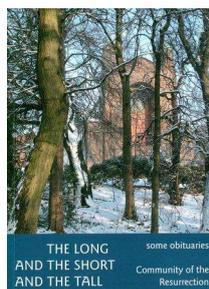


Celebrating lesser-known figures



The long and the short and the tall:

Obituaries of some Community of the Resurrection brethren

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Over the past 120 years the Community of the Resurrection (CR) has played an important part in the life of the Anglican church in both Britain and Africa.

From its foundation by Charles Gore at the end of the Victorian era it has thrown up a succession of notable figures who have helped to shape theological debate, missionary activity and social concern across continents. One thinks immediately of Walter Frere who helped to ensure the community in the early years and later went on to become Bishop of Truro, Timothy Rees from a small village in Ceredigion, who was a notable Bishop of Llandaff during the depression years of the 1930s, and Trevor Huddleston who was a significant figure in the fight against apartheid.

Aside from the monastery at Mirfield the theological college alongside has turned out many leading priests and one remembers that Rowan Williams was a lecturer there for a period in the 1970s, and that Archbishop Desmond Tutu was trained by CR in South Africa.

However, this little volume passes over the lives of such great men and concentrates on some of the many other brethren who have served throughout the years, drawing on obituaries which were prepared for the *CR Quarterly Review*. And what a delightfully eclectic mix of personalities appear here.

A fair proportion were Oxbridge educated, some came from very humble backgrounds. Some produced important academic work – it is no surprise to find one who was a DH Lawrence expert and another who had a species of beetle named in his honour! Several served with distinction in the trenches as chaplains during the First World War, while others helped to nurture the growing church in Africa. Such work continues to this day with CR support for the Tariro community in Zimbabwe (www.tariro.com), and, recently, with the decision which has been taken to engage again with support for the church in Cape Province.

Although I only knew a handful of the thirty or so characters commemorated in these pages, I came away giving thanks for their combined work and witness over more than a century. Many had peculiar quirks and character traits, dealt with humour and compassion in these pages, but the combined record serves to show how we can all make some important contribution to God's plan if only we listen to the call.

Bill Hines