



# Redcrosse: Remaking Religious Poetry for Today's World

*Ewan Fernie*

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*Do poetry and criticism matter in today's world?*

*How can the poetry of the past help us tackle the changing nature of religious faith and national identity?*

This book explores the creation of *Redcrosse*, a new poetic liturgy for St George's Day and a unique collaborative work written by the critic Ewan Fernie, the theologian Andrew Shanks and the major contemporary poets Jo Shapcott, Michael Symmons Roberts and Andrew Motion. Leading writers - including John Milbank, Salley Vickers and Sarah Apetrei, together with authors of *Redcrosse* itself - reflect on the creation of the liturgy and its central inspiration, Edmund Spenser's epic Renaissance poem, *The Faerie Queene*, as well as on its two premieres in St George's Chapel, Windsor and Manchester Cathedral, and its sometimes controversial public reception.

Including the full text of *Redcrosse*, the volume triumphantly shows that a new poetic work really can address some of the most pressing concerns of our time.

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