

Lenten Seminars 2021

Distorting truth and exploiting fear for political power and profit

We live in an age when the very idea of objective truth is mocked and ignored by actual and aspiring political leaders worldwide. We live in a time when lies and misinformation are used to manipulate and exploit the fears of citizens by stirring up suspicion and hatred of 'The Other'. Corporations use half-truths to prey on insecurity and fear to maximize profits without regard to people's ultimate welfare. The 'wisdom' of the crowd, expressed through social media echo chambers, has usurped rigorous research and genuine expertise is discredited by those pursuing power and profit.

How can we respond to these challenges?

How can we know and understand what is true?

How can we overcome fear?

How can we protect ourselves and those whom we love from unscrupulous liars and manipulators, without falling into the paranoia of conspiracy theories?

These are some of the questions that La Côte Anglican Church will explore in two Lenten Seminars, to be conducted via Zoom on Wednesday 17 March and Wednesday 24 March, starting at 19:30.

Here are details of the programme:

Wednesday 17th March — Distorting truth and exploiting fear for political power

Speaker: Chris Talbot, Consultant, Education in Emergencies

Wednesday 24th March — Distorting truth and exploiting fear for profit

Speaker: Dr. Nigel Rollins, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, WHO, and former Chair, WHO Research Ethics Committee, Geneva

On each evening, Chris and Nigel will introduce their respective themes and then open up the meeting for discussion in plenary and breakout groups. Each session will close with an opportunity for questions and discussion in plenary.

The Zoom link for the two seminars is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89768747927?pwd=a2JzOENQdEJKRVF4NlcyMS9DWDVKUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 6874 7927

Passcode: 888224