



Faith in Research 2015: Everyone Counts

Our annual conference giving you the opportunity to hear and discuss current research

Thursday 14th May 2015

Novotel, 70 Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2HT

09:30 - 17:30

Chaired by Bishop David Walker

Programme

The programme is set to run as below. Breakout sessions will be allocated once bookings have been received in order to ensure the most people possible are able to attend their preferred sessions (i.e. two attracting a similar audience are not parallel).

Time	Session
9:30	Registration & refreshments
10:15	Bishop David Walker: Welcome, introductions and prayer
10:30	Dr Leslie Francis: Psychological type and the Church of England
11:15	Sarah Barter-Godfrey: Everyone Counts 2014
12:00	Refreshment break /changeover
12:15	BREAKOUT BREAKOUT
13:15	Lunch including Student posters
14:15	BREAKOUT BREAKOUT
15:15	Refreshment break /changeover
15:30	Tom Sefton and Bethany Eckley: Church in Action: A survey of church-based social action
16:15	Bishop David Walker: Final remarks and prayer
16:30	End & networking
17:30	Depart

The breakout sessions include:

- a) **Mission**
- b) **Ministry**
- c) **Growth**
- d) **Occasional offices**

Bishop David Walker

The Right Revd David Walker has held the position of Bishop of Manchester since 2013. Prior to that he was Bishop of Dudley from 2000, following 17 years in assorted parish ministries and industrial chaplaincy in the Diocese of Sheffield.

David is Chair of the Advisory Council on the Relations of Bishops and Religious Communities (ACRBRC) – the body which is currently working with new monastic communities as they emerge across the Country. He chairs the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee and is a member of the Ministry Council of the Church of England. He acts as International Visitor for the Society of Ordained Scientists. He has recently become an elected member of the Church Commissioners.

David's most recently published theological writings are grouped around the phenomenon of occasional church goers; he has recently undertaken a study of those who attend carol services at two English cathedrals. He also retains a longstanding involvement in Social Housing.

David is married to Sue and they have two adult children. He is a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis.

Keynote Speakers

Dr Leslie Francis: **Psychological type and the Church of England**

David Voas' discovery that the psychological type of the leader is associated with church growth raises profound theological questions, as well as psychological and practical issues. This presentation, grounded in empirical theology, draws on the notion of the theology of individual differences (based on a strong doctrine of creation) to reflect on a series of studies exploring different types of church congregations, and profiling clergymen and clergywomen engaged in different forms of ministry, including bishops.

Leslie Francis is Professor of Religions and Education, and Director of the Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit, University of Warwick, England; and Canon Treasurer and Canon Theologian at Bangor Cathedral, Wales. He holds Visiting Chairs at York St John University and Glyndwr University, as well as visiting positions in the USA and South Africa. His recent books include *Rural life and rural Church* (2012), *Ordained Local Ministry in the Church of England* (2012), *Exploring ordinary theology* (2013). His next book, *Anglican cathedrals in modern life: The science of cathedral studies* is currently in press.

Sarah Barter-Godfrey: **Everyone Counts 2014**

Everyone Counts was a congregational survey carried out in a sample of Church of England parishes as part of a long-term commitment to monitoring diversity within the church. Together with information about the local community, area and annual church statistics, data were collected to identify trends in the key demographics of congregations, those who attend and those who take on roles within their local and wider church. Individuals were asked, via their church, to provide information about themselves on a few short, standardised questions. Surveys were available either as printed copies returned by post or electronically through a website and app for mobile devices, to test the practical possibility and acceptability of different ways of returning information. An evaluation of the survey was also carried out, to gather feedback on how to improve congregational data collection in future, which included views from people who did and did not take part.

The theme of the 2014 survey was “growing the church for all”. Core demographic trends have been explored in the context of who our neighbours are and where our neighbours are represented in our churches. Results consider what the data can tell us about supporting Mission and sustaining congregations within their local community settings, as well as celebrating the diversity of people in our churches. More on the background to the survey is available online:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2048974/%2814%2947%20-%20celebrating%20diversity%20in%20the%20church%20of%20england.pdf>

Sarah Barter-Godfrey was a statistical researcher in the Research and Statistics department, acting as project officer for Everyone Counts. Previously she has worked as a researcher on a range of social justice projects, published on the challenges of inclusion in social policy, and taught statistical and research methods to post-graduate level. For Everyone Counts, she was generously supported by an expert steering group, the encouragement and skills of her colleagues and the goodness of dioceses in facilitating the project.

Tom Sefton and Bethany Eckley: Church in Action: A survey of church-based social action

Social action is not an optional side project for the Church; it is core to its heart and mission. The commitment to this calling can be clearly seen in the scale and diversity of activities offered by local churches. Not only do churches offer services that meet specific needs, they also create spaces for people to connect with and get to know others, helping to build stronger and more resilient communities.

In this talk we will explore the scale and nature of Anglican social action in England. By sharing the results of a large-scale national survey, this report highlights and celebrates the contribution that churches are making to their local communities.

Tom Sefton works in the Church of England's Missions & Public Affairs team, providing advice on economics and social policy and supporting Bishops in the House of Lords. He is closely involved in the Archbishop's initiative to promote credit unions. Previously, Tom worked at Church Urban Fund as their Research Manager, helping to highlight the impact of poverty on deprived communities and effective church responses to it. Before that, he worked for ten years as a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics, where his research focused on UK poverty and inequality and public attitudes to the welfare state.

Bethany Eckley is Research and Policy Manager at Church Urban Fund. In this role she has written several reports that examine poverty-related issues in England, focusing in particular on how churches can best support those living in deprived communities. Previous to her current role, Bethany worked with Oxfam GB's campaign team, the International Centre for Social Franchising and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

a) Ministry

Dr Liz Graveling: Young vocations: journeys towards priesthood of women and men under thirty

While there are now almost equal numbers of men and women ordained each year, within the under-30 age group women still make up less than 25% of candidates recommended for training. This talk presents preliminary findings of a qualitative research project exploring the discernment journeys of young women and men currently in training, in order to understand how their experiences contrast and converge.

Dr Liz Graveling is a researcher for the Church of England, based in Ministry Division. Her current research interests are in the areas of ministerial vocations and education, and gender in ministry, with a focus on the

experiences of ordained and potentially ordained women. Alongside this she trains postgraduates and researchers in software for qualitative data analysis, is churchwarden of St Swithin's Church in Bath, and co-owns a family guest house and restaurant in Cromer, Norfolk.

Dr Christine Blackie: How clergy experience preparing to move jobs in the Church of England

I present an overview of an in-depth qualitative study of Church of England clergy from three dioceses which investigated how clergy experience preparing to move jobs. Findings highlight the cognitive, behavioural and affective response of clergy to fundamental changes to how their mobility is being managed at the present time. The study makes explicit those individual and institutional factors likely to disrupt the preparatory stage of a career transition. These include new perspectives on the role of calling and vocation when preparing to move on.

Christine Blackie has a special interest in research into the career identity and development of clergy. As an independent Career Counsellor she also works regularly with clergy who are seeking to make changes in their working lives. Recent research has fuelled her interest in the unconscious in organizational dynamics and its impact on individual careers. Christine holds a PhD in Organizational Behaviour from Loughborough University and a Masters degree in Career Management and Counselling from Birkbeck, University of London.

Dr Tim Ling: The 2015 Experiences of Ministry Survey

This presentation will briefly introduce the Experiences of Ministry Project. It will report on what we're learning and hoping to learn from the Experiences of Ministry Surveys and describe what's going to be new in 2015 and why. This will include reflections on research design and the reception of research findings.

*Tim Ling is the Church of England's Head of Ministry Development. In this role he is actively involved in supporting the growth of a ministry research environment in the hope that we may become better at discerning development practices that enable a flourishing of ministry. He has previously worked as a police constable, company director, university lecturer and as Ministry Development Officer in the Canterbury diocese where he lives. He can be found on Twitter at https://twitter.com/ling_tim and the Ministry Development pages at <http://www.ministrydevelopment.org.uk/>. Recent publications include: *Moving On in Ministry - Discernment for Times of Transition and Change*, CHP, 2013 and *Developing Faithful Ministers - A Theological and Practical Handbook*, SCM Press, 2012.*

Cathy Ross: Creative conversations

Creative Conversations explores the theme of marginalisation by listening to people's reflections on everyday life. Care will be taken to set up safe conversational spaces in which people can talk together about their shared experiences of marginalisation. Part one of the project will involve making audio recordings of sixteen conversations between people from a wide variety of

experiences. Recordings will be presented in an on-line library together with introductory notes which will provide an analysis and reflection on the content.

The project aims to make ethnographic research methods easily accessible to Christian communities who wish to gain a deeper understanding of their own place. In part two of the project, we will invite communities from around the country to record their own Creative Conversations and contribute to a growing online library of conversations.

Creative Conversations is a collaborative project between Urban Life and Pioneer Leadership Training.

Dr Cathy Ross, a New Zealander, is Tutor in Contextual Theology at Ripon College Cuddesdon, MA Cordinator for Pioneer Leaders at CMS (Church Mission Society) and Lecturer in Mission at Regent's Park College, Oxford. She is also the General Secretary of the International Association for Mission Studies. She has previously worked in Rwanda, Congo and Uganda with NZCMS. Her recent publications include Mission in the 21st Century, Exploring the Five Marks of Global Mission (ed with Andrew Walls); (London:DLT, 2008), Life-Widening Mission: Global Anglican Perspectives (Oxford:Regnum, 2012) and Mission in Context (with John Corrie, Ashgate, 2012), The Pioneer Gift (with Jonny Baker, London:SCM, 2014), Mission on the Road to Emmaus (with Steve Bevans, SCM, 2015) Her research interests are in the areas of contextual theologies, World Christianity, feminist theologies and hospitality.

b) Mission

Rachel Jordan: The picture outside the Church

What can we find out about the people outside our churches? This talk will look at latest research into the populations understanding of who Jesus is and how many know an active Christian. It will then map this with other research to help us get a snap shot of those currently outside our church communities and help us understand the size of our task of evangelism.

Rachel Jordan is the National Adviser for Mission and Evangelism for the Church of England. Since a young age she has always been passionate that others meet and experience Jesus. In her role she works across many departments in the National Church encouraging everything to be shaped by Mission and Evangelism. One of the joys of her role is leading the Mission Network, this network includes Diocesan Missioners and many others with a calling for mission and evangelism in the Church of England. She has a PhD in church history and has worked amongst prostitutes and drug addicts in Amsterdam's red light district. Rachel's home is the base of a missional community that regularly meets in her living room; they get together to create and deliver social justice projects. Some of the community are followers of Jesus, others are on a journey towards him and some are not sure of what they believe or who they are following. This keeps her grounded in the realities of mission and evangelism.

Ant Cooper: relationship between tweeted sentiments and church

Alison Peacock: What citizens say about poverty

The presentation reports on a poverty research project undertaken by the Greater Manchester Poverty Action Group, the University of Manchester and the Diocese of Manchester. It explores the findings and the citizen social science methodology of a survey conducted in Greater Manchester in 2014. The distinctive contribution of the Church of England to the survey, and the advantages and opportunities presented to the Diocese by collaborative research initiatives, are also considered.

Alison Peacock is Mission Planning Officer for the Diocese of Manchester and leads the Transforming Communities Team within the Mission and Ministry Department. She is a postgraduate student within the Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research in the University of Manchester.

c) Occasional offices

John Haskey: The role of the church in weddings: an historical perspective

The presentation will start with a brief review of the Church's initially minor, but growing role in solemnising marriage through the centuries leading up to the Reformation, and the large changes which then occurred. Subsequent developments will then be briefly traced, up to the start of the Victorian era, when the main part of the presentation will use a number of specially reconstructed series of marriage statistics to examine the uninterrupted trends in church marriages in the different denominations over the last 170 years - and the growth in civil marriages. A number of factors which are thought to underlie the observed patterns of marriage will be discussed; demographic, social and secular influences - and the churches' positions over issues such as divorce.

[The main part of the presentation will use material contained in a chapter called:

Marriage rites – trends in marriages by manner of solemnization and denomination in England and Wales, 1841-2012

which will be the first chapter in a book entitled:

Marriage Rites and Rights (Hart Publications; 2015, forthcoming)]

*John Haskey has held a Visiting Senior Research Fellowship at the University of Oxford since 2000, and was head of the Family Demography Unit at the Office for National Statistics until 2005. He has published a variety of statistical studies and commentaries on the subjects of: marriage; divorce; cohabitation; Living Apart Together; ethnicity; adoption; families; households and relationships. Two particular interests are the influence of legislative changes upon subsequent demographic behaviour, and the interaction between religious and demographic trends. He has written on patterns of marriage by denomination and contributed to *Family Law* on: trends in divorce; the potential for court information to be better used for research purposes; and on profiles of surviving kin of different kinds of family member who die – as research for The Law Commission. John has recently contributed several chapters for different books: one to a book on the history of cohabitation and non-marital births in England and Wales, and another on childlessness. He is a past President of the British Society for Population Studies, and an assistant Editor for the demographic journal, *Population Studies*.*

Dr Sandra Millar: Marking births and deaths – ministry, mission and growth

This short session will highlight the research, resources and national dissemination plan emerging from work around funeral ministry and the baptism of children under 12.

As Head of Projects and Developments for the Archbishops Council in February 2013, the Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar is leading work which helps the whole church think about how it can engage more effectively with people around weddings, funerals and christenings.

She was ordained in July 2000 after a career in retail marketing and Christian mission, alongside research in faith development. Since ordination she has worked as a vicar in Barnet and in Oxfordshire before moving to Gloucester in 2007 where she worked as the Diocesan Adviser for work with Children and families... Sandra is also the author of several books on families and worship.

Dr Bev Botting: a short update on occasional offices

This talk gives an update on what has been happening within the Church of England regarding baptisms, funerals and marriages.

Dr Bev Botting is the Head of Research and Statistics in the Archbishops' Council and is responsible for providing statistics on all aspects of the Church of England and wider ecumenical data and providing consultancy and commissioning research in the field of the Anglican church and faith more widely. She is a highly experienced and enthusiastic senior research manager and statistician and has published widely on aspects of child health, record linkage and use of large national databases. She holds a PhD in Epidemiology and has previously worked for the Office for National Statistics and NatCen Social Research.

d) Growth

Dr Hamish Leese: The Methodist Church in Britain: A Growing Movement?

The Methodist Church is undertaking a significant piece of work addressing 3 key questions: What does growth look like in the contemporary Methodist Church? Where can that growth be found? And what factors encourage and inhibit that growth. This presentation will outline the approaches taken to understanding and answering these questions, as well as sharing some early findings. It will also introduce some tools and mechanisms being developed to broaden participation and share findings.

Hamish Leese is a Research Officer within the Methodist Church's Connexional Team. He is responsible for planning and conducting strategic qualitative research as well as supporting others within the Church in their own research. He has been with the Church for 3 years, having completed his PhD in International Relations focussing on identity and decision making in International Institutions.

Dr Jill Hopkinson: Released for mission: growing the rural church

Released for Mission: growing the rural church was published in February 2015, when it was debated and endorsed by the General Synod. It provides an honest assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of rural parishes, based on the grassroots experience of lay people and clergy and makes nine priority recommendations for action. What does the research tell us about the potential for mission

and growth in rural communities and how can this be applied practically in rural multi-church groups?

Canon Dr Jill Hopkinson is National Rural Officer for the Church of England as a staff member of the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council. She is based at the Arthur Rank Centre in Warwickshire, the churches rural resources unit and is an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. She has a background in academic research as an agricultural scientist and more recently has developed an interest in qualitative research on rural mission and ministry.

Kevin Norris: The Church Growth Research Programme

'Moving from Evidence to Action (and further evidence): an update on progress since the launch of the Church Growth Research programme findings'

A short update on how findings from the church growth research programme ('From Anecdote to Evidence) are being used, including the development of the 'From Evidence to Action' toolkit to help parishes reflect and act upon the findings (<http://www.fromevidencetoaction.org.uk/>). There will also be a brief overview of various pieces of follow on research which are being undertaken in order to further develop the evidence base.

Kevin Norris is a Senior Strategy Officer in the Strategy & Development Unit and was the Project Manager for the Research Programme.