

Jane Shaw, *A Practical Christianity: Working on Transforming Our Lives* (London: SPCK Publishing, 2012).

As an Anglican priest, as well as an historian, Shaw draws on strands in the Christian tradition that emphasize the practice of Christianity. In her book, *A Practical Christianity* she proposes that Christianity is something that we do, not merely a chunk of undigested doctrine that we accept without questioning. Hermeneutics is therefore given a practical focus. Using fiction, poetry, art and music, as well as scripture and theology, she reconsiders the central doctrines of Christian faith through the lens of how we practice them. She explores five themes: dust, forgiveness, time, doubt and love—devoting a chapter to each. This thematic approach is a way of presenting (covertly, since it's not revealed until the end of the book) the doctrines of Creation and Sin, Forgiveness, the Trinity, Salvation, and finally Love.

Show's book is a brilliant example of the hermeneutics in enactment (*Hermeneutik im Vollzug*), when we live Christianity versus formally debating on the different ways of living religious life. She has a talent of a virtuoso to make explicit that religion grows under circumstances that are, in themselves, a matter of interpretation. The humility of a Christian is essential to her thinking God, and not just thinking of God. As human beings, and particularly, as Christians, we need what she calls "the moral imagination." Only then, we can live responsibility as the mode of responding to God's universal calling.

Shaw's *Practical Christianity* is a masterpiece of writing focused on lived religion. It opens a horizon of possibility of kairological thinking that will bring us, the readers, into a dialogue on the future of Christianity.