

ANZATS / ANZSTS Conference 2010

'The Future of God': Professor Paul Fiddes to be main speaker



The Revd Professor Paul Fiddes has accepted the invitation of the organising committee to be the main speaker at the 2010 ANZATS / ANZSTS Conference.

Dr Fiddes is Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Oxford, and Director of Research at Regents' Park College. He took undergraduate degrees in both English Literature and Theology at Oxford, and continues to have a particular interest in the interface between theology and literature. Following his DPhil in Theology from Oxford, he spent a year of post-doctoral study in the University of Tübingen, Germany. In 2005 he gained the degree of Doctor of Divinity (DD) of the University of Oxford for his published work.

Professor Fiddes taught as a Fellow of Regent's Park College from 1972 to 1989, and was then Principal for 18 years. He is currently its Director of Research, in which position he is mainly occupied with supervising postgraduate students and coordinating research projects of the College.

Dr Fiddes is an ordained minister of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and serves as the chair of the Doctrine Commission of the *Baptist World Alliance*. He is very active in ecumenical conversations, and is at present the co-chair of the international conversations between the Roman Catholic Church and the *Baptist World Alliance*, as well as an ecumenical representative on the Synod of the Church of England.

This mixture of academic and church life has been focused on a double concern: to connect Christian faith with the culture of the modern world, and to connect the local church with the riches of faith and tradition in the Church Universal.

His research and teaching interests include modern systematic theology, in particular the doctrines of the Trinity and Atonement; theology and literature; postmodernism; the impact of modern continental philosophy on literary theory and theology; theology of culture; ecclesiology. Professor Fiddes is the author of about 80 articles, and of more than a dozen books, including *The Promised End. Eschatology in Theology and Literature* (Blackwell, 2000), *Participating in God. A Pastoral Doctrine of the Trinity* (Darton, Longman and Todd, 2000) and *Tracks and Traces. Baptist Identity in Church and Theology* (Paternoster Press, 2003).

Paul Fiddes will address the theme of the ANZATS conference, 'The Future of God' in two plenary sessions and a public lecture, and also contribute to the MCD Centenary conference from his expertise in literature and theology. □