BLOG OF THE YEAR 2011

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Category: Observations

It's that time of the year again; the time when I select what is, in my opinion, the best blog of the year. This eagerly awaited award is a bit of a poisoned chalice. Last year's winner, Onesimus Online more or less went offline as soon as I gave it the award! I'm not sure if the two events were related, but if this year's winner vanishes, then you know who to blame!

This year, I would like to make an additional award for the **most useful blog of the year**. From my perspective, there is one blog which stands head and shoulders over the all of the others in this category: Antony Billington's blog. Though he doesn't post a great deal of original material, Antony does an amazing job of linking to online theology and Biblical studies materials as they are published. My reading list gets bigger and bigger by the day, thanks to the wonderful job that Antony does. If you don't follow his blog, then you should!

As in previous years, my criteria for judging the blog of the year are simple:

1. They must post regularly
2. They must be consistently interesting
3. I must like them more than other blogs for whatever subjective reasons I choose.

A couple of potential winners were eliminated on the grounds that they don't post particularly regularly. Simon Cozens, a missionary in Japan, writes a thoughtful blog which often flirts with controversy. Come to think of it, the same could be said for Jamie's blog, too. Though Jamie and Simon write in very different ways, they are both prepared to take a long hard look at what it means to be a missionary and to criticise some of the sacred cows associated with mission work. These are two excellent blogs and I only wish that I wrote half as well as either of them.

However, there is one blog which wins hands down on all three of my criteria. The writers don't post regularly - they post with amazing frequency. The blog is certainly interesting, either that, or it is barking mad - or both. And for some strange reason, I do like this blog an awful lot.

So, with no further ado, I award my blog of the year award to ...

(long pause, while the camera dwells on the faces of the contestants and the music swells to a portentous crescendo)

... **The Beaker Folk of Husbourne Crawley**.

If Archdruid Eileen and company stop blogging, or vanish into Hardy's Wessex, it is probably my fault.