Thought for the day – Tuesday 11th October 2022

By Maggie Marshall

Improvisations on the Lord's Prayer by Nicola Slee

John has read this book and passed it on to me to read. I remember attending teachers meetings she led at Whiteland's college in Wimbledon as part of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education R E training for children back in the 80's. She wrote books for children about Teddy Ruckspin.

The first 6 chapters refer to parts of the Lord's Prayer – God as Abba and Amma, of hallowing of God's Name and what it means to name God, the theme of the Kingdom of God, 'daily bread' forgiveness, and the prayer ' to be delivered from evil and to be kept from temptation'.

She has added two sections after these Prayers 'from the desert' and 'Canticle for creatures' before the final section 'For Yours is The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory.

I remember well in school getting children to write their own modern Psalms, prayers and modern stories from the New Testament parables and Miracles.

These ones from Chapter 8 caught my key. Thinking of the vicarage cats Georgie and Clara and other cat owners and the way cats own you and the one on dogs can make us grateful for the support our that our animals give to us. We are all part of God's wonderful creation and we give thanks.

The Cat's Prayer

There is little we need and we will not
beg for it. Take your wicker basket away,
we'd rather sleep in a box
or perch on the corner of a new rug.

Give us our daily Felix,
fresh cooked chicken or fish
and on Sundays a slither of roast beef
or lamb shank. Keep our litter tray
clean. Do not obstruct the cat flap
and, if we should bring in
a juicy shrew or mouse from the garden,
save your pity. Deliver us
from the window cleaner's clattering
ladder. Do not lead us by deception
into the indignity of the cat carrier.
Preserve us from the vet's sharp needle.
There is nothing to forgive us.
For ours is the power, the glory and the majesty.
For ever and ever, purr without end.
Amen.

The Dog's Prayer will appear tomorrow!