

Contributors

Ruth Bidgood was born and brought up in South Wales. She studied English at Oxford, then served in the WRNS in Egypt. She married and had three children. Her writing life in poetry and local history started in middle age, on her return from Surrey to live in Wales.

Ciprian Burca is a priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church. His current theological research is focused on the challenges and the perspective of modern Christian theology, spirituality, and ethics within the recent ecumenical context of the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century.

James Coutts is a retired parish priest of the Church in Wales who served in urban, rural, and small town parishes.

Fiona Gardner is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and a spiritual director. She is the UK International Advisor for The International Thomas Merton Society, has been very involved in The Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and has presented papers regularly at both TMSGBI and ITMS conferences. She is an author and her latest book is *Precious Thoughts, Daily Readings from the Correspondence of Thomas Merton*. She is currently working on a book about Thomas Merton and the child-mind.

Kallistos Ware was born in 1934 and joined the Orthodox Church in 1958, becoming priest in 1966, and bishop in 1982. He is a member of the monastic brotherhood of St. John the Theologian on the island of Patmos, Greece and for thirty-five years (1966–2001) he taught Orthodox theology in the University of Oxford. He is Orthodox Co-Chairman of the International Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue, and he is also a member of the

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International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. His best-known publications are *The Orthodox Church* and *The Orthodox Way*. He is a co-translator of three volumes of material from the Orthodox service books, and of four volumes of *The Philokalia*.

David Keller, an Episcopal priest, has led retreats, seminars, and pilgrimages with Donald Allchin in the United States and the UK. From 1994–2002 he was the Steward of the Episcopal House of Prayer at St. John's Benedictine Abbey in Collegetown, MN and serves as Adjunct Professor of Ascetical Theology at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. He is co-steward, with his wife, Emily Wilmer, of Oasis of Wisdom: An Institute for Contemplative Study, Practice, and Living, based in Asheville, NC. He is the author of *Oasis of Wisdom: The Worlds of the Desert Mothers and Fathers*, *Desert Banquet: A Year of Wisdom from The Desert Mothers and Fathers*, and *Come and See: The Transformation of Personal Prayer*.

Charles Miller met Donald Allchin as a teenager and remained a lifelong friend. He is Team Rector of Abingdon-on-Thames in the Diocese of Oxford and has served parishes in the United States and England. He has taught historical and ascetical theology and church history at Nashota House, The General Theological Seminary, and Yale Divinity School in the United States. His areas of special interest are seventeenth-century English and twentieth-century Orthodox theology and spirituality, and Anglican-Orthodox relations. He is the author of four books, *Praying the Eucharist, Toward a Fuller Vision: Orthodoxy and the Anglican Experience*, *The Gift of the World: An Introduction to the Theology of Dumitru Staniloae*, and *Richard Hooker and the Vision of God: Exploring the Origins of Anglicanism*.

D. Densil Morgan is Professor of Theology at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and was previously Professor of Theology, Bangor University, Wales. He was educated at the University of Wales and the University of Oxford. Among his publications are *The Span of the Cross: Christian Religion and Society in Wales, 1914–2000*, *Barth Reception in Britain*, *The SPCK Introduction to Karl Barth, Wales and the Word: Historical Perspectives on Religion and Welsh Identity*, as well as books in Welsh on different aspects of theology and modern church history. He co-authored with A. M. Allchin *Sensuous Glory: The Poetry of D. Gwenallt Jones*.

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Barry A. Orford was born in Manchester and ordained in the Church in Wales. He worked in North and South Wales and in Yorkshire. From 2001 until his recent retirement he was Priest Librarian and Archivist at Pusey House in Oxford. He now lives near London.

Geoffrey Rowell is an Emeritus Fellow of Keble College, Oxford, where he served as Chaplain and Tutor in Theology from 1972 to 1993, teaching theology, church history, and Christian spirituality in the University. He was Bishop of Basingstoke from 1994 to 2001 and Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe from 2001 to 2013. He is the author of several books, including *The Vision Glorious: Themes and Personalities of the Catholic Revival in Anglicanism*, published to mark the 150th anniversary of the Oxford Movement in 1993, and was co-editor, with Rowan Williams and Kenneth Stevenson, of *Love's Redeeming Work: The Anglican Quest for Holiness*.

David Scott is an Anglican priest, spiritual writer, and poet. A friend of Donald's for almost fifty years, he was much influenced by his guidance. They had a shared affection for poetry, religious communities, and Thomas Merton. The latter led to the creation of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland. David's most recent collection of poems is entitled *Beyond the Drift: New & Selected Poems*. He has published five collections of his poetry and won the National Poetry Competition in the UK in 1978. In 2008 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred on Scott a Lambeth Doctorate of Letters.

Martin L. Smith is a priest of the Episcopal Church and the writer of a number of widely read books exploring contemporary spirituality. After reading theology at Oxford, he was ordained in 1970, served for three years in parish ministry, and then entered the Society of St. John the Evangelist. He became a member of the American Congregation of SSJE in 1979 and took American citizenship. After serving as Superior of the American Congregation, he left the Society in 2002 and moved to Washington DC, where he has been on the staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and St. Columba's Episcopal Church. In retirement he travels widely to lecture, preach and lead retreats.

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Patrick Thomas is Vicar of Christ Church, Carmarthen, and Canon Chancellor of St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. He is a former member of the Welsh Language Board and an honorary member of the Gorsedd of Bards. He has published books on a variety of subjects, including Welsh Celtic Spirituality, and worked with Donald Allchin and Densil Morgan on the volume *Sensuous Glory: The Poetic Vision of D. Gwenallt Jones*.

Esther de Waal is an Anglican lay woman who grew up in a Shropshire country vicarage and there had her first experience of history under the guidance of her father, who showed her the importance of recognizing the role of landscape and buildings, as well as the written word. This shaped her life, since it was the monastic remains at Canterbury that drew her to the Rule of St. Benedict, and the Irish High Crosses that first awakened her awareness of the Celtic tradition. Later her interest in the Cistercians, in Welsh religious poetry, and Thomas Traherne ensured that she and Donald continued to share those enthusiasms that had nourished their friendship since the 1950s. Esther and Donald edited *Daily Readings from Prayers & Praises in the Celtic Tradition*. She is the author of *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*.

Rowan Williams studied theology in Cambridge and then worked on modern Russian Orthodox thought at Oxford under Donald Allchin's supervision. He has been a teacher of theology in Oxford and Cambridge, served as Bishop of Monmouth for ten years, three of those also as Archbishop of Wales, then as Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012. He is now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.