



## **The Michael Ramsey Prize**

for theological writing

[www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk](http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk)

22 March 2019

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED for £10,000 THEOLOGY PRIZE**

### **Shortlisted titles, judging panel, details of prize-giving ceremony for winning book**

The Archbishop of Canterbury today announced the shortlist for the 2019 [Michael Ramsey Prize](http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk) (MRP). The prize will be awarded at Greenbelt in August 2019.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who will preside over the Prize for the second time, said:

“I am delighted to announce the shortlist for the 2019 Michael Ramsey Prize. In celebrating the most promising new theological books, the prize shines a spotlight on resources that will inspire and challenge Christians in our witness to the transforming love of Jesus Christ. This year’s shortlist spans a remarkable range of subjects – from spirituality, culture and the new sciences, to the impact of the Great War on our faith and rituals. Woven through many of them is an urgent concern for deep issues of justice and reconciliation – from the environment, to refugees, to being church with those who are different from ourselves. This breadth of vision shows the vibrancy of contemporary theology, and the riches that await those who explore it.

“As ever, I am grateful to Archbishop Rowan Williams for establishing this prize, which is a gift to the Church. I also remain deeply conscious of walking in the footsteps of another much-esteemed



## The Michael Ramsey Prize

for theological writing

[www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk](http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk)

predecessor, Archbishop Michael Ramsey, whose writing is a constant inspiration to me. It is fitting that Archbishop Ramsey's passion for enquiry into the nature of God in Christ, and the profound question of how we respond to His love, is celebrated by this prize. Every Christian is called to be part of God's vision for a praying, witnessing and reconciling global Church. I pray that the Michael Ramsey Prize continues to play its part in highlighting resources that will help us do just that."

### The shortlisted titles are:

- Illia Delio, *Making All Things New* (Orbis)
- Keith Eyeons, *The Theology of Everything: Renaissance Man Joins the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Ellis and Maultby)
- Jill Harshaw, *God Beyond Words: Christian Theology and the Spiritual Experiences of People with Profound Intellectual Disabilities* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)
- Krish Kandaiah, *God is Stranger* (Hodder Faith)
- Rachel Mann, *Fierce Imaginings: The Great War, Ritual, Memory and God* (Darton Logman and Todd)
- Mark Oakley, *The Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry* (Canterbury Press)

The shortlisted books will be studied by the five judges over the coming months. They will meet together at Greenbelt on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to choose the winning title.

### The judges are:

- Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
- Loretta Minghella OBE – First Church Estates Commissioner
- Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London



## **The Michael Ramsey Prize**

for theological writing

[www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk](http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk)

- Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Team Rector of the St Luke in the City Team Parish in Liverpool diocese.
- Terry Waite CBE, Author and Humanitarian
- Emma Wild-Wood, Senior Lecturer African Christianity and African Indigenous Religions, University of Edinburgh.

The winner of the £10,000 prize will be announced at Greenbelt on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The other shortlisted authors will each receive £1,000.

### **The goals of the Prize are to:**

- Encourage the writing and reading of theology to help the Church in thinking more deeply, acting more wisely, and witnessing more effectively.
- Promote engagement with theology by generating publicity, providing a forum for discussion, and contributing to the popularity of theological literature.
- Provide a vehicle by which the Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury can encourage and challenge Christians to love God with all their heart and soul and mind and strength.
- Recognise and contribute to the success of published resources that will encourage all Christians to play a more active role in a worldwide praying, witnessing, and reconciling church.

### **Background**

The Award, which is sponsored by the Lambeth Trust and administered by SPCK, was inaugurated by Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams in 2005 to encourage the most promising contemporary theological writing and to identify it for a wider Christian readership.

The prize commemorates Dr Ramsey, who was Archbishop of Canterbury 1961-1974, and his commitment to increasing the



## The Michael Ramsey Prize

for theological writing

[www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk](http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk)

breadth of theological understanding among the Christian, and non-Christian, population at large.

The winner of the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize for Theological Writing was **John Swinton** for the book ***Dementia***.

In 2013, the winner of the prize was Luke Bretherton for the book *Christianity and Contemporary Politics*.

In 2011, the winner of the prize was *Atheist Delusions* by David Bentley Hart.

Professor Richard Bauckham's work *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* won the prize in 2009.

The winner of the 2007 prize was *What is the point of being a Christian?* by Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, ex-Master of the worldwide Dominican Order of Friars Preachers.

The 2005 prize was won by Bishop Tom Wright's work *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (SPCK), a book exploring the resurrection of Jesus in the light of ancient pagan, Jewish and Christian beliefs on death and resurrection.

More information is available at [www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk](http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk)

### **Enquiries**

*General and media enquiries about the Michael Ramsey Prize should be sent to [prize@michaelramseyprize.org.uk](mailto:prize@michaelramseyprize.org.uk) or phone Victoria Ireland on 07749 712379*

ENDS