

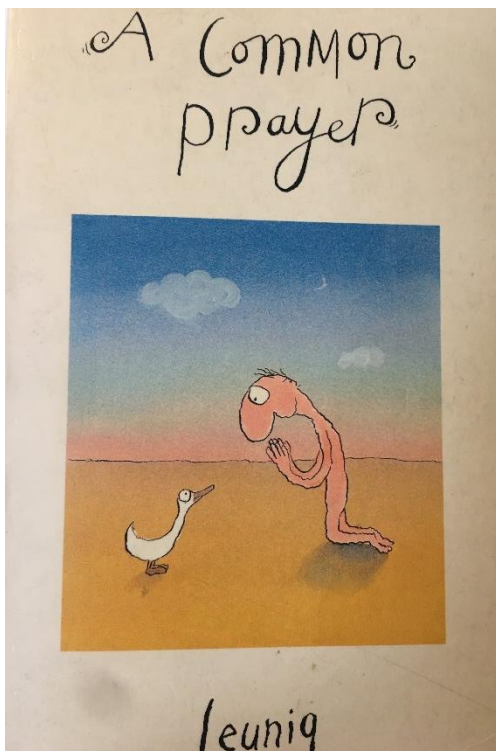
Thought for the day – Wednesday 3rd November 2021

By Revd John Marshall

Books for Brixton – A Common Prayer

We were asked if we could find books for the chaplain at Brixton prison to put in the library. So I started digging in a bookcase and produced some books to share – and some I wanted to look at and read again (and Keep.)

On the cover of A Common Prayer by Leunig is a picture of a person praying and a duck.



He says “I have drawn a simple picture of a person kneeling before a duck to symbolise and demonstrate my ideas and feelings about the nature of prayer.”

Here is one of his prayers.

Dear God

We struggle, we grow weary, we grow tired. We are exhausted, we are distressed, we despair. We give up, we fall down, we let go. We cry, we empty, we grow calm, we are ready. We wait quietly.

A small shy truth arrives. Arrives from without and within. Arrives and is born. Simple, steady, clear. Like a mirror, like a bell, like a flame. Like rain in summer. A precious truth arrives and is born within us. Within our emptiness.

We accept it, we observe it, we absorb it. We surrender to our bare truth. We are nourished, we are changed. We are blessed. We rise up, for this we give thanks. Amen

A Common Prayer Leunig Collins Dove