On the Way to Faith

By Rev Dr Ken Manley

Reviewed by Keith Dyer

The encounters between Jesus and all sorts of people in John’s Gospel have long been a source of inspiration, reflection and delight for generations of Bible readers. Ken Manley has done us all a great service by re-visiting these encounters in wonderfully engaging book of reflective sermons.

Ken writes in the same spirit as the author of the fourth Gospel, inviting us to enter into the dialogue and drama of meeting the mysterious stranger from Galilee.

But be warned! This is not a pious set of sanitised sermonettes staying comfortably within the tram-tracks of predictability. Like the stories themselves, these reflections are liable to turn our expectations up-side-down, startle us with their twists and turns, and challenge us with profound insights, puzzling questions and wry humour.

No matter how long we’ve been on the way to faith ourselves, or even if we haven’t begun, there is much to learn from this series of unexpected encounters between Jesus and his new friends, his mother, a religious leader, an unhappy woman, a condemned woman, a blind man, a grieving family, a woman who loves, a confused friend, a governor, a doubter, and a guilty friend.

The open and engaging questions at the end of each chapter make this an ideal guide for personal or group study, especially as Ken draws frequent analogies with contemporary issues, books and films.

I heartily recommend On the Way to Faith as a great read and a wonderful resource for the Church today!