

St Deiniol's Library
The Gladstone Institute
Glyndŵr University



Reclaiming Liberal Theology
Grace, Order, Openness & Diversity

Ian Bradley & Peter Francis

Sunday 22nd – Tuesday 24th August

Ian Bradley presents fundamentalism, born a hundred years ago in the United States of America, as the great twentieth century aberration. He seeks to reclaim a liberal theological tradition existing in Christianity, Islam, Judaism and the other major world faiths. This liberal heart is found in their scriptures and was often to the fore in their foundational stages but has more recently been overlaid with conservative reaction, fundamentalism and fear. Ian Bradley offers a powerful reassertion of the liberal gospel of God's grace, goodness and generosity.

My own parish service sheet is headed with the words: "This church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, sexual orientation or cultural background". That sadly would not be so in every congregation. Ian Bradley proclaims the primacy of Christ's gospel of inclusion and love in action, in contrast to the sometimes stridently fashionable adherence to narrow biblical interpretation and concentration on personal salvation. It cries out: "here on earth Your will be done".

Rt. Hon. David Steel (Lord Steel of Aikwood)

As the number of people with faith and a concern for theology shrinks – at least in the west – the voices of conservative fundamentalism and religious chauvinism, not to mention militant atheism, become louder. Ian Bradley has provided a much needed eloquent plea for empathy, openness, moderation and inclusivity.

Tariq Modood, Professor of Sociology, Politics and Public Policy, University of Bristol

Ian Bradley is Reader in Practical Theology and Church History at the University of St Andrews, a minister in the Church of Scotland and a prolific author & broadcaster. Peter Francis is Warden of St Deiniol's Library.

Programme

Sunday 22nd August

6:00 Introduction

6:45 Dinner

7:30 **Defining Liberal Theology and Charting Its Rise and Fall - Ian Bradley**

Monday 23rd August

8:00 Eucharist

8:30 Breakfast

9:30 **Gladstone's Library - a Liberal Tradition - Peter Francis**

11:00 Coffee

11:30 **Grace - Ian Bradley**

12:30 Lunch

5:00 **Order - Ian Bradley**

6:45 Dinner

7:30 **Openness & Diversity - Ian Bradley**

Tuesday 24th August

8:00 Eucharist

8:30 Breakfast

9:30 **Towards a Liberal Future - Peter Francis & Ian Bradley**

11:00 Coffee and depart