



# God: Some Conversations

HOW DO YOU SPEAK ABOUT GOD?

How is America regarded in the eyes of the World?

Is it ever right to torture?

Can the doctrine of creation contribute to the climate change discussion?

Attend this conference and enter into conversations on some major issues facing Church and Society.

Take the opportunity to speak with and learn from people of different traditions.

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





**THE FORMAT** When you attend this conference 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 your work together, although there will be plenty of opportunity to get to know the other 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 conference, 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 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 Conference, 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 Conference 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** The conference has been constructed to reflect some of the issues and demands of modern society. The subjects to be explored are:

- The Post-modern Context
- Fresh Expressions
- Education
- America
- The Media
- God and the Arts
- Climate Change
- Human Rights

#### THE FACILITATORS



The Revd Canon Dr Hueston Finlay read Engineering and Theology at Trinity College, Dublin and pursued his doctoral studies at the University of London. He has served as Dean of Chapel, and Director of Studies in Theology, at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he has also taught doctrine. He was appointed a Canon of St George's Chapel in 2004.



The Revd Michael Boag looks after the day to day Liturgy of St George's Chapel and pastoral care of the College and Castle community, and came to this post in 2003 from serving in a small market town in Yorkshire. He is also Honorary Chaplain to the Theatre Royal, Windsor as well as to the Windsor Squadron, Air Training Corps.



The Revd Canon Laurence Gunner After 2 years in the Navy, Laurence read law at Oxford and after ordination went on to serve in parishes in Cheltenham and Hemel Hempstead. He then became chaplain of Bloxham School and subsequently senior chaplain of Marlborough College. He became a Canon of Windsor in 1996 and served as Canon Steward until 2005.

#### FORTHCOMING CLERGY CONFERENCES

7-17 July 2008  
5-15 October 2009  
4-14 October 2010

*'Theological reflection is a profound activity which requires dialogue, challenge, stimulating input, practical experience, engagement, time and space. The Clergy Conference was a unique oasis providing an impressive and inspiring context for sustained reflection on eight contemporary issues.'*

*The Revd Gill Henwood  
York Diocese  
October 2007*



## 2008 CLERGY CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Fresh Expressions** - The Revd Dr Michael Moynagh is co-director of the Tomorrow Project which helps organisations and individuals to understand emerging and future trends that will affect people's lives. He is also a missionary on the Fresh Expressions team set up to encourage new and different forms of church. He is the author of a number of books. He is based at Templeton College, Oxford.



**Human Rights** - Edward Fitzgerald QC, winner of the Silk of the Year award in 2005 and Times Justice Human Rights Award in 1998, specialises in criminal law, public law and international human rights law. As a criminal practitioner he has featured in many of the leading cases involving extradition, appeals against miscarriages of justice, and international law. He frequently appears in the Privy Council in cases involving the constitutions of the Commonwealth, Caribbean, death penalty appeals and extradition.



**The Media** - Alan Rusbridger began his career in journalism in 1976. He was appointed Editor of the Guardian in 1995 and Executive Director of the Observer in 1996. Among the many awards he has received during his career, he was awarded Editor of the Year and Newspaper of the Year twice and was the first recipient of the What the Papers Judges Award in 2006.



**The Arts** - Dr Alastair Niven OBE is Principal of Cumberland Lodge, Windsor. He has previously served as Director of Literature at the Arts Council of Great Britain and also as Director of Literature at the British Council. Dr Niven has published many articles as well as two books on D H Lawrence and two on Indian writing. He is currently President of English PEN.



**America** - Dr Stefan Halper is a Senior Research Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge and a Senior Fellow at the Cambridge Centre of International Studies. Dr Halper began a long career of public service for the US government in 1971 and has served four American presidents in the White House and the Department of State. He is also the co-author of two books on American foreign policy.



**Education** - Penelope Penney has spent twenty five years in headship. After seven years at Prendergast School Catford, a VA comprehensive in ILEA, she moved into the independent sector as Head of Putney High School. For fourteen years she was Head Mistress of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, from where she retired in 2005. Her current role is Secondary School Advisor to the London Diocesan Board for Schools.



**Climate Change** - Jessica Cave is Head of Unit for the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change. Since joining the civil service in 2000, she has worked on a number of global issues in Government and in the European Commission, including trade, energy, poverty and human trafficking. Within the FCO, the transition to a global low-carbon economy is now one of four priority policy goals.



**NEXT STEP** If you would like to take part in any of our Conferences or for further information, please contact Roxanne Hardie on 01753 848700 or [roxanne.hardie@stgeorges-windsor.org](mailto:roxanne.hardie@stgeorges-windsor.org).

[www.stgeorghouse.org](http://www.stgeorghouse.org)

