



100 YEARS SINCE WITTENBERG
THE REFORMER IN QUESTION: MARTIN LUTHER
 TUESDAY 4 APRIL

Excommunicated by the pope, outlawed by the holy Roman Emperor, Luther challenged the status quo by refusing to believe in the sacred role of the priesthood. He refused to believe that time spent in purgatory to expiate sins could be reduced by monetary payments to the church, and he determined to reposition the Catholic Church by reference, not to the teachings of the Catholic Fathers, but by reference to the Bible, as the Word of God, alone. His translation of the Bible into vulgate German not only made it more accessible to the German-speaking people: it actually helped to foster a sense of the German language itself, and thus laid the foundations for German unity 350 years later. It was reportedly on October 31 1517 that Martin Luther nailed his “Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences”, otherwise known as ‘the 95 Theses’ to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church. What did the theses say, what effect did they have on the nascent Reformation, and what does it mean now to be ‘Lutheran’?

Unless otherwise stated, lecture study days start and end at the Art Workers Guild, Bloomsbury. Please join us for coffee at 10.30 (optional), the first lecture at 11, a light lunch with wine at 1pm, and a concluding lecture and discussion ending at 3.30 pm.

£85 INSCAPE members, £95 non-members. First time participants are welcome at no cost.