

THE PUZZLE OF GOD

Five lectures in Pateley Bridge for atheists, agnostics & religious believers

Lectures on one Wednesday
each month from
September 2024 to January
2025 at 7.00pm with wine
and nibbles. Free entry.

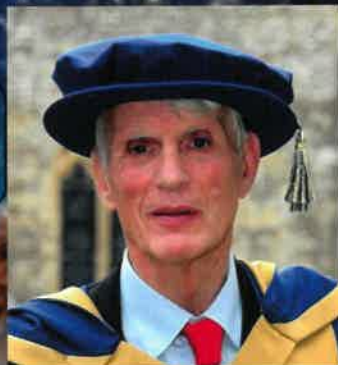
**THE PROBLEM
OF EVIL**

**THE NATURE
OF GOD**

**RELIGIOUS
EXPERIENCE**

**FAITH AND
REASON**

**WHAT IS
CHRISTIANITY?**



Dr. Peter Vardy is the former vice-principal of Heythrop College, the specialist Theology & Philosophy College of the University of London.

He is the author or co-author of 18 books, has an honorary Doctorate for services to Religious Education and is an internationally recognised Philosopher.

THE PUZZLE OF GOD

A series of five lectures at St. Cuthbert's Church, Pateley Bridge, HG3 on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 for 7.00pm between September and January 2025

THE NATURE OF GOD Atheists, agnostics and religious believers are divided about the meaning of the word God. This session will examine the main alternatives and their strengths and weaknesses as well as exploring why this issue is significant in today's world. *(September 18, 2024)*

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL Believers hold that God is all powerful, wholly good and yet evil exists. Critics will maintain that this is a logical contradiction and shows why belief in God is simply irrational. St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas' approaches will be explained together with a radically different alternative held by many Protestants. The challenge of Job and Dostoyevski's Ivan Karamazov will be explored and the relevance of the Shoah (the holocaust) will be evaluated. *(October 16, 2024)*

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE Tens of thousands of people across the world, through history and across the centuries have claimed to experience God. Do such claims provide good evidence for God's existence and what alternative explanations can be provided for such claims? *(November 13, 2024)*

FAITH AND REASON In a world increasingly dominated by reason and science, can belief in God be justified or is it now to be judged irrational and to be abandoned? Major traditional arguments for and against God's existence will be outlined. The difference between those which seek to prove or disprove God's existence and those arguments which rest on an assessment of probability will be evaluated. *(December 11, 2024)*

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY? The essential Christian beliefs are set out in the creeds. It is not, however, as simple as that. Pope Francis is the leader of by far the largest Christian religious domination yet opinions on him are divided within the Catholic world. Some consider him to be a heretic who should be removed from office (one such, a prominent Archbishop, was excommunicated in June 2024) whilst others argue that Pope Francis represents the very essence of all that is best in Christianity. This session will examine the background to this tension and why it is significant for Christians of all denominations today. *(January 15, 2025)*

Whilst booking is not essential, due to high demand at the previous lecture series run by Dr. Vardy and for catering purposes it would help if anyone who wants to attend could advise the Revd. Darryl Hill on

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