

# The Tyndale Society



## 9<sup>th</sup> International Tyndale Conference – Oxford 2015

October 1-4 Hertford College, Oxford

### Why this event?

This Conference is about William Tyndale - his writings, translations and his influence on the European Reformation. It will also examine his wider legacy - the incalculable effect of his linguistic contribution on our law, history and culture. A prophet without honour in his own land (a Tyndale phrase), he is now the subject of a major re-assessment, as both religious reformer and father of the modern English language.

William Tyndale studied at what is now Oxford's Hertford College. He read Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric for the Trivium (Bachelor's degree). Tyndale found the prevailing Scholastic environment irrelevant and uninspiring. The sophistry of "predicaments, universals, second intentions, quiddities, haecceities and relatives" particularly irked him as self-serving and inaccessible. Thus he set out to write in plain English.

### The independent works of William Tyndale

Tyndale is best known as a brilliant bible translator, working from the original Greek and Hebrew to a printed version in modern English. But this conference will also examine Tyndale's views on education, culture and theology. His 'independent' writings - his prologues, introductions, glosses, comments and polemical works - show how he felt that people interested in the Word of God were kept away from it by the Church. In his *Obedience* he criticised those who claimed to be custodians of the Scriptures. This event will cover the moral, philological and spiritual insights he borrows from or shares with others, plus those that make him different.

Some of the Conference speakers will be presenting their findings from current research and from newly discovered archive material. The recently unearthed Erasmus *Enchiridion* manuscript translation, probably by Tyndale, will feature in the discussions. And there will be special exhibitions of Tyndale related material held simultaneously at both Hertford College and the adjacent Bodleian Library.

### Tyndale Society 20th anniversary

The Tyndale Society was founded in 1995, so this year marks its 20th anniversary. As a special occasion for TS the speakers include many well-known academic specialists - historians, theologians and experts in the literature or language of the time - all to be enjoyed in the peaceful surroundings of historic Hertford College. Tyndale reputedly wanted 'ploughboys' to be able to understand the scriptures. The main programme is thus supported by three 'ploughboy sessions', setting the man in context, and designed for a general audience.

There will be a gala dinner on the Friday evening. On the Saturday evening, the renowned English Chamber Choir will perform a concert of mainly 16<sup>th</sup> century music. For those staying over until Sunday, a special service will be held in Hertford College Chapel, followed by a tailor made tour of 'Tyndale's Oxford'.

### When is it?

The Conference will run over four days, starting 15:00 on Thursday 1st October and ending on Sunday 4th. The full conference package will include all meals for those staying in college. Participants can book for the whole event or just a single day. Details of options are on the booking form attached separately.

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## Programme Highlights

There will be two days of full Conference sessions throughout the Friday and Saturday morning & afternoon. Starting at 09.30, each morning session will be followed by a buffet lunch. The afternoon speakers will finish at about 17.30. There will be morning & afternoon tea and coffee breaks. Evening meals will be served in hall.

**Thursday afternoon** - From 15.00 registration at The Old Lodge, with allocation of accommodation.

**19.00 Dinner followed by ploughboy session** (David Ireson) '*Tyndale and the English Reformation*'.

**Friday morning** - the keynote speaker is Ian Mortimer. A well-known and brilliantly innovative historian, he will cover the huge sweep of Tyndale's legacy and its influence. His latest best-selling book, *Centuries of Change*, highlights the crucial role of bible translations into the vernacular in shaping world history.

Prof Tibor Fabiny (Budapest) on Tyndale's theology; Prof. Mark Rankin (James Madison University and editor of *Reformation*) on Tyndale's *Practyse of Prelates*.

**Friday afternoon** Gergely Juhász (Liverpool Hope University) *Tyndale as translator of the Hebrew Bible*

Panel session - Henry Wansborough and Ralph Werrell on heresy/European influence - Chair Guido Latré

Sr. Anne O'Donnell (Founding Editor, Independent Works of William Tyndale);

**17.30 Ploughboy session** '*Tyndale and the English Bible in a European Context*' Andrew Hope

**19.30 Gala Dinner**

**Saturday morning** Prof. Guido Latré (Louvain) *The Law and the Gospel* - iconography of the Coverdale title page; Elizabeth Bell Canon (Missouri Western University); *Buried Treasure: What Makes the Tyndale Corpus Different?*; Andrew Hope (Oxford) *Why was Tyndale Executed?*

**Saturday afternoon** Prof. Susan Felch (Calvin College, Michigan) & Clare Costley King'oo (University of Connecticut), '*Reading Obedience in whole and in parts*'. Prof. Thomas Betteridge (Brunel University) *Tyndale and the Drama of Reformation*

Prof. Brian Cummings (York University) will close the afternoon session with '*Tyndale and Erasmus*'. Celebrated for his work on the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, he gave 2014's Shakespeare Birthday Lecture in Washington DC and the Oxford Clarendon Lectures in 2012-13.

**17.30 Concert of mainly 16<sup>th</sup> Century music performed by the English Chamber Choir**

**19.00 Dinner**

**20.45 Ploughboy session** '*After Tyndale and Henry VIII up to the Prayer Book Rebellion*'.

**Sunday morning** Ecumenical service in the College Chapel. Plus tour of '*Tyndale's Oxford*' (Andrew Hope).

## Other Speakers

Szidónia Majoros (Károli Gáspár University, Budapest), '*Tyndale's Parable of the Wicked Mammon*'; Jeannette Mitterhofer (Zurich), '*Tyndale and Zwingli's understanding of the Lord's Supper*'; Kaoru Yamazaki (Japan), '*Schoolbooks as Tools for Religious Education in the English Reformation*'.

**Please be aware that the schedule and speaker list may be subject to revision.**