

**Approaching Easter****By Jane Williams, £9.99 (ISBN 0745951996)**

Here is a book by the wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Jane Williams, a theologian, asks: What gives meaning to our lives? How can we live a life shared with others?

The seasons of Lent and Easter are traditionally times to reflect upon such fundamental questions as these. In this gentle, reflective book, Jane Williams encourages us to make space for reflection and, in so doing, to draw closer to God.

As she moves through Lent to Good Friday and Easter, the author explores themes such as food, power, love, anger, fear and complicity, compassion, and waiting. In each chapter, she blends personal story, spiritual reflection, and quotations from scripture or other sources to offer an imaginative and powerful way into the meaning of the season. Illustrated throughout with fine art, *Approaching Easter* is a beautiful and rewarding seasonal companion.

Jane Williams has taught Doctrine and History at Trinity Theological College, Bristol.

**Crossing Over – the hope of heaven****By Kevin O'Donnell, £6.99 (ISBN 1854247379)**

Perhaps you have lost someone close to you. Perhaps you yourself are facing death, or are worried by the prospect of dying. Perhaps you are looking for comfort for a friend.

The Christian faith does not regard death as the end. The resurrection of Jesus after his death on the Cross is central to Christian belief, and it changes everything – our ambitions, our understanding of ourselves, our relationships with one another.

The Rev. Kevin O'Donnell compares Christian teaching on the afterlife with that of other religions, and also raises the question of ghosts, mediums and near-death experiences. He spells out what the Bible says about the life to come, and tackles the question of the final judgement: what is at stake? What does God's mercy mean?

This gentle, lucid book will be a source of encouragement, and a sure guide to the future. It includes a range of suitable prayers and liturgies for the bereaved, allowing tears but suggesting hope.

The Rev. Kevin O'Donnell is an Anglican minister in West Sussex.

**The busy Christian's guide to busyness****By Tim Chester, £7.99 (ISBN 1844741249)**

Do you say 'yes' to requests when really you mean to say 'no'? Do you feel permanently trapped by your 24/7 lifestyle? Do you feel guilty when you look at the size of your e-mail inbox? Do you ever wonder who hit the accelerator?

While offering practical help to busy Christians, Tim Chester also opts for root-and-branch treatment: it's not enough just to slow down, or to simplify your lifestyle, you need to deal radically with the things that are driving you.