

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Monday 19th December 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Cat in the Manger

In the story, I'm not there.

Ox and ass, arranged at prayer;

But me? Nowhere!

Anti-cat evangelists

How on earth could you have missed

Such an obvious and able

Occupant of any stable?

Who excluded mouse and rat?

The harmless necessary cat.

Who snuggled in with the holy pair?

Me. And my purr.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

(Who got it wrong,

Who left out the cat)

Remember that,

Wherever He went in this great affair

I was there.

What the donkey saw

No room at the inn, of course,

And not that much in the stable,
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host ----
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in
For love or money.

Still in spite of the overcrowding
I did my best to make them feel wanted.
I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.

U.A. Fanthorpe 100 best Christmas poems for children
SPCK

I love U.A. Fanthorpe's poems, she says so much so quickly.