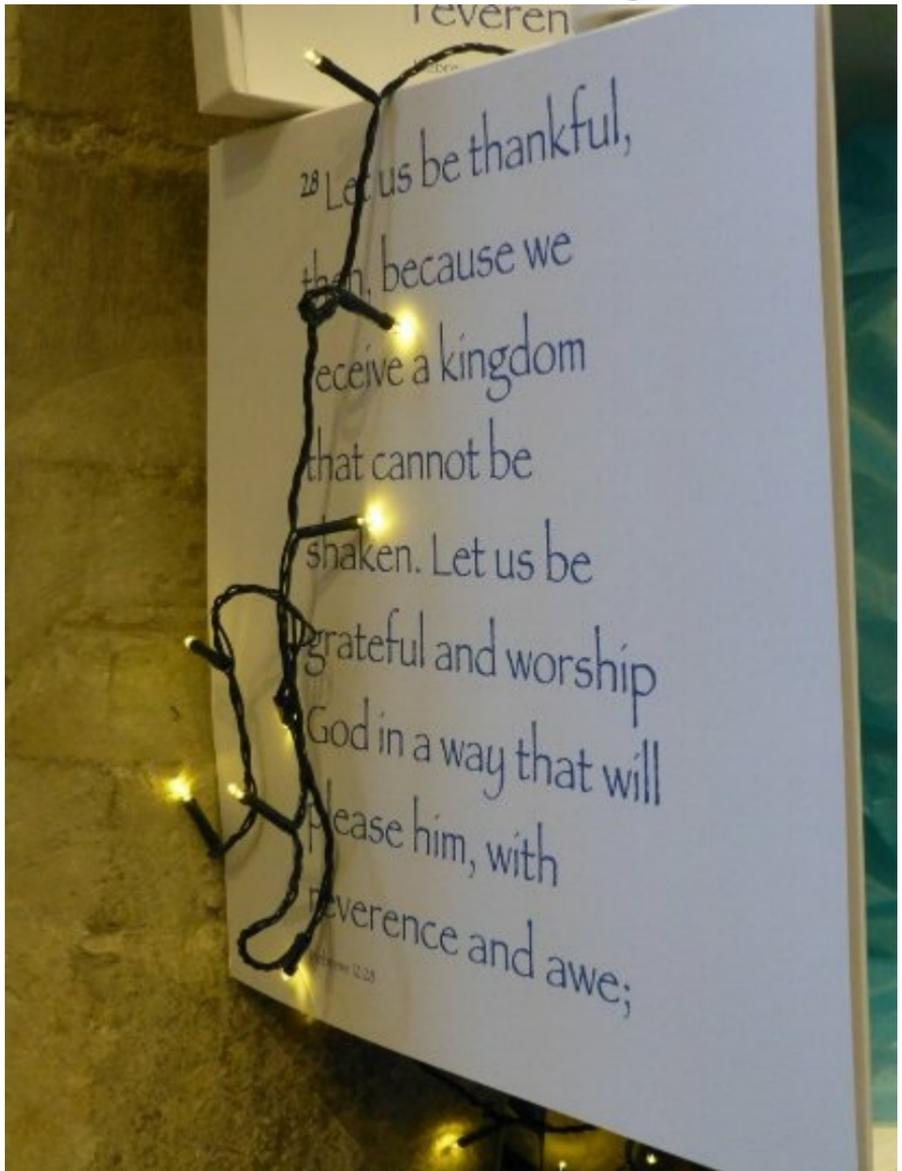
The Kingdom of God, is by contrast, unshakeable. Our health, relationships, wealth, the opinion of others, National Kingdoms are all shakeable. So we are to be full

of gratitude, reverence, worship and awe for God's Kingdom.



What sort of things do people put their trust in?

Can this trust be shaken?
How stable is God's kingdom?



If God has helped you through any ‘earthquakes’ in life, why not take a moment to thank him?

The Sprouting Seed (Mark 4:26-29)



The parable of the growing seed

Mark 4:26-29 New International Version - UK
(NIVUK)

²⁶He also said, ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces corn – first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹As soon as the corn is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.’



Who sows the seeds
of the Kingdom of God in our hearts?



How can we see the kingdom
growing in ourselves? And others?



Plants grow gradually as does our faith.
How does that match your experience?



The parable shows that sometimes we don't fully understand things that are very real. Just as we don't fully know how the plant grows, so we don't fully know how God's kingdom grows in us.

How do you feel about this?



The Pearl of Great Value (Matthew 13:45-46)



Matthew 13:45-46 New International Version - UK
(NIVUK)

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.'



In what ways is the Kingdom of God
like a pearl of great value?



What did the merchant give to gain the pearl?



What are you prepared to give to gain the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21)



Luke 17:20-21 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The coming of the kingdom of God

²⁰Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom

of God would come, Jesus replied, 'The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,²¹ nor will people say, "Here it is," or "There it is," because the kingdom of God is in your midst.'



Here you can see reproductions of Rembrandt's painting of 'The Prodigal Son'. The image speaks of God's unconditional love and lavish grace, and His continual

desire to recreate and redeem us.



The labyrinth superimposed on a smaller image of the same painting reminds us that, unlike a maze in which we get lost, if we follow the path in a labyrinth, we will be led 'home' to the centre, which is a deepening of our relationship to our Father.

Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is within

you.

If you are ready, why not be quiet for a moment and ask that God's kingdom would grow/advance in you?

Show us the Father



Magdalen Lawler
The Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt
• reflection • prayer • scripture •

Take a moment to thank Him
for all that he is doing in you.



Why not ask Him to do more?

**The time has come.
The Kingdom of God is near.
Repent and believe the Good News. (Mark
1:15)**



**Mark 1:15 New International Version - UK
(NIVUK)**

¹⁵ ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has

come near. Repent and believe the good news!’

The disparity of this installation is intentional, reminding us to look in unexpected places within and without ourselves for different signs of The Kingdom coming in us and around us. The symbols may jar, challenge us into wondering what it all means; but they are linked - in colour, shape, and underlying message - if we allow ourselves to stop for a moment and prayerfully ponder.



In the relief sculpture the reredos, the figure of Christ at the last supper, is framed, cross-shaped framed, to highlight how His sacrificial submission into His

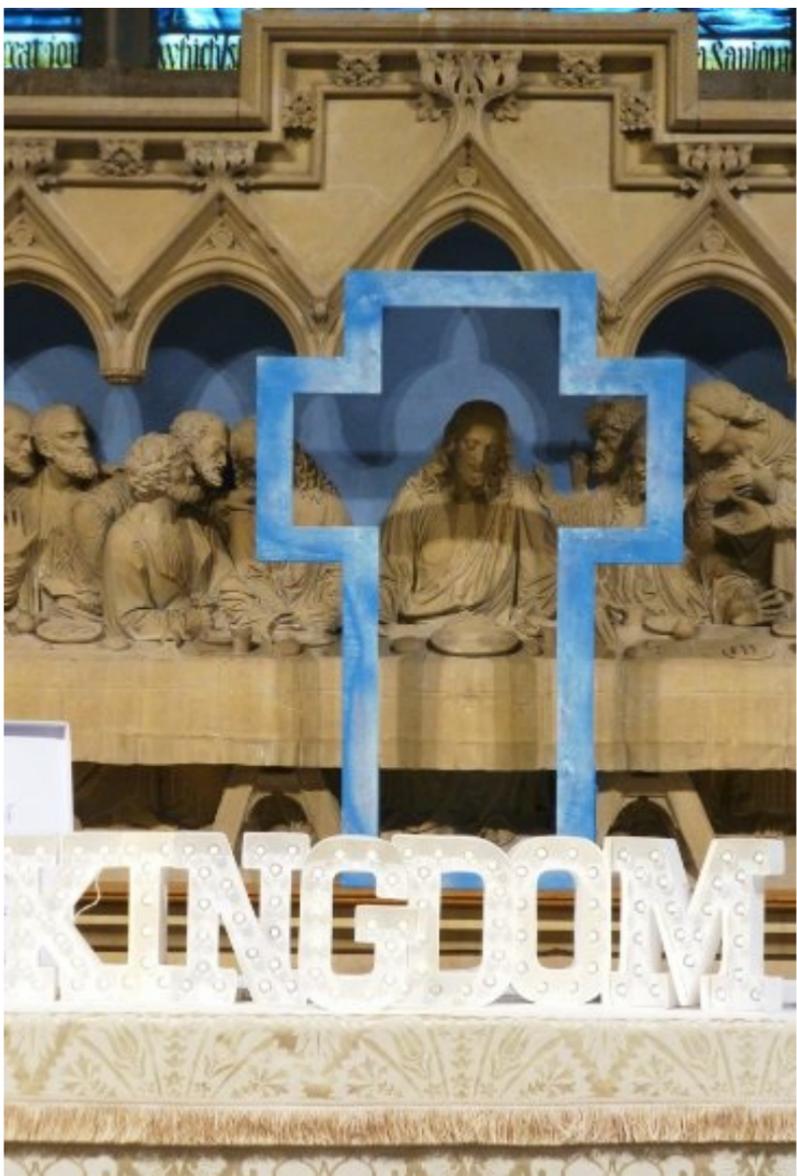
crucifixion and resurrection gives life to the whole world.



A number of clocks with the time approaching midnight tumble towards the U-turn sign.



Jesus' preaching began with a simple message:
 'The kingdom of God is near.
Repent and believe the Good News!



To repent means to ‘U-turn’ away from anything which we know is wrong.

Do you need to 'U-turn' from anything?



To believe means to put our whole trust in Jesus.

The good news is that he loves us and died in our place. This means we can be forgiven and set free. We are offered a fresh start.

Is NOW your time to believe?



If you would like to repent

and believe, here is a prayer you could pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life.

(Take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything in particular that is on your conscience)

Please forgive me, I now turn from everything that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me, so that I could be forgiven and set free.

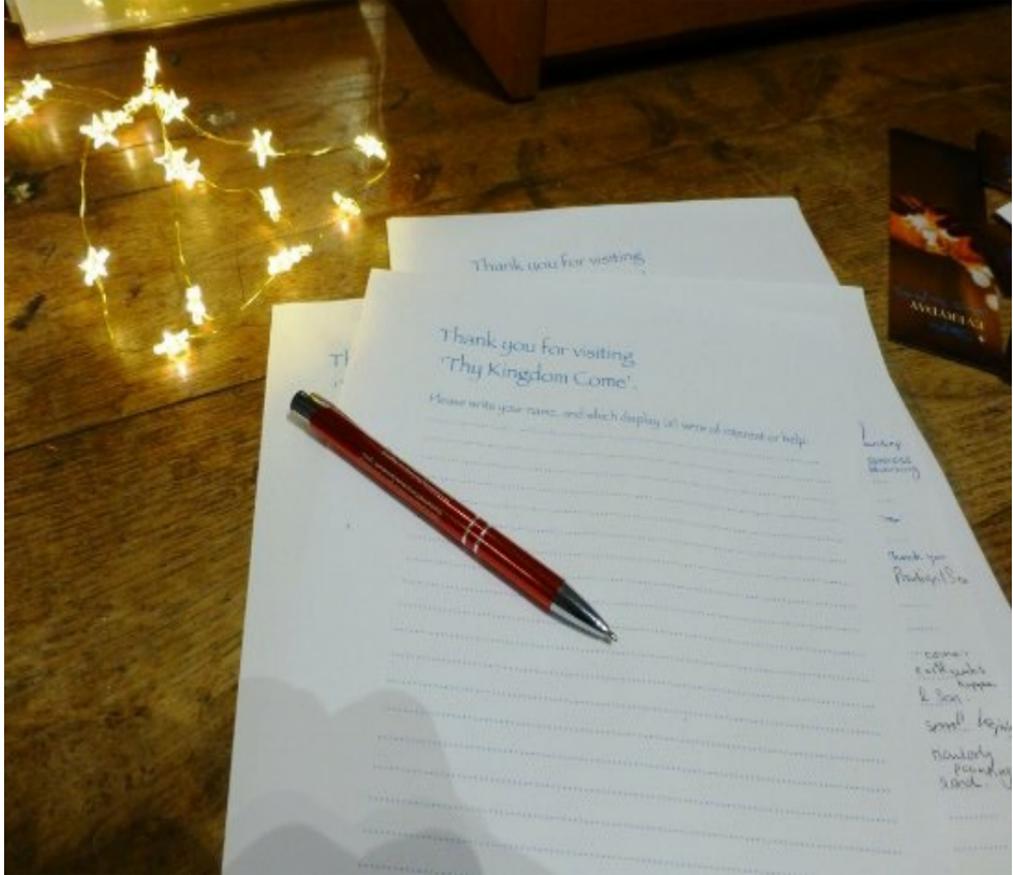
Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Spirit.

I now receive that gift.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you Lord Jesus,
Amen.

Thank you for walking with us.
If you have any comments, please contact us
using...



The Chevening Church Facebook page...

<https://www.facebook.com/cheveningchurch/>

Chevening Church website...

<http://www.cheveningchurch.org/welcome.htm>

or email... nqureshi@chevening.kent.sch.uk

Thank you.



Thank you for taking this journey with us.
We hope to see you again.



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