

Patrons of the Thomas Merton Society - Biographical Details

Rabbi Lionel Blue is a British Reform rabbi, journalist, author, speaker, broadcaster, and cook. He is best known for his long-standing association with the media, most notably his wry and gentle sense of humour on "Thought for the Day" on BBC Radio 4. He is also widely respected for his scholarship, wisdom and humanity.

Revd. Canon David Scott is a Church of England priest, poet, playwright and spiritual writer. He is an Honourary Canon of Winchester Cathedral and an honorary fellow of the University of Winchester. In 2008 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Degree Doctorate of Letters. David is a founding member and first Chair of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He is now retired and living in Cumbria.

Esther de Waal is an historian and author with a particular interest in Celtic, Benedictine and Cistercian spirituality. She is a popular retreat leader who has a great interest in the work of Thomas Merton. In the introduction to her book-"A Seven Day Journey with Thomas Merton", she describes Merton's influence as "...this most extraordinary man who has proved to be a friend, guide and inspiration for so many..."

For many years Esther has lived a life that, for all its demands has a vital contemplative core. She lives in the Welsh border country.

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware is an English bishop within the Eastern Orthodox Church under the Patriarchate of Constantinople and one of the best known contemporary Eastern Orthodox theologians. From 1982 he has held the Titular Bishopric of Diokleia. In 2007 the bishopric was made a titular metropolitan bishopric. From 1966 to 2001 he was Spalding Lecturer of Eastern Orthodox Studies at the University of Oxford. He has written numerous books and articles pertaining to the Orthodox Christian faith. He lives in Oxford continuing to serve a local Orthodox community, lecture, write and inspire with his wisdom.

Mother Christine Wood is the Superior of Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland, Wales. The Community seek to live the Cistercian charism in a life of prayer, daily manual work and lectio divina. The Community earns its living making altar breads and have a small monastic guest-house which welcomes retreatants. Mother Christine was elected Superior in 2006 and in a subsequent election in 2012 she was re-elected for an indefinite period.