

Carrs Lane has a long tradition of being on the 'open' wing of the Church, and in the past has played a prominent part in the development of the Civic Gospel. The Church has a continuing concern for social justice and dialogue between people of different faiths.

Past Lectures' events have provided a platform for lively debate on liberal and unconventional views and an open environment where such questions can be explored without embarrassment. We invite you to join us for this radical thinking about theology and the Church, confident that your mind will be stretched and your imagination quickened. Whatever your faith, or lack of it, from whatever background you come, you are most welcome.

Do come along!

We are located in the city centre, next to Marks and Spencer and the Travelodge Hotel, within easy walking distance of all bus stops and New Street Station, and very close to Moor Street Station.

For **tickets** or further information, please contact us:

0121 643 6151

office@carrslane.co.uk or see our website **www.carrslane.co.uk**

The Church at Carrs Lane | Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX | 0121 643 6151 | www.carrslane.co.uk



Lectures

in Radical Christian Faith **at**



Faith...the Art of Unease?

Revd Canon Mark Oakley

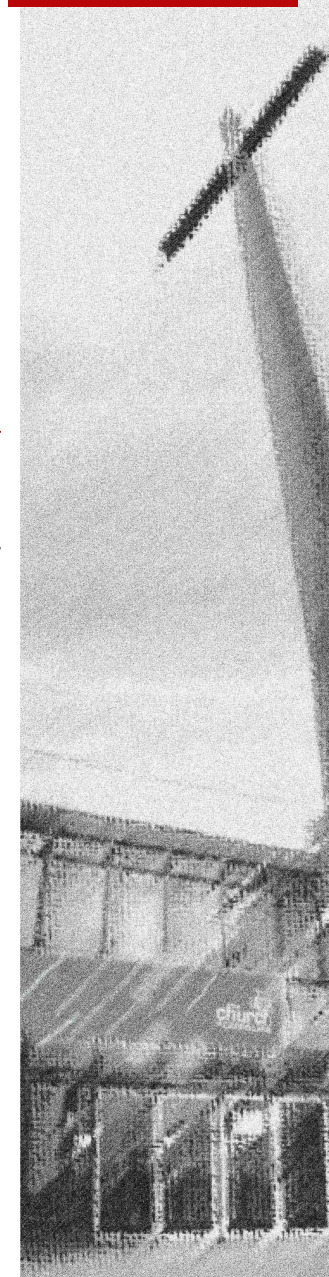
theologian, poet, author, broadcaster,
campaigner and inspiring speaker



Saturday 5th October
10am — 4pm

booking opens on May 1st 2019 **£15**
coffee and tea will be available all day;
please bring your own lunch

2019



Faith...The Art of Unease?

Our speaker: **Mark Oakley**



The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley is Dean of Chapel at St John's College, Cambridge, where he oversees worship, the activities of the choirs and also carries a pastoral responsibility for members of the college community. He was formerly Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral where he had been ordained in 1993.

His early ministry was in London, including four years' service as Chaplain to the Bishop of London and then, in 2005, he became Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe. He is also a Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The Queen, and a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at King's College, London.

He is a passionate campaigner for social justice and human rights, receiving one of the first National Hate Crime Awards in 2016 for his work amongst minority groups. He is an ambassador for the charity Stop Hate UK as well as being a Trustee of several bodies including Liberty. He was described by Baroness Chakrabarti, former Director of Liberty, as "a great man of faith, hope and humanity".

It would be an understatement to say Mark has a way with words! As well as an engaging speaker, his writing is inspirational and accessible. *The Collage of God* (2001), a best-seller, was widely praised as 'a book that captures the intellect and the imagination' (Theology in Scotland) and 'a book about the spiritual that radiates laughter' (The Tablet).

On *The Splash of Words* (2016), the poet Imtiaz Dharker said "Dipping in to this book, the spirit is cleansed in the sparkle of language", and from Andrew Motion: "Mark Oakley has a strong sense of language as sacrament, a sharp eye for telling phrases and a warm heart with which to return echoes".

we look forward to listening to what our speaker has to say

'There are those who want to resolve the mystery of God...and those who seek to deepen it.; they have come to believe that truth is not the same thing as elimination of ambiguity.'

'It has become evident to me that we do not find it easy to talk about faith's darkness, yet we find release and companionship when we do.'

'I still believe God is understood in collage – in a slow, patient and puzzled piecing together of hints and guesses, epiphanies and surprises...and the living of life with all its loves and losses.'

'In my Christian discipleship, I have found poetry indispensable...it has captured, briefly but uniquely, moments of recognition and epiphany.'

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

10.00: Registration and refreshments

10.30: Welcome and introduction to the day

10.45: Lecture: *The Collage of God: Faith, Doubt and Guessing at God*

11.30: Comfort break

11.45: Lecture: *Poetry: The Native Language of Faith*

12.30: Time for questions and answers

13.00: Lunch

14.00: Lecture: *Are You Sitting Comfortably? The Art of Unease and the Spiritual Life*

15.00: Time for more questions and answers

15.45: Closing remarks

16.00: Finish and book signing

Books by Mark Oakley will be available for sale on the bookstall and Mark will be happy to sign them for you!

...and we hope you will enjoy the day with us!

