



**A chance to watch films together.  
An opportunity to discuss the issues raised.  
A time of friendship, food and fun.**

**6th May    The Help**  
**10th Jun   A Separation**  
**1st Jul    The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**  
**2nd Sep   We Need To Talk About Kevin**  
**7th Oct    TBC**  
**4th Nov    War Horse**

**Films start at 5:30pm  
Followed by food, coffee and conversation**

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## Some thoughts on watching films

Stories are the stuff of life. They allow us to reflect on all sorts of issues at a safe distance as we engage with the characters, cry with them, laugh with them, get cross with them and generally share their experience. How they deal with the issues they come across may frustrate us, or give us new insights; cause us to laugh or cry; result in us hurling abuse at the screen or willing there to be a happy ending. And through it all we can encounter God in all sorts of unexpected places if only we take time to look.

### Questions to ask yourself

- ▶ What did you think of the film? What do you like most? Least?
- ▶ Which incidents made you think or feel most strongly? How well did you think the film treated those incidents?
- ▶ What issues did the film raise for you?
- ▶ What character(s) do you most identify with and why?
- ▶ Does the film have any echoes of Christian beliefs or stories from the Bible? Does it support or challenge Christian values?

### Some facts about the film

- ▶ The film is based on the novel *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Moggach. A film based on another of her novels, *Tulip Fever*, is in development. At one point in the film, Jean (Penelope Wilton) can be spotted reading *Tulip Fever*.
- ▶ Deborah Moggach's latest novel is called *In the Dark*, is set in 1916, and is about war, meat and sex.
- ▶ Award winning director, John Madden, is also known for his films *Shakespeare in Love*, *Mrs Brown*, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* and *The Debt*.
- ▶ Judi Dench and Maggie Smith have 3 Oscars and 17 BAFTAs between them.
- ▶ Diana Hardcastle, who plays Carol, is in real-life wife of Tom Wilkinson, who plays Graham.
- ▶ Penelope Wilton was awarded an OBE for her services to drama in 2004. Tom Wilkinson was awarded an OBE in 2005. Judi Dench has been a Dame since 1988 and Maggie Smith since 1990.

## Memorable Quotes

- Sonny** I have a dream, Mummyji - a most brilliant one. To outsource old age.
- Madge** I don't want to grow older. I don't want to be condescended to, to become marginalised and ignored by society. I don't want to be the first person they let off the plane in a hostage crisis.
- Doctor Muriel** I'm afraid you'll be on the waiting list for six months.  
At my age, I can't plan that far ahead. I don't even buy green bananas.
- Madge Graham** But look at the bus. There's not enough room!  
First rule of India - "There's always room".
- Norman** Why must you mock? I just want to feel young again. To feel needed as much as I need, if only for one night. Tell me you don't know how that feels!
- Evelyn** Old habits die easier than we think, and new ones form.
- Jean Graham** What do you see that I don't?  
The way people see life as a privilege and not a right. It teaches me something.
- Evelyn** Day 22 and like Darwin's finches we are slowly adapting to our environment. And when one does adapt, my God, the riches that are available! There is no past that we can bring back by longing for it. Only a present that builds and creates itself as the past withdraws.
- Evelyn Muriel** Nothing here has worked out quite as I expected.  
Most things don't. But sometimes what happens instead is the good stuff.
- Muriel Assistant** But I haven't been kind.  
You are the only one who acknowledges her.
- Graham Official** But I've already filled this form in - many times.  
There is a process. You are making an enquiry and for each enquiry a form must be filled in.
- Graham Official** But it is the same enquiry I make every day.  
And therefore the same form you must fill in.
- Muriel Assistant** But I haven't been kind.  
You are the only one who acknowledges her.
- Evelyn** She knew everything. That he loved another man, that he always would. They had no secrets from each other. That's right, isn't it? What's the use of a marriage when nothing is shared?
- Evelyn** The only real failure is the failure to try. And the measure of success is how we cope with disappointment. As we always must. ... We get up in the morning. We do our best. Nothing else matters. But it is also true that the person who risks nothing, does nothing. Has nothing. All we know about the future is that it will be different. But perhaps what we fear is that it will be the same. So we must celebrate the changes. Because, as someone once said, everything will be all right in the end. And if it is not all right then, trust me, it is not the end.

## The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* is a 2012 British comedy about a group of British pensioners who, for a whole variety of reasons, decide to move overseas to an attractively sounding hotel “for the elderly and beautiful” in Jaipur, India. The film explores the way the different characters respond to their new situation and, in so doing, invites us to reflect on ageing, relationships,

### Embracing new challenges

Some will say that you are never too old to try something new. Others will pronounce that you can’t teach an old dog new tricks. How do you respond to new challenges? Would you have been prepared to take up the challenge of the *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*? Or do we reach a point whereby we just want to hang on to the old and familiar? What about the “final journey” itself? Is it something to be embraced or feared?

### Unfinished business

Graham had spent his life worried about the consequences on Manoj of their relationship and is determined to finally make amends before it is too late. Are there things in your life which remain “incomplete” and which you would like to pursue, however difficult that might be, before it is too late?

### The experience of old age

There is a danger that we forget the skills and experience that older people bring, instead favouring the enthusiasm of youth. Muriel, although seeming a grumpy old lady, has much to offer, not only with her business skills but also her own experience which leads her to be the only one to connect with the hotel cleaner. Have you ever felt that the things you have to offer have been brushed aside? How well are we in the church at rejoicing in and utilising everyone’s gifts?

### Preconceptions

We all have our own preconceptions, both about given situations and about people. They are not always true. The danger is if we let those preconceptions colour our behaviour, as we can then miss out on so much. When have you been pleasantly surprised by the way things have turned out?

### Stale relationships

There are a number of strands in the film that revolve around relationships. Douglas and Jean only remain together through a sense of loyalty while everything else they had between them seems to have vanished. Evelyn talks of her own marriage with regret. Meanwhile, Manoj had a happy and totally open relationship with his wife, despite it being arranged and despite him being in love with another man. Are there ever times when our relationships need to move on, despite the commitments we made to each other, in love, when we began? If so, how do we recognise such moments?

### Christian Hope

As Christians, we believe that ultimately everything is in God’s hands and that, one day, God’s love will truly cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Or to put it another way: everything will be alright in the end, and if it is not alright, it is not the end. How easy do you find it to hold on to that belief?