



Together in Hope – Resources for Christian Faith Today

Sponsored by

PCN Britain, Modern Church, St Marks CRC, Free to Believe

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This series of resource books is the result of a number of organisations working together to give encouragement and hope to those who seek a credible Christian faith for the twenty first century.

We hope that these books will be helpful to those individuals and groups, inside and outside the Church, who are exploring matters of faith and belief. The books are kept deliberately short in length, divided in to 4-5 page chapters with questions for individual or group reflection. It is hoped that such resources will be of help to churches of different traditions, especially when looking for study courses. Four books have been published with three more in the pipeline.

We are grateful to our authors and encourage others to offer their services.

We offer a discount for purchases of six or more copies. To take advantage of this contact togetherinhope.editor@gmail.com

If you wish to contact the editorial group, please email togetherinhope@googlemail.com

The current convenor is Adrian Alker

Titles

Walk the Jesus Walk by John Simmonds, £3.50 + £1.05 post and packing

The book covers six sessions. The aim is to give encouragement and hope to those who seek a credible Christian faith for the twenty first century. 'Walk the Jesus

Walk' is ideally suited for groups of people, such as a teenagers group or a new enquirers group who would appreciate a straightforward way of learning about Jesus of Nazareth and be inspired to follow in his way. The author adds, "My conviction is that the real Jesus has been taken away from us, so that we rarely catch a glimpse of the charismatic teacher and prophet who lived in Palestine about two thousand years ago. The Jesus Christ of the Church often bears little resemblance to its founder. Is it possible to discover Jesus as he was before the Church got its hands on him? Maybe it's impossible, but one has to try. "

Jesus Then and Now by John Simmonds, £3.50 + £1.05 postage and packing.

This is the second in the series being published by Progressive Christianity Network Britain, Modern Church, Free to Believe and St Marks Centre for Radical Christianity. 'Jesus Then and Now' is for those who want to dig deeper into the historical account and contemporary relevance of Jesus' message.

We hope that both books will be seen as complementary and a useful source of study for individuals and groups.

Christmas: Ancient Meanings, Modern Faith by Adrian Alker, £3.50 + £1.05 Postage and packing

The third book in the study guide series explores the place of myth within the gospels and how its meaning can contribute to the shaping of a progressive Christian faith. Using the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke, Adrian Alker highlights their distinctive contributions and considers how the themes which emerge can be expressed through liturgy at Christmas. Each of the five chapters ends with some questions to promote group discussion and the book ends with a list of resources for further study.

Adrian Alker: "I hope this book will confirm the significance of the ancient stories of the nativity of Christ for our world today, as we explore in mind and heart the profound meanings of Christmas for contemporary disciples."

Examining the Meaning of the Resurrection by John Shelby spong, £3.50 + £1.05 Postage and packing

In addition to his books, Bishop Jack Spong writes a weekly newsletter on-line and offers his readers a question and answer dialogue. These essays reflect Jack's commitment to the promotion of a Christian faith credible for this third millennium. From May to July 2011, Bishop Spong published six essays under the overall title: 'Examining the Meaning of the Resurrection', which revisit his thoughts and convictions about the significant meaning of the Resurrection for today's pilgrims. It is these essays which form the chapters of this book. They bear the stamp of a continuous dialogue with the on-line readers and should be understood in this framework. As usual we have appended to each chapter some questions to stimulate such discussion and thought.

Christianity and Feminism by Sonya Wratten £3.50 + £1.05 Postage and packing

What does it mean to be a woman in 21st century Britain? Writing for people who seek to make sense of the Christian faith through contemporary thinking, Sonya Wratten explores some of the issues of feminism today and what a credible progressive Christian feminist theology might look like in light of such reflection. Her book looks briefly at the relationship Christianity has had with the development of feminism, what shape feminist theology has taken in the present time and what the progressive directions of the future might be in terms of furthering radical theology in this area. As well as using the theological sources of scripture and tradition, she draws on our personal experiences and the cultural context in which we live

As with all the study guides, there are questions at the end of each chapter for group discussion. Sonya J Wratten was a trustee of PCN Britain for three years and is currently Priest in Charge of All Saints, Bedford.

Bring Honest to God ed Adrian Alker £4.95 + £1.50 Postage and packing

This book contains transcripts of the five talks given to the joint PCN Britain and Modern Church conference marking the 50th anniversary of John Robinson's book, *Honest to God*. The conference took place in November 2013 at The Hayes, Swanwick. There is an introduction by the editor, Adrian Alker, and with each talk, a series of questions suitable for group discussion as well as personal reflection.

The speakers were

- Prof Elaine Graham of Chester University is the Conference Chair and will begin the conference with a talk entitled "Being Honest".
- Richard Holloway, formerly Bishop of Edinburgh and well known for his writing and broadcasting as well as his work in the arts will give an after dinner talk on the theme "Being Honest about God".
- Canon Dr Martyn Percy, Principal of Ripon Theological College, Cuddesdon will invite the conference to be Honest about the Church.
- Prof James Crossley, from the Biblical Studies Department of Sheffield University will speak to the title: "Being Honest about Jesus".
- Simon Barrow, Co-Director of Ekklesia, will encourage discussion on topical ethical themes, with an invitation to be Honest about Ourselves.

Rethinking worship? By Jan Berry £3.50 + £1.05 postage and packing.

For many who seek a credible Christian faith in this twenty-first century, participation in public worship raises challenging questions about the nature of God, the use of language and the very practice and purpose of acts of worship.

Much has been written about prayer and worship over the centuries and there are many helpful insights and resources about liturgy. Yet the difficult issues about language and meaning in worship remain an obstacle for many who would wish to be part of a worshipping community.

Jan Berry addresses these issues in a gentle and yet comprehensive rethink about Christian worship. This booklet will hopefully encourage discussion about the ways in which worship can speak, with integrity, to progressive Christians and all who question, search and yearn for authentic spiritual experiences which speak to them of the love and compassion seen in Jesus.

Jan Berry is a minister of the United Reformed Church working in theological education at Luther King House in Manchester. She teaches various aspects of practical theology, including liturgy and worship, and has a particular interest in feminist liturgy and spirituality. She has written and published prayers and hymns for use in worship, and is keen to encourage others in the process of creating liturgy.

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