

## Book Reading Group 2025/6

The Group works on the basis of reading books recommended by a group member, and sharing thoughts when moved to comment. Any book on the current 5 book list can be obtained for anyone who wants to join the group for that particular book or on a longer term basis. Contact Brian McGinnis on [dunaigh2@btinternet.com](mailto:dunaigh2@btinternet.com) (Ignore the underlining!) If you feel moved to comment on what you have read, you can Email Brian.

The current reading list is below. Feel free to suggest additions.

*Between now and Advent (end of November):* **Divine Windows: seeing God through the lens of science: David Gregory (published BRF)** For some people, Scientific certainty replaces Religious speculation. For some people, anything that seems to challenge the literal truth of their religious text is false and to be rejected unread. But there are plenty of people who happily respect science and religion, and recognise that both are about discovering and learning. "God made the whole of creation in 7 days" really doesn't do God or the Bible or observed reality justice! As one reader says of this book: "(Re)discover a deeper vision of Christ – not just as the Lord of Sunday mornings, but as the one in whom stars burn, tectonic plates shift and every breath holds divine mystery." Our God isn't too small; but our vision of God very often is too small. God close up and personal, but also the God of billions of years and billions of miles. A "wow!" book.

*December and January:* **Donkey Roads and Camel Treks: a pilgrim's guide to Advent: Gemma Simmonds (published BRF):** Takes you from December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup>, but – particularly given Christmas business – a good companion into the new year. Described by one reader as "A wonderful, witty and deeply personal journey through Advent". If you don't manage any other Advent special, try this one. It will be more pleasure than penance. Each day has Bible text, commentary, reflection, and prayer. Please don't beat yourself up if you find some days just too busy with your own and other people's business. My suggestion is make an asterisk on the missed session, and come back to it in January. The whole thing is think about material – read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest. It isn't quick glance stuff. It is powerful fun.

*Spring 2026:* **Reflected in Nature: Finding God in the created world: Reflections by Claire Daniel and Illustrations by Jamie Poole:** 40 sections, and a lot to be said for doing a section a day, on days when you can make time. Some sections you will want to read twice. This is what I would call a beautiful book. It is on the agenda of the ECO Group as well as the agenda of the Book Reading Group. It is resource book for life, rather than a read and move on book... though it may well help you to move on. It captures both the attitude of the small child, for whom everything is new and therefore interesting; and the attitude of the elderly person, for whom resting and observing is easier to handle than rushing from one urgent task to another urgent task. We have taken on board (however incompletely, and maybe reluctantly) the idea of God in each other. Should we be surprised at the idea of

finding the Creator in His Creation? Have we taken on board the humility and responsibility aspects of being co-creators (rather than destructors)?

*Maybe June to October:* **Attentive to God: Being aware of God's presence in daily life:**

**Tony Horsfall (published by BRF)** If you have dabbled with (or are very much into) yoga or other physical/mental/spiritual disciplines, you will take this in your stride. I confess to not having got beyond the "getting comfortable" stage for any activity, including prayer and Bible reading... and to being at an age where the arthritis not hurting has to be balanced against being so comfortable that I fall asleep...even with a full cup of coffee in my hand. I can only advise spread out the reading of a potentially useful book; and take away from it what might be helpful to you regularly or occasionally. I doubt that any technique is guaranteed always to make you feel more aware of God: no magic short-cuts here. But then every "magic solution" in human history has been found wanting.

I was rather taken with the idea of "playing small", to do big. As the caddy said to the would-be golf pro: "It won't guarantee a hole in one; but maybe holding the club the right way up would be a good start."

*November to December:* **Dreaming of a Green Christmas: Sustainability and creation care for busy people: Olivia Warburton (published BRF)** If you are fed up with being told how to reduce your carbon footprint, maybe give this book a miss. However, if you are anxious to join in the usual Christmas routines while minimising the damage (and perhaps reducing the un-necessary costs), there are useful suggestions here. A book of tips, rather than a reading book. It does make you think.