



**BOOKING FORM—please book by August 15th to ensure your place**

- Residential – Ensuite, full board **£405**
- Non-Residential – includes lunch, reception, dinner & concert **£310**

**Early Bird Discount – £20 discount on the above rates for bookings prior to 30th June**

**Student Rates (including therapy trainees, no early bird discount):**

- Residential – Ensuite, full board **£330**
- Non-residential **£235**

**Day Visitor Rates – Saturday 27th August:**

- Includes lunch, dinner and concert **£150**
- includes lunch only **£110**

**I am a Guild member.** Members receive a further **£15 discount on all the above rates, including the early bird rates**

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Phone Number.....

- I am registered disabled and require parking at Worcester College  
*Please note that parking is available for registered disabled only*
- I have mobility problems and request a room on the ground floor
- I have special dietary requirements.....

I enclose a cheque made payable to the Guild of Pastoral Psychology for.....

Please return payment with booking form to: **Guild Administrator, KVT Business Care, Unit 1 Chapelton Lodge, East Winch Road, Blackborough End, Kings Lynn, PE32 1SF**

For further information contact the Guild Administrator, Val Nurse 01553 849849.

To book and pay online email: [administration@guildofpastoralpsychology.org.uk](mailto:administration@guildofpastoralpsychology.org.uk)

See [www.guildofpastoralpsychology.org.uk](http://www.guildofpastoralpsychology.org.uk) for future events and membership

Registered charity, number 212662

# The Guild of Pastoral Psychology

RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE

## Beyond Literal Religion



**David Tacey**

And

**Marianne Rankin**

**WORCESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD**

**26th —28th August 2016**



## David Tacey

is Emeritus Professor of Literature at La Trobe University, Melbourne and Research Professor at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra. He is a well known academic who has written extensively on spirituality, religion, youth and mental health. He is the author of fourteen books, including *Edge of the Sacred* and *Re-Enchantment*. His books have been published internationally and have been translated into Mandarin, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

**David Tacey's** first paper on Friday afternoon will be *Beyond Literal Religion: Myth, Metaphor and the Sacred*. He writes: "Those who take scripture seriously tend to take it literally. That is, they read it as history or fact. According to many philosophers, historians, poets, literary critics and scripture scholars this is to misread scripture, which was always a puzzling (to us) mixture of history and metaphor. For various reasons, Western civilisation lost the metaphorical dimension and read scripture literally. In doing so, Christianity set itself up for collapse, once people saw through the pretence. In returning scripture to its metaphorical base, Jungian depth psychology can play a major role in restoring the true sense of religion. This remains a highly controversial topic, because theologians and churches continue to assert that scripture is primarily historical." David Tacey will present a second paper on Saturday.

## Marianne Rankin

is Director of Communications for the Alister Hardy Trust, which supports the work of the Religious Experience Research Centres at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David in Lampeter and at Glyndŵr University. Marianne is a linguist who lived in the Far East for about twenty years, working as a teacher, interpreter, translator and free-lance writer. On her return to UK, she gained a Master of Studies in the Study of Religion at the University of Oxford. She has written on the Modern Hospice Movement, illustrated a book on Zen and is the author of *An Introduction to Religious and Spiritual Experience*.



**Marianne Rankin** will present on Saturday and Sunday mornings and her two papers are entitled '*Should All Religious People Now Become Mystics?*' and '*Will People Become More Spiritual but Not Religious?*'. She writes " My talks will focus on religious, mystical and spiritual experience - looking at the founders of religious traditions, mystics in different religions and ordinary people who have such experiences. As we are now surrounded by a plethora of different religions, might the mystical vision of unity be necessary to ensure peaceful co-existence? I will also speak about the work of Sir Alister Hardy and his legacy. He believed that humans are spiritual animals. If so, what effect does that have on individuals and society? Many people who have had mystical or Near Death experiences do not then follow any particular religion, although their lives are transformed in a way that is understood as spiritual. As so many self-identify as spiritual but not religious, is that the way forward?"

## Beyond Literal Religion

Friday 26th—28th August 2016

Check in at the College will be from 2.00pm on Friday 26th August

Registration and tea 3.00pm, conference commences at 4pm

There will be a drinks reception on Friday evening before dinner and a concert on Saturday evening.

Over the course of the weekend the two speakers will each present two Papers. There will be ample time for discussion in small groups and plenaries and opportunities for informal time with the speakers. Guild residential conferences are well known for their relaxed and welcoming atmosphere with optional spiritual reflections at the start of each day.

### SATURDAY EVENING

The Guild in collaboration with Talking Gigs\*



will be hosting an evening with

### Ngawang Lodup.

Ngawang Lodup, the former Tibetan monk-turned-singer and first world music artist to join the "BBC Introducing" initiative will perform traditional nomadic ballads and contemporary Tibetan folk songs on electric mandolin & dramnyen lute and talk about his extraordinary life story in this TalkingGig \*

Ngawang became a monk at 14 in Tibet, and studied for 5 years whilst playing the mandolin in secret. He eventually left the monastery because he found that Chinese government restrictions meant there was no religious freedom there. However he found no artistic freedom for his music in the outside world and escaped Tibet by trekking for 18 days across the Himalayas to Nepal. He has been in the UK for 10 years and over the last year his career has rocketed. He became the first world music artist to join the "BBC Introducing" initiative, leading to widespread national press coverage, a BBC documentary *From Buddhist Monk to Rock Star*, festival performances, and an appearance at the Dalai Lama's audience at the O2 in London.

\*TalkingGigs is a new live music experience which offers unique insights into the life, work and culture of an artist, mixing conversation with intimate musical performance, questions from the audience and sometimes visuals.

