

THE PLAYS AND THE CONFERENCE

The York Mystery Plays originated in medieval times; and were produced by the Guilds at the behest of the City Council on a day in midsummer, at the religious festival of Corpus Christi. Around 50 Plays, each telling a story from the Bible, were enacted from waggons drawn in turn to several performance places in the city streets. The Reformation put a stop to the Plays in York, as well as other cities such as Chester and Coventry. They were revived last century, with a selection of the Plays being performed on a number of occasions, but on fixed stage settings. It was not until a few years ago that one or two performances were staged again from waggons.

After the wagon productions by Meg Twycross of the University of Lancaster (1988 and 1992), and those by Jane Oakshott MBE (1994 and 1998), the Guilds of York took up the stewardship of the wagon tradition in 2002, thus honouring the obligations previously met by their medieval ancestors. With two highly successful productions orchestrated by Mike Tyler (2002 and 2006), the Guilds intend to present further wagon Plays every four years, the next being in 2010.

To organise the productions on their behalf, the Guilds set up a Board of Management, consisting of representatives from each Guild and several other persons with special expertise. Members of the Board are Trustees of a registered charity, York Festival Trust, No 509405.

The first Guilds Conference, in 2007, was largely organised by Margaret Rogerson of the University of Sydney. It was most successful; and its proceedings edited by her will be published, probably in 2010.

This second Conference has been arranged by the Guilds in association with the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York. Jeremy Goldberg and Carol Symes have greatly helped with the Programme, and the Guilds are grateful to them. It is good that the Speakers include three younger scholars among the more established academics. Workshops are the responsibility of Paul Toy.

Getting to Bedern Hall

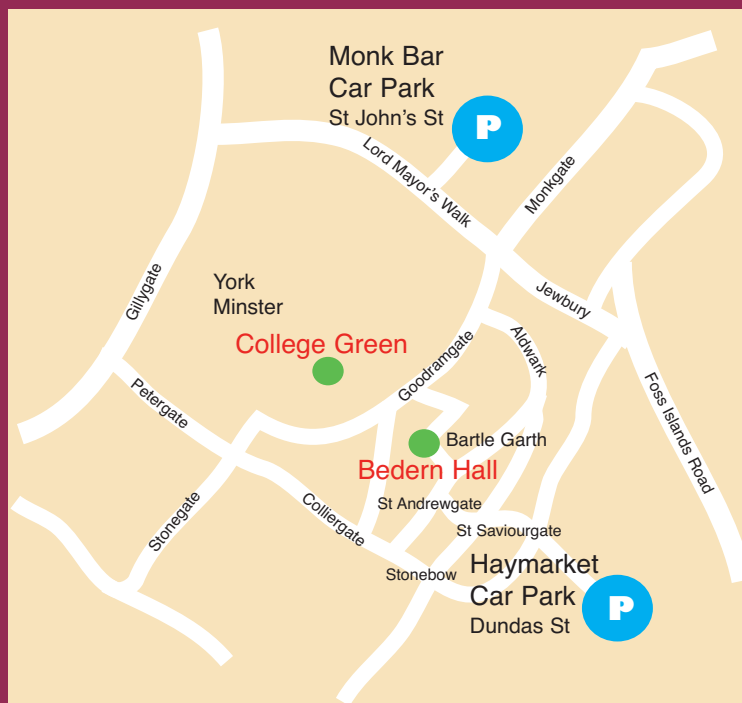
Parking

The nearest car parks are Haymarket and Monk Bar, as indicated on the map. You need to buy an All-Day Ticket which lasts until early next day.

The cost is £10, the same for those with a York Residents sticker and for non-residents. You can pay in coins, or by calling from your mobile phone 0870 428 3854 and quoting 7705 for Haymarket and 7708 for Monk Bar.

Taxis

There are several firms: one is Local Taxis - phone (01904) 641341/656560.



For a detailed location map visit www.bedernhall.co.uk



SECOND YORK MYSTERY PLAYS CONFERENCE



'The Fall of the Angels'
Young York Civic Trust's Production 2006

Organised by the Seven Guilds in association with the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York

Saturday 11th July 2009
Bedern Hall, Bartle Garth, York YO1 7AL
www.yorkmysteryplays.co.uk



THE UNIVERSITY of York



Booking Form

The York Mystery Plays Conference
Saturday 11th July 2009

Please print and include title (eg. Dr, Mrs):

Name

Address

Telephone

Email address

I wish to book the following:

Places at the Saturday Sessions at £10

Places at the Saturday Luncheon at £12

Please give the names and titles of any other persons included in your booking:

Please return this form to:

York Festival Trust, Bedern Hall, Bartle Garth, YORK
YO1 7AL. Cheques (in Sterling please) to "York
Festival Trust".

Meals: Please inform us of any special dietary requirements. Wines and beers are available for purchase at the Luncheon.

Accommodation: VisitYork's Accommodation

Booking Service, phone 01904 550099,
www. visityork.org

Saturday 11th July

PROGRAMME

9.15am Registration and Coffee/Tea

9.40am Welcome by Roger Lee and
Jeremy Goldberg

MORNING SESSION Chair: Jane Oakshott MBE

9.45am 'Archbishop Thoresby, Archbishop Scrope
and the Early History of the York

Corpus Christi Play' Jeremy Goldberg

'The Scripting of Performance in Late-
Medieval York: The Pageants in a Pan-
European Context' Carol Symes

11.15am Coffee/Tea

11.45am Introduction

Workshop 1 Paul Toy and Actors

Workshop 2 Paul Toy with Carol Symes

1.15pm Luncheon

AFTERNOON SESSION Chair: Mike Tyler

2.15pm 'Troubling "Transvestism": The Politics
of Cross-Dressing in the York Cycle'
Judith Anderson

'Performing Space: Constructing and
Co-opting the Civic Environment'
Sheila Christie

'Henry VII in York: Audiences and
Meanings' Nicholas Townson

3.45pm Tea

4.15pm 'Sydney and York: "Stations of the Cross"
2008 and Medieval Theatre'

Margaret Rogerson

5.15pm Glass of wine/soft drinks; and move to
College Green at --

5.45pm if arrangements can be made to enact
one or two Plays

THE SPEAKERS

Judith ANDERSON, University of Alberta
PhD candidate on the Chester and York Plays

Sheila CHRISTIE, University of Bristol
Post-Doctoral research on the Chester Plays

Jeremy GOLDBERG, University of York
Reader in Medieval History; extensive publications

Roger LEE
Chairman of the Management Board

Jane OAKSHOTT MBE
Director of the 1994 and 1998 Productions

Margaret ROGERSON, University of Sydney
Senior Lecturer, Dept. of English; extensive publications

Carol SYMES, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Associate Professor of History; Equity member; extensive publications

Nicholas TOWNSON, University of York
MA Candidate in Medieval History

Paul TOY
Director of the 2010 Production

Mike TYLER
Director of the 2002 and 2006 Productions

