



Special Offer
FREE GCSE
Masterclass access!

Life & Death

LIVE Event for students of
GCSE Religious Studies
With Dr Peter Vardy

Dates for 2024-25

- Somerset (Sexey's School, Bruton) 20th November 2024
- London (Bloomsbury Baptist Church) 26th November 2024
- Manchester (Methodist Central Hall) 27th February 2025
- Coventry (Cathedral) 4th March 2025
- London (Bloomsbury Baptist Church) 18th March 2025





Dr. Peter Vardy was Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London (1999-2011); he is internationally well-known as a leader in the fields of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics and Values Education. Peter's many books – including the best-selling "Puzzle of" series for HarperCollins – demonstrate his ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity, accuracy and humour. For more than three decades schools and colleges have looked to Peter to provide outstanding conferences, resources and CPD / INSET, both to support their work in RS and Philosophy and more broadly.

Did you know? Peter was awarded an honorary doctorate for his work in promoting Religious Studies in schools by the University of Chichester in 2021.



"Dr Vardy and Charlotte never disappoint, both deliver content with passion and are the experts in the field. Students found the conference to be intellectually challenging and important to their A Level studies." Teacher

"They are really excellent conferences- clear, coherent and extending talks upon all subjects linked with courses. A must for aspirational sixth formers." Save RE Facebook Comment

Building on the success of "Heaven?" in 2023-24, Candle Conferences presents an all-new LIVE event for students of GCSE Religious Studies. "Life & Death" will explore content specified by ALL ENGLISH EXAMINATION BOARDS in relation to the study of Christianity and Ethics, aiming to get students really excited about the subject, enriching and extending their knowledge and understanding as well as supporting them in analysing, evaluating and making informed, well-reasoned academic judgements.

- Tickets to the live event come with FREE access to our GCSE Masterclass for the academic year 2024-25 (worth £5 per student) and providing more than 2 hours of expert online tuition designed to improve writing skills and improve grades.

1. Life & Death

The event will begin by exploring the concept of the sanctity of human life, which is central to most religious and some non-religious approaches to making moral decisions. Where does the belief that human life is sacred come from? If only human life is sacred, how and why is human life different from animal life... or even advanced AI? Is the value of human life absolute, or should it depend on the quality of life? Dr Vardy will go on to consider how the sanctity of human life influences religious teachings about abortion and euthanasia, while also inspiring some believers to challenge these teachings. This session will conclude with a discussion.

2. Love: Life

After coffee, Dr Vardy will turn to the topic of human relationships. How have families and relationships changed in Britain, and what are their purposes from religious and non-religious perspectives? What really is marriage... a sacrament, a holy mystery or a solemn contract? Does marriage itself matter in the 21st Century, or is love and commitment enough? Why is it that Christians promote love as the basis for decision making and Jesus said not to judge and to practice unlimited forgiveness, while the Roman Catholic Church continued to oppose same-sex marriage and divorce? This session will conclude with an activity.

3. The Death Penalty

In the next session, Dr Vardy will consider the topic of crime and punishment. What causes people to commit crimes? How do Christians view and try to help offenders? What aims should punishment serve? Christians are united in considering crimes against the person the most serious, yet divided over whether capital punishment is appropriate; why is this? How and why has Roman Catholic teaching on Capital Punishment changed over time? This session will conclude with an activity designed to support students in answering mini-essay style questions.

4. A Just War?

The final session of the day will explore the topic of war and peace, ever more relevant given recent events in Ukraine and Gaza. Despite Jesus' teaching about turning the other cheek and warning "those who live by the sword, die by the sword" relatively few Christians are pacifists today. How then do the Churches justify war... and how do they promote peace? Dr Vardy will outline and explain the traditional conditions for a "Just War" and will then consider how modern warfare challenges these. How has Pope Francis responded to recent events? Is the use of drones and autonomous weapons ever just? How about nuclear weapons? The session will conclude with a debate; students will first develop their own arguments in writing, and can then choose to present these to the whole group before a final vote is taken.

To Book

Student tickets to attend the LIVE "Life & Death" event cost £20

- Tickets to the live event come with FREE access to our GCSE Masterclass worth £5 per student.
- We offer a 10% discount if you book 10+ tickets together online (e-mail for your ACCESS CODE)
- We offer one free teacher-place per 10 students, otherwise accompanying teachers cost £20
- Teachers attending alone for CPD purposes cost £100
- Trainee teachers and extra adults supporting individual students to access the event attend for free.

buytickets.at/candleconferences

With Candle you get:

- Up-to-date scholarly content made engaging and tailored to the real needs of A Level students.

- Sessions and resources designed by practicing teachers with a record of engaging students of all Abilities.

- Easy, secure online bookings

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