



**Roots, Shoots and Fruits:
The Past, Present and Future of
British and Irish Practical Theology**

2019 Annual Conference
Liverpool Hope University | 8–11 July

A large, stylized green graphic of a tree branch with several large, pointed leaves. The branch starts from the bottom left and curves upwards and to the right, ending near the top right. The leaves are also green and have a simple, elegant shape.

25

YEARS

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Welcome

Dr Andrew Rogers



On behalf of the BIAPT committee, I look forward to welcoming you to our 25th anniversary conference at Liverpool Hope University in the north west of England. In keeping with our new organic logo, our title for 2019 invites us to consider our roots, but also areas of growth and fruitful developments within British and Irish practical theology.

To celebrate our anniversary, we have added an extra day to the conference to make space for sustained reflection in both retrospective and prospective mode, aided by a fantastic line-up of contributors and a great conference venue in the vibrant city of Liverpool. In addition, we have invited our past chairs and presidents to bring their own perspectives on the last 25 years and BIAPT's pre-history, via speeches, interviews and chatting on the sofa. Just so we don't forget it's our anniversary, we will have our gala dinner in the crypt of the Metropolitan cathedral.

The 2019 conference is for all with an interest in British and Irish practical theology, whether new to the field or more of an 'old-timer'; whether British or Irish or from further afield. As detailed on the Conference webpage, we want to engage with a wide variety of questions around BIAPT's roots, shoots and fruits, through our keynote sessions, reflection groups, short papers, workshops, and the many other activities that make up a BIAPT conference. We particularly look forward to hearing how our international delegates view British and Irish practical theology, and what it may need to receive from other contexts.

We have a wonderful group of British and international keynote speakers to stimulate our thinking over the four days of the conference. Our first keynote, Professor Elaine Graham, will offer an account of the emergence of a distinctive learning community called practical theology in Britain and Ireland, traced through the stages of her own journey in the discipline. From Atlanta in the USA, our second keynote, Professor Emmanuel Lartey, will enable us to encounter the intercultural, 'postcolonial' and inter-religious environments of the Bible, early Christianity, and practical theology. He will argue that the future of practical theology lies in our ability to interact with the pluriformity of the Creator's creative genius. Keynote three features something different from Professor Clive Marsh, who will invite us to consider the past 25 years through the world of film and how it has explored questions of what is human, how values are communicated and how this impinges on the task of theology. Our fourth keynote, Dr Courtney T. Goto, from Boston in the USA, will explore the ubiquity of ignorance in our contemporary common life, the harm it inflicts, and the histories and habits of ignoring that we strive to grow beyond. Drawing on the case of race and ignorance in the US, she will reflect on how practical theologians might meet this ignorance challenge through persistent small scale engagement in 'critical subjectivity'. Our fifth keynote is Professor John Swinton from Scotland, who will be asking 'What comes next?' for practical theology. Through looking at aspects of contemporary practical theology within Britain and Ireland, he will consider the possibilities they offer for now and the future, to open up space for faithful engagement in the church and world. We aim to enhance the reflective process for delegates at conference through keynote respondents and reflection groups, which will lead to a final reflective plenary, facilitated by Revd Dr Margaret Whipp and Dr Anne Codd.

This promises to be a very significant conference for BIAPT and practical theology, so I am glad that you are thinking of joining us. Do tell your friends and colleagues – we'd like lots of people to join us in celebrating and in taking stock of where we are and where we're going. I am sure you will find the BIAPT conference to be a place of conversation, friendship, reflection, intellectual challenge, inspiration and of encountering diverse ways of doing practical theology. Enjoy the conference!

Andrew Rogers
BIAPT Chair

Timetable

Monday 8 July

13:00	Arrivals & registration
13:45	New members' Welcome & Orientation
14:15	Chair's Welcome: Dr Andrew Rogers
14:45	Keynote 1, Professor Elaine Graham: <i>The Human Face of God: Notes on a Journey through Practical Theology</i>
16:15	Refreshments
16:45	Reflection groups
17:45	Parallel Sessions 1
19:00	Dinner
20:00	After-dinner interview with BIAPT Presidents Paul Ballard & David Lyall
21:00	Night prayer
21:15	Evening bar

Tuesday 9 July

07:30	Morning prayer/reflection
08:00	Breakfast
09:00	Keynote 2, Professor Emmanuel Lartey: <i>Back to the future: Intercultural, Postcolonial and Inter-Religious streams in Practical Theology</i>
10:30	Refreshments
11:15	Parallel Sessions 2
12:00	Parallel Sessions 3
12:45	Lunch
13:45	Trends & Trajectories
14:30	Keynote 3, Dr Clive Marsh: <i>Theology in Practice, in an Age of Wizards, Hobbits and Vampires</i>
15:45	Refreshments
16:15	Reflection groups
17:15	BIAPT Annual Business Meeting
18:30	Drinks reception
19:15	Dinner preceded by Reflections from past-Chairs, Helen Cameron & Eric Stoddart
20:45	Night prayer
21:15	Evening bar & entertainment

Wednesday 10 July

07:30	Morning prayer/reflection
08:00	Breakfast
09:00	Key Note 4, Dr Courtenay Goto: <i>The Ubiquity of Ignorance: A Practical Theological Challenge of our Time</i>
10:30	Refreshments
11:00	Parallel Sessions 4
11:45	Parallel Sessions 5
12:45	Lunch
13:45	Special Interest Groups
14:45	Keynote 5, Professor John Swinton: <i>What comes next? Practical theology, faithful presence and prophetic witness</i>
16:15	Refreshments
16:45	Reflection Groups
18:10	Travel to Metropolitan Cathedral
19:00	Conference Dinner with Reflections from past-Chairs, Frankie Ward & Zoe Bennett

Thursday 11 July

07:30	Morning prayer/reflection
08:00	Breakfast & checkout
09:00	Parallel Sessions 6
10:00	Publisher Session
11:00	Refreshments
11:30	Reflective Process with The Revd Canon Dr Margaret Whipp & Dr Anne Codd
13:00	New Chair's Close: Professor Nicola Slee
13:30	Lunch & departure

Keynote Speakers



Professor John Swinton

What comes next? Practical theology, faithful presence and prophetic witness

British practical theology has been and continues to be emergent and dialectical, shifting over time from applied theology to the theology of practice and on into variety of rich and creative areas within church and society. It is this emergent dynamic that makes practical theology a deep, rich, and creatively diverse theological discipline. In this presentation I will explore some aspects of contemporary practical theology within Britain and Ireland with a view to sharpening our vision and offering some new possibilities for the present and the future; possibilities that I hope, might open up fresh space for faithful engagement in church and world.

John Swinton is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. He has published widely within the area of mental health, dementia, disability theology, spirituality and healthcare, qualitative research and pastoral care. John is the author of a number of monographs including *Dementia: Living in the memories of God* for which he won the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ramsey Prize for excellence in theological writing. (<http://www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk/>).



Dr Clive Marsh

Theology in Practice, in an Age of Wizards, Hobbits and Vampires

This session invites us to look at how the questions of what is human and how values are communicated and shaped have been explored in the world of film over the past 25 years. I shall also consider the ways in which changes to how people access media, engage with popular culture and the arts, and process their responses, inform how theology is now being done.

Clive Marsh is Head of the Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Leicester, Vice-President Designate of the Methodist Conference and a Methodist Local Preacher. When his post is made redundant by the University of Leicester (August 2020) he will remain a Research Fellow at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, and at Wesley House, Cambridge. His latest book is *A Cultural Theology of Salvation* (OUP 2018). A major current concern for him is whether Liverpool will finally, after 29 years, win the Premiership.



Professor Elaine Graham

The Human Face of God: Notes on a Journey through Practical Theology

In 1985 I attended, as a master's student, a major Pastoral Studies conference at the University of Manchester, entitled "The Human Face of God". This marked my first exposure to the annual gathering of tutors in Pastoral Studies that would become BIAPT. In this lecture, I will trace some of the stages of my journey into, through (and maybe beyond) the discipline: the shift from pastoral studies to practical theology; the development of the discourse of theological reflection; and above all, the emergence of a distinctive community of learning, scholarship and practice. The question is, where next?

Elaine Graham is Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology at the University of Chester and was between 1998-2009 Samuel Ferguson Professor of Social and Pastoral Theology at the University of Manchester. She is the author of a number of works in practical theology.

Keynote Speakers



Professor Emmanuel Y Larley

Back to the future: Intercultural, Postcolonial and Inter-Religious streams in Practical Theology

In this presentation I hope to enable us to travel backwards and encounter the intercultural, 'postcolonial' and inter-religious environments of the Bible and Early Christianity. I will also make reference to strands of the history of BIAPT and of our practical theological disciplines worldwide in which diversity, plurality and inter-religious interaction have featured prominently. Homogeneity, white-supremacy, hegemony and Western domination are relatively recent, though currently resurgent, features on the global scene. I shall be arguing that the in-breaking future of practical theology lies along pathways that not only recognize plurality in theological, cultural, gender, economic and religious terms, but that also can celebrate and creatively and respectfully engage plurality. As a discipline, practical theology's future is intertwined with our ability to interact with the pluriformity of the Creator's creative genius. The alternatives are irrelevance or oblivion.

Emmanuel Y. Larley comes from Ghana, West Africa and holds degrees in Psychology and Statistics, Pastoral Theology, Religion and Health. He is the L. Bevel Jones III Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care and Counseling at Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta. He has taught in Legon, Birmingham, Decatur and Atlanta, and served as Chairperson of BIAPT, President of the International Council for Pastoral Care and Counseling (ICPCC), and Treasurer of the International Academy for Practical Theology (IAPT). He was Editor of the *Journal of Pastoral Theology* (2013- 2017). His numerous publications include *Pastoral Counselling in Intercultural Perspective* (1987); *In Living Color* (1997/2003); *Pastoral Theology in an Intercultural World* (2006), and *Postcolonializing God: An African practical theology* (2013).



Dr Courtney T Goto

The Ubiquity of Ignorance: A Practical Theological Challenge of our Time

In this age of Brexit, xenophobia, and rising populism, practical theologians in Britain and Ireland cope with confounding levels of ignorance, as leaders, neighbors, colleagues, and/or even family members express points of view that compete and conflict with their own. The harm that such ignorance inflicts, especially on vulnerable and marginalized populations, constitutes a pressing moral crisis.

However, if ignorance (or more precisely, the tendency to ignore, as its root word suggests) is characteristic of the human condition, what does it mean to be "rooted" in histories and habits of ignoring, while striving to grow beyond and take responsibility for them? How do we (as individuals and communities) become aware of and develop sensitivity toward that which we tend to ignore? By exploring the case of race and ignorance in the US, we will reflect on how practical theologians can work on a small scale—forming relationships in which they participate with others to reveal one's own and another's ignorance. By engaging persistently in "Critical Intersubjectivity," community members can begin to develop habits of tracking dynamics of power, ignorance, and harm in working across difference.

Courtney T Goto is Associate Professor of Religious Education and a co-Director for the Center for Practical Theology at Boston University School of Theology. Her research interests include intersections of racism, culture, and faith; as well as aesthetic teaching and learning, creativity, and embodied knowing. She is author of *Taking on Practical Theology: The Idolization of Context and the Hope of Community* (Brill, 2018). In this book, she explores the regnant paradigm to which the field of practical theology is captive, reflecting on issues of power and privilege in knowledge production from her perspective as a Japanese American. Goto is also author of *The Grace of Playing: Pedagogies for Learning into God's New Creation* (Pickwick, 2016). She designs courses that explore both theory and practices, often through experiential learning and community-based research.

Contributors



Professor Paul Ballard

Paul Ballard is Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University, where he taught practical theology, a member of the International Academy for Practical Theology, and Honorable President of BIAPT. Presently he lives in Peterborough. Publications and edited volumes include: (with John Pritchard) *Practical Theology in Action* (SPCK, 1996/2006); (with Pam Couture, for IAPT) *Creativity, Imagination and Criticism* (2001) and *Globalisation and Difference* (2005, Cardiff Academic Press); (with Stephen R. Holmes) *The Bible in Pastoral Practice* (DLT, 2005); (with Malcolm Brown) *The Church and Economic Life* (Epworth, 2006); (with Lesley Husselbee) *Community and Ministry* (SPCK, 2007); *Church at the Centre of the City* (Epworth, 2007).



Dr Zoë Bennett

Zoë Bennett has been the Director of Postgraduate Studies in Pastoral and Practical Theology in the Cambridge Theological Federation and Anglia Ruskin University since 2000. Now retired, she looks back on a career in Adult Theological Education spanning more than 30 years. Her recent publications include *'In a glass darkly': The Bible, Reflection and Everyday Life*, with Christopher Rowland. London: SCM Press (2016) and *Using the Bible in Practical Theology: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Aldershot: Ashgate (2013).



Dr Helen Cameron

Helen Cameron is a practical theologian looking forward to returning to academic work after eight years leading the social justice work of The Salvation Army in the UK. She has written on theological reflection, social justice and the mission of the local church.



Dr Anne Codd

Following graduate studies in adult and community education, Anne was involved in parish and diocesan pastoral ministry and development for 10 years, before teaching and training in several of the Catholic Higher Education Institutes in Ireland. She is a certified management consultant-facilitator, and is part of the leadership team in her Province of the Presentation Congregation. Her doctoral research was on Church as community in mission.



The Revd Dr David Lyall

After parish ministry in a new housing area in Ayrshire and hospital chaplaincy in Edinburgh, David Lyall taught practical theology first at St Andrews and then at Edinburgh University where he was Principal of New College. He is the author of *Helping the Helpers*; *Supervision in Pastoral Care* [with John Foskett] (SPCK), *Counselling in the Pastoral and Spiritual Context* (Open University Press) and *The Integrity of Pastoral Care* (SPCK).

Contributors



Dr Eric Stoddart

Eric Stoddart teaches practical theology at the University of St Andrews where his main research interest lies in surveillance technologies. He is one of the initiators and coordinators of the international Surveillance and Religion Network. Eric is currently writing *The Common Gaze* exploring surveillance and the Common Good. <http://ericstoddart.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>



The Very Revd Frances Ward

The Very Revd Dr Frances Ward is a freelance theologian and writer, currently studying for a PhD at Durham University on Edmund Burke's debt to Richard Hooker. Her forthcoming book, *Full of Character: A Christian Approach to Education for the Digital Age*, explores the education needed in a world of increasing automation. From 2010 – 2017 she was Dean of St Edmundsbury; from 2006 – 2010 she was a Residentiary Canon at Bradford Cathedral. Her publications include *Lifelong Learning*, (SCM, 2005), *Theological Reflection: Methods* (with Elaine Graham and Heather Walton) (SCM, 2nd Edition 2019) and *Why Rousseau was Wrong: Christianity and the Secular Soul* (Bloomsbury, 2013).



Dr Clare Watkins

Dr Clare Watkins is Reader in Ecclesiology and Practical Theology at the University of Roehampton. A Roman Catholic, lay-woman theologian, committed to teaching and research in the areas of ecclesiology, sacramental and practical theology, Clare has a particular concern for working in ways that contribute to ministerial formation and church life and mission.



The Revd Canon Dr Margaret Whipp

Margaret is an Anglican priest, theologian and spiritual writer living in Oxford. She was chair of BIAPT from 2009 to 2013.



Conference Fees

Fees		Early Bird Fees by 13 May 19		Regular Fees from 13 May 19	
		BIAPT member	Non-member	BIAPT member	Non-member
Full Residential 8-11 July	Standard	£395	£435	£410	£450
	Concession ¹	£275	£300	£320	£345
Non-delegate²			£285		

Day Delegates ³					
Mon 08/ Thu 11	Standard	£70	£80	£80	£90
	Concession ¹	£50	£60	£60	£70
Tue 09/ Wed 10	Standard	£100	£110	£110	£120
	Concession ¹	£75	£85	£85	£100
All 4 days	Standard	£245	£285	£260	£330
	Concession ¹	£195	£220	£220	£240
Conference Dinner⁴			£75		
Single night B&B⁵			£42		

Notes

1. Concession rates apply to students or unwaged delegates.
2. Non-delegates will have all facilities as per the programme except attending conference sessions & Wednesday's Conference Dinner. Please note that standard accommodation is in single ensuite rooms. Please contact conference@biapt.org if booking as a couple.
3. Day Delegate rates include all access, facilities and refreshments as per the programme except overnight accommodation & breakfast, & Wednesday's Conference Dinner
4. Additional cost for Day Delegates & non-delegates wishing to attend the Conference Dinner on Wed 10
5. Rate for Day Delegates requiring overnight B&B (available Mon, Tues, Weds)





Venue

This year the conference is hosted by Liverpool Hope University. The conference will take place at the Hope Campus. We will have some superb purpose-built facilities to ensure some great conversations. All accommodation is on-site in student rooms with ensuite facilities.

The conference Gala dinner will take place in the crypt of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral (transport will be provided).

Getting there

Hope Park campus is situated on Taggart Avenue, Childwall, Liverpool, close to Queens Drive (A5058) at the end of the M62.

From the city centre, it is easy to get buses from Queen Square Bus Station, which goes to Childwall Valley Road or Woolton Road/Taggart Avenue. Broad Green Railway Station is situated just over a mile away from the campus. Postcode for Satnav – Taggart Avenue, L16 9JD

Hope Park is easily accessible from Liverpool's main railway station, Liverpool Lime Street. The 86c bus is direct to Taggart Avenue and the 79c and 79d bus services stop at the Childwall Fiveways and the 75 stops on Woolton Road.

Broadgreen railway station is the nearest (just over one mile) to our Hope Park campus, but there are no direct bus services. Various buses are available from Queens Drive, a short walk away, including the 61, 81 and 81A.

Booking

Please use the online booking facility at: www.biapt.org. Alternatively, print and complete the paper booking form available to download from the website or request one by email from conference@biapt.org. If you book before 13th May 2019, an Early Bird discount is automatic.

If you are a BIAPT member, do ensure you have renewed your membership for 2019 to receive the member discount when you book your conference place. If you are not a member, do consider joining - it's worth it for the discount alone, plus you will receive other BIAPT membership benefits such as 5 issues during the year of the journal, *Practical Theology*!

Our cancellation policy is that a refund will be made (minus a 20% administration fee) if delegates cancel their booked place by 1st June 2019. We are not able to guarantee any refund for cancellations made after this date.

A number of subsidised places are available to those with particular financial needs. Applications for such a bursary must be made using the form available on the website to the Conference Secretary, not later than 1 May 2019.

Some pre- and post-conference accommodation is available. Please contact conference@biapt.org for further information on how you can book this independently.