

## BOOK CORNER

### **BOOK REVIEW BY LIZ TAYLOR**

*"Parable and Paradox"* by Malcolm Guite

This is a book of sonnets and other poems on the sayings of Jesus. Malcolm Guite is chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge and also a performance poet, singer-songwriter and lecturer. He has other books in print including *"Sounding the Seasons"*, *"Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year"*, and books for lent and advent with a poem a day called *"Word in the Wilderness"* (lent poems) and *"Waiting on the Word"* for advent.

In the preface Malcolm writes that the poems were composed over the course of a year in which he tried to respond, as honestly as he could, to lectionary readings. In particular the hard sayings of Jesus which are often less preached. He has also written about more familiar sayings the ones which 'kindle our hearts and draw us deeper into the mystery of the kingdom'.

The first part of the book is a collection of poems on a variety of topics and subjects. Then follows 50 sonnets on the sayings of Jesus.

Each sonnet is written in response to one or more verses of scripture, which is helpfully written above the sonnet. These sonnets offer a reflection on the verse/verses and allow the reader to immerse themselves into a way of interpreting them.

I find the sonnets are at first deceptively easy to read, but profound in content. Some are breath-taking, others moving. They help me to think more deeply about scripture and I also use them as a way into praying about the meaning of scripture. I don't think this is a book to read cover to cover but one to read occasionally and savour each sonnet allowing time to reflect and pray about each of the sonnets. I invariably find on a second or third reading of a sonnet I'll notice something in the sonnet I didn't notice on first reading. Definitely a book to add to your collection.

With love and prayers,

Liz, Benefice Reader.

