

the Jews.” This is not an introduction to Christianity which leaves one scrambling to find a way to explain ancient Israel later on down the line.

A word on the book design. It is simple, but the cover art plays delightfully with the image of a fountain pen, the traditional tool of the letter-writer: here, the slit and breather hole of the nib make a cross. Given that East frames his book with an invitation to martyrdom (and seems to have put the finishing touches to it on the Feast Day of Maximilian Kolbe!), this is entirely appropriate. Moreover, the image is tonally consistent with the winsome, personal manner in which East communicates the profoundest matters of faith throughout.

I have already given my copy away to someone in the bracket for whom East’s book is particularly aimed: an intellectually sharp young person in their twenties exploring the faith for the first time. Particularly in an age when many young people think deeply but might struggle (to put it bluntly) to find reading a book an attractive prospect, East has supplied the Church with something that may just help meet the need. Beautifully written and intellectually rich, *Letters to a Future Saint* is a book that expresses the story of Scripture and the ancient wisdom of the Church without losing the youthful energy and excitement that comes from being captured by the adventurous and costly goodness of the Christian way.

David Elliott

University of Oxford

<https://doi.org/10.62221/ctj.2025.203>

Gerald R. McDermott, *Deep Anglicanism: A Brief Guide*, 2nd Edition. Nashotah, WI: Nashotah House Press, 2024. ISBN 979-8986920788, v+378 pp., pbk \$15.49.

As an Anglican priest and professor who has taught and written on Anglicanism, I eagerly read any new introduction to Anglicanism. We live in an age of acute identity crises, and Anglicans are often especially insecure in understanding who they are. While several introductions to Anglicanism have appeared in the last decade or so, each of these works is in various ways unsatisfactory, most commonly because they reflect too much of a contemporary view of Anglicanism or else lack depth. Gerald McDermott’s *Deep Anglicanism* fills an important niche in works on Anglicanism precisely because it meets the needs of the current day, which are especially the need for a broad yet deep introduction to Anglicanism as well as one that addresses the many questions that people commonly have about Anglicanism.

Deep Anglicanism achieves an ideal balance between breadth and depth. McDermott's broad work encompasses a greater portion of the vast Anglican terrain than other similar works. In 34 bite-size chapters, *Deep Anglicanism* explores the *via media*, Church history, liturgy, the Prayer Book, spirituality, the sacraments, the Church, and reasons why one might consider joining the Anglican tradition. Each of these topics represents an aspect of Anglicanism that is often poorly understood and about which people, both Anglicans and non-Anglicans, frequently have questions. Those who cherish the traditional Book of Common Prayer will applaud McDermott's fair treatment of the traditional Prayer Books, while also expressing an appreciation for some of the recent revisions.

The title of McDermott's book, *Deep Anglicanism*, highlights a certain depth dimension to the work, which McDermott explains by saying: "By 'deep' I mean an approach that transcends the usual demarcations of 'high church,' 'broad church,' and 'low church'" (6). McDermott's "deep Anglicanism" is a kind of "mere Christianity" for Anglicans, which does not reduce Anglicanism to the lowest common denominator but looks for what is most deeply and authentically Anglican. In this way, McDermott avoids a common error from other introductory works on Anglicanism that rely too heavily on recent and distorted notions of Anglicanism, such as the meme of a "three-stream" Anglicanism. *Deep Anglicanism* also has the virtues of being inclusive without being heterodox in any way and of going deeper than more superficial accounts while remaining unitive of the diverse orthodox forms of Anglicanism.

The other great need for an introduction to Anglicanism, beyond the marriage of breadth and depth, is that the book addresses the pressing questions that are commonly asked of Anglicans. McDermott deals with the common misperception that the Anglican tradition was initiated by the lust of Henry VIII and, in several places, helps place Anglicanism in its proper place in relation to other Christian traditions. In my parochial ministry, the two most common questions I receive from visitors and those newly entering into Anglicanism involve the liturgy (including ceremonial aspects) and infant baptism. McDermott provides handy introductions to both the liturgy and the issue of infant baptism.

Gerald McDermott has given us a book that is a trustworthy portal deeper into Anglicanism, both for those who are considering Anglicanism and those who already are Anglicans. It is an excellent resource that will be of great help to those who desire an introduction to Anglicanism, those who want to delve

deeper into Anglicanism, and priests and other Anglicans who want a substantial aid to help them explain Anglicanism to their friends and families.

While more depth is needed in certain areas (such as Anglican history), it is admirable how much depth McDermott conveys in one very readable, 350-page book.

Charles Erlandson

Cranmer Theological House

Dallas, TX

<https://doi.org/10.62221/ctj.2025.204>

Thomas M. Ward, *After Stoicism: Last Words of the Last Roman Philosopher*.

Word on Fire Academic, 2024. ISBN: 978-1-68578-133-0, xi+201pp., hbk \$35, also Kindle.

We are witnessing a revival of interest in Stoicism which is evident in academic publications, popular YouTube videos, and TikTok videos. Its influence is ubiquitous. While Stoic philosophy offers much that the Christian can commend, it ultimately requires “baptism” to align with a Christian worldview. Fortunately, Thomas M. Ward, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Baylor University, has written an accessible introduction to one of the most significant historical dialogues between Christianity and Stoicism: Boethius’s *The Consolation of Philosophy*. Ward’s book will be invaluable for pastors and parishioners encountering Stoicism’s resurgence in books and social media.

Ward’s study of Boethius combines commentary, cultural engagement, and personal reflection. His analysis provides all the context necessary for readers new to *The Consolation* to grasp its meanings within its historical framework. Drawing on Boethius as a foundation, Ward frequently connects his insights to modern thinkers and cultural artifacts that readers from diverse backgrounds will readily recognize. What sets this book apart is Ward’s warm, conversational tone, which weaves his personality and experiences into the text, creating the sense of a genuine dialogue between the reader, Ward, and Boethius.

The greatest strength of *After Stoicism* lies in Ward’s insightful analysis of Boethius’s engagement with the Greek philosophical tradition. Instead of merely tracing Boethius’s intellectual heritage, Ward highlights how Boethius both affirmed and corrected these ancient ideas from a Christian perspective. For example, in the chapter “Goods of Fortune,” Ward demonstrates how the Greek philosophical tradition and Christianity both converge and diverge in