

**Document 5**  
**Historian's Report to the 223<sup>rd</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention**

Episcopal Clergy as Amateur Sleuths

The traditional Historian's Report gives way this year to a gift that keeps on giving. It is a list of authors and their mystery books that feature an Episcopal priest as the willing or unwilling mystery solver/hero. It is a rather large list, comparatively, and can provide many hours of enjoyment for those who like their mysteries and their church! A good economical way to find these is online, especially at [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

**The Rev. Cesare Paul Randolp**. A one-time pro-football quarterback nicknamed "Con" who is now the Rector of the wealthy Church of the Good Shepherd in Chicago.

Charles Merrill Smith, himself a Methodist cleric in Chicago, is the author. These books are not easy to find but can be discovered on used book sites. Well written and interesting. His first book was *How to Become a Bishop Without Being Religious*.

- Reverend Randolp and the Holy Terror (1980)
- Reverend Randolp and the Wages of Sin (1974)
- Reverend Randolp and the Avenging Angel
- Reverend Randolp and the Unholy Bible
- Reverend Randolp and the Fall From Grace
- Reverend Randolp and the Splendid Samaritan (finished by his son)

**The Rev. Lucas Holt**. An ex-prison chaplain who became rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in downtown Austin, Texas. Part of his ministry is the rehab of convicts, his God Squad.

Charles Meyer is the author and as of this writing I have found no bio of Meyer and only two books with Holt.

- The Saints of God Murders
- Blessed are the Merciless

**The Rev. Clare Ferguson**. A former Army helicopter pilot and now rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Miller's Kill, in the Adirondacks of New York State. Police Chief Russ Van Alstyne is her long-suffering ally. They are attracted to one another.

Julia Spencer-Fleming, a one-time resident of the Adirondack Piedmont, is a former lawyer, a communicant of the Episcopal Church, a former military brat, and her life creeps into her mysteries.

- In the Bleak Midwinter (2002)
- To Darkness and to Death (2005)
- A Fountain Filled With Blood (2003)
- All Mortal Flesh (2006)
- Out of the Deep I Cry (2004)

**The Reverend Claire Aldington**. Claire is the rector of St. Anselm's, Manhattan, New York.

Author - Isabelle Holland (1920-2002) was a native of Basel, Switzerland, who moved to America in 1940. A graduate of Tulane she held various publishing positions in New York. Her novel, *The Man Without a Face* was the basis of the Mel Gibson film of the same name.

- A Death at St. Anselm's (1984)
- A Fatal Advent (1989)
- Flight of the Archangel (1985)
- The Long Search (1990)
- A Lover Scorned (1986)

**Mother Lavinia Grey**. Vicar of St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Fisherville, New Jersey. Accomplished on the 'cello she is also a practicing therapist.

Author – Kate Gallison was raised in Illinois and New Jersey and presently lives in Lambertville, New Jersey.

- Bury the Bishop (1995)
- Hasty Retreat (1997)
- The Devil's Workshop (1996)
- Grave Misgivings (1998)
- Unholy Angels (1996)

**The Rev. Lily Connor.** A Texan born and bred but now in Boston, Lily chafes at the attitudes of the Church and is often in hot water!

Author – Michelle Blake, attended E.T.S. and then, years later, graduated from the Harvard Divinity School. An excellent series.

- The Tentmaker (1999)
- Earth Has No Sorrow (2001)
- The Book of Light (2003)

**The Rev. Martin Buell.** An Episcopal Rector in Farmington, Montana. No further information either on the sleuth or the author.

Author – Margaret Scherf. The titles are intriguing!

- Always Murder a Friend (1948)
- Gilbert's Last Toothache (For the Love of Murder) 1949
- The Curious Custard Pie (Divine and Deadly) 1950
- The Elk and the Evidence (1952)
- The Cautious Overshoes (1956)
- Never Turn Your Back (1959)
- The Corpse in the Flannel Nightgown

**Brother Cadfael.** A 12<sup>th</sup> century monk of Shrewsbury, England. Yes, I know he wasn't Episcopalian, but indulge yourself!

Author – Ellis Peters, the pen name of Edith Pargeter, was a Czech scholar whose Brother Cadfael series is widely known and enjoyed. Frankly, I believe they should be read in order.

- A Morbid Taste for Bones (1977)
- One Corpse Too Many (1979)
- Monk's Hood (1980)
- St. Peter's Fair (1981)
- The Leper of St. Giles (1981)
- The Virgin in the Ice (1982)
- The Sanctuary Sparrow (1983)
- The Devil's Novice (1983)
- The Dead Man's Ransom (1984)
- The Pilgrim of Hate (1984)
- An Excellent Mystery (1985)
- The Raven in the Foregate (1986)
- The Rose Rent (1986)
- The Hermit of Eyton Forest (1987)
- The Confession of Brother Haluin (1988)
- A Rare Benedictine (1988)
- The Heretic's Apprentice (1989)
- The Potter's Field (1989)
- Summer of the Danes (1991)
- The Holy Thief (1992)
- Brother Cadfael's Penance (1994)

**Fr. Tim** – the village rector of Mitford. Not mysteries, but fun enough to include.

Author – Jan Karon lives in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. The last listed book in this series is the final one.

- At Home in Mitford.
- A Light in the Window.
- In These High, Green Hills.
- Out to Canaan.
- A New Song.
- A Common Life
- In This Mountain
- Shepherds Abiding
- Light From Heaven

Happy reading!

The Rev. Canon Laurence D. Fish  
Historiographer  
2007