

Redcrosse: the Sacred and the Secular

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On Wednesday 23rd April, [Chris Allen \(/staff/profiles/social-policy/allen-chris.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/social-policy/allen-chris.aspx) took part in a cross-college event at St George's Church, Edgbaston that reflected on the nature of contemporary Englishness in the context of the secular and the sacred.

The event opened with a performance of 'Redcrosse'. Created by Professor Ewan Fernie from the University's Shakespeare Institute, 'Redcrosse' is an innovative new work – part arts performance, part groundbreaking new religious service – which seeks to reaffirm Englishness and St. George by taking its cue from one of the great neglected epics of English literature, Edmund Spenser's 'The Faerie Queene'.

Following the performance, IASS's Chris Allen joined Professor Michael Dobson and Revd Julian Wright to reflect on what Englishness meant to them. Chris spoke about the way in which he felt the flag of St George had been hijacked by some from within the far-right, something he found personally problematic.

You can find out more about Redcrosse here:

<http://tinyurl.com/d5dt2yx>