



ABSTRACTS

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

18-20 September 2018
Noddfa, Penmaenmawr, LL34 6YF

TUESDAY 18 September 2018

2.30 Session 1

Tania ap Siôn

Insights from a prayer board within a Christian Ethos school

This paper emerges from the qualitative strand of the Ten Leading Christian Ethos Schools project at Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Warwick. Following the identification of the school prayer board as offering a significant contribution to the Christian ethos of one of the schools, this study set out to offer a critical evaluation of the prayers placed by students on that prayer board. Taking a sample of 1,000 prayers, the study employs an established analytic framework for the analysis and classification of intercessory prayer (distinguishing between prayer intention, prayer reference, and prayer objective) that has been employed previously by ap Siôn in a series of studies concerning prayers posted in churches, in cathedrals, in hospitals, and on line. The findings draw attention to the distinctive profile of the prayers offered within the particular school in terms of the issues for which prayers are offered, and the religious language and themes that shape these prayers. Suggestions are made regarding how these themes and linguistic forms may be shaping the spiritual and religious lives of the students. On the basis of these analyses suggestions are offered for the development of the ministry of prayer boards within Christian ethos schools and for further research on similar prayer boards within other Christian ethos schools.

TUESDAY 18 September 2018 (contd)

4.15 Session 2

David Lankshear

Shared Human Experiences, Grandparents, Stories and a dog called Cumberland

This presentation will explore three themes:

1. Shared human experiences which religious language enables people to explore;
2. The role of grandparents in the religious nurture of children;
3. The way in which story contributes to the learning of young children.

While each of these ideas could be the subject of a full presentation on their own, the intention of this session is to raise issues and stimulate thought around these areas, therefore, each theme will be considered in turn through a reflection on personal experience. Then the three themes will be drawn together to introduce a new series of illustrated books for young children, which become available as an on-line resource from Tuesday, 18 September 2018. Samples of the books in print form will be available for inspection at the end of the session.

5.30 Session 3

Patrick Laycock

A statistical commentary on distinguishing Agnosticism from Atheism in young people

A sample survey of 11,809 young people concerning religious diversity utilised a questionnaire containing 343 questions. The particular question asked last time of the data was whether it could demonstrate a statistically significant difference between the worldview of Atheists and that of Agnostics. The answer last time using simple t-tests and stepwise discriminant analysis was a definite 'yes'. This has now been extended to a varimax Factor Analysis leading to the production of three independent Scales with convincing interpretations.

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2018 (contd)

8.00 Public Lecture 1

John Lloyd

The everyday mystery of answered prayer

Petitionary prayer is a foundational and ubiquitous part of practical theology. Although such prayer can be immature or selfish, it is also a key component of mature discipleship. Moreover, those who pray in faith frequently experience what they can only interpret as direct and sometimes astonishing answers to their prayers.

Theologians, philosophers and scientists struggle with issues concerning God's interaction with the physical world. The regularity of natural processes, which makes them (so helpfully) predictable and accessible to scientific enquiry, is often understood as God having given the creation a real autonomy. If this is so, is it possible for God also to intervene specifically, either unprompted or in response to prayer? Some say no: any apparent efficacy of prayer can only be an effect on the one who prays. Others find this explanation inadequate and contrary to their experience.

These questions will be considered in the light of the undeniable ability of human beings to change the course of events in the natural world.

Bibliography

Denis Alexander, *Rebuilding the Matrix* (Oxford, Lion, 2001)

John Polkinghorne, *One World* (SPCK, 1986)

John Polkinghorne, *The Faith of a Physicist* (Fortress Press, 1996)

Andrew Steane, *Faithful to Science* (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Keith Ward, *Divine Action*, 2nd edition (Templeton Foundation Press, 2007)

Keith Ward, *Holding Fast to God* (SPCK, 1982)

David Wilkinson, *When I Pray What Does God Do?* (Lion Hudson, 2015)

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

9.30 Session 4

Jacqui Wilkinson

Attitudes towards Christianity and Spiritual wellbeing

This study provides an opportunity for the voices of pupils to be heard and recognised as essential in defining and shaping the ethos of a Church of Ireland primary school. The two core aspects that are captured in the study concern children's attitude toward Christianity and their spiritual well - being. The research examined the associations between frequency of personal prayer, frequency of worship attendance, attitudes towards Christianity, and spiritual well - being among 468 pupils attending fourth, fifth and sixth classes in Church of Ireland primary schools in the diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. Attitudes toward Christianity are measured by the *Francis Scale of Attitude toward Christianity* whilst spiritual well - being is measured by a modified form of the Fisher 16-item instrument *Feeling Good, Living Life* (assessing quality of relationships across four domains: self, family, nature, and God). The data demonstrate that children have positive attitudes toward Christianity and good levels of spiritual well - being. It is found that frequency of personal prayer is a much stronger predictor than frequency of worship attendance in respect of both attitudes toward Christianity and spiritual well - being. The implications of the findings are discussed in relation to the educational agenda of Church of Ireland primary schools.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018 (contd)

2.00 Session 5

Steve Glowinkowski, Henry Ratter, Gary Winter

Theory, research, application: Building servant leadership skills

This paper draws on the research conducted by Henry Ratter, (The relevance & value of the Glowinkowski predisposition indicator (GPI) for modelling Church Growth: a study in Chester Diocese), exploring the relationship between Leadership (behaviours, styles and competencies) and Church Growth. The paper will describe the two leadership development workshops which have been conducted based on the learning from this research. The second of these workshops was held in June 2018 at Noddfa and was positioned as 'Steps on the Journey to Servant leadership'. It was attended by 22 leaders (clergy and lay). There was a major emphasis on the development of Blue 4 leadership skills. The paper will compare and contrast the GPI profiles of the clergy in the original study with the 22 leaders who attended the recent workshop. It will summarise the feedback received and discuss the possible options for taking this work further.

3.15 Session 6

Steve Glowinkowski and Henry Ratter

Operationalising the servant leadership roles

Psychometric tools and surveys developed by the International Management Consultancy, (Glowinkowski International), are currently being converted into a digital format. The intention is to provide these tools to a much wider audience, including making them available at an affordable level to the wider education sector. Once this work has been completed and proven, it will open the possibility of providing tools (GPI, Blue 4 Leadership model & ESI) which were used in the leadership development workshops with clergy and lay leaders, at a much more affordable level, hopefully having benefits across the Church of England Dioceses and other denominations. The paper also touches on how a number of the tools are being applied in different situations: the Values & Culture survey at Chester Cathedral, the GPI Expert report format in the selection process for the Director of Operations (Mission in the Economy), for team development in a Baptist Church in Newton Mearns, Glasgow as well as other conversations which are taking place.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018 (contd)

4.15 Session 7

Neville Emslie

The gospel of empathy according to archdeacons

Is empathy *the* characteristic for a vibrant and fulfilling ministry? Qualitative research by way of interviews of more than two dozen Archdeacons in the Church of England suggests empathy is a key trait Archdeacons look for in the appointments' process, but is the feature most lacking in failing ministries. What do Archdeacons understand by the term empathy, how do they identify it, and how do they manage ministers who appear to lack it? Neurological research suggests empathy is related to brain development and performance, sociological research suggests the power of parental attention forming empathy in the early years of a child's life, and emotional intelligence researchers posit empathy as a developable skill. This presentation aims to describe something of the concept of empathy in relation to trait emotional intelligence, and draws attention to its role in ministerial health and effectiveness.

5.30 Session 8

Giuseppe Crea

Personality, emotional intelligence and burnout among Catholic priests and nuns: An empirical investigation in Italy

Drawing on the classic model of balanced affect, the Francis Burnout Inventory (FBI) conceptualises good work-related psychological health among clergy in terms of negative affect being balanced by positive affect. This study set out to examine the question regarding the prevalence and correlates of burnout among a sample of 129 Catholic priests and 157 religious sisters in Italy, who completed the Francis Burnout Inventory alongside the Short Dark Triad and the Schutte Emotional Intelligence Scale. Correlation coefficient analysis revealed that a higher Machiavellism and Psychopathy score correlated with greater Emotional Exhaustion in Ministry, while higher Satisfaction in Ministry score was related to greater Narcissism and Emotional Intelligence. Multiple regression analyses were used to determine the best predictors of distress and burnout. Machiavellism and Psychopathy predicted Emotional Exhaustion in Ministry; Emotional Intelligence predicted Satisfaction in Ministry. The implications of these findings are discussed to prevent burnout in pastoral ministry.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018 (contd)

8.00 Public Lecture 2

Leslie J Francis

Resilience, pathologies and wellbeing in ministry

This presentation reports and reflects on a new survey conducted among ministers serving in the Church of Scotland. A response rate of just over 50% produced 505 completed surveys including measures of Psychological Type, Burnout, the Dark Triad of Pathologies, the Bright Trinity of positive affect, a Role Inventory and contextual data.

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

9.30 Session 9

Randolph Ellis

“It is not my perception of the tent that shelters the carnival from injury in the storm”: Attempting to overcome “the staleness of the philosophy of human access”

Abstract to follow.