

Peter Rollins
How (not) to speak of God
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This is a brave book, and the Anglican reader has to remind her(him)self from time to time that it is not to be claimed as a fresh expression of a mission shaped Church of England. It comes from the philosophy department of Queen's University, Belfast and from the pen of Peter Rollins as "one of the first and most hopeful expressions to date of Christian theology in the context of postmodernity". "Peter challenges us to embrace opposite ends of common modern polarities, and, in so doing, shows the creative and constructive power of what is commonly called deconstruction."

Rollins achieves this in two sections of the book, the first section - five chapters devoted to the transition from right belief to believing in the right way; the second more descriptive and less demanding, ten services in the life of Ikon, a community "iconic, apocalyptic, heretical, emerging and failing".

Well, he achieves it, no doubt, for the members of Ikon who one suspects to be, in the main, philosophy students. Will he be heard by a wider and less sophisticated audience? Can Anglicans in England take to heart what comes from the heart of this writer? Or, is he simply to be dismissed as, at best, ahead of his time, at worst a betrayer of our precious heritage? At the very least, he deserves a serious and considered hearing, so - please be brave in your turn, in response to a brave book.

Anselm SSF