



Charles Darwin and the Church of Wordsworth (Hardback)

By Emeritus Professor of English Robert M Ryan

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2016. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 223 x 139 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Charles Darwin and the Church of William Wordsworth is a study of the cultural connections between two of the nineteenth century s most influential figures, Charles Darwin and William Wordsworth. When Darwin presented On the Origin of Species, his reading public s affective response to the natural world had already been profoundly influenced by William Wordsworth. Wordsworth presented nature as benign, harmonious, a source of moral inspiration and spiritual blessing, and a medium through which one might enter into communion with the Divine. Long after his death, he continued to be revered throughout the English-speaking world, not only as a great poet, but as a theologian with a broader following than any prelate and an appeal that transcended or ignored sectarian differences. For believers and sceptics alike, Wordsworth s poetry offered a readily accessible and intellectually respectable counterweight to Darwin s vision of a material universe evolving by fixed laws in which Divinity played no discernible role and where concepts like beauty and harmony were material conditions to be explained in scientific terms. Wordsworth s theology of nature became for...



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Reviews

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