

## Toward Holy Ground

Margaret Guenther

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd (19 Feb 1996)



This excellent book about spirituality in the second half of life is useful for everyone who wishes to make best use of the opportunities this offers, both in refocusing their personal lives and also in offering clues for the way ministry can develop and flourish rather than stagnate or be stifled. Margaret Guenther is an American Episcopal priest who writes with wisdom and sympathy out of her own personal and professional experience. There are particularly stimulating chapters on facing death and ministering with the aged.

### A Few Extras

**A year lost and a year found** - [Michael Mayne](#) Also **Sunrise of Wonder** (an account of a year he spent getting over a mental breakdown - and then went on to be Dean of Westminster).

**The Wine Danced** - [Angela Ashwin](#) (much the best commentary on the Eucharist I have ever read).

**Journey for a Soul** - [George Appleton](#) (a man of profound spiritual awareness).

**Adam** - [Henri Nouwen](#) (an account of the year he spent caring for Adam in a L'Arche home).

**I'm OK You're OK** - [Thomas Harris](#) (a glorious puncturing of all that pomposity that normally goes with vocation!)

**Reluctant Leader** - [Shaw & Douglas](#) (helps turn natural hesitation into a confident use of leadership gifts).

# Exploring Your Christian Vocation

## SUGGESTED READING & BOOK REVIEWS



## Introduction

This booklet provides a list of recommended reading for those who are exploring their Christian Calling and want to know more. Some of the books listed have been reviewed, this is indicated by the page number where the review can be found.

Please do write a review of a book you have read. If the book is one of those listed that's great, if it is not that's even better. There is great value in being able to help others make an informed choice. Please email your review to [nkent@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:nkent@glosdioc.org.uk)

We would like to acknowledge and thank the generous people throughout this diocese who have contributed to this booklet by sharing their thoughts and insights by writing the reviews.

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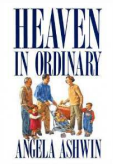
**Department of Mission and Ministry**  
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**Gloucester**  
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## Heaven in Ordinary: *Contemplative Prayer in Ordinary Life*

[Angela Ashwin](#)

**Paperback:** 96 pages

**Publisher:** McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd (Mar 1985)



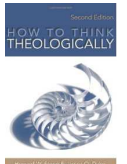
This book offers a rich, but gentle, introduction to contemplation, which may resonate with women who are struggling to find prayerful space amid the turmoil of family life. It works best as daily readings; 37 short chapters, each combines a quote from a wide variety of spiritual writers (eg T S Eliot, Augustine of Hippo, Mother Mary Clare, Wendy Beckett, Martin Luther) with a few paragraphs of realistic common sense.

## How to Think Theologically

[Howard Stone and James Duke](#)

**Paperback:** 144 pages

**Publisher:** Augsburg Fortress; 2nd Revised edition (27 Mar 2006)



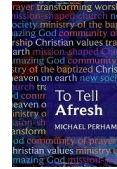
Some books about theological reflection give the impression that it is a bit of a dark art. Howard Stone and James Duke start from the assumption that every Christian is already a theologian, whether they realise it or not. All Christians reflect theologically on God and the world – theirs is always “faith seeking understanding”. This short book is a very readable introduction to the subject, and includes a useful glossary, as well as a guide to further reading at the end of each chapter.

## To Tell Afresh

Michael Perham

**Paperback:** 144 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK (2010)



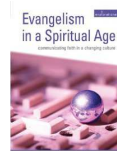
Bishop Michael explores some of the main areas of Christian belief and life in an articulate expression of the faith of one who charges others, and strives himself, 'to proclaim afresh in each generation' the essentials of Anglican faith. He does this through the eyes of the arts rather than the sciences (there is no engagement, for instance, with cosmology in his chapter about God and creation), drawing on his own personal experience and unafraid to grapple with the challenges of twentieth century history, the flight from God or the search for safe certainties. Those exploring the richness of Anglicanism will find much to stimulate them – there is a classically Anglican exploration in the chapter on values; and all who are exploring ministerial vocation could benefit from the chapter on ministry (even though, sadly, it doesn't have anything to say about authorised lay ministries). A short and accessible book.

## Evangelism in a Spiritual Age: *Communicating Faith in a Changing Culture*

Stephen Croft, Yvonne Richmond & Nick Spencer

**Paperback:** 192 pages

**Publisher:** Church House Publishing (1 Jan 2005)



The authors present some qualitative research into the spiritual walk of people "beyond the fringe" of the church(es). They then consider this theologically and practically, give examples of ways of relating which have worked here in England.

Some of the examples are specifically Anglican, and might only adapt as far as mainstream churches, but much is of use to any congregation willing to 'think outside the box'.

## Page General Vocation

- 6 **Awakened to a Calling: Reflections on the Vocation of Ministry** - A. Svennungsen & M. Wiginton (ed) (Abingdon Press 2005)
- 6 **Called or Collared** - F. Dewar (new ed. SPCK 2000)
- Directionally Challenged** (New Hope 2007)
- Diverse Gifts** (Canterbury Press, 2006)
- 7 **Exploring Your Vocation: Stop Working and Start Living** - M. Bird (new ed. Authentic Lifestyle 2002)
- How to Find Your Vocation** - J. Adair (Canterbury Press 2000)
- I Think it's God Calling** - K. Price (Bible Reading Fellowship 2015)
- 7 **If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat** - J. Ortberg (Zondervan 2001)
- Invitations: God's Calling for Everyone** - F. Dewar (SPCK 1996)
- Listening to Your Life** - J. Mourant (Canterbury Press 2016)
- Live for a Change** - F. Dewar (DLT 1988)
- 8 **The Nativity** - A. Jordan (BBC DVD, 2011)
- 8 **The Wild Gospel: Bringing Truth to Life** - A. Morgan (Monarch Books 2004)
- This is Our Calling** - C. Richardson (SPCK 2004)
- 9 **Vocation: Exploring Call and Identity** - M. Magdalen (Grove booklet S105)
- 9 **Daily Reflection for Highly Effective People** - S. Covey (Simon & Schuster)

## Ordained Ministry

- Becoming Reverend: A diary** - M. Woodcock (Church House Publishing 2016)
- Being a Deacon Today** - R. Brown (Canterbury Press 2005)
- Being a Priest Today** - C. Cocksworth & R. Brown (Canterbury Press 2002)
- Dynamic Local Ministry** - A. Bowden & M. West (Continuum 2000)
- 9 **Growing Leaders** - J. Lawrence (BRF 2004)
- Local Ministry** R. Greenwood & C. Pascoe (ed) (SPCK 2006)
- 10 **Ministry and Priesthood** - A. Redfern (DLT 1999)
- Ministry in Three Dimensions** - S. Croft (DLT 1999)
- 10 **Priests in a People's Church** - G. Guiver (ed) (SPCK 2002)
- 11 **The Christian Priest Today** - M. Ramsey (SPCK 1972)
- 11 **The Fire and the Clay** - G. Guiver (ed) (SPCK 1993)
- 12 **The Life and Work of a Priest** - J. Pritchard (SPCK 2007)
- The Vicar's FAQ** - C. Symcox (Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd 2013)
- 12 **Here I am: Reflections of the ordained life** - R. Giles (Canterbury Press '02)
- The Curate's Guide: From Calling to First Parish** - J. Witcombe (Church House Publishing 2009)

## Reading List - Use the page numbers to locate a review of the book.

Page

- The Widening Circle** - G. Tomlin (SPCK 2014)  
**Transforming Priesthood** - R. Greenwood (SPCK 1994)  
**What Clergy Do** - E. Percy (SPCK 2014)
- 13 **Wisdom & Ministry: The Call to Leadership** - M. Sadgrove (SPCK 2008)
- 13 **Woman at the Altar: Ordination of Women in the Roman Catholic Church** - L. Byrne (Continuum 1994)

### Various Ministries

- Anglican Religious Communities Year Book** Current ed. Canterbury Press  
**Bridging the Gap: Reader Ministry Today** - G. Kuhrt (CHP 2002)
- 14 **Called to Awaken the Laity** - J. H. Oak (Christian Focus Publications 2009)
- 14 **Fit for the Purpose** – I. Aveyard, D. Muir & others (St. John's Ext Studies 1997)
- 15 **Living on the Border of the Holy** - W. Countryman (Morehouse 1999)  
**New Habits** - I. Losada (Hodder & Stoughton 1999)  
**On Call** - Stuart Buchanan (Bible Reading Fellowship 2001)
- 15 **Reader Ministry Explored** - Rowling/Gooder (SPCK 2009)  
**Set my People Free** - R. Ethells (Fount 1995)
- 16 **The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction** -  
E. Peterson (Wm. B Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1993)
- 16 **Total Ministry: Reclaiming the Ministry of All God's People** - S. C.  
Zabriskie (Alban Institute 1995)

### Church of England

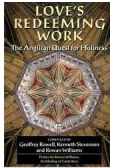
- A Passionate Balance** - A. Bartlett (DLT 2007)  
**Anglicanism: A Very Short Introduction** - M. Chapman (OUP 2006)  
**Hope for the Church** - B. Jackson (CHP 2002)  
**How to be an Anglican** - R. Giles (Canterbury Press 2003)
- 17 **Love's Redeeming Work: the Anglican Quest for Holiness** - G. Rowell, K.  
Stevenson, and Williams (OUP 2003)
- Mission-Shaped Church** - Working Party (CHP 2005)
- 17 **Mission-shaped Parish: Traditional Church in a Changing World** – Ed. P.  
Bayes, T. Sledge (Church House Publishing 2009)
- Praying for England** - Coakley/Wells (Continuum 2008)
- 18 **To Tell Afresh** - M. Perham (SPCK 2010)  
**What Anglican Believe** - D. Edwards (Continuum 2002)

## Love's Redeeming Work: the Anglican Quest for Holiness

Rowell, G., Stevenson, K. and Williams

**Paperback:** 824 pages

**Publisher:** OUP Oxford (23 Oct 2003 )



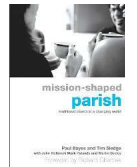
This book is a treasury of the sheer breadth and depth of all that is best in Anglicanism. Compiled by three leading bishops, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, it includes extracts from more than 250 Anglican writers from the Reformation right down to the present day. Arranged chronologically, each extract has a brief introduction setting it in context. Three longer but still very readable essays introduce each broad historical period, while a general introduction draws out some of the common themes. Overall, this is both a handy reference book for the student and a joy for the more general reader to dip into at random.

## Mission-shaped Parish: Traditional Church in a Changing World

Editors: Paul Bayes and Tim Sledge

**Paperback:** 160 pages

**Publisher:** Church House Publishing (2009)



This book is one of a series following up Mission-Shaped Church. Others in the series are Mission-shaped and Rural, Mission-shaped Spirituality, Mission-shaped Youth, Mission-shaped Children. With much talk today about Fresh Expressions of Church Mission-shaped Parish explores in a very positive but also challenging way the potential for the local parish church to be a focus of mission in the community, affirming a traditional Church of England approach to mission and evangelism. A number of different people have contributed to the book which serves as a call to the local church to ensure that mission is at the heart of all it is and does.

## The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction

Eugene Peterson

**Paperback:** 179 pages

**Publisher:** William B Eerdmans Publishing Co; New edition (1 Dec 1993)



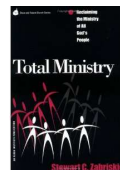
Eugene Peterson is well known for having produced *The Message*, a strikingly contemporary translation of the Bible. This refreshing and radical book is based on his long experience as a Presbyterian minister in the USA. In it, he argues that clergy should be “unbusy” (living by faith not by works), “subversive” (undermining the kingdom of self and building the kingdom of God) and “apocalyptic” (shaking the church out of complacency into the reality of the presence of God). The sole tasks of the minister are to pray, to preach and to listen – and everything that gets in the way of this fundamental calling should be ruthlessly excised. Challenging stuff!

## Total Ministry: Reclaiming the Ministry of All God's People

Stewart C Zabriskie

**Paperback:** 124 pages

**Publisher:** Alban Institute (Aug 1995)



An excellent Alban Institute booklet outlining the new vision of shared ministry developed in the Diocese of Nevada. Taking principles used by Roland Allen, a Victorian missionary in China the Bishop has grown a local ordained ministry to serve remote and small communities. The method of doing this has released the ministry of the whole people of God and ably equipped them for mission. In particular a new ability to listen to the Spirit has meant that the demands of the organisation have been rejected in favour of a stream-lined and fluid outward-looking witness and service.

Since this way of working demands an entire change of focus at all levels and much letting go of ‘traditional’ models I’m not sure who would be able to use the model it presents. It leaves you wanting to be able to apply it though.

Page

### Spirituality

**Being Disciples** - R. Williams (SPCK 2016)

18 **Evangelism in a Spiritual Age: Communicating Faith in a Changing Culture** - S. Croft, Y. Richmond, N. Spencer (Church House Publishing 2005)

**God of Surprises** - G. Hughes (BRF 1993)

19 **Heaven in Ordinary: Contemplative Prayer in Ordinary Life** - A. Ashwin (McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd 1985)

19 **How to Think Theologically** - H. Stone, J. Duke (Augsburg Fortress 2006)

**How to Pray** - J. Pritchard (SPCK 2002)

**Oh God Why?** - G. Hughes (DLT, 2000)

**The Return of the Prodigal Son** - H. Nouwen (DLT 1994)

**The Shack** - W. P. Young (Hodder & Stoughton 2008)

20 **Toward Holy Ground** - M. Guenther (Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd 1996)

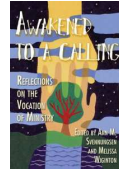
**Why go to Church** - T. Radcliffe (Continuum 2008)

**Velvet Elvis** - R. Bell (2006)



## Awakened to a Calling Reflections on the Vocation of Ministry

Editors: Ann M Svennungsen & Melissa Wiginton



**Paperback:** 80 pages

**Publisher:** Abingdon Press (2 Mar 2005)

Collection of sermons written to encourage the vocations of young Americans.

Somewhat quirky. Interesting culturally. Fascinating different styles of preaching – with unusual use/interpretation of scripture. Culturally bound – not sure who this would appeal to or who would benefit from it. Needs to be heard not read. Excellent sermon by Brueggemann on 'Sub-version'.

## Called or Collared?

Francis Dewar



**Paperback:** 128 pages

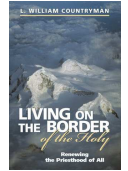
**Publisher:** SPCK Publishing; 2nd Revised edition (22 Sep 2000)

Francis Dewar is an ordained clergyman in the Church of England as well as a trained counsellor. Although this book is written for individuals who are thinking about ordination in the Church of England, it is potentially helpful for any individual who is trying to fulfil their God-given potential as a human being. Dewar's thesis is that each individual has a "personal call" from God which is unique to that individual. This personal call is distinct from the call to the role of ordinand and may or may not be compatible with the role of a parish minister.

As most of the book is actually devoted to how one can find one's 'personal call', the potential audience for this book is much wider than the title suggests. This book could be a resource for anyone facing life changes, not just vocational.

## Living on the Border of the Holy: Renewing the Priesthood of All.

L. William Countryman



**Paperback:** 205 pages

**Publisher:** Church Publishing, Inc., 1 Feb 1999

Stimulating theological treatise on the nature of priesthood. Looks at fundamental priesthood of humanity, priesthood of all believers and sacramental priesthood. Attempts to restore equality of laity & clergy. Makes good suggestions for discernment of vocations and training of the ordained. Suggests that all can exercise priestly ministry by introducing one another to the 'hidden' mysteries where we touch the holy. Chapter 5 investigates models of priesthood. Chapter 6 explores problems with current priesthood.

Thought-provoking and challenging. Accessible and well written but requires commitment to stay with it. Not a quick read, but a valuable one. Suitable for more academic candidates.

## Reader Ministry Explored

Cathy Rowland & Paula Gooder



**Paperback:** 176 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK (September 23, 2011)

Excellent book on Reader Ministry which would be very useful for those discerning a call to Reader ministry, Readers and Readers in Training. Divided into three sections it looks at the shape & history of the order, exploring & discerning a call and subsequent training, current use & deployment of Readers including Fresh Expressions. Very well written and readable. Lots of excellent case studies, stories and questions for reflection. Good section on practical matters. Accurate and useful biblical material. Good sections on rules and regulations, and a good review paper in the appendices.

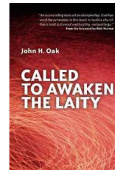
Very good; list of questions for discernment, categories to explore (page 42-49), criteria breakdown of questions to reflect on (pgs 92-6).

## Called to Awaken the Laity

John H Oak

**Paperback:** 320 pages

**Publisher:** Christian Focus Publications (1 Nov 2009)



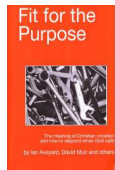
Comprehensive study in the principles of discipleship training for equipping and releasing the laity and the subsequent blossoming and flourishing of churches. Presbyterian – from the mega-church stable, in Seoul. Has some sharp and pertinent things to say re the role of church leaders in relationship to the empowering of the body. Biblical and technical.

## Fit for the Purpose

Ian Aveyard, David Muir & others

**Paperback:** 128 pages

**Publisher:** St. John's Extension Studies (1997)



Workbook and short course on Vocations from St John's, Nottingham.

Starts by looking at how all are called to life, faith and service – then onto roles for a few within Christian ministry, and then guidance, stereotypes and testing a call. Can be backed up by tutorial support and a vocational weekend. Good cameos – especially pg 60 (not being recommended).

Good section on Ordained Pioneer ministry, youth ministry, religious communities. A Call to full time ministry is presented as very demanding – could frighten people (it frightened me!)

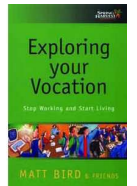
Useful material for vocation groups, sermon prep, short talks, and as a workbook for someone with time to explore fully.

## Exploring your Vocation: Stop Working and Start Living

Matt Bird

**Paperback:** 96 pages

**Publisher:** Authentic Lifestyle; New edition edition (18 Oct 2002)



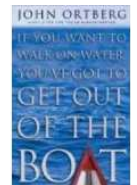
Spring Harvest resource book in five sections: The Journey, God's Worldview, Your Self-understanding, God's Will, Opportunities. Each section has a short introduction, two cases studies and a group session using clips from a contemporary film (eg. Bridget Jones' Diary, Shrek etc.) The biblical material follows the life and vocation of Joseph, with connections to the New Testament. Explores mostly being a Christian at work. Very useful section on websites. Good starter book – out of print(!)

## If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat

John Ortberg

**Paperback:** 228 pages

**Publisher:** Zondervan (30 Jan 2001)



Full of real life examples, down to earth and easy to read. By the end of the book you will be challenged and reviewing your current choices. Broken into digestible chapters, this book may give Christians lacking confidence to live more actively for God the boost they need. You will breathe sigh's of relief as you realise that you don't need to be a supersonic Christian, but simply walk as you are, trusting God will do the rest if you focus on Him. Ortberg should help you feel refreshed and encouraged, challenging where you need it, but affirming you too. Wanting to do more for God but struggling to be motivated? John Ortberg's style will get you thinking.

## The Nativity

Tony Jordan

**BBC DVD, 2011**



This was first broadcast on television, in parts, during the week before Christmas 2010. It engages movingly and realistically with the vocation of Mary. But, there is also a strong sense of the unexpected challenges to be faced by Joseph, the Magi and a poor shepherd, as well as by Mary's parents and her cousin, Elizabeth. Tatiana Maslany who plays Mary, says on her blog:

“ I loved that Mary wasn't written as a perfect saintly being ..... she was very real, very fallible – a girl with innocence, confusion and doubt and also great courage and faith. She was complicated .... she was ordinary, faced with an extraordinary journey.”

## The Wild Gospel: Bringing Truth to Life

Alison Morgan

**Paperback:** 352 pages

**Publisher:** Monarch Books (September 2004)



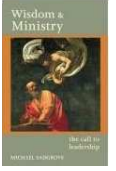
When Archbishop Rowan read this book he was so excited by it he asked Alison Morgan who is theologian/writer for Resource, an organisation dedicated to the renewal of the local church, to address Archbishop's Council. The book offers an overview of Christian faith from the New Testament to the present day while at the same time showing the relevance of the Christian faith to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A good book to enthuse anyone in their deepening Christian discipleship.

## Wisdom & Ministry: The Call to Leadership

Michael Sadgrove

**Paperback:** 112 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK Publishing (2 April 2008)



Readable and well written book primarily on priesthood. Takes the premise that we too often expect our priests to be prophets, when the gift they really need for day to day ministry is wisdom.

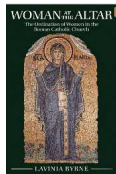
Sadgrove uses examples from the Wisdom literature to show how the gift of wisdom informs and shapes ministry. Uses the examples of Solomon, Joseph, Daniel & David, and material from psalms, Job, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs together with mediaeval and modern examples from Durham. Particularly good chapter on joy.

## Woman at the Altar: Ordination of Women in the Roman Catholic Church

Lavinia Byrne

**Paperback:** 142 pages

**Publisher:** Continuum (10 Nov 1994)



The author is now a Roman Catholic former nun. She was a nun when she wrote this, in response to changes in the theology and practice of priesthood in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. She draws heavily on her own engagement with, and experience of Mary. The striking cover picture is of a 6<sup>th</sup> century mosaic of Mary, dressed in a clerical style of robe, including a stole. At one point the author states 'Hers (Mary's) was the flesh Jesus first took, blessed, broke and gave.' p118.

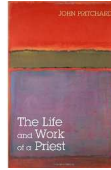


## The Life and Work of a Priest

John Pritchard

**Paperback:** 160 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK Publishing (21 Jun 2007)



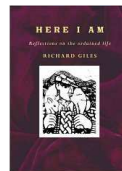
Accessible, well written, engaging account of priesthood. In three sections: The Glory of God, The Pain of the World, The Renewal of the Church. It feels up to date and written by someone with considerable experience on the ground. There are good cartoons and humour. Personally I think it is essential reading for those exploring a call to priesthood and very likely to become a classic. Could be very good to recommend to those who have been ordained for a while and need a 'refresher course'!

## Here I am: Reflections of the ordained life

Richard Giles

**Hardback:** 100 pages

**Publisher:** Canterbury Press Norwich (28 Jun 2006)



I found *Here I am* a very inspiring book, although it gave a realistic and sometimes overwhelming description of the different aspects of ordained ministry the tone of the book was always upbeat. The book is split into 12 sections based on the text from the ordination service and tackles each one deliberately not using the words 'calling' or 'vocation'. I loved the author's use of quotes and stories and all of the chapters were thoroughly readable. I found this book enthusing me about how I could use my gifts to fulfil the tall order in front of me, rather than being scared off. Although *Here I am* is only a short book it distils lots of ideas into just a few pages for each section and definitely gives the reader a lot to think about. I think I will return to this book several times, particularly on days where I need a bit of motivation!

## Vocation – Exploring Call and Identity

SI05

Margaret Magdalen

**Paperback:** 28 pages

**Publisher:** Grove booklet

A good introduction to Vocation which looks at vocation from a variety of angles. Good section on 'being', and discernment. Good biblical material and theology. Contemporary examples and excellent quotations.

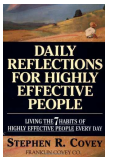


## Daily Reflection for Highly Effective People

Steven Covey and Simon and Schuster

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster

Covey has a lot to say about what you really want to do in life, setting your priorities and identifying a personal mission statement. Based on spiritual and holistic values and he is not promoting efficiency at the cost of quality of life and relationships but encouraging people to see that what really matters in life is what you should be sure to make time for.



## Growing Leaders

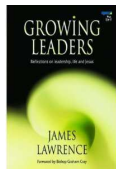
James Lawrence

**Paperback:** 288 pages

**Publisher:** BRF (The Bible Reading Fellowship) (23 April 2004)

This is a great tool for reflecting on professional ministry and also for keeping yourself sane! Be warned, this is not a quick read after which you can learn simple lessons and move on. Each step of the book demands reflection to get the most out of it. This is an excellent read. A tangible and practical assessment of the key elements of Christian leadership, aimed at those in Christian leadership. The book does not shrink away from some of the difficult questions, such as:

- Am I doing what I should be doing?
- Have I got what it takes?
- Have I got the balance right?

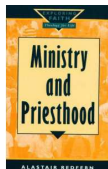


## Ministry and Priesthood

Alastair Redfern

**Paperback:** 142 pages

**Publisher:** Darton Longman & Todd (June 1, 1998)



Accessible - short study book. Good for use in groups or with those taking time to explore a calling to priesthood. Ten short chapters which could stand alone. Balanced use of scripture, tradition and reason. Each chapter introduces a topic then gives an example from scripture and from the work or example of a famous Christian. Followed up with exercises and questions for reflection (quite challenging).

Imaginative use of material – examples include *Pride and Prejudice*, Maude Royden, Evelyn Underhill, Charles Gore, Roland Allen, Wesley Carr, Robin Greenwood.

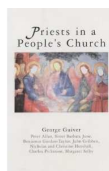
Definitely Anglican. Slightly dated in places (models of ministry). Useful Ministry Questionnaire (pg 127)

## Priests in a People's Church

George Guiver and others

**Paperback:** 158 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK (2001)



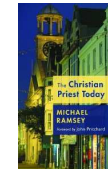
This is a collection of essays by many of the same writers who contributed to *The Fire and the Clay*, and builds on their earlier book. Priesthood is about being rooted in the mystery of God and helping others search for this mystery. The priest helps other Christians become more fully those who love and serve God. The book touches on different aspects of what it means to be a priest and how they are viewed by society at large. The final chapter suggests that the role of the priest is to offer up all the complexity of everyday life as an offering to God.

## The Christian Priest Today SPC 1985

Michael Ramsey

**Paperback:** 128 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK (February 19, 2008)



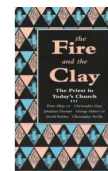
This book by Michael Ramsey former Archbishop of Canterbury consists of the addresses he gave to those about to be ordained. Though in some ways it is quite dated, it is a true classic exploring in an imaginative and attractive ways different perspectives on the life of the ordained person. The chapter on the priest as a Person of Prayer (Man of Prayer when he delivered that address) I personally found enormously fruitful and challenging.

## The Fire and the Clay: The Priest in Today's Church.

Peter Allan and others

**Paperback:** 150 pages

**Publisher:** SPCK (1993)



This book was written by six priests all associated with the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. It may perhaps appeal especially to those coming from a more Catholic spirituality, but all those thinking about what it means to be a priest today will find things to ponder in it. Priests are first and foremost human beings, created like the rest of us in the image of God; and they are called to serve the life of the church which is the body of Christ. Their calling is not so much to do certain things as to be people who reflect the likeness of Jesus. The second part of the book explores some of the implications of this approach for the training and formation of priests.