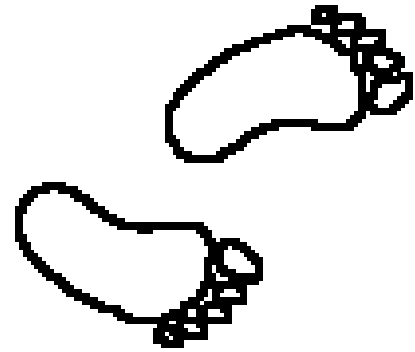


August 2020 (3)
Issue 132

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Canberra
Aboriginal Church



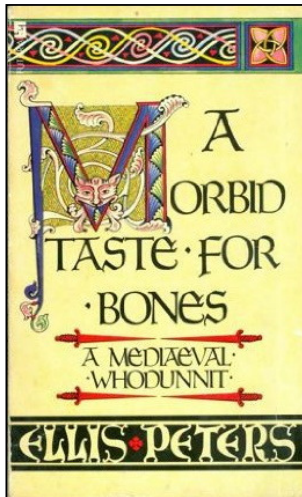
CCF & CAC services suspended
until (at least) 6-9-2020

Cadfael

These days I don't read a lot, however I do occasionally pick up a book and get engrossed in the story.

One author whose work I enjoy is Edith Pargeter (1913-1995), better known to many readers as Ellis Peters, the pen name she used when writing the Cadfael historically based fiction series I have enjoyed.

"Pargeter was a private, humane, modest, loyal, intelligent, and scholarly woman.... As a writer she was a realist, immersed in history and attuned to moral questions. She said that she did not find 'vice and evil more interesting than virtue'"



"The thriller", she insisted: 'must be a morality. If it strays from the side of the angels ... takes pleasure in evil, that is the unforgiveable sin ... It is probably true that I am not very good at villains. The good interest me so much more.'"

"Edith Pargeter was herself Anglican and had a deep knowledge of the medieval heritage of the Church."

Ellis Peters' character, Cadfael, is someone with whom most can identify in some way. A crusader and sailor, he had much life experience before deciding to opt for a quieter life as a Benedictine monk at Shrewsbury Abbey. He is an astute observer of all that surrounds him and has gained skills that are in demand outside the abbey as well as within, enabling him to gain a freedom to move about the town more so than most of his Benedictine Brothers.

Set in a period of turmoil known as 'The Anarchy' (during the first half of the 12th century) with two cousins contending for the throne of England, the "historically accurate" fictional stories present human frailties, intrigue, warfare and selfish desires that combine to present mysteries that Cadfael has a hand in solving.

As a Benedictine monk, Cadfael's life is ordered by the routine and religious observances of the Abbey.

"It is the "corporeal works of mercy" that engage Cadfael's Christianity, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and healing the sick, rather than preaching. He favours a simple, tolerant and forgiving understanding of Christianity, his practice tending to be based on experience of human frailty rather than contemplation of religious texts."

Even though he is only a fictional character, I find Cadfael demonstrates a practical Christian way of living that is relevant to us today. Some other characters display and use a rigid, unbending, uncompassionate adherence to rules and regulations whereas Cadfael recognises human weakness in himself and others and looks for the best outcome, sometimes sidestepping certain consequences while relying on God to be the ultimate guide and judge.

If you enjoy murder mysteries that take place in an historical setting, I recommend the Cadfael books by Ellis Peters.



Sir Derek Jacobi as Cadfael for the TV series

<https://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-60439>
<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/brother-of-invention-20130827-2snt9.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith_Pargeter
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadfael>

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- for leaders, doctors and ministers.
- for revival - that people will seek the Lord.
- for the elderly, those in lockdown in their homes (particularly in Melbourne) and for each other.

and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church virtual gatherings using ZOOM for around 40 minutes each Sunday from 5pm. - A time of fellowship, worship and delving into God's Word.

The Canberra Aboriginal Church currently intends resuming normal physical gatherings for worship services at Lyons on the 1st Sunday of September.



A man went to his lawyer and told him, "My neighbor owes me \$500 and he won't pay up. What should I do?"

"Do you have any proof he owes you the money?" asked the lawyer.

"Nope," replied the man.

"OK, then write him a letter asking him for the \$5,000 he owed you," said the lawyer.

"But it's only \$500," replied the man.

"Precisely. That's what he will reply and then you'll have your proof!"

Chaplains

Please pray that as coronavirus restrictions are gradually lifted, the chaplains we particularly support will be able to follow the new paths You have set before them. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Devotional material



Prayer



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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

A bank robber pulls out a gun, points it at the teller, and says, "Give me all the money or you're geography!"

The puzzled teller replies, "Did you mean to say 'or you're history?'"

The robber says, "Don't change the subject!"

Saint Richard of Chichester (1197 – 1253)

Richard chose a life of study and the church. Educated at Oxford University, he began to teach there and later became the Oxford chancellor. "Richard shared Edmund's [(the Archbishop of Canterbury)] ideals of clerical reform and supported papal rights even against the king."

Having become a priest, Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester however King Henry III refused to accept him, confiscating property under Richard's jurisdiction until threatened by excommunication.

Richard was merciless to usurers, corrupt clergy and priests who mumbled the Mass. He was also a stickler for clerical privilege.

After his death Richard's tomb became a popular place of pilgrimage and he was canonised in 1262.

"King Henry VIII of England, through his Vicar-General, Thomas Cromwell ordered the destruction of Richard's shrine in Chichester cathedral in 1538."

Richard is remembered by many for the prayer he recited on his deathbed:



*Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly.*



This prayer, originally transcribed in Latin, can now be found in a number of forms, and was incorporated in the song 'Day by Day' for the musical 'Godspell'.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_of_Chichester

Teacher: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?"

Student: "My father's cheque book!"