

# John Wycliff

An original song by Maureen James

John Wycliff was a Yorkshire man  
He was gentry through and through  
At twenty he left his home  
As younger sons would do  
He went off down to Oxford  
As would befit his station  
He wanted to find out about  
Transubstantiation

At Oxford, John he studied hard  
A doctor he became  
For seventeen years philosophy  
And logic was his game  
But he also learned theology  
About different denominations  
And he slowly came to analyse  
Transubstantiation

Wycliffe, fully qualified  
No well-paid job could find  
A thinker and a questioner  
The pope shunned him every time  
The church in the 1300s  
Wanted sacraments and rogation  
And Wycliff he was showing doubts  
About Transubstantiation

So Wycliff he left Oxford  
And travelled all around  
He spent time as a diplomat  
And noble friends he found  
He even went to see the pope  
About matters of taxation  
And came even more to disagree  
With Transubstantiation

Well Wycliff's fame spread far and wide  
His views he soon refined  
He accused the church of falsity  
Of having money on its mind  
And when he called the pope the anti-Christ  
Word spread of his negation  
And added to this he shared his doubts  
About Transubstantiation

A preacher called John Ball did hear  
Of Wycliff's heretical views  
At the time there were three popes enshrined  
And poll tax in the news  
'Twas easy to stir up the folk  
Right across the nation  
The peasants revolt evolved right out of  
Anti- Transubstantiation

John Wycliff lived just three more years  
His work came to an end  
He'd translated the bible  
To be read by Englishmen  
He'd tried to personalise religion  
And to stop the idolation  
But he's remembered as the man who slammed  
Transubstantiation

Transubstantiation,  
Creating blood from out of wine  
Turning bread to the body of Christ  
In communion every time  
The followers of Wycliff  
Lollards they became  
Heretics for two centuries  
Till reformation cleared their name

John Wycliff was a Yorkshire man  
He was gentry through and through  
When he went down to Oxford  
I'm sure he never knew  
Just how much his own opinions  
Would shape the views of all the nation  
And all because he shared his doubts  
About Transubstantiation.

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