

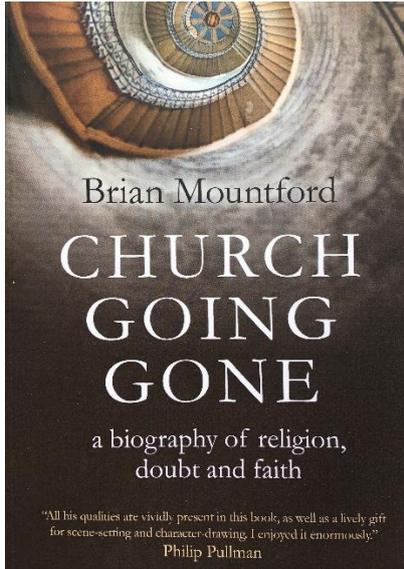
I just wanted to introduce my new book 'Church Going Gone', with its subtitle 'a biography of religion, doubt, and faith'. Basically, it's the story of the life of Brian – a story of vast social change from WW2 to the globally precarious present. And full of incident, like how I nearly got chucked out of my first job in the Church of England, and how a family tragedy changed both my life and Annette's. Actually, there's a chapter about 'the parson's wife', which, rather annoyingly, most people seem to turn to first.

It's not all about religion. But I do talk about the Church and Politics, the Church and Sex, and whether it makes sense to believe in God. And I try to capture the ordinary tensions of faith, both in the humdrum and the glorious experiences of life.

One reader said he found it so amusing he had to keep reading out bits to his wife. Another that it shows 'a lively gift for scene-setting and character-drawing'. Jane Shaw, the Principal of Harris Manchester, whom many of you will remember at SMV, has generously described it as 'a witty and captivating memoir...which brilliantly evokes the utterly different world of the Church of England in the late sixties and...offers a fascinating - and sobering - perspective on the sea changes that the Church has undergone over the past fifty years.' There's quite a bit about SMV too.

So I hope you enjoy it.





Brian Mountford

# CHURCH GOING GONE

a biography of religion,  
doubt and faith

"All his qualities are vividly present in this book, as well as a lively gift  
for scene-setting and character-drawing. I enjoyed it enormously."  
Philip Pullman