

Alan Bartlett
A Passionate Balance - *The Anglican Tradition*
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Alongside this book in the Christian Spirituality series the publishers have offered us over twenty others which describe what are perhaps more obviously sources of spirituality than are the muddy and compromised origins of the Church of England.

Many Anglicans would look to 'The Evangelical Tradition', 'The Franciscan Tradition', 'The Charismatic Tradition', etc., as guides for the Godward journey, and L. William Countryman has a more modest subtitle 'An Anglican Tradition' for his 'The Poetic Imagination' in the same series published by DLT.

So, can the origins of the Church of England; the founding fathers (Cranmer in particular); their immediate successors (Hooker the theologian, Herbert the poet); and luminaries of the four succeeding centuries (Laud, Butler, Wesley, Simeon, Westcott, Maurice, Dolling, Ramsey to name but a few) be regarded as constituting a tradition of Christian spirituality?

Bartlett is passionately convinced that they can, and sets out to convince his readers that this is so. The 'balance' of the book's title is that between scripture, tradition and reason in the Christian's search for God - as expounded by Hooker. The body of the book, written by one who until recently has taught Anglican Studies at Cranmer Hall, St John's College, Durham, makes a fascinating read for anyone in search of what it is that might be common ground for Anglicans in these tormented times. Anglican Franciscans will feel better grounded in their confessional faith tradition, without losing the riches of the legacy of Francis.

Anselm SSF