



# PUBLICATIONS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

## COVID OPENING

Our churches are open for private prayer on Monday and Thursday afternoons  
St George's 2.00-4.00  
St John's 3.00-5.00

## SERVICES VIA ZOOM

### Sunday

10.00 Eucharist  
6.30pm Evening Service

Morning prayer Mon-Fri 9.15  
Mon, Wed, Fri 4.30  
Evening Prayer  
Tues, Thurs 9.30  
Night Prayer (Compline)



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
HOLLAND ROAD

## OUR CONGREGATIONS

As you may be aware, the United Benefice of Holland Park has many talented people in its congregations at St George's and St John the Baptist. We have writers, poets, musicians and artists as well as those who contribute to the commonweal in other ways. Everyone's contribution is valued.

Recently a number of them have published books, poetry or articles which might be of wider interest to you, your friends and relations. Book launches haven't really happened, and so, while you might be aware of some of these, it's possible you've missed out on what is available.

This newsletter brings together details of some of these – apologies if there are any omissions.

It may be that you're looking for something to read during this current lockdown, or perhaps thinking of Christmas presents. Some publications are available direct from the church, others from local or on-line booksellers, and some direct from the publishers. Except where by donation as noted, the Benefice does not receive any commission from the authors.

Amazon is, of course, many people's first stop for buying books. You might like to know that a new consortium of independent bookstores has recently launched:

<https://uk.bookshop.org/>

The publications here are in roughly alphabetical order of the author – there seemed to be no other fair way to let you know what is on offer.

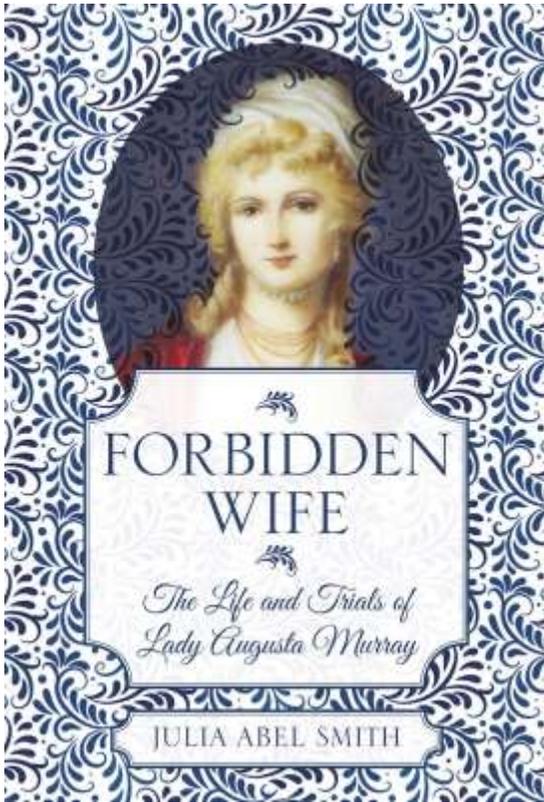
Enjoy these publications, and marvel at their talented writers.

James, Neil, Peter, Dana

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## *Forbidden Wife by Julia Abel Smith*

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£20.00 – available from booksellers  
or signed copies via Neil

ISBN: 9780750993333

Published: 03-02-2020, The History Press

On the night of 4 April 1793, two lovers were preparing to compel a cleric to perform a secret ceremony. The wedding of the sixth son of King George III to the daughter of the Earl of Dunmore would not only be concealed – it would also be illegal. Lady Augusta Murray had known Prince Augustus Frederick (later Duke of Sussex) for only three months but they had already fallen deeply in love and were desperate to be married. However, the Royal Marriages Act forbade such a union without the King's permission and going ahead with the ceremony would change Augusta's life forever. From a beautiful socialite she became a social pariah; her children were declared illegitimate and her family was scorned. In *FORBIDDEN WIFE* Julia Abel Smith uses material from the Royal Archives and the Dunmore family papers to create a dramatic biography set in the reigns of Kings George III and IV against the background of the American and French Revolutions.

### **Media Reviews**

Abel Smith is a wonderful storyteller, her descriptions of late-eighteenth-century Virginia, Rome and London are almost novel-like in colour and detail. Meticulously researched and elegantly told, it's an excellent biography of a woman forbidden, but - thanks to Abel Smith - not forgotten -- Francesca Carington \* TATLER \*

A fascinating and poignant story, beautifully told, of the tumultuous life of Lady Augusta Murray played out against the epic backdrop of Europe and America in the age of revolution. A wonderful read -- Anna Keay, Director of the Landmark Trust, author of *THE LAST ROYAL REBEL*

This is a terrific story - well told -- John Martin Robinson, author of *BUCKINGHAM PALACE: THE OFFICIAL ILLUSTRATED HISTORY*

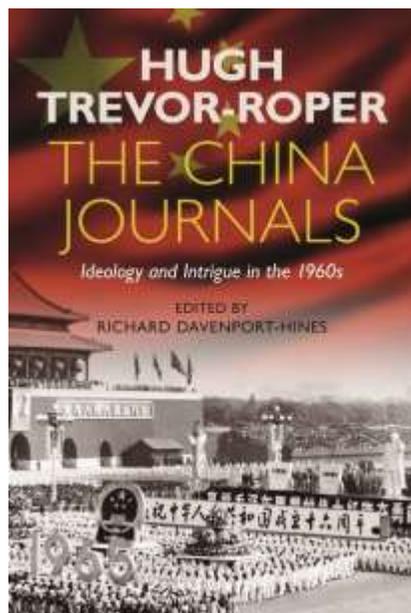
Further details on the publisher's webpage will be found here:

<https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/publication/forbidden-wife/9780750993333/>

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## *The China Journals: Hugh Trevor-Roper* *Edited by Richard Davenport-Hines*

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**Published:** 20-02-2020

**ISBN:** 9781350136052

**Imprint:** Bloomsbury Academic

**RRP:** £25.00 **Online price (via Bloomsbury):** £17.50

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-china-journals-9781350136052/>

These private journals, made available here for the first time, record Hugh Trevor-Roper's visit to the People's Republic of China in the autumn of 1965, shortly before the outbreak of the Cultural Revolution, and describe the controversial aftermath of his journey on his return to England. The visit was a catalogue of frustrations, which he relates with the verve and irony of a master narrator who relished the human comedy. His efforts to meet the real life and mind of China, in whose history and politics he had long been interested, were blocked at every turn by the resources of state

propaganda and the claustrophobic attention of sullen Party guides. The visit was arranged by the London-based Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, which was ostensibly committed to the impartial interchange of culture and ideas. It proved to be run by a Communist clique whose ruthless methods of control outwitted the well-connected membership. Back in England, and with help from MI5, he resolved to get to the bottom of the society's affairs. His investigations provoked a tumultuous public row which Trevor-Roper, no shirker of controversy, zestfully traces in these pages. Through the book, which closes with an account of his visit to Taiwan and South-East Asia in 1967, there run the wisdom of historical perspective that he brought to contemporary events and his lifelong commitment to the defence of liberal values and practices against their ideological adversaries.

### **Media Reviews:**

“Expertly edited, with touches of wit, but with pathos, too... *The China Journals* is a book as suitable for relishing Trevor-Roper's bitchy brilliance as it is for its fascinating insight into a China about to change forever.” – History Today

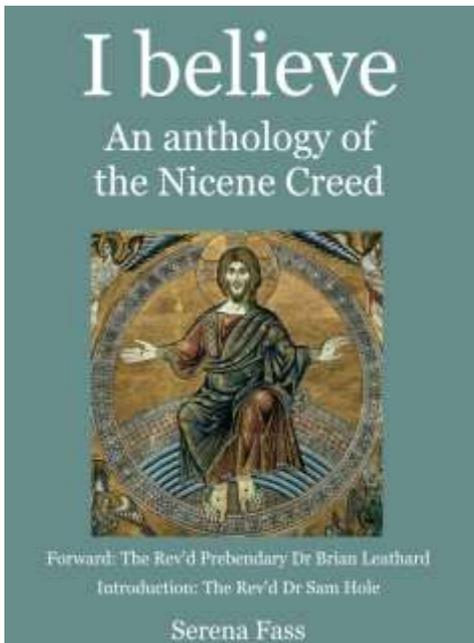
“Scholarly, incisive and omniscient, Davenport-Hines has done another wonderful job ... Consistently entertaining.” – Literary Review

“These diaries are as much about the forgotten world of Britain's intellectual and academic élite in the Cold Wars as they are about China. They offer unusual light on the cultural Cold War underway in the West between fellow travellers of the Communist regimes, then apparently on the rise, and Western anti-Communists of various strains.” – The Oldie

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## *I Believe by Serena Fass*

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ISBN: 9780952886549

£20.00 – This is being sold in aid of Glass Door  
Available via Daunt Books website.

*As well as those listed on the cover, Fr James has contributed an essay to this volume too making it an essential read.*

Serena Fass began taking photographs when she was seven and has continued all her life: in Europe as a teenager, then in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran and India before she started her travel company Serenissima in 1972, of which John Julius Norwich was Chairman. Serena was soon on her way to Peru, Mexico, Egypt, Ethiopia, Syria, Israel, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Indonesia, China, Japan and Australia, always with her camera, as she did reconnaissance or led tours for Serenissima.

In 1974 she compiled a book of meditations and images: **FACES OF INDIA** to raise money for Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This winning formula gave her the idea of doing the same thing with her many images of crosses. The result has eventually crystallised into this book which she has taken fourteen years to complete, adding meditations from some of her favourite saints, poets and many of her friends.

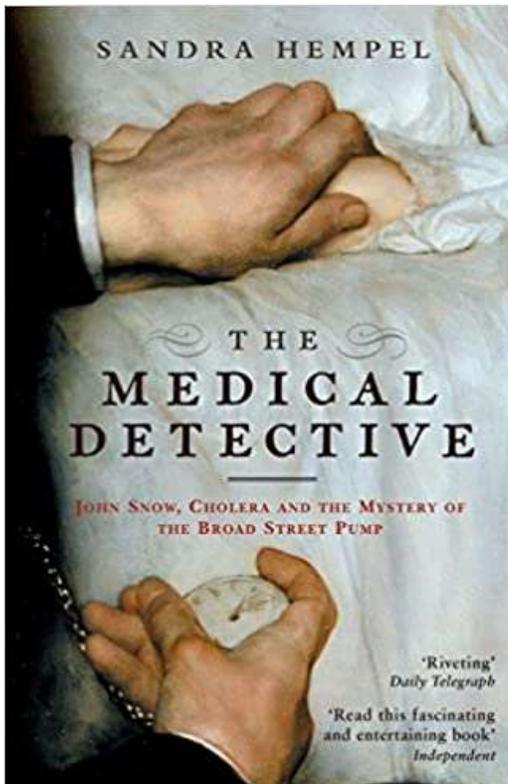
Meanwhile she has continued to lead tours for both Noble Caledonia and TransIndus Travel in addition to lecturing on Swan Hellenic & Saga cruises. Serena has given nine illustrated fund raising lectures at the Royal Geographic Society, as well as to the Friends of the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Nehru Centre in London. She continues to travel widely.



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## *The Medical Detective by Sandra Hempel*

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ISBN: 9781862079373

Publisher: Granta Publications

Reprinted 2020 (signed copies available – email Neil)

RRP £7.99

In 1831 an unknown, horrifying and deadly disease from Asia swept across Continental Europe, killing millions in its path and throwing the medical profession into confusion. Cholera is a killer with little respect for class or wealth. When it arrived in Britain, its repercussions rocked Victorian England - from the filthy lanes of the Sunderland quayside and the squalid streets of Soho, to the great centres of power: the Privy Council, Whitehall and the Royal Medical Colleges. One man - alone and unrecognised - uncovered the truth behind the pandemic and laid the foundations for the modern, scientific investigation of today's fatal plagues. John Snow was a reclusive doctor, without money or social position, who had the genius to look beyond the

conventional wisdom of his day, and work out that cholera was spread through drinking water. The book draws extensively on 19th century medical, political and personal records in order to describe what is both an important breakthrough for medical science and also a dramatic story with a cast of colourful characters, from the heroic to the frighteningly incompetent. The book is also full of fascinating diversions into aspects of medical and social history - from Snow's tending of Queen Victoria in childbirth, to the Dutch microbiologist Leeuwenhoek's deliberately breeding of lice in his socks; from Dickensian children's farms to riotous 19th century anaesthesia parties.

### **Media Reviews**

"Hempel has produced not only a well-honed biography but a real medical thriller that provides a gripping account of Snow's desperate race to understand a disease that was devastating Europe" - The Observer

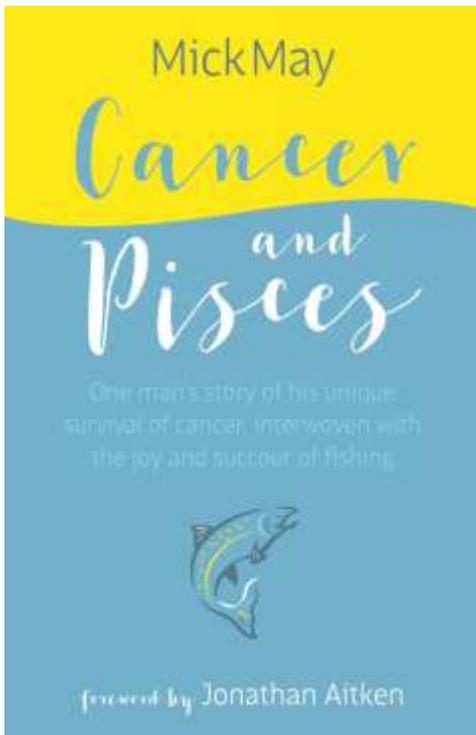
"Sandra Hempel gives an excellent account both of the disease and of the man who put an end to one of the recurring nightmares of the mid-19th century" - The Spectator

"Beautifully documented, highly informative and a pleasure to read" - The Times Literary Supplement

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## *Cancer and Pisces by Mick May*

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ISBN: 9781846893339

PUBLICATION DATE: August 20, 2020

£14.99

<https://www.quillerpublishing.com/product/cancer-and-pisces>

Signed copies available direct from Mick

*Proceeds from the sale of this book are going direct to charity.*

In 2013, **Mick May** was diagnosed with the fatal asbestos-linked cancer, mesothelioma, whose average medical life expectancy is 10 months.

Seven years later he is flourishing, full of *joie de vivre*, with a long life-expectancy ahead of him. His case has made medical history and is giving new hope to a multitude of terminally ill cancer sufferers around the world.

Mick's medical journey makes for a fascinating read as it weaves from the pain of his many treatments to the pleasures of his frequent fishing trips to British and exotic International

rivers. Threaded into this are snapshots of Mick's creation and leadership of a leading offender rehabilitation charity; his deepening religious faith; his successful legal action against the merchant bank whose offices exposed him to asbestos in the 1980s; his chairmanship of a school ravaged by the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire tragedy, and the happiness of his family life with his remarkable wife and six children.

### **Media Reviews:**

We highly recommend you read this inspiring book – Trout and Salmon Magazine

This quirky, intriguing and inspiring memoir is the sort of book you could admire and enjoy even if you had not the slightest interest in fishing. – David Profumo

An inspiring book – The Daily Mail

A tale of tails, fishy and fabulous, and in aid of an important cause, full of humour, full of heart. – Gyles Brandreth

In his new book, each milestone, struggle and success is portrayed against a backdrop of fishing...May writes honestly and humorously of days by the river transporting him to "another world" – Daily Telegraph.

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***Tails you win; What a Wag; You Never Told Me That  
all by Gill Rowe***

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ISBN: 9781913208059

Publication Date: 28/01/2020

£7.99

<https://www.bookguild.co.uk/bookshop-collection/non-fiction/poetry-and-drama/tails-you-win/>

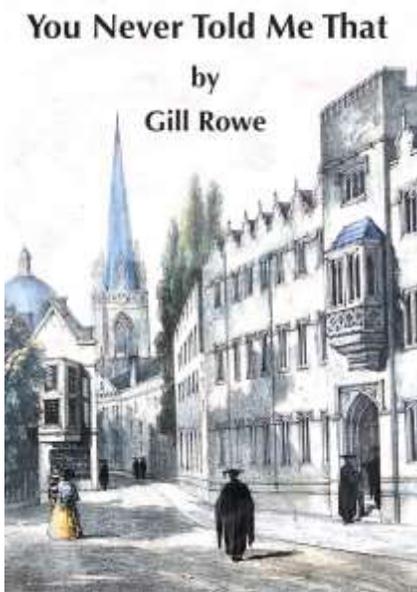
***Tails You Win*** is an engaging collection of poems written from the dogs' perspective. It is the seventh book of original metric rhyming verse by Gill Rowe and contains beautiful hand-drawn illustrations.

Starting with the Afghan Hound and Airedale Terrier, *Tails You Win* charmingly encapsulates the traits and personalities of fifty different dogs. Whether you're dotty about Dalmatians, mad about Miniature Dachshunds or crazy for Cavaliers, there's truly something for everyone in this cheery homage to dogs.

***What a Wag!*** The companion volume will be available in time for Christmas though the official publication date is January 2021

Pre-ordered copies will shortly be available – email Gill or Neil for details.

**Gill Rowe** is the author of *Pirouetting Hippos*, *How Do I Look?*, *You're Telling Me!*, *Widening Horizons*, *A Whiff of Rosemary* and *Stalking the Cribbit*. A few of the dogs in *Tails You Win* have made an appearance in an earlier volume.



***You never told me that***

RRP 14.99. Special price for members of the congregations £10

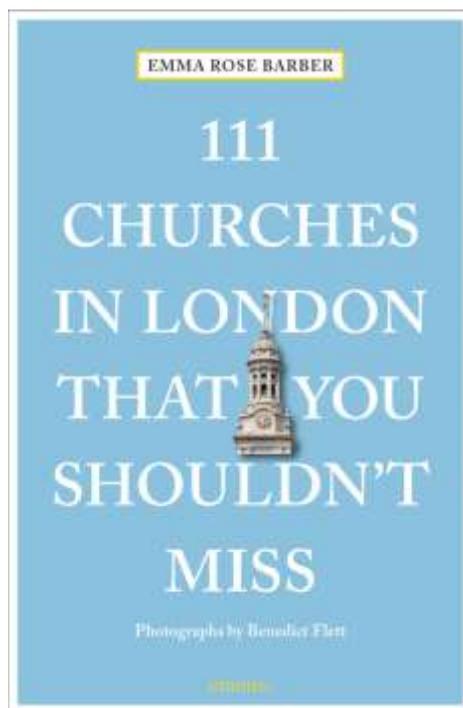
Available direct from Gill in late November.

This is a personal memoir of growing up in a boys public school in the 1950s and 1960s. It also describes the author's family background including an intriguing tale of hitherto unknown cousins from America. The story behind the encounter, which takes the reader first to Ireland, then to Cincinnati, Ohio and then back to Ireland concerns three sisters, who were separated when young, and destined to live very different lives, never to meet again.

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***111 Churches in London that you shouldn't miss***  
***by Emma Rose Barber***

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Published by *emons*:

240 pages

ISBN 978-3-7408-0901-0

RRP £12.99

*St John's is included in this publication*

***111 Churches in London That You Shouldn't Miss*** takes you through the doors of 111 rarely visited churches, but which, with the help of this informative guide are now on the map! With their spires, towers, columns and capitals, vaults and arches, carvings and paintings, London churches tell us a lot about its architecture and its history. And with their beautifully carved fonts, pulpits, carvings, mosaics and decorative objects, they show you centuries of skill and labor that went into making these buildings for which the main objectives were majesty, endurance and posterity.

Following the little black crosses on her mini A to Z, Londoner Emma Rose Barber takes you to a ultra-modern church made in the Brutalist style, to a church once so dark, and now so light, a bombed church, now hollowed out, containing the most romantic garden in London, to churches where you can sip coffee in the aisles and nave...

### **Emma Rose Barber**

Emma Rose Barber is an art historian who has been teaching art history to adults for many years. She has taken specialist study tours to Italy and the Netherlands and given lectures and tours in museums. She writes magazine articles ranging from Bloomsbury Bookplates, Sacred Clothing and the Romanian folk pocket. She is also writing a book on Wayfaring.

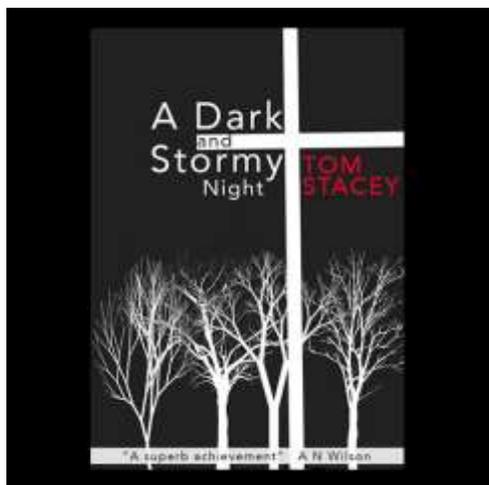
### **Benedict Flett**

Benedict Flett recently graduated from the university of Cambridge. He has been using a camera of some sort since he was young. He is interested in the correspondences between architecture and ideology and is documenting the 'regeneration' of inner London housing estates.

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## *A Dark and Stormy Night by Tom Stacey*

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Published by Medina Publishing, 2018

ISBN: 9781911487258

<https://medinapublishing.com/books/a-dark-and-stormy-night/>

Simon Chance, Anglican bishop and former missionary, has withdrawn in mid-life to research his enduring mentor Dante, creator of *The Divine Comedy*. He is recently widowed, after the prolonged descent into dementia of his devoted wife Marigold. To recuperate from bereavement, he is invited by a life-long confidante, Clare, to join a house party of several friends from their university days in the hills behind St Tropez in southern France. The reunion coincides with the collapse of

global banking confidence. On a walk in the forest of the Massif des Maures surrounding the villa, in search of a church abandoned centuries ago, Chance loses his way – in a ‘dark wood’, as once experienced by Dante – while the night turns wild. Marigold has not been the only love of Chance. The passionate liaison of his earlier life, pre-ordination, was with a student botanist. This very Evie, with her Parliamentarian spouse, is about to join the house party of Clare and a vital element in that intense, abandoned youthful liaison is yet to be reconciled with Chance’s ordained self. The working-through of the nature of love, physical and spiritual, in love’s innocence and purity, will redeem or destroy him. Or both.

### **Media reviews**

Reading *A Dark and Stormy Night* is like having a conversation with an intelligent old friend—engaging, impossible to leave, at times infuriating, and always thought-provoking. - Eleanor Stern, *The London Magazine*

I was deeply engaged by the narrative ... and its style of calm expansiveness. Rowan Williams

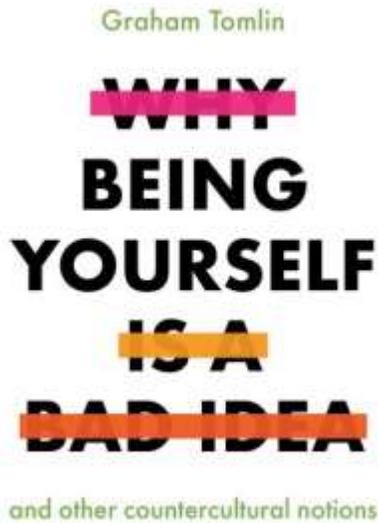
Tom Stacey has had a remarkable life. And those years of experience are distilled in his new novel, *A Dark and Stormy Night*... He has produced a profound novel that explores the nature of faith in the modern world. - Colin Blakely, *The Church of England Newspaper*

This is a beautiful book. The Dante Scholar lost in a dark wood, the Bishop going into the darkness where God is. The man who has experienced Love on so many levels, reliving his past before confronting the great Emyrean. This impressive narration isn’t just a stream of consciousness. It is a well-crafted narration, it has a plot. Marigold is very vivid to me, but the other two women, Clare and Evie, are also very distinct. Tom Stacey also conveys – mysteriously – the characters of the other members of the house party: whom we never meet. Humour, humanity, passion are all here. It’s a superb achievement. - A N Wilson

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## *Why being yourself is a bad idea by Graham Tomlin*

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Publication Date: 17 Sep 2020 SPCK Publishing

ISBN-13: 9780281081790, 9780281081806

RRP £9.99 (cheaper direct from SPCK)

Most people just want to be happy and to make a difference in the world.

We're often told we'll achieve this by being ourselves.

But when we begin to reflect, that's not quite as simple as it sounds. All sorts of questions and countercultural notions arise. Maybe trying to 'be yourself' is not such a good idea after all?

This book dares us to let go of some of the assumptions we make about life. Drawing on current research, contemporary events and ancient wisdom, it offers an invitation to journey to places we may never have imagined before. It vividly reveals how the revolution that Christianity began can still make remarkable sense of our experience of wonder, love, evil, justice, identity and freedom.

### **Media reviews**

I kept saying YES! as I turned the pages of this book. Again and again Graham Tomlin puts his finger on things I've struggled with both personally and professionally. He has a rare ability to make confusing things clear and complex things simple. Being Yourself pulls no punches. It gets right to the root of the Western psychosis, offering an ancient, time-tested, more hopeful alternative that rings deeply true. --Pete Greig, 24-7 Prayer International & author of *'How To Pray'*

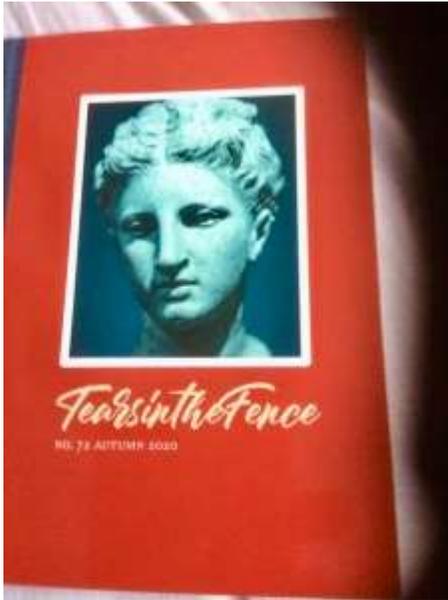
Most books about religion are boring. This one isn't. It is intriguing and provocative, speaking to our deepest concerns and heaviest questions. In beautiful prose, and with a wide range of reference, Graham Tomlin unpacks a whole world . . . and it is a spacious and attractive one. This exposition of faith in the twenty-first century arrives at a simplicity the far side of complexity. The book is a real gift. --James Mumford, author of *'Vexed: Ethics Beyond Political Tribes'*

This book presents Christianity in a fresh way for the time. – Winston Marshall, *Mumford & Sons*

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***Tears in the Fence issue 72  
including poems by Tracy Turley***

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Single copies: UK £10 Elsewhere £13

<https://tearsinthefence.com/pay-it-forward/>

Tears in the Fence is an internationally recognised independent literary journal established in November 1984. Our bi-annual publication includes poetry, prose poetry, translations, fiction, flash fiction, non-fiction, reviews and essays by established writers from around the world. We embrace neo-Romantic, modernist and post-modernist developments in British and American poetry and have been an outlet for prominent poets associated with the British Poetry Revival as well as later generations of British, black and Asian poets. We are internationalist and have editorial bases in UK and France. We seek ones in Australia and USA.

Tracy, one of the congregation at St John's, has had a full year. She had a number of poems published in issue 72 of Tears in the Fence as well as completing her BA in Creative Writing and Religious Studies and revising her musical compositions which can be found here:

<https://psychobiographica.bandcamp.com/>. Do support her in her work.

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***Pamphlet: The Clergy of St John the Baptist  
by Robin Price***

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Robin has written an article for the Anglo-Catholic History Society on the history of the Clergy of St John the Baptist, Holland Road. It charts the characters and churchmanship of those who have served, and their efforts towards ecumenism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Copies are available for a donation to St John's funds – please contact Neil for details

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***Pamphlet: A Kalendar of Saints for St John the Baptist***

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Over lockdown, work has been continuing on identifying the Saints of St John the Baptist, who are depicted in glass, mosaic, paint, stone and wood throughout the church. A first edition has been published, which identifies and locates each of the more than 70 saints, and gives a brief biographical synopsis of them.

Copies are available for a donation to St John's funds – please contact Neil for details.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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### WARDENS for St GEORGE'S

William James; Guy Ranawake

### WARDENS for St JOHN'S

Jamie Priestley; Lindsay Fulcher

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For donations to St George's funds



For donations to St John's funds

