



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

4th Aug	Silver Linings Playbook
1st Sep	Les Misérables
6th Oct	<u>The Hunt</u>
3rd Nov	Fambul Tok
8th Dec	As it is in heaven
5th Jan	The Angel's Share

**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 Hunt, or *Jagten*, is Denmark's entry into the 2014 Oscar's Best Film in a Foreign Language category. It was nominated for a BAFTA in 2013 but narrowly lost out to *Amour*.
- ▶ The director, Thomas Vinterberg, is currently working on a new adaptation of Thomas Hardy's 'Far from the Madding Crowd'.
- ▶ Mads Mikkelsen, who plays Lucas, won the Best Actor Award when the film was first shown at Cannes in 2012.
- ▶ Along with Lars von Trier, Thomas Vinterberg founded Dogme 95, an avant-garde filmmaking movement. Through producing ten rules to which any Dogme film should comply, they encouraged the traditional values of story, acting and theme and excluded the use of elaborate special effects or technology. In so doing, they reminded people that good films don't always require large Hollywood budgets.
- ▶ Thomas Vinterberg is best known for his award-winning film *Festen (The Celebration)*. It was made in 1998 and was the first film to be made on Dogme principles.
- ▶ The Dogme movement broke up in 2005 but *The Hunt* still bears its mark. It is shot on location, there is minimal use of music and it is filmed in a realistic style without many cinematographic effects.

Memorable Quotes

Lucas: Kissing on the lips is only for Mum and Dad.

Head: A child has told me something about you. I need to talk to you about it.

Lucas: What exactly has been said?

Head: I can't tell you that. Take a few days off. We'll sort this out.

Head: I appreciate your help. I'm not sure how to handle it. Klara has a vivid imagination. But it doesn't seem to be the case.

Ole: No, it doesn't appear that way.

Head: I believe the children. They don't lie.

Lucas: You have to ask your daughter. They don't tell me anything.

Theo: You want me to ask Klara? Is that what you want?

Lucas: Of course! What do you mean?

Theo: Lucas, I know my little girl. She doesn't lie. She never did. Why would she be lying now?

Lucas: I don't know why, but she is.

Lucas: Well! Do you believe me or not?

Theo: I don't know.

Agnes: Marcus, you are such a good boy and you shouldn't pay for his mistakes.

Marcus: But he hasn't done what you say.

Shopkeeper: Tell your Dad that neither of you are welcome here anymore.

Klara: Are you mad at Lucas? He didn't do anything. I just said something foolish. Now all the kids are talking.

Mum: Honey - it's difficult to understand. Your mind prefers not to remember what happened. It's unpleasant to think about but, Klara, it did happen. And we are so happy you've told us.

Bruun: Apparently all the children are telling the same story. They describe your basement, the wallpaper, the colour of the sofa. But, when the police searched your house this morning they discovered what, Marcus?

Marcus: We have no basement.

Bruun: Exactly!

Erik: What does that mean for Lucas?

Bruun: It means there is still hope.

Theo: The world is full of evil. But if we hold on to each other, it goes away.

Lucas: The food's very nice. You can just go home now, if you like.

Theo: No. Actually, I'd like to stay for a while.

The Hunt

The Hunt, made in Denmark in 2012, is a disturbing depiction of how a lie becomes the truth when gossip, doubt and malice are allowed to flourish and ignite a witch-hunt that soon threatens to destroy an innocent man's life.

Lucas is a highly regarded school teacher who is getting over a difficult divorce. Just as things are starting to go his way, his life is shattered when an untruthful remark throws the small community into a collective state of hysteria. As the lie spreads, Lucas is forced to fight a lonely fight for his life and his dignity.

The truth

How do you determine the truth when it is just one person's word against another? How do you decide whether one person's story should be given more weight? And what do you do if someone changes their story? Believe the new version? Or allow for the fact that there may be other reasons at play? What did you think of the way the headmistress dealt with the situation? And how might you have handled it if you had been in charge?

An everlasting stigma

The end of the film raises the possibility that some people will always think there can never be smoke without fire. Is it ever possible to be free from the consequences of such an allegation?

Sexual images

The seeds of the tragedy are sown through Klara inadvertently seeing a sexually explicit image. How do we get that balance between protecting the innocence of children whilst enabling them to grow up into well-balanced, sexually aware adults?

Group hysteria

Various studies have shown that we are less likely to intervene and help our fellow citizens when surrounded by other people. Indeed, people will act very differently when part of a group as opposed to when they are on their own. Once the lie takes hold within the community, it is far easier for people to go along with it than to challenge it. Have you had experience of going along with the crowd and then afterwards, on reflection, wishing you hadn't? How do you think you would have reacted if you had been part of that village community?

Standing up for those we love

There has been much in the news this week about Ed Miliband taking a stand against the Daily Mail after they denigrated his father. In the film, it is Marcus who sticks by his Dad, being fiercely loyal. Such loyalty is important to Lucas and, along with the support of Bruun and one or two others, is what keeps him going. Meanwhile, just the slightest hint that Nadja was entertaining the possibility the accusation might be true was enough for him to throw her out. Have you had moments when you have had to stand up for those you love?

Keeping people safe

How do you keep the people in your charge safe in such a situation as this without making assumptions and without potentially causing more long-term damage either to those who may be being abused or to those who may be being wrongly accused?

Appropriate contact

Giving someone a hug, or holding their hand, or communicating in some way via touch is one of the most natural things in the world and can be very reassuring, particularly to those who are very young (or old). Yet many people are now too frightened to reach out to others in that way. Has society's concerns about the abuse of a few resulted in us becoming too inhibited? Is there an appropriate middle ground?