Timothy Jenkins studied anthropology, and then theology. He worked as an anthropologist before ordination and is now chaplain of a Cambridge college. “An Experiment in Providence is the culmination of twenty years' faithful attention to the world. It is a book that will help to encourage and equip those in the Church to elicit the interest of those outside it.”

Jenkins is an unashamed apologist for the Anglican dispensation, and his book is therefore heartening and edifying for Anglican readers beset by doubts and fears. However, he makes no attempt to popularise his message - he writes as an academic with elegance and humour.

He identifies three components of church life as necessary if it is to be true to Christian faith - first, worship which ensures that participants are read by scripture; second, the building of a community; third, a leavening of the wider society in which the community is set.

Another theme is that of chaplaincy - a ministry of exploration and of listening. It is an experiment in providence and a lifestyle. There is so much more in this collection of lectures, sermons and other essays that any attempt at a summary will fail miserably to do it justice. It needs to be read with attention.

Anselm SSF