

## **Book Reading Group 2018 Programme**

The Group meets monthly on a Thursday as a house group: 7.45 p.m. for refreshments, 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. for discussion of that month's book. The books chosen by the group are not necessarily specifically "religious"; but they usually deal with faith issues – including God in creation and God in human (personal and collective) history.

**January: "Winter"** in the Wildlife Trust Seasonal Anthology series: poetry and prose, much of it recent but including treasures from past years. This series is attractively produced, and a sheer delight to read. Whatever your favourite season, this will confirm your prejudice and whet your appetite for the other seasons. We are richly blessed in our British seasons. Non-season countries are really missing out.

**February: "Musings of a clergy child"**. This clergy child kept her faith, though she found it very difficult to preserve her identity and maintain her privacy, growing up in a vicarage. She was always threatened with being parish property with her private life owned by the parish, and her home sometimes treated like the parish hall. Quite hard to smile politely on Sunday morning to the lady who had walked in while you were on the loo on Saturday evening.

**March: "The God of my life: a devotional colouring book"** – we thought it right to sample the adult colouring book craze. The pictures are attractive, but not all of us found that we had the same patience with coloured pencils that we have with words. Very soothing, even inspirational, if you are that way inclined.

**April: "Spring"** in the Wildlife Trust Seasonal Anthology series. Memories of what has been, promises of what is to come.

**May: "Pilgrim Journeys"**. Pilgrimage probably ideally involves physical movement, and indeed a bit of effort and discomfort; but you can do a pilgrimage "in your head". The latter is valuable of age or disability or circumstances rules out extended travel. Not sure that contemplation and competitive pilgrimage go together. Even if you are not personally attracted to pilgrimage, it is good to know why others are.

**June: "Summer"** in the Wildlife Trust Seasonal Anthology series. The four books in this series make an ideal present for anyone you really want to treat, secure in the knowledge that an anthology doesn't require the reader to sit down and chomp through the whole book. Pick up and put down, dip in and enjoy when time allows.

**July: C S Lewis's "Narnia" Series:** Margaret's choice, and we all enjoyed reading one or more volumes in this classical children's series. Narnia is a splendid way of exploring really deep issues in a relaxed way. The author takes the reader into his confidence, and into an imaginary world in which earth challenges can be entered into from a new perspective. For

anyone with children or God-children, the series has just been re-published in a beautiful format. Expensive, but worth every penny.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>: “Walking with Biblical Women of Courage:** Women often seem to take a back seat in the Bible, often not even being named – while the men may attract a long list of the names of their male ancestors. This is not a “women’s lib” book; but it does balance things out a bit by giving the stories of women with a lot to teach all of us.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>: “Autumn”** in the Seasonal Anthology series. For some of us, Autumn is THE series: in sights, in sounds, in flavours and in smells; and in its combination of memories and promises. Again the mix of new material and memorable favourites from times past.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>: “Advent for Everyone: A Journey with the Apostles” by Tom Wright:** Tom Wright rarely disappoints. Apostles are “sent”, and the modern jargon use of “sent” perhaps adds to rather than diminishes our understanding of the Greek way of describing the mission of the first Apostles – which is also our mission and commission.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>: “The Writes of the Church”** – a humorous reflection on parish life and the odd people who make up a parish community. Maybe just a bit exaggerated, but still recognisable. “Who said anything needed to change?” Perhaps we might also have room for a few specifically seasonal favourites too, along with Christmas (alcohol-free of course) refreshments.