

Recent Acquisitions at St Andrew's Church Library

Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes

by Kenneth E. Bailey.

From a childhood in Egypt to a career working within the Middle East, Bailey has established himself as the premier cultural interpreter of the life of Jesus. Using insights from cultural anthropology and skilled exegesis, suddenly the Gospels come alive as the Middle Eastern stories they are. This work will continue to be a timeless resource into the world of Jesus.

Eternal Life: A New Vision

by John Shelby Spong.

Spong writes, "The biblical character of Job asked: 'If a man (or a woman) dies, will he (or she) live again?' My answer is 'Yes!' Now let me take you on the journey that I have walked, which took me both beyond religion and even beyond Christianity as it is traditionally understood, but a journey that has brought me to a new vision of eternity, to the place where I can give that 'yes' answer to Job's question with both conviction and integrity."

The Liturgical Year: The Spiralling Adventure of the Spiritual Life

by Joan Chittister.

Beginning at Advent and rolling through to the following November, the church's liturgical year represents nothing less than the life of Jesus Christ - he whose life and attitudes Christians strive to emulate. It proposes, year after year, to immerse us repeatedly into the sense and substance of the Christian life until, eventually, we become what we say we are: followers of Jesus all the way to the heart of God.

Virtue Reborn

by Tom Wright.

What am I here for? How should I behave? Most Christians, faced with those questions, think in terms either of 'rules' or of 'living authentically'. Both lead to problems. In this book, Tom Wright proposes instead that we inhabit the ancient tradition of virtue once again - but from a thoroughly Christian, not just a philosophical perspective. The virtues are the strength we need to get to our goal - a goal he sees in terms of the whole new creation, with humans renewed to look after it.

A History of God

by Karen Armstrong.

The idea of a single divine being - God, Yahweh, Allah - has existed for over 4,000 years. In this fascinating, extensive and highly original account of the evolution of belief, Karen Armstrong examines western society's unerring fidelity to this idea of One God and the many conflicting convictions it engenders. A controversial, extraordinary story of worship and war.

Barclay's Guide to the New Testament

by William Barclay --- 225.6 BAR

This book-by-book guide ably and engagingly introduces beginners to the essential purpose and message of each New Testament writing. From the Gospels through to Revelation, Barclay paints a vivid picture of the circumstances that gave rise to each book, offering numerous illuminating insights into the meanings of key words and enabling his readers to follow the central concerns.

When I Talk to You: a Cartoonist talks to God

by Leunig. --- 242 LEU

The prayers contained in this book were created for publication in Melbourne's Sunday Age newspaper. Leunig had originally been asked to draw a weekly cartoon, but the ethos of the time led him to believe that a spiritual message might be more appropriate. The simple, wacky, heart warming prayers collected in this book are the result.

Cherishing the Earth: How to Care for God's Creation

by Martin & Margot Hodson. --- 261 HOD

The Hodsons provide the integrated wisdom of a scientist and a pastor who have discovered that sustainable living requires spiritual as well as technological resources. Every system on Earth has been affected by human actions. Lively stories of people who have found positive ways to respond are combined with thoughtful theological commentary.

The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshipping Together

by Howard Vanderwell (ed.) --- 264 CHU

Should we try to hold the generations together when we worship? Is it even possible? Led by pastor Howard Vanderwell, nine writers offer their reflections on issues con-gregational leaders need to address. The thread that connects these contributions is the belief there is no greater privilege for Christians than worshipping God, and there is no better way to do that than as an intergenerational community in which all are important.

Paul for Everyone: the Prison Letters (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon)

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by Tom Wright --- 227 WRI

Making use of his true scholar's understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Tom Wright captures the verve and sparkle of these letters. Paul wrote the letters while in prison facing possible death, but their passion and energy are undimmed, showing Paul's longing to see young churches growing in faith.

God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?

by John Lennox --- 215 LEN

Lennox, Reader in Mathematics at the University of Oxford, is particularly interested in the interface of science, philosophy and theology. In this 2009 edition, he evaluates the evidence of modern science in relation to the debate between the atheistic and theistic interpretations of the universe, and provides a stimulating, fresh basis for discussion.

Collins Atlas of Bible History

by James Pritchard --- 220.9 COL

With more than 100 full-colour maps, timelines and expert explanations, this super-lative reference work will enable readers to more fully appreciate and understand the Bible and its stories. Detailed biblical references accompany each period of biblical history, conveying a tangible sense of the land, events, and people portrayed in the Bible.

The Archaeology of the Bible

by James Hoffmeier --- 220.9 HOF

Taking the reader on a fascinating journey around the archaeological remains of the Ancient Near East, Hoffmeier provides a review of Bible history and examines the role of archaeology in understanding the biblical text.

Strong Was Her Faith: Women of the New Testament

by J Ellsworth Kalas --- 225.92 KAL

Kalas examines the Scriptures to see what we can learn about and from eleven important women, and how they fitted into and shaped the New Testament. A study guide is included for group use.

Acts for Everyone: Part 1: Chap 1-12 & Part 2: Chap 13-28

by Tom Wright --- 226 WRI

This 2-volume commentary adds to others in this much appreciated series. Wright, in an accessible and anecdotal style, shows how the book of Acts builds on Luke's gospel, laying out the continuing work and teaching of the good news.

Paul for Everyone: the Pastoral Letters 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

by Tom Wright --- 226 WRI

Writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Tom Wright helps us to see the pastoral nature of these three letters. He shows how Paul is anxious first that those who profess the faith should allow the gospel to transform the whole of their lives and secondly that teachers of the faith should know how to build up unified communities.

The Jesus Way: a Conversation in Following Jesus

by Eugene H Peterson --- 232 PET

This is a fresh and urgent evaluation of contemporary Christian spirituality. Many who understand themselves to be followers of Jesus, nevertheless embrace the ways and means of Western culture as they go about their daily living. Here Peterson explores the ways in which we can and cannot authentically follow Jesus.

Come and See

by Joy Cowley --- 242 COW

Cowley's exciting new book provides 64 reflective meditations. Each includes a scripture verse, thought for the day and photograph. This book is ideal for use in worship, small group devotions and for personal reflection.

A Rainbow Coloured Cross: Personal Prayers with Easter Supplement

by Ruth Etchells --- 242 ETC

This book will provide comfort and affirmation for those experiencing the pain, struggle, freedom and joy of the Christian life. Richly imaginative, it offers morning and evening prayers for a month and features a wide range of Christian writers.

Fuel for the Soul: A New Zealand Anthology of Poetry and Prose

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compiled by the Albury Pleasant Point Presbyterian Parish --- 242 FUE

This book consists of 59 stories and poems contributed by people throughout New Zealand. It is a collection of inspirational writing designed to take the reader on a spiritual journey. One of the contributors is a member of our parish.

Seven Sacred Pauses: Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day

by Macrina Wiederkehr --- 242 WIE

Using scripture, poetry, reflections, personal stories, and quotes from a rich array of spiritual teachers, Wiederkehr helps readers become more attuned to living in the present moment.

Chrysalis: The Hidden Transformation in the Journey of Faith

by Alan Jamieson --- 248.2 JAM

Christians often find their faith changing and are troubled by this. Kiwi pastor and sociologist Jamieson helps readers to see that radical changes need not mean the end of personal faith.

Called for Life: Finding Meaning in Retirement

by Paul Clayton --- 248.2 CLA

Clayton, a United Church of Christ minister, uses examples from his own experience and from others, laity and clergy, to explore retirement and the three components of our calling: our identity, our gifts, and our occupation.

Exploring Prayer

by Sue Mayfield --- 248.3 MAY

Prayer is a journey: a journey into God and a journey to the deepest, hidden level of ourselves. This book is divided into two parts: What is prayer? and How to Pray?

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Gift of Years

by Joan Chittister --- 248.4 CHI

Chittister calls us to cherish the blessing of aging as a natural part of life that is active, productive, and deeply rewarding.

Growing Spiritually with the Myers-Briggs® Model

by Julia McGuinness --- 248.4 MCG

Though as Christians we share a common faith, we also represent a glorious and diverse range of personalities. The way we grow spiritually will reflect these differences. Knowing ourselves better can save us frustration as we seek ways forward in company with those who may be rather different from ourselves.

Promise of Paradox: a celebration of contradictions in the Christian life

by Parker Palmer --- 248.4 PAL

In this probing and heartfelt book, the distinguished writer, teacher and activist examines some of the challenging questions at the core of Christian spirituality.

Tarore and her Book

by Joy Cowley --- 248.5092 COW

Here, just published, is the story that was told to the children in church by Pip Ferguson in 2010 about Tarore and her copy of Luke's gospel, a taonga which later came into the care of Pita Kenana. Luke's gospel was translated into Maori by William Williams and printed at Paihia in 1835. Only 100 copies were printed and Tarore was given one at the mission school she attended. The impact of that gospel when it was stolen after Tarore's tragic death is one of New Zealand's great faith stories.

Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighbourhood Church is Transforming Faith

by Diana Butler Bass --- 261 BAS

Bass' 3-year study of 50 mainline Protestant congregations found that they are not only growing in numbers, but also discovering new spiritual vitality.

Space for Grace: Creating Inclusive Churches

by Giles Goddard --- 261 GOD

50 years ago Goddard's church was almost exclusively white, middle class and male-led. As the local community became more diverse, change was inevitable. This highly readable book examines why inclusion matters theologically and how it can be put into practice in a parish context.

I Sold my Soul on E-Bay

by Hemant Mehta --- 261.2 MEH

Mehta is the "e-Bay atheist", the nonbeliever who auctioned off the opportunity for the winning bidder to send him to church.

Light and Love

by Doreen Riddell --- 275.4 RID

This book tells a 100 year long love story of those who travelled to North India on behalf of the Presbyterian Church.

They Like Jesus but not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations

by Dan Kimball --- 277.3 KIM

Kimball tackles the six most common objections emerging generations have with church and Christianity.

Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt

by Anne Rice --- FIC RIC

In Israel, in the turbulent first century, a baby is born to a humble Jewish family – but to a great destiny.

To Bless the Space Between Us: Book of Blessings

by John O'Donohue

O'Donohue (1956-2008), Irish teacher and poet, draws on Celtic spiritual traditions to create words of inspiration and wisdom for today.

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The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts

by Gary Chapman. --- 248.4 CHA

This is the book referred to by Ron at the end of last year. While directed primarily to couples, it is part of a series. What you read here can be related to a variety of relationships. Chapman explains the five languages and the advantages of couples understanding one another's love languages. It includes profiles which help you to determine your primary love language. We all need to review our relationships from time to time and Chapman's five love languages provide practical help.

What Good is God? On the Road with Stories of Grace

by Philip Yancey. --- 261 YAN

Philip Yancey is loved throughout the world for his honest and insightful writing. As a speaker he has travelled the world and has been asked to speak in many challenging situations. In this book he takes ten destinations to which he has been invited. He tells the compelling story behind each invitation and what he said in response to each situation. He begins with the Virginia Tech Campus Massacre and ends with the Mumbai terrorist attack. Inspirational writing.

An In-Law or an Outlaw: The Complete Guide to in-Law Relationships for Mothers and Daughters

by Bronnie Bennett. --- 248.4 BEN

Mother and daughters in-law have one thing in common - the son and husband who unites them in the relationship of being a family. They need to learn how to fit best into each other's lives and share him. Bronnie has created a delightful and light-hearted look at what makes a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law's relationship special, how to avoid the pitfalls and develop a relationship of deep appreciation of one another.

Brave New Church: What the Future Holds

by Richard Kew. --- 261 KEW

Futurologist, Richard Kew, a shrewd Anglican trendwatcher, believes with good reason that we need to think and talk together in a radical way about the future of our churches, which face an uncertain future. He identifies key challenges ranging from globalisation and the greying of churches to the internet and suggests how these challenges can become opportunities. While first published in 2001, Kew's ideas still provide a helpful focus for the church today.

Belief: Readings on the Reason for Faith

by Francis Collins. --- 239 BEL

"Is there a God?" is the most central and profound question that humans ask. Doctor and geneticist, Collins defends the reason for faith in this provocative collection. He guides us through the writings of many of the world's greatest thinkers - preachers, philosophers, poets, scientists - past and present. This essential companion proves once and for all the rationality of faith. Collins also wrote "Language of God" which many at St Andrew's have appreciated.

The Externally Focused Quest: Becoming the Best Church for the Community

by Eric Swanson and Rick Rusaw. --- 261 SWA

Eric Swanson and Rick Rusaw continue to challenge the church to look outward - to join Jesus on his mission in a hurting world, and to show and share the love of Christ. If we are serious about being the church for our community, this book will help us to make it happen.

Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia for All That Is

by Joan Chittister & Rowan Williams. --- 241.4 CHI

"A soul-stretching book by two contemporary prophets. Alleluia for Joan Chittister and Rowan Williams for this inspiring and timely message of hope in the midst of so much fear and violence. A faith filled and prophetic perspective on the dark and hurting spaces in our world and lives. We are both invited and challenged to pick up our pieces, dry our tears, shake ourselves down, and continue the journey with renewed hope and joy. Alleluia indeed." - Edwina Gateley, women's advocate.

Transforming Christian Theology: For Church and Society

by Philip Clayton. --- 261 CLA

"How can an important book of theology be so delightful to read? How can a top-drawer theologian have such a high level of respect for normal Christians that they are seen as partners in the work of transforming theology? How can Philip Clayton make the idea of big-tent, progressive Christianity so believable and attractive that one can imagine Evangelicals, Charismatics, Mainliners and Roman Catholics having a meal and joyfully discussing it together? There's only one way to find out - open up this book and start reading now." - Brian D. McLaren