

Faith Evolving: A Patchwork Journey
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by Trish McBride

Wellington-based spiritual director and author Trish McBride has recently released her 2005/2007 book Faith Evolving: A Patchwork Journey as an e-Book. A decade on from first publication, Trish's strong and compassionate writing is still relevant.

Trish's purpose in assembling the first edition of Faith Evolving was 'to fill a gap in the spirituality literature by offering a sample longitudinal study of an ordinary woman's journey of faith, and to encourage readers to reflect on their own journeys.' This e-edition has the same aims.

Trish describes herself as 'a gatherer and shaper of fragments', piecing together a collection of patches from her own life as she retrospectively traces the shifts in her relationship with God and church over 30 years of both giving and receiving spiritual direction. Fowler's Stages of Faith and MBTI provide the framework for her analysis. Common human experiences, Scripture and theological reflection are woven together.

Trish writes with an openness and honesty that draws the reader in and helps one to find points of holy connection. There are celebrations and experiences of Divine Love. And standing on the side of the wounded and marginalised she tackles some of the hard questions - a theology for abusive marriages, sexual abuse within the church, issues of justice, patriarchy and forgiveness. She shares the treasures of darkness from her own journey with the hope that they will help others in theirs. As a line of one of her poems says, 'with the telling dropped the burden of the years' (Time p53) One senses that writing her journey along the way was a huge part of Trish's own process towards healing and transformation.

Whether read as a personal glimpse into someone's story, used as a training manual, or dipped into as a rich resource for the spiritual journey, it is good news that this book, part anthology, part autobiography, is now so easily accessible to us all.

Faith Evolving: A Patchwork Journey is available at www.pgpl.co.nz in Kindle, ePub or PDF formats for \$8.99.

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