



## **Parish of the Nativity of the Lord**

Book+Circle – July 2025

### **No Truth, No Justice by Audrey Edwards**

#### **About the Book**

A David and Goliath story of a mother's successful struggle against public authorities to secure justice for her son, murdered while in their care.

For Christopher: *page V: "Not so the innocent; though he should die before his time, rest shall be his.... With him early achievement counted for long apprenticeship; so well the Lord loved him. From a corrupt world He would grant him swift release. Book of Wisdom, iv 7, 13 and 14*

#### **About the meeting**

Our July 2025 Book+Circle meeting was very special not only because the author, Audrey Edwards, RIP, had been a parishioner and member of our Book+Circle but also because Paul Edwards, her husband, joined our meeting and shared with us some background to the book. He gave us a little more insight to Audrey and to the impact the tragedy had on their lives. Paul explained that Audrey had an 'inner urge' to write the book and was pleased to see lots of positives come from the tragedy. The support from the Churches and from the Community was a great blessing. We all felt the dignity from this quiet, unassuming couple who had never given up on getting to the truth for their son.

#### **How did the book make us feel?**

- We all agreed this was a very powerful book, it raised different feelings for the Book+Circle members from shock, sadness, frustration through to hope and strength
- We recognised in this Book the tenacity Audrey & Paul had to not give up over the years, to keep on going, despite all the setbacks.
- And the inner strength Audrey showed in taking the time to write this book on such a difficult, personal journey
- The dignity she and Paul showed in dealing with the challenges along the way was incredible
- We all felt amazement and respect for Audrey that she could meet and feel a sense of forgiveness towards the family involved in Christopher's death. We felt this reflected Audrey's profound faith and trust in God
- Some of us were shocked at how the situation could have happened and then how the prison service/police lied right from the start about why Christopher was put into a cell with a known, dangerous man. And they continued to ignore the family's request for the simple truth.
- We were equally angry and sad reading about what the family – Audrey, Paul and Clare - all had to go through after Christopher was killed, when he should have been receiving care
- There were several important issues that Audrey highlighted in the book such as compulsory medication that were also part of the 'story'. And a 'startling' theme throughout the book was how hard it is for ordinary people to get justice, especially when huge organisations and money are involved.
- We felt incredibly sad reading No Truth, No Justice about the 'waste' of life, the World should have been such a nicer place for the Edwards family

### **What did we think were the book's main strengths?**

- Writing the book was a tremendous achievement, and we hoped that it had helped Audrey and Paul by putting down all the steps they had gone through into a straightforward, honest book
- It was very well written by the fact we all found it a compelling read, some of us couldn't put the book down as we kept wanting to read that the mistakes were finally acknowledged
- The opening chapters introducing the reader to Christopher as a person, as somebody's loving son, gaining insight into his personality and struggles and then to find out how his life ended and the impact that had on his family, was heartbreaking
- The book did well at getting across 'the reality' of life, and that behind several 'legal' decisions are often individuals who may/may not be misguided
- We did smile when we read the lovely comments made by some of the people who had known Christopher personally, such as the chap from the Chess club and the lady/people who knew him from the language classes – this gave a great insight into Christopher's character
- The Book got across the number of different 'agencies' that get involved and it felt like Audrey and Paul had to walk through 'treacle' to get things resolved
- The layout of the book makes it an 'easy' read. It was clearly a well-documented book, and we admired Audrey's and Paul's persistence and meticulous order and organisation of all the data they amassed to get justice for Christopher
- The Book title was very appropriate and the lovely imagery on the front of the book, that is on Christopher's grave, gave a feeling of 'spiritual hope' despite the tragedy written about within the book covers.

### **What did we think were the book's main weaknesses?**

- Apart from having to follow the details of so many different agencies etc involved in getting to the truth ... there were no other weaknesses

### **Would we recommend this book to others?**

Yes – although it is not an easy read. We thought this was a book everyone across the UK should read to understand how the 'systems' behind many decisions work – often protecting the wrong people

Anyone concerned in the issues of justice or politics might find this book an important 'reality' check

This book highlights the ever-increasing need for services and support for those with mental health issues

**Next Book+Circle** - Small Meeting Room at St Joseph's

**Thursday 4 September @ 8.00pm** – Crooked Lines by Holly Michael