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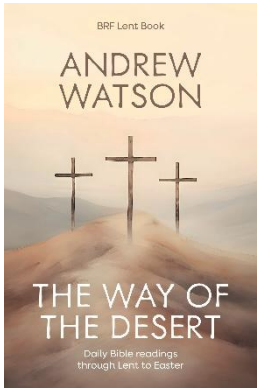

The Way of the Desert

BRF Lent book 2026

Andrew Watson

Pb, ISBN 978 1 80039 608 1, £9.99

In the Bible the desert is a place of punishment and discipline, but also of blessing and love's reawakening. In *The Way of the Desert* Andrew Watson takes us on a Lenten journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day, from the parting of the Red Sea to Israel's entry into the promised land. Combining these Old Testament scriptures with insight from the gospels, he reveals the continuing relevance of the exodus story to all who would seek to follow Christ. This new edition, published posthumously, after Bishop Andrew's death from pancreatic cancer, offers fresh hope in a world stumbling in the wilderness.

Praise for The Way of the Desert

'In this fine book, Andrew Watson follows the example of Jesus in meditating on the story of Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt. His wisdom, perceptive reading of scripture, and gentle focus on Jesus shine through this excellent guide through the days of Lent to Easter.' – *Graham Tomlin, Editor in Chief, Seenandunseen.com*

'I last read this book in 2011. Reading it again, I wondered how dated it might be. Here and there, undeniably, we get glimpse of the passage of time since its first publication. But by and large that isn't the case, and the reason for it is this: *The Way of the Desert* is a devotional book, to be read devotionally – and Bishop Andrew's intuitions about the devotional needs of God's people are timeless. In particular, the texts of scripture he places alongside one another repay careful attention: some are obvious, others surprising, and all generate rich spiritual insights.' – *Pete Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield*

'To read *The Way of the Desert* now is to hear Bishop Andrew's voice again: warm, unhurried, entirely without pretension, and always turning the text back towards the reader. He walks us out of Egypt and into the wilderness in the company of Christ, and he does it as the best pastors do, one day at a time. A gift to any parish this Lent. The result is a Lent book that never preaches at you but leaves you, by Easter Day, some distance from where you started.' – *Bob Cooper, Dean of Guildford*

About the author

Andrew Watson was Bishop of Guildford from 2014 until his death from pancreatic cancer in 2026. He was previously Bishop of Aston in Birmingham. He has also written *Confidence in the Living God* (BRF Ministries, 2016), *The Fourfold Leadership of Jesus* (BRF Ministries, 2008), and *Maundy* (BRF Ministries, 2026). More information here

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