Doctor Who and Religion: a 50th anniversary celebration
by James McGrath, Philosophy and Religion

Doctor Who is the longest running science fiction television show in history, and this year marks its 50th anniversary. Such a long-running show provides a unique opportunity to trace trends in the intersection of religion and popular culture. But Doctor Who (like much other science fiction) also explores a number of scenarios that are interesting from the perspective of religious studies. For instance, if one traveled through time, could one change the ancient practice of human sacrifice, or the outcome of the Council of Nicaea? Or if the gods and demons of ancient peoples were real alien beings, would that undermine human religion, or demonstrate it to be literally true?

Join James McGrath, editor of Religion and Science Fiction (Pickwick Publications 2011) and co-editor of the forthcoming volume Time and Relative Dimensions in Faith (Darton, Longman, and Todd, 2013) for a lunchtime exploration of some highlights from 50 years of religious themes and explorations in this famous TV show.