

**THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGER'S GUIDE-BOOK. A  
MANNUAL OF PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS,  
POINTING OUT THE MAN TO A LONG AND  
HAPPY LIFE. AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED  
TO THE VILLAGE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649548552

The Christian Villager's Guide-Book. A Manual of Practical Instructions, Pointing out the Man to a Long and Happy Life. Affectionately Dedicated to the Village Members of the Church of England by Anthony Crowdy

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**ANTHONY CROWDY**

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THE  
CHRISTIAN VILLAGER'S  
GUIDE BOOK.

A MANUAL OF  
PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS,

POINTING OUT

*The Way to a Holy and Happy Life.*

AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

TO THE VILLAGE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND.

BY

ANTHONY CROWDY, A.M.

AUTHOR OF "CHURCH OF ENGLAND VILLAGE DIALOGUES."

LONDON :  
JAMES NISBET & CO., BERNERS STREET.

MDCCLXXVII.

*Price 1/6, or Six Copies for 7/6.*

*1/1. 26. 27.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author is glad of the occasion afforded him by this reprint of the Christian Villager's Guide-Book, to record his thankfulness for the manner in which it has been received, and the extent to which it has been circulated. During the many years which have elapsed since its publication, even down to the present time, he has been favoured with most gratifying communications from Clergymen, District Visitors, and others, (many of them strangers to himself personally,) expressive of their own estimate of the work, and bearing testimony to its *great* acceptableness amongst that class of our population for whom it was written.

The First Edition comprised 2000 copies, and has for some years been out of print. It was, however, got up in a more expensive form than was originally designed, and its cost was necessarily such as to constitute an obstruction to its general circulation in rural parishes.

In preparing the present Edition, comprising also 2000 copies, the greatest care has been taken to pro-

vide for its being published at the *lowest possible price*. Nothing more has been sought, or can be gained, in a pecuniary way, than what is just sufficient to meet necessary expenses, and reimburse the Publishers.

It is hoped, therefore, that those who take an interest in the families of Christian villagers, in domestic servants, and the labouring classes generally, may be disposed to make this little manual known among them, and to recommend it as a volume suitable for Parish Libraries, and for the Catalogue of Book-hawking Associations.

The *style* in which the book is written was adopted advisedly, and is advisedly retained. It is a form of language, as many believe, that comes with more force to a peasant's ear, and is likely, therefore, to make a stronger impression on his mind.

And now the Author would commend his humble work to the gracious acceptance of the Divine Head of the Church; devoutly praying that, under His blessing, it may help and encourage many to keep the paths of righteousness, and "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing."



## DEDICATION.

TO THE VILLAGE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

To you I dedicate this little volume, because it much concerns you. I have taken some pains in writing it: but I shall never regret this if you will give your best attention in reading it. You will find I have discoursed about those subjects with which, as Villagers, you are familiar; and which closely relate to your eternal welfare. I have endeavoured to point out to you your particular temptations, and to direct you in your particular duties. My aim has been, to teach you to *adorn* the gospel as well as

profess it ; and to put you in the way to be happy by shewing you how to become holy.

I have not told you of *every* duty of a Christian man, nor of everything that *belongs* to the duties which I have written upon ; but I have told you what I thought was most needful and most profitable. In this respect I have acted as, you know, guides do. They point out the right road where it is *puzzling*, and they warn where it is *dangerous*. Where all is smooth, straight, and plain, the guide has no occasion to give directions.

I have also dwelt upon some matters which in other times might not have been so important ; but they are of great importance *now*. Religion is widely professed ; but, if we are to judge of it by its fruits, much of it is of a very doubtful character. Pride, conceitedness, self-will, and a spirit that tramples upon all order, neither acknowledging the authority of the ministers

of Christ, nor respecting those distinctions of rank and station which God himself has appointed,—these are very commonly the accompaniments of the religion professed in this day, whether in towns or villages. But, my friends, this is *not* the religion of Jesus Christ. These turbulent waters are not the softly flowing waters of the sanctuary. I would put you on your guard against such a religion as this, by whatever name it is called, or by whomsoever it is professed.

In reading the "Guide Book," let me beg you to take notice of such words and sentences as are printed in a *different letter* from the others. Your eye will soon observe them if you read carefully; and you will find such a distinction useful, because often the chief point or main strength of what is said lies in these words. If it is one word so printed, you should mark the *meaning* of that word particularly; and if