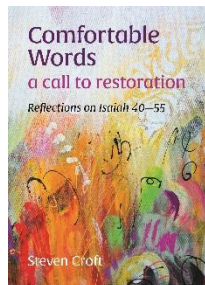


# PRESS RELEASE

from The Bible Reading Fellowship



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## Comfortable Words A call to restoration Reflections on Isaiah 40–55 Steven Croft

Pb, ISBN 978 1 80039 105 5, £7.99

During the long months of lockdown in 2020, Bishop Steven Croft used the time he would normally have spent preparing and delivering sermons to create a series of podcasts on Isaiah 40–55. This attractively presented new book, published on the anniversary of the first lockdown, contains the text of those nine popular podcasts in which the author reflects deeply on Isaiah's enduringly relevant 'comfortable words'.

Bishop Steven writes: 'The prophet's themes are powerful and relevant to the journey through Covid-19 and beyond. There are songs of great comfort and consolation; songs about leadership, especially the leadership of God's people; songs about facing difficulty and danger; and songs of purpose and about our calling and the rhythm of our discipleship.'

'The songs will be relevant to the life of the church for many months to come, as we emerge from the lockdown period in both church and society and have the opportunity to reset and rebuild for the future.'

Published in association with the Diocese of Oxford, these are comfortable words the whole world needs to hear afresh in this season. The author concludes: 'Navigating through the post-Covid world will not be the work of a few weeks or months. It will take many years to come to terms with what has happened, to grieve for those who have died, to rebuild the economy of the world and, hopefully, to learn how to reset our societies in line with the vision of the kingdom of God we find in the whole book of Isaiah. As we engage with that task and live through these years, we will need to return to deep springs and wells of life, to come to the waters, in the words of Isaiah 55, again and again to be nourished and fed and to find again these comfortable words.'

### About the author

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft is the Bishop of Oxford. He has a passion for mission and evangelism and for finding creative ways of sharing the gospel, and is the co-author of the Emmaus and Pilgrim courses, both of which seek to help people engage with the Christian faith.

For more information, click [here](#).

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