

No Way Back – the story of Rupert Clarke**By Phyllis Thompson; Highland Books, £3.99**

If you have any interest in China, this book may well be for you. It tells the extraordinary story of Rupert Clarke, a missionary doctor who served for 50 years in China and in the Far East - including 16 years detention by the Communists.

Prayer: Does it make any Difference?**By Philip Yancey; Hodder & Stoughton, £9.99**

Multi-award winning spirituality writer Philip Yancey is loved throughout the world for his honest, insightful and inspirational writing. A journalist by training, *Prayer: Does it make any Difference?* carries all the hallmarks of classic Yancey.

His quest to unravel the mysteries of prayer reads as the journal of a fellow traveller: questioning, challenging, lamenting the unexplainable and rejoicing in the discovery of awesome insights. His journey is beautifully illustrated with moving true stories drawn from around the world. *Prayer: Does it make any Difference* tackles the following questions: What is prayer? What difference does it make? Why and how should we pray? What about unanswered prayer? How should we understand prayer for physical healing? Focusing on such a universal theme, this is potentially Yancey's biggest book yet.

Going on retreat with Julian of Norwich**By Penny Roker; SCM-Canterbury Press, £8.99**

A striking book of contemporary spirituality based on the medieval writings of a woman ahead of her time, Julian of Norwich. An anchorite who lived in a monastic cell attached to a parish church, she found inspiration in the simple domestic detail of her life and used it as a springboard to prayer and contemplation.

Penny Roker's warm and gentle book enables readers to make an 'armchair retreat' using nothing more than things around the house to access and apply the spiritual riches of Julian. Not everyone can get away on an organised retreat, but this is a complete resource for making a retreat alone at home. It is equally appropriate for guided group meditation. Each day includes a scripture reading, an excerpt from Julian's *Showing of Love*, a meditation to read, a practical spiritual exercise, questions to reflect upon, closing prayers, further scriptures reading ideas.

New Journeys Now Begin - learning on the path of grief and loss**By Tom Gordon; Wild Goose Publications, £10.99**

Bereavement is a journey to be travelled, not an illness to be treated or a problem to be solved. When grief continues, bereaved people often feel they have failed, have been abandoned by others, or let down by God. As a result, their journey into the future is a hard one.

Tom Gordon writes with sensitivity and clarity about real people as they begin to understand their journeys of bereavement. The book helps us understand the unplanned and often frightening twists and turns grief forces the bereaved to face. In recognising the new and overwhelming feelings of anger and distress as normal, it gives carers important insights into the processes of loss. Through prayers and poetry it gives a voice to both anguish and hope. Above all, it offers companionship on the journey of bereavement to those who thought no one could ever understand their loss and grief. Tom Gordon is Chaplain at the Marie Curie Centre, Edinburgh