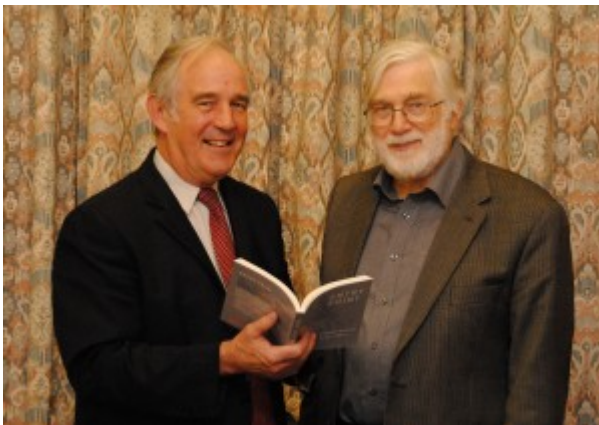


ENTRY POINT: A fascinating evening with the book's two authors

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By their own admission it took Haddon Willmer and Keith White “ten long years” to write *Entry Point*: on Wednesday evening they had just ninety minutes to unpack and discuss with their twenty or so listeners the many theological and sociological arguments it explores.



In essence, the book, which Haddon describes as a sustained meditation on Matthew chapter 10, is just that: it takes the gospel text and through seven chapters: Child, Kingdom, Temptation, Disciple, Humility, Reception and Father carefully and studiously reflects on the relation between theology and child. However, on opening the debate Haddon was particularly keen to point out that although its subtitle... *Towards Child Theology with Matthew 18*, may suggest otherwise *Entry Point* is not simply a book for parents, teachers or family church leaders but “a book for anyone who talks and thinks about God”.

There are many facets to this particular passage of scripture but *Entry Point* concentrates on a question the disciples ask when seemingly vying for position: *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?... Jesus' answer was to place a child in their midst.*

In Jesus' day as a child had little if any social status the notion of one being employed as the Lord's partner, being someone whose reception into their midst was to be the model for the disciple's humility was for our authors both the catalyst for much theological debate, and they hoped when presented as a piece of finished work something that would stimulate much wider discussion.



Following Haddon's contribution Keith, who with his wife Ruth lives at [Mill Grove](#), a Christian residential community in South Woodford, shared five very short testimonies. These said Keith were brief accounts of five changes that had taken place in his life and ministry each of which, in one way or another, addressed the key question of how we all might live differently and more faithfully.



The evening closed with a short time of questions and comments many of which focussed on the none too popular notion that just like the disciples no matter how close we might feel without real change, without adopting the humility of the child in our midst, many of us may remain outside the kingdom.

Entry Point is available through Amazon