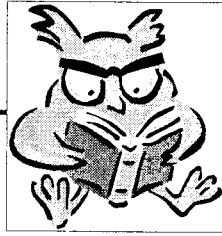


**George -
A Twentieth Century Miniature
By Denis Pethebridge**



Written by a local author and described as a 'thoughtful study of one man's life as it spans the twentieth century', this novel is also in a quiet way about George's journey towards Faith.

Without wanting to give too much of the storyline away here, I can tell you the novel opens with George's (sometimes confused!) childhood memories. Growing up in the shadow of the First World War, George is listless, though interested in Marxist ideas popular at the time. Then like so many he is drawn into WW2, which he survives, but not without great loss.

Later in his life he realises that it is to God that he can offer his thankfulness for his life. He finds himself 'beyond the Wall of Faith', no longer questioning God's existence but rather wondering what life on earth would be like without the echoes of prayers down the centuries and the certainty of Faith.

Though it is the Catholic Faith that George is drawn to, it is question that we can, and perhaps should all ask ourselves: what would our lives be like without God in them? and it is at the heart of what makes the novel so moving and thought provoking.

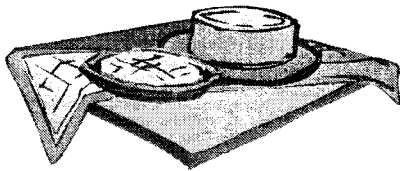
However sad the story in places, the author's style of writing is warm and light-hearted, and though the book is structured along the lines of the kind of philosophical argument that George is interested in his youth, that structure is quite straight-forward. In the Thesis we learn of Gorge's family and home which remain important to him all his life, in the Antithesis George goes off in his

own direction, so to speak, and then in the Synthesis, his life's experiences come together to convince him of God's presence, and he is happy to have found his place under the stars in the mystery of God's Creation.

Denis Pethebridge lives in Banbury and I met him on last year's Ecumenical Lent course. His book is available from Ottakers but hopefully with his permission might be on order for St Mary's shop soon.

Annie Creasey

If you have read a good book and would like to recommend it to others, why not write a book review for the church magazine.? - Ed.



Watch Out

for cake stalls outside the church
1st Sunday of the month.