

Reflections for the Unfolding Year by Canon Alan Wilkinson

IN the past it was not uncommon, and indeed required of certain unqualified ministers, to read aloud from a book of authorised sermons.

Such days have largely passed into history. Thus it might appear rather odd why anyone would wish to buy or read a collection of someone else's talks. Yet not to do so with Canon Wilkinson's book would be a great pity.

The author will be remembered fondly for his ministries as Diocesan Theologian, a member of the cathedral clergy, a giver of retreats and as a spiritual director. This latest volume, published

by Lutterworth Press, is a collection of short addresses given in his time at our cathedral.

The use of the word addresses is deliberate. They are not long sermons, nor are they long-winded. They are pithy, and comprise 29 talks that address the changing seasons of the Christian year, and another 21 that feature recurring and often challenging themes such as remembrance and the nature of marriage.

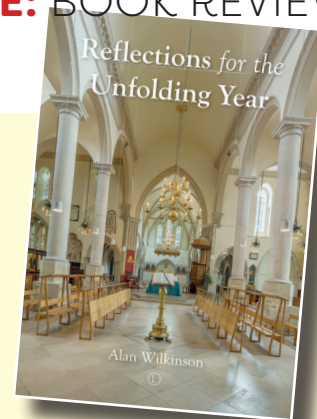
The range of topics is impressive and deftly handled. We are taken from reflections on Advent, inspired partly by a question posed by a Polish visitor to the

cathedral, through to a rousing final word on Trinity Sunday.

When reflecting on D-Day, we are reminded that we are all neighbours; there is no forthright pacifism but a focus on the positives that emerged out of 1939-45, such as the NHS and welfare state.

The whole tone of the talks is reflective rather than dogmatic. The meditations are borne out of Biblical scholarship, personal experiences and application to the present.

They are not exercises in Scriptural exegesis nor political polemic, though the



author's own inclusive views come across gently but clearly. They can, and ought to be, read and appreciated by Christians across the theological spectrum.

They are ideal as a daily or weekly meditation, retreat reading, or indeed to dip into when looking for some inspiration for that hard to compose sermon!

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