



**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 The First Grader
4th Nov War Horse

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

**10 Bletchington Road
Islip**

**Further details from Jonathan (Ox 842214)
Email: info@spiritualityonscreen.org.uk
Web: www.spiritualityonscreen.org.uk**

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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's release in Norway was postponed by six months following the terrorist attack on 22nd July, 2011.
- ▶ The initial scenes are from La Tomatina, the tomato festival in Buñol near Valencia.
- ▶ The film is based on the novel of the same name by Lionel Shriver. The book won the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2005.
- ▶ British film critic Mark Kermode (BBC Radio 5 Live) named the film Best Film of 2011.
- ▶ The film's score was composed by Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead.
- ▶ Lionel Shriver was offered a consultative role in the production process but declined, stating that she had "had it up to her eyeballs with that book". She was, however, reportedly pleased with the resulting script.

Memorable Quotes

Eva You don't look happy.

Kevin Have I ever?

Franklin Hey, Kev. Listen buddy, it's easy to misunderstand something when you hear it out of context.

Kevin Why would I not understand the context? I am the context.

Eva So, how's school going?

Kevin It's going.

Kevin You know, you can be kind of harsh sometimes.

Eva You're one to talk.

Eva Haven't you ever wished you had somebody else around to play with?

Kevin No.

Eva You might like it.

Kevin What if I don't like it?

Eva Then you get used to it.

Kevin Just because you're used to something doesn't mean you like it. You're used to me.

Eva Why would you have something like that? (*computer viruses*)

Kevin I collect them.

Eva Doesn't it a weird thing to collect?

Kevin I don't like stamps.

Eva Then what's the point?

Kevin There is no point. That's the point.

Eva Why?

Kevin I used to think I knew. Now I'm not so sure.

Thoughts from the Bible

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

But now, this is what the Lord says - he who created you and formed you. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

For it was you, O God, who created my inmost being; you who knit me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)

We Need To Talk About Kevin

We Need to Talk About Kevin is a 2011 British-American film directed by Lynne Ramsay and adapted from Lionel Shriver's novel of the same name. It tells the story of teenager Kevin Katchadourian who is in prison after committing a massacre at his high school at the age of sixteen. His mother, Eva, a once-successful travel writer, lives alone in a run-down house and works in a mall travel agency in a town near the prison where she visits Kevin. She looks back at her memories of him growing up as she tries to cope with the anger and hostility of her neighbours, who know her to be Kevin's mother, and struggles to come to terms with her son and the monstrous things he has done.

The film concludes on the second anniversary of the massacre, when Eva visits Kevin in prison. Kevin is anxious because his transfer to an adult prison is imminent. Eva asks him why he committed the murders and he responds that he thought he used to know, but is no longer sure. Eva gives Kevin a hug and says her good-byes while he is taken away.

The causes of evil

Where does evil come from? Why do you think Kevin turned out the way he did? What would you have done if you had been Eva bringing up Kevin?

Light in the darkness

The light continues to burn in the darkness, and the darkness will never put it out. What slithers of grace, or moments of redemption, do you see in the film?

Guilt by association

Eva's neighbours are very unsympathetic to her and to what has happened. How do you respond to the way they treat her? Is it fair? Is it understandable? What steps could be taken to try and bring some sign of hope and reconciliation into that community?

Projecting our own image

One of the underlying themes in the novel is the idea of the "unreliable narrator". Both the book and the film tell things from Eva's point of view. Do you think she is a reliable witness? How much of the story is being filtered through her particular viewpoint - the things she wants to see, the things she wants the outsider to see in order to shift blame. And how much can we ever understand something if we only have one person's version of events? Conversely, how honest are we to others about the things we do, the way we act and our inner most feelings?

Playing the part

Throughout, Eva attempts to play the part of "mummy" as defined by popular culture: the cooing, gooey, all-encompassing, motherly image. Unfortunately, this model of motherhood doesn't leave much room for aberration, such that any rejection by the child becomes an indictment on the mother's very existence. When Kevin refuses to play along, Eva's whole world crashes around her and her value as a person comes into question. Are our images of motherhood too rigid? How do we encourage young Mums to create a relationship with their children which brings out the best in both of them?