



ABOUT DR. PETER J. WILLIAMS

Peter J. Williams earned his M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. at Cambridge University studying ancient languages related to the Bible. Williams originally planned to become a Bible translator, but after seeing how many students of the Bible did not recognize its authority, Williams decided to change his professional direction and become an evangelical scholar in order to advance confessional scholarship.

After receiving his Ph.D., Williams accepted a postdoctoral position in the Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University from 1997-1998 and thereafter taught Hebrew and the Old Testament at Cambridge as an Affiliated Lecturer and as a Research Fellow in the Old Testament at the Tyndale House (1998-2003).

Williams then transitioned to teaching the New Testament at the University of Aberdeen. Williams received the position as Warden of the Tyndale House four years later. He now acts as Warden and as an Honorary Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the University of Aberdeen. Looking back on his academic history, Williams describes his professional journey saying, “I find it amazing how I was led through stages of thinking I was going to do something else (be a Bible translator, OT scholar, NT scholar), only to find that I am now responsible for a library and research community in which [my] interests in both Testaments and in languages related to Bible study are highly useful.”

Williams is married to Kathryn and they have two children, Magdalena and Leo.



LECTURE: *NEW EVIDENCE THAT THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN BY EYEWITNESSES*

The authorship of the first four books of the New Testament has fascinated scholars for centuries.

If the authors were eyewitnesses, one could assume greater reliability. If not, then questions are naturally raised about the historicity of details in the writings. Because the first three Gospels are so similar, many theories have been proposed and argued to explain the sources of verbatim sections, as well as the unique material. Did Mark rely on Peter for eyewitness details? Luke admits his use of other sources, but did he use Mark or Matthew or both? What about Matthew and John? New evidence in the discussion of these questions and more will be the focus of this lecture.