

The Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing 2007

Information Pack

Key Facts

The Prize

The author of the winning book will receive **£15,000**. This is a substantial award, particularly for a specialist competition.

Shortlist

The shortlist for the prize was announced on **1st December 2006**. See inside for details of the six short-listed books and their authors.

Prize-giving

The cheque for £15,000 will be presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park on **15th May 2007**.



About the Michael Ramsey Prize

The Award, which is sponsored by the Lambeth Fund in partnership with SPCK, was inaugurated by Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams to encourage the most promising contemporary theological writing and to identify it for a wider Christian readership.

The biennial prize commemorates Dr Ramsey, who was Archbishop of Canterbury 1961-1974, and his commitment to increasing the breadth of theological understanding of people in general.

The Prize was inaugurated in 2003, and the first award was made in 2005. Five books were shortlisted from the entries received. The winner was announced and the £15,000 prize awarded in York on 12 July 2005 (at the conclusion of the York Synod).

Nominations are made by invited Anglican Primates worldwide, by leaders of Christian church bodies in the UK, Anglican Diocesan Bishops and by principals of theological colleges. Books may not be nominated by publishers or members of the public.

The Shortlist

The 2007 shortlist is drawn from a variety of Christian traditions, reflecting the ecumenical focus of the Prize. The six books are:-

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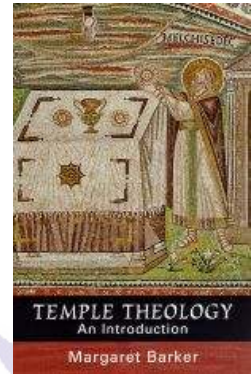


The 2007 Shortlist

Temple Theology

An Introduction

Margaret Barker



How was it that early Christian reflection on Jesus emerged so rapidly and with such a high degree of definition? What patterns of interpretation, already known in late second temple Palestine, crystallized around the person of Jesus Christ and his work?

Margaret Barker believes that Christian theology matured quickly because it was the return to a far older faith. Those who preserved the ancient tradition rejected the second temple, and longed for the restoration of the original, true temple and the faith of Abraham and Melchizedek, the first priest-king. In this fascinating discussion, the author refutes the scholarly assumption that crucial Christian concepts, such as the Trinity, the earth as a reflection of heaven, and the cosmic nature of the atonement, are informed by Greek culture. Rather, she argues, they are drawn from the eclipsed faith of the first temple.

Paperback, ISBN 028105634X, £9.99, published by SPCK

Margaret Barker read theology at the University of Cambridge, England, and went on to pursue her research independently. She was elected President of the Society for Old Testament Study in 1998, and is currently the Editor of the Society's Monograph Series, published by Ashgate. She has so far written twelve books, which form a sequence, later volumes building on her earlier conclusions.



Since 1997, she has been part of the symposium Religion, Science and the Environment, convened by His All Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch. This work has led her to develop the practical implications of temple theology as the basis for a Christian environment theology.

She is the author of: *The Older Testament* (1987); *The Lost Prophet* (1988); *The Gate of Heaven* (1991); *The Great Angel* (1992); *On Earth as it is in Heaven* (1995); *The Risen Lord* (1996); *Commentary on Isaiah* (1996); *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (2000); *The Great High Priest* (2003); *Temple Theology* (2004); *An Extraordinary Gathering of Angels* (2004); and *The Hidden Tradition of the Kingdom of God* (January 2007).

Margaret Barker is a mother and grandmother, a Methodist Preacher, and has been involved, since it opened in 1977, with the work of a Women's Refuge.

The Questionnaire

1. Why did you write this book?

Temple Theology was a short summary, of the state at that time of an ongoing project to redraw the map of biblical scholarship. It was devised for the Cardinal Hume lectures, and is the tenth in series of books, the first having been published in May 1987. I have written three other books in the series since *Temple Theology*.

2. What is the key concept of your book?

The most neglected element in modern in biblical scholarship – the Jerusalem temple, which was central to the world view of Jesus and the New Testament.

3. Why is this topic of particular relevance to the Church in the twenty-first century?

It brings the Bible back to its original context, and as a result provides an authentic basis for thinking about e.g. the environment, our attitude to knowledge, and about the meaning of key concepts such as resurrection and atonement, covenant and incarnation.

4. Describe your ideal reader.

My ideal reader is any thinking person who is concerned that the Church has lost touch with the Bible.

5. Do you need a degree in theology to read and understand your book?

No.

6. Why is theology more important than ever today?

After generations of being sold secularism as the solution to all problems, people have realised that this is not a satisfying path. There is very little to feed them, as can be seen by the quality of some of the “Mind Body Spirit” material that crowds bookshops.

7. Complete in no more than 2 sentences:-

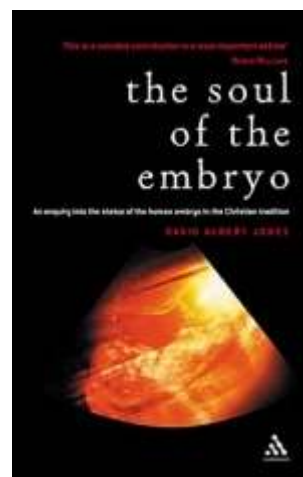
“I’m thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because....”

I’m thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because it means that *Temple Theology* has been noticed. An independent scholar such as I am does not have access to the powerful networks that usually promote or suppress new ideas.

The Soul of the Embryo

David Jones

In recent years, the moral status of the human embryo has come to the fore as a vital issue for a range of contemporary ethical debates. It is therefore extraordinary that there has been no significant systematic work on the history of Christian reflection on the human embryo. Here, David Albert Jones seeks to tell the story of this unfolding tradition - a story that encompasses many different medical, moral, philosophical and theological themes. He starts by examining the understanding of the embryo in the Hebrew Scriptures, then moves through early Christianity and the Middle Ages to the Reformation and beyond. Finally, David Jones considers the application of this developed tradition to the contemporary situation and questions which contemporary Christian view or views are best regarded as authentic developments of the tradition and which should be regarded as alien to the tradition.



Dr David Albert Jones is Senior Lecturer in Bioethics at St Mary's College, a College of the University of Surrey. He was until recently Director of The Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics.

Paperback, ISBN 0826462960, £16.99, published by Continuum Books

David Albert Jones was born in Leicester in 1966. He read natural sciences and philosophy at Cambridge (1984-1987) and theology at Oxford (1992-1995). His doctorate, completed in 2002, was on the theological understanding of death. In 2001 He was appointed Director of the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics, the principal Roman Catholic bioethics centre in the United Kingdom. In 2002 he came to St Mary's College, (now St Mary's University College), Twickenham where he established an MA in Bioethics. He was a member of the working party that prepared a document on life issues (*Cherishing Life*) for the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (2003). He has made submissions or given oral evidence to different bodies on a range of bioethical issues. These include the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (Hybrid Embryos); Law Commission (Homicide Act review); Department of Health (HFEA consultation); National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Social Value Judgments); Nuffield Council on Bioethics (Treatment of Neonates); Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Incapacity Bill; and Department of Health (Law on Human Organs and Tissue consultation), House of Lords (Select Committee on Stem Cell Research). His other publications include *Christianity: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* Oxford: Family Publications, 1999; *Organ Transplants and the Definition of Death* London: CTS Explanations, 2001; and *Approaching the End: a theological exploration of death and dying* Oxford: OUP [forthcoming 2007].



The Questionnaire

1. Why did you write this book?

The book came out of the debate over human cloning in 2001. Each side was each claiming that the Christian tradition supported their view of the human embryo. I wanted to discover for myself what Christians had believed about the beginning of human life.

2. What is the key concept of your book?

The key concept of the book is that while science, law, and theology have developed over the centuries, Christians have always seen life as a gift from God. It is God who forms us in the womb from the time we are embryos. If this is true then can it be right to destroy embryos for their cells?

3. Why is this topic of particular relevance to the Church in the twenty-first century?

This topic is relevant to the Church as society confronts new and difficult questions about the limits of scientific research and reproductive medicine. It is also relevant as the Church revisits the perennial question of abortion.

4. Describe your ideal reader.

My ideal reader is someone who is concerned about the ethics of using human embryos for research, and who is open to looking at things from a Christian perspective. I have been very happy to receive appreciation from reviewers who are not themselves Christian, but who think that the status of the embryo is a key question for our society.

5. Do you need a degree in theology to read and understand your book?

No.

6. Why is theology more important than ever today?

I think theology is more important than ever because people face more complex moral choices, but they do not have the language that can help them to make sense of the world and to do the right thing.

7. Complete in no more than 2 sentences:-

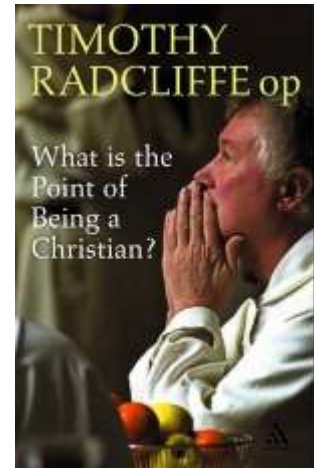
“I’m thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because....”

I am thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because I wrote on a topic that I think is important in a way that I hoped would be helpful to Christians and to others who are sympathetic to Christianity. The nomination shows many have found the book helpful and I hope the nomination will encourage others to read it.

What is the point of being a Christian?

Timothy Radcliffe

Timothy Radcliffe is a charismatic spiritual leader; his talks and broadcasts always surprise. A man with strong liberal instincts, he has held high office in the Roman Catholic Church and has a profound respect for the authority and teaching charism of his Church. He is constantly in demand as a speaker, lecturer, preacher and broadcaster and in this new volume he has written with honesty about the difficulties of Christian belief. Shot through with humour, friendship and wisdom, the pages of this book outline a manner of living which is at once faithful to the teachings of Jesus and rooted in the tradition of the Church and at the same time responsive to the turbulence of the modern world.



Paperback, ISBN 0860123693, £10.99, published by Continuum Books

2007
MICHAEL
RAMSEY



Timothy Radcliffe OP was born in London in 1945, the fourth of six children. He was educated by the Benedictines at Worth and Downside schools. He joined the English Province of the Dominican Order in 1965, and was ordained a priest in 1971. He studied at Blackfriars and at St John's College in Oxford, and in Paris. He was a chaplain to the University of London in 1974 – 76, before returning to Oxford, where he taught scripture and doctrine for twelve years. Besides teaching and preaching, he was involved in the Peace movement and in ministry to people with AIDS. He was Prior of Oxford from 1982 – 88, when he was elected Provincial of the English Province. He was President of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors. In 1992 he was elected Master of the Order, finishing his term in 2001. He was Chancellor of the Angelicum University in Rome, S.Tomas in Manila, the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem and the Theology Faculty in Fribourg. He is now an itinerant preacher and lecturer, based at Blackfriars, Oxford, spending half of the year travelling, and on the board of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. He is an Honorary Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, and Doctor of Divinity *hon. causa* of Oxford University and the Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum), and has honorary doctorates from various other universities. He is the author of *Sing a New Song, I Call You Friends, Seven Last Words*, and *What is the Point of Being a Christian?*

The Questionnaire

1. Why did you write this book?

It was a question from a friend, 'What do you get out of being a Christian?' that crystallised a concern that had been at the back of my mind for a while.

2. What is the key concept of your book?

That Christianity will not communicate the gospel effectively just by repeating words. People have to be able to see that our faith does touch our lives, and that being a Christian gives one a particular quality of joy and hope.

3. Why is this topic of particular relevance to the Church in the twenty-first century?

It is a time when many people have a fear of the future, even a touch of despair about where we are heading. So it is vital to share our Christian hope for humanity.

4. Describe your ideal reader.

I hope that people will enjoy the book! So my ideal reader would be someone who takes pleasure in thinking, while not being a professional academic. I share quotations and thoughts from people whom I have enjoyed reading and hope that these will be a pleasure for other people to encounter too.

5. Do you need a degree in theology to read and understand your book?

No!

6. Why is theology more important than ever today?

Because our world is filled with religious violence. Good theology should help believers of different faiths or none to understand each other and receive each others' gifts.

7. Complete in no more than 2 sentences:-

"I'm thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because...."

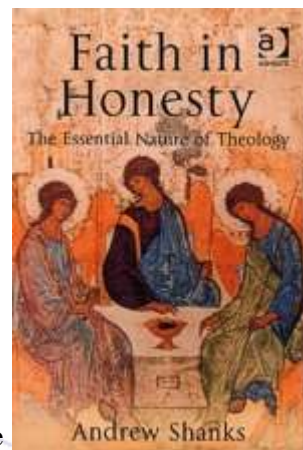
Because I have a tremendous admiration for Archbishop Michael Ramsey, whose deep theology and wide-open heart moved Christians so much closer together.

Faith in Honesty

The Essential Nature of Theology

Andrew Shanks

How, if at all, is religious faith 'true'? The starting point for this book is that traditional Christian theology overvalues the importance of 'correctness'. What really counts far more is 'Honesty'. Not just sincerity or frankness, but Honesty in the sense of a sheer openness to the Other. A set of skills, Andrew Shanks argues, which the church has very much still to learn. True faith in God is faith in Honesty. But theological Honesty has three faces. It stands equally opposed to banality, manipulation, the mere disowning of history. This book thus presents a whole new approach to the doctrine of the Trinity. A fresh stimulus to theological debate at academic, student and more popular levels.



Hardback, ISBN 075465320X, £19.99, published by Ashgate



Photo: Canon Paul Denby

Andrew Shanks is Canon Theologian at Manchester Cathedral.

He was born in 1954. Educated at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Marburg and Leeds, he worked as a schoolteacher in Ethiopia and Egypt before being ordained.

Since then he has alternated between working as a parish priest and a university lecturer. The parishes he has served have been very varied: Chapeltown in inner city Leeds, Stanningley on the edge of Leeds, Upper Ryedale in the North York Moors. He has been employed as a lecturer by three universities: Leeds, Lancaster and Manchester.

Besides *Faith in Honesty*, his published books include *Hegel's Political Theology* (CUP, 1991), *Civil Society, Civil Religion* (Blackwell, 1995), *God and Modernity* (Routledge, 2000), *“What Is Truth?” Towards a Theological Poetics* (Routledge, 2001), and *The Other Calling* (Blackwell, 2007).

He is married to Dian Leppington, who is also a priest.

The Questionnaire

1. Why did you write this book?

For a number of years I've been interested in exploring the basic question of what theology, in general, is for. This book is an attempt to answer that question in relation to the doctrine of the Trinity.

2. What is the key concept of your book?

My argument is that religious truth is not so much a kind of correctness, but a kind of honesty. That's to say, it's first and foremost a quality of good conversation, rather than a quality of 'correct' propositions, considered in abstraction from their conversational context. By 'honesty' here I don't just mean sincerity, truly meaning what you say, or candour, truly saying what you think. But I mean 'honesty' in the sense of truly being open to what other people have to say, and especially those most different from oneself. And then it seems to me that honesty, so defined, has three faces – theologically corresponding to the three faces of the Holy Trinity. I try to show how.

3. Why is this topic of particular relevance to the Church in the twenty-first century?

Understanding theology not so much as a quest for 'correctness', but rather as (in my phrase) 'the science of the sacralisation of true honesty', changes everything. And I think that we're actually in a better position today than any generation ever before us to grasp this. In other words, we're better positioned than any previous generation to understand the real truth of the gospel.

4. Describe your ideal reader.

My ideal reader would, above all, be someone who isn't afraid of troublesome questions.

5. Do you need a degree in theology to read and understand your book?

This is probably the most difficult of the books on the shortlist – because, in the end, it's the most ambitious. (But I've tried to be as helpful as possible, for instance including a little 'Who's Who' appendix, to introduce the various thinkers discussed.).

6. Why is theology more important than ever today?

As the world changes faster and faster – also more and more dangerously – only religion has the capacity to inspire the necessary moral adjustments, by whole communities. But it requires religion that's truly open-minded, truly open to fresh challenges. And, in the Christian world, that opening up is the job of theology

7. Complete in no more than 2 sentences:-

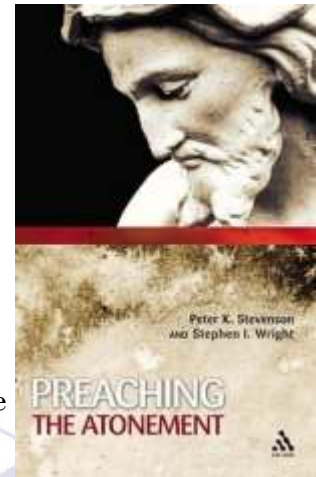
“I'm thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because....”

I'm thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because I strongly believe in what the Prize stands for. It seems very good to me that the Church of England has set itself to try and encourage bold, free-spirited thinking in this way.

Preaching the Atonement

Peter Stevenson and Stephen Wright

This book explores some classic texts which throw light on the atonement. Each chapter focuses on a key Biblical passage, offering a theological commentary which will help both preachers and church members gain a deeper understanding of the atoning work of Christ. *Preaching the Atonement* assumes that the preacher's role is not to squeeze every passage of Scripture into the same mould. Each passage bears witness to another aspect of the many splendoured work of Christ; as the preacher invites the congregation to listen to the testimony of this cloud of biblical witnesses.



Paperback, ISBN 0567089991, £14.99, published by T&T Clark, an imprint of Continuum Books



Peter Stevenson (above left) is Director of Training at Spurgeon's College, London.



Stephen Wright (above right) was Director of The College of Preachers from 1998-2006 and is now Tutor in Biblical Studies and Practical Theology at Spurgeon's College, London.

The Questionnaire

1. Why did you write this book?

Many years ago one of us was asked how the death of Jesus thousands of years ago can make a difference now; and this book represents one attempt to respond to that question. The hope is that people will be stimulated to appreciate more about the continuing relevance of the atonement, and will be helped to make practical connections between the Bible, theology and the task of preaching.

2. What is the key concept of your book?

As the Bible uses many images and ideas to convey the significance of the saving work of Christ, it is helpful for Christians today to employ a range of models in communicating the atoning work of Christ today.

3. Why is this topic of particular relevance to the Church in the twenty-first century?

In a violent and fragile world the message of the cross is as relevant as ever. It points to the power of divine love which is more powerful and resilient than the powers which dominate the news headlines.

4. Describe your ideal reader.

Someone who wants to understand the atonement in a deeper way and who wants some help in communicating it to others.

5. Do you need a degree in theology to read and understand your book?

Hopefully the mix of biblical commentary and actual sermons mean that the book will appeal to a range of people with or without theological training.

6. Why is theology more important than ever today?

Because what people believe affects what they do.

7. Complete in no more than 2 sentences:-

“I’m thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because....”

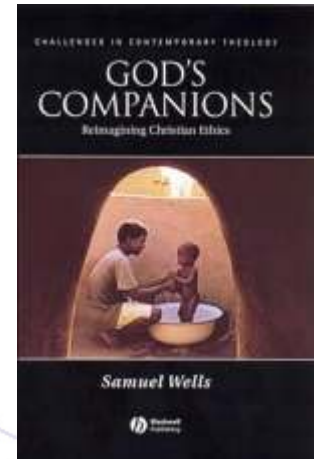
We’re thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because it may help to make preaching and the truth of the atonement more visible. Michael Ramsey communicated Christian faith with clarity and integrity; and that is what we have attempted to do.

God's Companions

Reimagining Christian Ethics

Samuel Wells

Grounded in Samuel Wells' experience of ordinary lives in poorer neighbourhoods, this book presents a striking and imaginative approach to Christian ethics. It argues that Christian ethics is founded on God, on the practices of human community, and on worship, and that ethics is fundamentally a reflection of God's abundance.



Wells synthesizes dogmatic, liturgical, ethical, scriptural, and pastoral approaches to theology in order to make a bold claim for the centrality of the local church in theological reflection. He considers the abundance of gifts God gives through the practices of the Church, particularly the Eucharist. His central thesis, which governs his argument throughout, is that God gives his people everything they need to worship him, be his friends, and eat with him. Wells engages with serious scholarly material, yet sets out the issues lucidly for a student audience.

Samuel Wells teaches at Duke University, a private research university located in Durham North Carolina, USA.

Paperback, ISBN 1405120142, £19.99, published by Blackwells



Samuel Wells was born in Canada, studied in Oxford, Edinburgh, and Durham, UK and spent fourteen years in parish ministry in the Church of England, mostly in socially deprived areas, before moving to North Carolina to be Dean of the Chapel at Duke University and Research Professor of Christian Ethics at Duke Divinity School. In addition to *God's Companions* (2006), he has written several books, including *Transforming Fate into Destiny: The Theological Ethics of Stanley Hauerwas* (2004), *Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics* (2004) and *Power and Passion* (The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2007). He co-edited with Stanley Hauerwas *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* (Blackwell, 2004).

The Questionnaire

1. Why did you write this book?

Because I wanted to send a message of hope to the contemporary Church, that the things that matter are not in short supply, and that happiness lies in learning to love the things God gives in plenty. This discovery transformed my life, and I believe it could transform the life of many others.

2. What is the key concept of your book?

The problem for humankind is invariably assumed to be that there is not enough – wisdom, resources, cooperation, revelation – fundamentally not enough God. Instead I suggest the problem is that there is too much God, and our imaginations are simply not big enough to take it all in. So God gives us ways to receive his too-much-ness. This books explores those ways, assuming that God gives his people everything they need to follow him. .

3. Why is this topic of particular relevance to the Church in the twenty-first century?

Because the Western Church, like most of Western society, is obsessed with scarcity. In England this particularly means the Church of England is mesmerized by its lack of numbers and of money. But its real issues are theological – does it believe that through Easter and Pentecost, God has given more than it needs to do what God calls it to do? Does it, in short, believe that God is “enough”?

4. Describe your ideal reader.

Someone who has frequently been told that the problems in the world (hunger, terrorism, climate change) are due to there not being “enough”, and who has cast around the private, public and voluntary sector trying to discover “more” but has not thought of seeing that the key to transformation lies in the gifts God gives to the Church.

5. Do you need a degree in theology to read and understand your book?

No. The book is structured around themes most Christians know well - reading scripture, being baptized, being reconciled, sharing communion - and is sprinkled generously with contemporary examples from ordinary congregational life.

6. Why is theology more important than ever today?

Because the old alliance between the Church and repressive social forces has collapsed and the movement for the liberation of the marginalized has not replaced it. Theology can offer profound resources to diagnose deeper problems and point to inspiring patterns of redemption, in the Church and beyond.

7. Complete in no more than 2 sentences:-

“I’m thrilled to be nominated for the Michael Ramsey Prize because....”

It’s a huge validation of my vocation as a priest, pastor and preacher whose theological reflection arises out of the day-to-day experiences and discoveries of congregational life. The book draws attention both to the ordinary life of the local church and to the abundance of God, and I’d love to see these two themes squarely at the centre of the Church's attention.

The Judges



Archbishop Rowan Williams was born in Swansea on 14 June 1950. He read Theology at Christ's College, Cambridge. After research in Oxford (on Christianity in Russia), he spent two years as a lecturer at Mirfield Theological College near Leeds. From 1977, he spent nine years in academic and parochial work in Cambridge. From 1986-1992, Dr Williams was Professor of Theology at Oxford. He was enthroned as Bishop of Monmouth in 1992 and Archbishop of Wales in 2000. Dr Williams has written a number of books on the history of theology and spirituality and published collections of articles and sermons – as well as two books of poetry.



Jane Williams was born in India of a CMS family, one of five sisters. She read Theology at Cambridge. She then worked in theological publishing and education, publishing, among other things, *Bread, Wine and Women* (with Sue Dowell), *Perfect Freedom*, *Lectionary Reflections*, *Approaching Christmas* and, more recently, *Approaching Easter*. She has also written a Sunday readings column for the *Church Times* and now works part-time for Redemptorist Publications, as a Visiting Lecturer at King's College, London and as a Lecturer at the St Paul's Theological Centre. Since 1981 she has been married to Archbishop Rowan Williams. They have a son and a daughter.



Bishop Tom Wright, a native of Northumberland, read Greats and Theology at Oxford and obtained his D.Phil for a thesis on St Paul and his D.D. for books on the New Testament and, in particular, Jesus in his historical context. He taught New Testament studies in Cambridge, McGill and Oxford Universities, and worked as a College Chaplain, before becoming Dean of Lichfield in 1994, Canon of Westminster in 2000 and Bishop of Durham in 2003. Dr Wright has written over 40 books and hundreds of articles at both scholarly and popular levels, and has broadcast frequently on radio and TV. He is married with four children and two grandchildren, and lists music, poetry, hill-walking and golf among his recreations. Bishop Tom Wright's book, *The Resurrection of the Son of God - Christian Origins and the Question of God* (SPCK) won the Michael Ramsey Prize in 2005.



Michael Walsh spent most of his working life as Librarian at Heythrop College (University of London). He was for much of his time there also reviews editor, and in his last years on the staff, the overall editor of *The Heythrop Journal*. He has appeared regularly in the British, and also the US, media. For some years he had a column in *The Church Times*, and was television critic of *The Tablet*, for which he continues to write occasional pieces. He has written, or edited, a number of books, his latest being *Roman Catholicism: The Basics* (Routledge, 2005). He is currently finishing a dictionary of the saints of the Eastern, as well as of the Western, Churches, and is revising *The Oxford Dictionary of Popes*.



Frances Young taught theology at the University of Birmingham from 1971, becoming the Edward Cadbury Professor and Head of the Department of Theology in 1986. She was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1984, and has been a regular preacher in a local Circuit while pursuing her academic career. She retired from the University in 2005, having served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1995-7) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (1997-2002). Her research and writing has been on-going throughout. Her books include both academic and more popular theological writings, drawing on her work on the New Testament and on Christianity in its formative centuries, but also on her experience as the mother of a son born with profound learning disabilities. She has worked on the theological and ecumenical dimensions of the L'Arche communities with Jean Vanier, their founder, as well as having many other ecumenical commitments. She was awarded an OBE for services to Theology in 1998, and elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2004.



Salley Vickers has worked as a university teacher of literature and a Jungian psychotherapist. She still lectures widely on the connections between literature, psychology and religion. She now writes full time and has published four novels: *Miss Garnet's Angel*, *Instances of the Number Three*, *Mr Golightly's Holiday* and, her latest, *The Other Side of You*. In 2002 she was a judge for the Man Booker Prize when *The Life of Pi* won. She is currently re-writing the myth of Oedipus, for the Canongate series, and working on her fifth novel. She is also working on the story of The Book of Common Prayer.



Tessa Kuin Lawton grew up in Oxford and Salisbury, later reading theology at the University of Durham. After three years as head of Religious Education at a grammar school in Dorset, she studied ecumenical theology at Trinity College, Dublin. Tessa has worked as a visiting lecturer at Sarum College and an inter-faith adviser for the NGO 'Marlborough Brandt Group.' She has lived in Israel, the Gambia and Germany and now resides in Oxfordshire with her husband and two children. Since October 2005 Tessa has been an ordinand at Cuddesdon (Oxford Ministry Course), whilst working as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer and completing a PhD on 'Anglicans and Other Faiths'. She has published a biography of her grandmother, Noel Wynyard; the first woman to be commissioned as a healer in the Church of England.