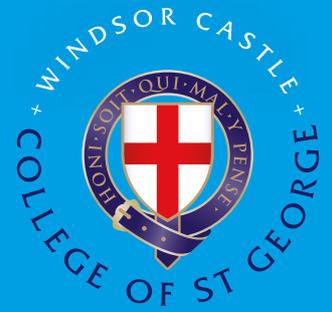


ST GEORGE'S HOUSE



God: Some Conversations

HOW DO YOU SPEAK ABOUT GOD?

3-13 JULY 2017

**'Will robotics
change our
world for the
better?'**

**'How might
we unlock
young people's
potential?'**

**'Is our prison
service fit
for purpose?'**

Enter into conversations on major issues facing Church and society.

Speak with and learn from people of different traditions.

Return refreshed and reinvigorated to your place of ministry
speaking more confidently and convincingly about God.

CLERGY CONSULTATION 3-13 JULY 2017



God: Some Conversations 3 - 13 July 2017

HOW DO YOU SPEAK ABOUT GOD?

THE FORMAT When you attend this Consultation you will do so with at least five years ministerial experience. On arrival at St George's House you will join a study group. These groups, led by experienced facilitators, will form the basis of a good deal of our work together, and there will be plenty of opportunity to get to know all the participants. Each day we will concentrate on a given issue and, whether in study groups or all together, we will examine that issue while engaging in the following activities:

Attending

The first session of each day is a Bible study relating to the subject under discussion. Together we will attend to Scripture with a view to understanding what it has to say to our contemporary situation.

Reflecting

Book and film reviews play an important part in our conversations. Through the monographs, novels and films, read or seen prior to the Consultation, we will be prompted to deepen our discussion of the topics.

Discovering

An expert speaker will give a presentation on each subject. By listening to those who have a real depth of knowledge and involvement we will discover more about the subject matter and develop an understanding of the issues and questions.

Engaging

Working in groups, participants will have the opportunity to unpack some of the relevant theological perspectives. It is often the case that we learn most when we engage with each other, listening to and sharing ideas.

Presenting

Before coming on the Consultation, you will have written a short paper (2000 – 3000 words). While at Windsor you will have the opportunity to present that paper to the other participants. It is an occasion for trying out ideas and seeing if they can be strengthened.

Worshipping

At the centre of life at St George's is the daily worship. You are invited to join in the daily routine of services – Morning Prayer, Holy Communion and Evensong. None of this is compulsory and you should feel free to find your own level of comfort.

Producing

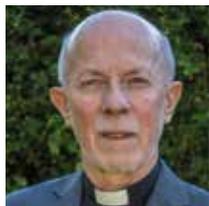
As the Consultation comes towards a close, each study group will produce a report which will be presented on the last day. Through this report they will explain their understanding of how best we can speak about God today.



THE SUBJECTS

- Christianity and Islam
- Luther's Theology
- Freedom of Expression
- Artificial Intelligence
- God & The Arts
- America
- Prisons
- Children's Issues

CONSULTATION SPEAKERS



Christianity and Islam – Professor David Thomas is Professor of Christian-Muslim Relations in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham. He specialises in the history of religious thought in Islam, and in encounters between Christians and Muslims, particularly in the Arab world. With degrees from Oxford, Cambridge and Lancaster, he has experience of the Islamic world and of involvement in interreligious relations within the United Kingdom.

Professor Thomas is an internationally regarded scholar and writer on the history and theology of relations between Muslims and Christians. He is director of Christian-Muslims Relations, a Bibliographical History, a research project to trace the history of engagement as it is recorded in writings by Christians and Muslims, and he is chief editor of the journal *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*.

Until a move in 2016, Professor Thomas was engaged in promoting interfaith dialogue in the Diocese of Derby. As Honorary Canon Theologian of Derby Cathedral, he regularly gave addresses on Christian-Muslim relations, he was a co-founder of the Derby Dialogue Group, and he served as a Governor in one of the city's church schools with a Muslim majority. He plans to continue work of a similar kind as opportunities allow in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.



Luther's Theology – The Reverend Canon Dr Hueston Finlay read Engineering and Theology at Trinity College, Dublin and pursued his doctoral studies at the University of London. Following ordination, he worked in the cathedral parish of St Canice in the County of Kilkenny, where he acted as Bishop's Vicar, Diocesan Librarian and Diocesan Registrar. While there he taught theology in the country's largest boarding school and lectured on ethics and doctrine for the diocesan adult education programme. He then moved to Cambridge when he was appointed as Curate to the University Church and Chaplain to Girton College. More recently he has served as Dean of Chapel, Director of Studies in Theology, and Tutor at Magdalene College Cambridge. He has also held an Affiliated Lectureship at the University of Cambridge, where he taught doctrine. He was appointed a Canon of St George's Chapel in 2004 and Warden of St George's House in 2008.



Freedom of Expression – Sir David Omand GCB, honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi College Cambridge, is a Visiting Professor in the Department of War Studies, King's College London and at PSIA Sciences-Po in Paris where he teaches intelligence studies. In 2002 he was appointed the first UK Security and Intelligence Coordinator in the Cabinet Office, having previously been Permanent Secretary of the UK Home Office, and before that Director of GCHQ, the UK's signals intelligence and cybersecurity organisation and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Policy in the MOD. His book *Securing the State* (2010 Hurst Publishing) is now available in a Kindle edition. His next book, on intelligence ethics, is in preparation with Oxford University Press.



Artificial Intelligence – Sabine Hauert is Assistant Professor in Robotics at the University of Bristol in the UK. Her research focuses on designing swarms that work in large numbers (>1000), and at small scales (<1 cm). Profoundly cross-disciplinary, Sabine works between Engineering Mathematics, the Bristol Robotics Laboratory, and Life Sciences. Before joining the University of Bristol, Sabine engineered swarms of nanoparticles for cancer treatment at MIT, and deployed swarms of flying robots at EPFL.

Sabine is also President and Co-founder of Robohub.org, a non-profit dedicated to connecting the robotics community to the public.

As an expert in science communication with ten years of experience, Sabine is often invited to discuss the future of robotics and AI, including in the journal *Nature*, at the European Parliament, and at the Royal Society. Her work has been featured in mainstream media including BBC, CNN, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, TEDx, WIRED, and *New Scientist*.



God & The Arts – Allan Chin studied art and design at Hornsey, Canterbury, and St Martins college of art. After studying for an MA in art history at the Courtauld Institute, he worked for three years at the British Museum, mainly in the Department of Prints and Drawings. Since 2008 he has been with the Royal Collection as Collections Information Assistant for Prints and Drawings, based at Windsor Castle. His interest in life-drawing started at school, and he has attended classes for many years, most recently (since 2010) at the Royal Drawing School in London. Since September he has been leading informal life-drawing classes at Windsor, which are enthusiastically attended by members of the Royal Household.



America – Xenia Wickett is the head of the US and the Americas Programme at Chatham House and the Dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs.

Previous roles include Executive Director of the PeaceNexus Foundation near Geneva and Executive Director for Research at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center where she was also Director of the Project on India and the Subcontinent.

Xenia has served with the US government as director for South Asia on the National Security Council; and at the State Department as special adviser to the Homeland Security Group and as an officer in the Bureau of Nonproliferation. Following September 11, 2001, she was detailed from the Department of State to the Office of the Vice President to help launch the Office of Homeland Security Affairs.

Prior to her government service, Xenia worked in the nonprofit and private sectors in California, Israel and the West Bank, and the UK, and for UNICEF in New York.



Prisons – Alli Black has worked for HM Prison Service for 20 years, working mainly in the Midlands, with young offenders, young people, and men in the category C estate, as well as Deputy Governor at HMP/YOI Drake Hall (women's prison). She is currently a Governor at HMP Kirkham, with a focus on developing business assurance, and rehabilitation.

She is on the editorial board of the academic Prison Service Journal, and is a specialist advisor to the steering group to the Criminal Justice National Arts Alliance. More recently she has joined the advisory group of Royal College of Psychiatrists' Enabling Environment programme. She is a blue light fundraiser and advocate – working in conjunction with 'our blue light' and the Mental health charity 'Mind', to raise awareness of mental health in the emergency services.

She has a degree in the History of Art, De Montfort University and a Masters in Applied Criminology, Cambridge University.



Children's Issues – Matthew Reed is Chief Executive of The Children's Society which focuses on addressing the profound challenges faced by many young people, breaking the cycles of disadvantage that impede their flourishing, and unlocking their potential and life chances. Matthew believes that getting these wrong has a colossal detrimental impact on the young people concerned, their communities and our wider society; getting these things right and unlocking young people's life chances offers enormous benefits to everyone.

Prior to joining The Children's Society Matthew was Chief Executive of The Cystic Fibrosis Trust (medical research) and a director at Christian Aid (international development). From 2015 to 2016 Matthew was the independent chair of the Birmingham Commission on Child Poverty and has been a mentor to graduates and third sector senior leaders for many years.

Matthew has a degree in Theology from the University of Oxford, a degree in Engineering and Management from the University of Nottingham, and a Masters in Management from the University of Surrey.

NEXT STEP

Deadline for registration is **Friday, 10th March 2017**

If you would like further information or a registration form please contact St George's House on 01753 848886 or email: clergy.consultations@stgeorghouse.org

nurturing wisdom

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