

## All Meetings Below at St Chad's

# Sunday Nov. 12th 6.30 - 9.30pm

Come and watch the film and share your initial reactions. Running Time: 133 minutes,

Classification: 12

## Sunday Nov. 19th 7.30 - 9.00pm The God of Surprises

The Shack presents a picture of God which many people will find surprising. Come and Discuss this aspect of the film.

### Sunday Dec 10th 7.30 - 9.00pm The God who suffers

The Shack explores God's response to suffering in a uniquely thought-provoking way.

#### Film review of The Shack, by Andrew Maclean at The Christian Film Review:-

Come and Discuss this aspect of the film.

The Shack is the highly anticipated, big screen interpretation of the best selling book of the same name. Protagonist 'Mack' played by Sam Worthington goes through the horror of losing his youngest daughter during a camping trip. She disappears and her body is never found. Just a bloodied dress in a shack high in the woods.

The family is torn apart in the aftermath of this tragedy and Mack pushed yet further from an already distant God he seems to barely believe in.

Some time later Mack is called back to 'The Shack' via a mysterious letter which appears in his letterbox.

What follows is a fantastical journey of a man finding his way out of the smothering depths of sorrow and into the bosom of God.

By Christian film standards this was a high budget film at \$20 million. This money is apparent from the wonderful cast to the captivating visual effects. The script treads a delicate line between the horror of child abduction and murder and any temptation towards saccharine sweet Christian answers to such horrors. Just as you think the film is going to be cutsie it swerves back into authenticity.

Academy award winner Octavia Spencer plays 'Papa' (God) with a genuine kindness and affection. Jesus (Avraham Aviv Alush) is open and funny and a friend while Sam Worthington's Mack is honest and broken.

The film feels like a Christian weekend away. You meet friends, grow close and feel changed by the process in a really short time. The film addresses hard hitting subjects and asks how we can forgive the unforgivable. It asks the audience to look where they need to forgive and pulls their heart strings enough to make them cry but not enough to make them shrug with cynicism.

Some will struggle with the theology but the message of God's unreserved love and forgiveness will reach down into the depths of the audience. The pre-screening audience wept throughout.

I honestly feel this is the best Christian film since The Passion of The Christ.



# The Support Day offers understanding, encouragement and support to any parent who has suffered the death of a son or daughter in any circumstance and at any age.

The worst loss a parent ever has to face is the death of a son or daughter.

Children are 'not supposed to die'. But sometimes they do – and the extent of pain and devastation, even isolation, experienced by parents when a child dies is unimaginable.

Whether you are coming on your own or as a couple, you'll be able to meet others who understand the heartache you are going through. Many have found that these events can make a huge difference in helping them cope both now and as they think about the future.

#### Saturday 18th November 10.00am-5.00pm St Peter's Centre. Heswall, Wirral, CH60 0DZ

Revd Graeme Skinner (vicar at St Marys Upton) and Mrs Phillippa Skinner will be speaking at this event. They lost their own son, Jim - aged 21, 10 years ago.

Cost including lunch and refreshments: £22.00 per person

Further details from: https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/bereavementsupport-events/bereaved-parent-support-day or Telephone:029 2081 0800

The website also has very helpful page of frequently asked questions, please take a look.

If you know someone who has lost a child through any circumstances from still birth, to illness, to drugs etc etc. then please invite them to consider booking for this day. They do not have to be part of our church family. Anyone of any faith or none is very welcome.