

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, September 10, 2014

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Dear Friends,

What do you like reading? Well, I guess there are as many answers to this question as there are people.

Because I, am a Dane, I enjoy a good Scandinavian crime novel in my spare time.

Enjoy? How can you enjoy a good murder, I hear you whisper, and that coming from someone who goes green and blue when other members of the family watch *Casualty* and *Holby City*.

I guess it has something to do with the atmosphere and settings of Danish and Swedish crime, very black and cruel at times yet full of suspense and the magic of nature everywhere.

This reminds me very much of the setting when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert, and the latter pointed out and even took Jesus to the temple walls, from where he promised Him the earth, literally, if only He would succumb to the tempter.

Thankfully that did not happen. From the desert sand, to the highest pinnacle, and anywhere in be-

tween, Jesus not only held His own but conquered evil, forever and for all. That is worth celebrating.

However bleak my Danish novels — and I do not preach on them in my sermons; they are for leisure only — this bleakness pales into insignificance when compared to the dangers, hate and murderous villains Jesus had to face.

The cruelty levelled at Him was unspeakable, and no book can begin to match it. Even the Bible avoids all the detail but gives us enough to know the full scale of the atrocities.

It is a bit like television today when at least we have a screen between us and the events and yet know very well how gruesome the world can be — at times so cruel that we can forget all that is good, true and beautiful.

Yet we must never forget the good inherent in most of us. We should hold on to it and treasure it. Jesus, by His example, gives us every reason to do just that — and we must.

God bless you. Now, on with the reading.

Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen

Rev Preben Andersen