



**The St Mary's Centre Annual Symposium  
in  
Practical Theology and Religious Education**

19 – 21 October 2016  
Noddfa, Penmaenmawr, LL34 6YF

**Public Lectures:**

**Wednesday, 19 October 2016, 8.00pm**

The Revd Dr Greg Smith  
*Training Clergy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

and

**Thursday, 20 October 2016, 8.00pm**

The Revd Professor Jeff Astley  
*Taming the Spirit?*  
*Religious Experience and the Unsettling of Belief*

## WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016

**12.30 Lunch**

**2.00 Welcome and Introduction to the Research Community**

**2.30 Collegial Session 1**

Room 1: Steve Aisthorpe (1 hour)

*Investigating the invisible church: reflections on research methodology and learning*

(Chair: Ferran Glenfield)

Room 2: Kelvin Randall (1 hour)

*Are Liberals winning? A longitudinal study of clergy churchmanship*

(Chair: Duncan Strathie)

**3.45 Tea**

**4.15 Collegial Session 2**

Room 1: Christopher Lewis (1 hour)

*The "Religious Diversity Project" among young people in the Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia: Methodological considerations.*

(Chair: Christopher Rutledge)

Room 2: Gill Hall and Douglas Hall (1 hour)

*The psychological type of individuals attracted to Celtic Christianity compared with the psychological type of Anglican congregations.*

(Chair: Peter Rowe)

**5.30 Plenary Session 1**

Room 1: Leslie Francis (1 hour)

*Growing a younger Church: a strategic vision*

(Chair: Paul Thompson)

**6.30 Dinner**

**8.00 Public Lecture 1**

Room 1: The Revd Dr Greg Smith

*Training clergy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

(Chair: Jeff Astley)

## THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2016

### 8.15 Breakfast

### 9.15 Collegial Session 3

Room 1: Karamat Iqbal (1 hour)

*Pakistani-Birmingham; community, education and religion*  
(Chair: David Freeman)

Room 2: Guiseppa Crea and Aureliano Pacciolla (1 hour)

*Motivational aspects of well-being, through happiness and self-direction: An empirical investigation among priests and nuns, and among young people*  
(Chair: Robin Rees)

### 10.30 Coffee

### 11.15 Collegial Session 4

Room 1: Neville Emslie (30 mins)

*Emotional intelligence and the royal priesthood, a peculiar people*  
(Chair: Adam Stevenson)

Adam Stevenson (30 mins)

*The elusive Methodist identity: Towards an ordinary theology of Methodist worship.*  
(Chair: Neville Emslie)

Room 2: Ian Poulton (30 mins)

*And yet it moves: an ordinary theological understanding of the persistence of the Church of Ireland in rural communities*  
(Chair: Sylvia Baker)

Sylvia Baker (30 mins)

*Who are the "nones" and what do they actually believe?*  
(Chair: Ian Poulton)

### 12.30 Lunch

### 2.00 Collegial Session 5

Room 1: Henry Ratter and Steve Glowinkowski (1 hour)

*In two parts: A pilot workshop, exploring leadership style & behaviour and An update on the Values Surveys Project being run with Essex University*  
(Chair: David Lankshear)

Room 2: Randolph Ellis (1 hour)

*Is God an object?*  
(Chair: Neville Emslie)

## **THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2016 (contd)**

### **3.15 Collegial Session 6**

Room 1: Stella Mills (30 mins)

*Occupational isolation in farming – when disease hits the stock*  
(Chair: Christine Brewster)

Room 2: Claire Maxim (30 mins)

*A critique of theological reflection*  
(Chair: Randolph Ellis)

### **3.45 Tea**

### **4.15 Plenary Session 2**

Room 1: David Lankshear

*The development of a measure to enable Church in Wales primary schools to monitor their pupils' views on issues related to school ethos*  
(Chair: Tania ap Sion)

### **5.30 Eucharist (Chapel)**

### **6.45 Dinner**

### **8.00 Public Lecture 2**

Room 1: The Revd Professor Jeff Astley

*Taming the Spirit?*  
*Religious experience and the unsettling of belief*  
(Chair: Leslie J Francis)

## **FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2016**

**8.15 Breakfast**

**9.15 Collegial Session 7**

Room 1: Tania ap Sion (45 mins)

*Creating a place of prayer for the 'other': an experimental study exploring the effects of re-shaping congregational space in a cathedral*

(Chair: Brian Jones)

Room 2: Patrick Laycock (30 mins)

*Work-related psychological health among Italian Roman Catholic priests: replicating and extending the concept of balanced affect*

(Chair: Jeff Carter)

Alison Morley (30 mins)

*Bible study and post-critical belief: a pilot study among ordinary theologians in a Church of England parish*

(Chair: Jeff Carter)

**10.15 Coffee**

**10.45 Collegial Session 8**

Room 1: Christopher Rutledge (30 mins)

*The Relationship of Churchmanship and Personality amongst Anglican Clergy*

(Chair: Stella Mills)

Room 2: Clare Slattery (30 mins)

*Searching for Ordinary Theology among 18-26 year olds in Rural Ireland*

(Chair: Alison Morley)

**11.15 Conclusion and evaluation (Room 1)**

**11.45 Eucharist (Chapel)**

**12.30 Lunch**

## DELEGATES

Stephen Aisthorpe Tania ap Siôn Jeff Astley Sylvia Baker Christine Brewster Jeff Carter John Cole Giuseppe Crea Randolph Ellis Neville Emslie Leslie J Francis David Freeman Ferran Glenfield Steve Glowinkowski	John Haley Douglas Hall Gill Hall John Harper Karamat Iqbal Albert Jewell Brian Jones David Lankshear Patrick Laycock Chris Lewis John Lloyd Jonas Martinson Claire Maxim Stella Mills	Alison Morley Aureliano Pacciolla Ian Poulton Kelvin Randall Henry Ratter Robin Rees Elizabeth Rowe Peter Rowe Christopher Rutledge Clare Slattery Greg Smith Adam Stevenson Duncan Strathie Paul Thompson Richard Vroom
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**Note:**

Room 1 is the larger room next to the entrance hall.

Room 2 is the smaller room next to the dining room.



## **Training clergy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

*A public lecture by*

***The Revd Dr Greg Smith***

**8.00pm, Wednesday 19 October 2016  
Noddfa, Penmaenmawr, LL34 6YF**

For more than a century, clergy in the Church of England and the Church in Wales have been prepared for ordained ministry via a curacy or apprenticeship served alongside an experienced minister. While there has rightly been much investment in the training of these key personnel in the life of the Church, little thought has been given to the question: who trains the trainers? Greg Smith, himself a training minister, under the guidance of Leslie Francis, has spent the last eight years attempting to identify best training practice; the resources available to the training minister and the theological models in play in the training relationship. This presentation will share what has emerged from that research, with particular emphasis on how teachers need to learn.

Greg Smith is a Vicar in the Diocese of Coventry, who has recently completed a research PhD at the University of Warwick in the Education Department. He has jointly authored (with Leslie Francis) a number of articles on psychological type and the work of clergy. He has a passion for the equipping of clergy for the challenges of a new age. He is an experienced training minister, whose priority is to ensure a proper integration of praxis and theological reflection. He is a Research Fellow of the University of Warwick and Research Associate of the University of Pretoria.



# **Taming the Spirit?**

## **Religious experience and the unsettling of belief**

*A public lecture by*

***The Revd Professor Jeff Astley***

**8.00pm, Thursday 20 October 2016**  
**Noddfa, Penmaenmawr, LL34 6YF**

Spiritual and religious experiences have been, and often continue to be, a problem for traditional religious belief and practice – and for the theologies that express and undergird them. The relation between experience and faith is frequently portrayed through metaphors about ‘taming’ an unsettling mystery that ‘disturbs’ the placid waters of human convictions. Although religion is largely founded on experience, it often fears its power to disrupt. In this lecture Professor Astley will argue that the plural, widespread, gratuitous, and concrete phenomena of spiritual experience have a positive contribution to make in earthing, correcting, and breaking open the limited understandings that so readily take root in official religion and orthodox believing. A relevant theology needs to be open to all experience, and always ready to see the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Jeff Astley has worked in pastoral ministry, as well as teaching and researching in philosophy of religion, science and religion, and practical theology. He was the Director of the North of England Institute for Christian Education from 1981 to 2013. He is currently Alister Hardy Professor of Religious and Spiritual Experience at Glyndŵr University, Wales; and Honorary Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, and Professorial Fellow of St Chad's College, Durham University. He is the author or editor of over 40 books on theological, educational, and religious issues, including *The Philosophy of Christian Religious Education*, *Ordinary Theology*, *Exploring God-Talk*, the *SCM Study Guide to Christian Doctrine*, and most recently *What Do We Believe? Why does it Matter?*