

# The Tyndale Society



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

October 1-4 Hertford College, Oxford

### Why this event?

This Conference is for all those interested in William Tyndale - his writings, his translations and his influence on the European Reformation. Apart from Tyndale's theological and non-translation work, it will also examine his wider legacy and 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, not only as a religious reformer, but also as father of the modern English language.

In 1506, aged about 12, William Tyndale came to Oxford's Magdalen School. He then moved on to what is now Hertford College. Here he studied Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric for the Trivium (Bachelor's degree). While at Oxford Tyndale found the prevailing Scholastic study environment irrelevant and uninspiring. The sophistry of "predicaments, universals, second intentions, quiddities, heaceities and relatives" particularly irked him as being self-serving and inaccessible. Consequently 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 the conference will examine Tyndale's views on education, culture and theology. His 'independent' writings - his prologues, introductions, glosses, comments and polemical works - emphasise how he felt that people genuinely interested in the Word of God were kept away from it by the Church. In his *Obedience* he was critical of those who considered themselves custodians of the Scriptures. The conference will cover the moral, philological and spiritual insights he borrows from or shares with others, as well as 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 permission has been granted for special exhibitions of Tyndale related material to be held simultaneously at both Hertford College and the adjacent Bodleian Library.

### Tyndale Society 20th anniversary

The Tyndale Society was founded by Prof. David Daniell and others in 1995, so this year marks its 20th anniversary. As a special occasion for TS the speaker list includes many well-known academic specialists in this field - historians, theologians and experts in the literature or language of the period - all to be enjoyed in the peaceful surroundings of historic Hertford College. The main programme is supplemented by three 'Ploughboy' sessions, setting the scene for the man and his times.

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', designed to interest Conference participants.

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## Programme Highlights

The Conference will run over four days, starting 15:00 on Thursday 1st October for registration and allocation of accommodation. The full conference package will include all meals for those staying in college. Details of other booking options are given on the booking form attached separately.

Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> October) and Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> October) will have full Conference sessions throughout the morning and afternoon. Starting at 9:30 the morning session will be followed by a buffet lunch, and the afternoon speakers will finish at 17:30. An evening meal will then be served in hall. On Friday morning our keynote speaker is Dr Ian Mortimer. A well-known and innovative historian, his latest best-selling book, *Centuries of Change*, highlights the crucial role of bible translations into the vernacular in shaping not just the Reformation but world history generally.

On Saturday Prof. Brian Cummings will open the morning session. 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 Clarendon Lectures in Oxford in 2012-13. Brian is now based at York University, where he is Anniversary Professor.

Three Ploughboy sessions have been proposed. David Ireson will set the scene with '*Tyndale and the English Reformation*'. Andrew Hope will explore '*Tyndale and the English Bible in a European Context*', and both will participate in a final session covering '*After Tyndale and Henry VIII up to the Prayer Book Rebellion*'. Andrew Hope will also conduct the tour of '*Tyndale's Oxford*' on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

## Speakers

There will be a full cast of specialist speakers on both days including expected contributions from:

Andrew Hope - Reformation historian - postgraduate research at Oxford University; taught at Oxford and Reading universities - special interest William Tyndale (author of several papers in this field).

Dr Gergely Juhasz - lectures in Theology and Biblical Studies at Liverpool Hope University. Greg's main research interest is early modern English (Tudor) Bibles, especially those printed in Antwerp.

Guido Latré - Professor of English Literature and Culture, Louvain - research focus early English bibles from Antwerp - he won the Churchill Medal for his work on English in a European context.

Sr. Anne O'Donnell - Professor Emerita, Catholic University of America; Founding Editor of the Independent Works of William Tyndale, her research on Erasmus' *Enchiridion* is of topical interest

Mark Rankin – Professor of English at James Madison University, Virginia. Special fields include the impact of printing on the English Reformation, Tyndale and other 16<sup>th</sup> century religious related texts

Prof. Cathy Shrank - School of English, Sheffield University. Her publications are mainly on 16th century literature pre Shakespeare - her focus is 16th century humanism and national identity

Dr. Ralph Werrell – specialist in Tyndale's intellectual and theological background in the Lollard tradition. A founder member of the Tyndale Society, he is an expert on Tyndale's range of influences.

Dom Henry Wansborough - a Benedictine monk at Ampleforth Abbey, UK. Editor of The New Jerusalem Bible, and scripture translator; written numerous books, including The Story of the Bible