

WESTCOTT HOUSE

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NEWS ARCHIVE

Rev actor speaks to Westcott ordinands

Actor Tom Hollander and writer James Wood visited Westcott House on 21 January to speak at a session for ordinands about the BBC2 television series *Rev*. The talk was part of the 'Life and Service' course for Lent Term on preaching and communication.



Tom and James spoke about how *Rev* came about, reflecting on their own upbringing and the impact that researching and starring in the show has made on them personally. During a time of questions they also shared their thoughts about the place and relevance of church in the 21st century and the central role a vicar plays in their community.

[posted January 2011]

Westcott Theologians Awarded Prestigious Prize



Each year the Templeton Foundation celebrates twelve young theologians chosen from around the world with their Award for Theological Promise. We are pleased to report that of the twelve theologians chosen for the 2011 awards, two are Westcott people.

The award was instituted in 2006 and is given each year to young post-doctoral scholars for work in theology and spirituality. The panel is composed of twenty-five international judges representing the major faith traditions of the world.

The Revd Dr Benjamin King is Assistant Professor of Church History in the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He studied at Westcott House from 1997-2000 and was ordained in Chichester Diocese before leaving the UK to serve as curate at the Church of the Advent, Boston, and then as Anglican Chaplain to Harvard

University. His first book *Newman and the Alexandrian Fathers: Shaping Doctrine in Nineteenth-Century England* was published by OUP in 2009 to great acclaim ('Read, and be amazed' wrote Aidan Nichols in *New Blackfriars*). The book chronicles the writings on the church fathers by John Henry Cardinal Newman, showing how he reinterpreted church history throughout his life and ended up reshaping his own theology to please the pope.

Dr Donna J. Lazenby is an ordinand of the Diocese of Southwark at Westcott House. Her award recognises the significance of her ongoing work on *Christian Mysticism and Virginia Woolf*, for which she received her PhD from Cambridge in 2009. The thesis explored points of contact between the language and metaphysics of Christian mysticism and Woolf's literary aesthetics. Dr Lazenby was supervised by Dr Catherine Pickstock (Cambridge), Professor Ben Quash (then Cambridge, now King's College London) and Dr Pamela Sue Anderson (Oxford). Dr Lazenby organised the recent conference in apologetics at Westcott House (7-8 December), which included Alister McGrath, Graham Ward and Bishop Nick Baines among the speakers. Her forthcoming publications on theology and literature include a chapter in *Imaginative Apologetics*, edited by Andrew Davison, and a monograph with Cascade books (Wipf and Stock) on Christian apologetics and spiritual themes in contemporary literature.

The awards will be made in Heidelberg, Germany, in May 2011.

[posted January 2011]

Appointment of Tutor for Parish Ministry and Minority Ethnic Concerns

Westcott has appointed the Revd Louise Codrington-Marshall, Assistant Curate of Mortlake with East Sheen, as external Tutor for Parish Ministry and Minority Ethnic Concerns. Louise will help ordinands to engage with the issues around ministry in multicultural and multi-ethnic Britain. We are delighted she has taken on this role as we continue to deepen our engagement with the opportunities and challenges of contemporary public ministry.



[posted January 2011]

Rt Revd Peter Walker (1919-2010)

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of the Rt Revd Peter Walker, Principal of Westcott House from 1962-82, in Addenbrookes Hospital on 28 December 2010, after a brief illness, and in his 92nd year. His funeral service will take place on Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 2.30pm in Grantchester Parish Church. There has been a request for family flowers only, but if wished donations for Ely Cathedral or RNIB may be sent c/o H.J Paintin Ltd., 43 High Street, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4HS. There will be a Memorial Service in the early Spring, the details of which will be announced later.

The Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, has paid the following tribute.

'An eminent Anglican Bishop, Dr Walker was born on 6 December 1919 and was educated at Leeds Grammar School and The Queen's College, Oxford. He served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) during the Second World War. He taught at The King's School, Peterborough and in 1950 he became assistant master at Merchant Taylors' School in

London.

He was made Deacon in 1953 and was ordained priest the following year. His first parish post was a curacy at Hemel Hempstead after which he became Fellow, Dean and Lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. In 1962 he was appointed Principal of Westcott House, Cambridge. He was consecrated Bishop and appointed Suffragan Bishop of Dorchester in 1972. In 1977 he was translated to Ely, a post he held until his retirement 12 years later.

"Bishop Peter was an outstanding priest, scholar, Principal of Westcott House, Cambridge, and Bishop," said the Archdeacon of Cambridge, John Beer. "During his long retirement he faithfully maintained his ministry of pastoral remembrance through letter writing and personal contact. He will be greatly missed."

[posted January 2011]

Apologetics Conference: How does today's church engage with today's world?



On 7 and 8 December, six expert speakers were at Westcott for a conference on Christian apologetics entitled 'How does today's Church engage with today's world?' The conference was developed and organised by Westcott ordinand Donna Lazenby, who has recently completed a PhD on Virginia Woolf and Christian Mysticism for which she was awarded the 2011 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise.

During the two-day event, sessions covered the challenges for present day relations between the Church and the world, including practical insights as to how these challenges might be recognised, met and engaged with. The speakers represented perspectives from within and beyond the ministry of the Church and brought expertise from the press, the new media and

the theological academy. The speakers were the Revd Professor Alister McGrath (Professor of Theology, Ministry and Education and Head of the Centre for Theology, Religion and Culture at King's College London); the Rt Revd Nick Baines (Bishop of Croydon and a writer and broadcaster with a blog which attracts 10,000 views each week); The Revd Dr Alison Milbank (Associate Professor of Literature and Theology at the University of Nottingham and Priest Vicar at Southwell Minster), The Revd Professor Graham Ward (Samuel Fergusson Professor of Philosophical Theology and Ethics at the University of Manchester and Head of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures), Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent for The Times since 1987; and Westcott House's Tutor in Doctrine the Revd Dr Andrew Davison, who is editor of a collection of essays entitled 'Imaginative Apologetics: Theology, Philosophy and the Catholic Tradition'.

[posted December 2010]