Please choose either Session 1 A or 1 B & either Session 2 A or 2 B, then email admin@biapt.org with your choices once you have booked your free place online via the BIAPT website.

Session 1 A (10:10 – 11:10)

Paper 1: Mary Kells

'The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven a woman took': can Sallie McFague's Metaphorical Theology still hold promise for our liturgical language today?"

The Anglican Church voted to ordain women to the priesthood in 1992, and in the same year, Janet Morley's inclusive liturgy resource, *All Desires Known*, first published in 1988, was re-issued in an expanded edition. Feminist theology had problematized the use of male language since the late 1960s, Natalie Watson (2003:22) tracing its beginnings to Mary Daly's *The Church and the Second Sex* (1968). Yet, as I entered my curacy in 2017, I found that inclusive language was not in evidence in my parish. Nor did it seem to have entered the bloodstream of other Anglican churches I encountered. Why is this?

My research makes use of the correlative method, outlined in Graham, Walton and Ward (2005:138-169). I begin by putting Sallie McFague's two works from the 1980s, *Metaphorical Theology* (1982) and *Models of God* (1989), in dialogue with Alvin Kimel's edited volume *Speaking the Christian God: the Holy Trinity and the Challenge of Feminism* (1992). This results in an apparent impasse. Can this be resolved in praxis? I proceed by offering Sallie McFague's alternative Trinity of Mother, Lover and Friend to four groups of Christians - the *Student Christian Movement* of a local university, volunteers from my parish, a group of curates, and a group of LGBTQ+ Christians - assess their reactions and ask, is Sallie McFague's model of use to us today? What are the obstacles? Will simply using the resources instead of debating them dissolve the impasse?

After briefly summarizing these two textual positions, I present my empirical findings in this paper. While a resolution is not so easily achieved, I am able to report what received a positive response, what the obstacles were perceived to be, and what, additionally, I perceive to be the factors involved which complexify and impede movement.

Revd Dr Mary Kells is in the fourth year of a part-time Master Degree in Applied Theology, at the University of Oxford. She is currently working full-time as an Assistant Curate in the Church of England, in a parish on the Hampshire coast.

Paper 2: Kevin Ellis

One step behind: wrestlings with and within the Bible

I am in the third year of PhD research with the Urban Theology Union (Manchester University) exploring the research question: *What does it mean to interpret the Bible from a Welsh Liberation Perspective as an English-speaking Priest in the Church in Wales?*

The key methodologies for this research are found within liberation theology, postcolonial studies, and auto/ethnography.

This work-in-progress takes autoethnography and examines how I use the Bible as a priest in Wales and some of the tensions that I face when doing so both within the Church communities and outside, for example English/Welsh, academic (NT scholar)/non-academic, person of faith/not a person of faith. In addition, I examine some bible passages, to see whether they might be read autoethnographically e.g., biography in the epistles, prophetic call narratives in the Hebrew Bible.

By hopefully showing how authors like Paul wrestle within themselves within scripture, I will seek to demonstrate the usefulness of features of autoethnographic research for interpreting both scripture and our response to it as individuals and communities.

Kevin is a Vicar on the Isle of Anglesey and looks after ten churches. Alongside the myriad of commitments this brings, he is in the 3rd year part-time of a PhD in Contextual Theology through the Urban Theology Union, which is based in Sheffield. He already holds a PhD in NT studies, and is not sure that doing a second demonstrates a special sort of eccentricity. When his nose is not in a book, he is out with his two lurcher dogs: Samwise and Father Ted.

Session 1 B (10:10 – 11:10)

Paper 3: Elizabeth Slinn

'Walking on Holy Ground': the empirical research process for a Doctoral thesis in Theology.

This is a proposal to present the empirical research process for a Doctoral thesis in Theology entitled *Developing the Christian Healing Ministry in dialogue with the work and literature of Paul Tournier.*

The research for this project in the field of practical theology has been in two parts. Firstly from a library study into the work of Paul Tournier, a twentieth century physician who developed his own type of Christian counselling, a number of themes emerged. He named his approach the medicine of the person as it involved the 'treatment' of the whole person, body mind and spirit. These themes informed the empirical research involving semi-structured interviews.

An interview schedule was developed which formed the basis of fifteen interviews who are practitioners in the Christian Healing Ministry (CHM). The aim was to enable a 'conversation' between Tournier and the interviewees by using quotes and themes from his work.

This interview phase was described as 'Walking on Holy ground' by one observer, as participants gave their time generously and dug deeply into their experiences.

The purpose of this paper is to share the approach to empirical research approach by describing some of the research ontology, ethics, risks, methodology and methods. It's aims is to not only help others who may be about to embark on similar research but also to give an indication of how empirical research adds life a new dimension to a research project.

Liz Slinn embarked on a new phase of life as a student of Theology in 2005 after retiring from a long and exciting career in NHS management. She started studying at Heythrop College with a Graduate Diploma in Theology followed by a Masters in Christian Theology. She has recently passed her viva for her DTh through the University of Winchester, her home town since 2013, with a research focus on the relationship between health, healing and wholeness. In her spare time Liz has a family to look after, has various Church ministries including a musical one and is a Trustee on several faith-based charities. This includes being the current Chair of Trustees of Acorn Christian Healing Foundation.

Paper 4: Michael Coombes

What do children today understand about death and the afterlife?

"What's next?" During two decades of bereavement counselling many people have asked this question, failing to gain comfort from religious or spiritual beliefs, or not reconciling their grief with what they learned as children. Beliefs are often associated with grief mediation and can offer a powerful support following a loss, but without them, what then?

With the onset of Covid-19 there is a particular focus on children's ability to cope with loss, whether experienced directly or vicariously. The issue is no longer abstract or 'sometime in the future' but a real-life matter, raising the question 'are we teaching children adequately about death and the afterlife'.

This research explores contemporary religious education, demonstrating fractures in the 'flow' between what church leaders WANT taught; what educators DELIVER*;* what children UNDERSTAND*;* and the OUTCOME of what has been taught. Focusing primarily on children's understanding, it reflects on significant challenges faced, including policy *versus* practice e.g. curriculum pressures; educational, e.g. teacher skills/motivation; family influence; and secularity.

The research considers how teaching eschatology ultimately supports a grieving person, offering the opportunity to expand into other areas (multi-faith, secular), sectors (secondary, further education), and longitudinal research.

Michael Coombes is a 2nd Year PhD Religious and Theological Studies student at Cardiff University. In the light of his research interest, he writes, "While taking a full-time degree I am maintaining my 20-year practice as a bereavement counsellor. Having counselled and supported over 1,000 adults and children, I seek to bring my experience and knowledge gained to the subject of the causes and effects of the phenomenon termed 'Complicated Spiritual Grief', the main theme of my paper."

Session 2 A (11:20 – 12:20)

Paper 5: Naomi Heywood

Shining a Light on the Dark Side of Music in Worship: a response to Anne Morris

Music is widely acknowledged as a tool of great power, but as the Peter Parker principle states, 'With great power there must also come great responsibility' (Ditko and Lee 1962). Musical practice in worship should not be governed by a fear of the consequences of misuse, because in doing so we do we simultaneously restrict its capacity to do us great good. In her article, *Music in Worship: The Dark Side,* Ann Morris expresses concerns regarding the power music has to manipulate the responses of its hearers and concludes that there is a need for ethical guidelines concerning the use of music in worship. Without such guidelines, those that fear the misuse use of music in worship may curtail its use, thereby resulting in congregational worshippers not gaining the full range of benefits that music as a vehicle for worship offers. This paper is based on the premise that 'the church gathering if shaped by three paradigms: mission, formation and encounter' (Lee 2020) and begins by outlining how the use of music in congregational worship can helps worshippers fulfil that which Jesus deemed the greatest commandment. Acknowledging that validity of Morris's concerns, it then argues that the works of Jeremy Begbie already provide such a metaphysical framework as is needed as a foundation for the answer to Morris's questions and guide the use of music in worship, offering practical interpretation of his "Christian ecology of music". Having established guidelines for ethical use of music in worship, the paper goes on to explore the part that music can play in facilitating formation and mission through transformational encounter with God.

By profession, Naomi is a teacher of Music and PE at a High School in Evesham. She is also a Deacon of Pershore Baptist Church, where she regularly helps to lead the worship. It is into this area of practice that she has embarked on the Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology at Birmingham University. Currently in her second year, this year's assignment has been to write a publishable article. It has been her work on this article that has provided the inspiration for this paper, as she explores the use of music as a vehicle for congregational worship.

Paper 6: Monica McArdle

Would Moses have won the battle if he had been raising only his heart and mind? (Exodus 17:11). An investigation into the Catholic understanding of the role of the body in prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church cites Saint John Damascene's definition of prayer as "…raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." There is resonance here with the explanation given by anthropologist Tanya Lurhmann (2012), who describes prayer as 'inner sense cultivation.'

My doctoral study asks whether these descriptions are limited, and even unhelpful. Incarnation and bodily resurrection are key tenets of the Christian faith, implying that an embodied, holistic approach to prayer is necessary. Using the 'theology in four voices' framework (Cameron et al, 2010), which arose inductively from the theological action-research methodology, the Catholic perspective will be the Normative voice in my empirical research. This paper outlines the developing understanding of the role of the body in prayer. I examine the Patristic understanding, which brings together the contrasting theological anthropologies arising from the Jewish and Hellenistic interpretations of the human person. I acknowledge the effect of the Cartesian-Kantian split and consider the contribution offered by a phenomenological understanding, as proposed by Husserl, Stein, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty. In the light of the above perspectives, I give consideration to Exodus 17: 8-16 and ask the question 'Would Moses have won the battle if he had only been raising his heart and mind?'

Monica is a member of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism, working in schools and parishes across the UK. Her ministry there has involved exploring the use of drama, mime, dance, and sign language as modes of communication for bringing about an experience of the Christian Gospel in the lives of others.

This led her, after 20 years in active mission, to complete a MA in Somatic Movement and Dance Education (SMDE) at UCLAN, Preston. According to ISMETA (International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association), SMDE is a 'study of self from the perspective of one's lived experience', encompassing the dimensions of body, psyche, and spirit' and so she was able to study embodied prayer for the research component of the MA, albeit in a secular setting. She then completed a MProf at the University of Chester, and is now in her third year of a part-time PHD at Roehampton University, studying embodied prayer in the field of Practical Theology.

Session 2 B (11:20 – 12:20)

Paper 7: Sue Burchell

How well do the national Church of England and Oxford Diocesan strategies in 2020 correlate with what clergy and laity in the parishes expect from the Church in terms of ministry?

The rhetoric coming from the Church of England in 2020 seems to be focused on making disciples and growing the Church. The national Church strategy of Renewal and Reform puts evangelism and discipleship at the top of its agenda.

The Archbishops have stated that each of the 42 dioceses in the Church of England will continue to have their own strategies with support from the national Church. Although each diocese is

free to set its own objectives, most diocesan strategies mirror the objectives of Renewal and Reform.

How do these strategies correlate with what people 'on the ground' expect from the Church in terms of its ministry?

This study examines this question, by considering a) Renewal and Reform, and, because I am based in the Diocese of Oxford, details of the Oxford Diocesan strategy, Common Vision, and b) the views of clergy and parishioners across the Diocese of Oxford, and then cross-referencing a) and b) to see how and where they agree and differ.

Sue Burchell is in her sixth year of studying part-time for a PhD in Contextual Theology at the Urban Theology Union in Sheffield, via Luther King House and the University of Manchester. Her research title is 'The Continuing Significance of a Resident Parish Priest in the Church of England'. She has been a vicar of a single suburban parish in Banbury, Diocese of Oxford, since 2010.

Paper 8: Gill Frigerio

Practical Theology as disciplinary conversation partner: getting to grips with 'calling'

My Doctorate in Education, currently underway at the University of Warwick, is drawing on a range of disciplines and areas of practice which make use of the idea of calling. On the one hand, vocation and calling are well used concepts in my professional world of career development, a transdisciplinary field which already draws on sociology, psychology and organisation studies. Alongside this, when working with people of faith an appreciation of the practical theology of call and of work is valuable, and draws me to it. Specific forms of paid work become then only a small part of our understanding of call as well as an aspect of God's creative *missio dei* that can be neglected by ecclesial structures.

In this paper I will outline how I am integrating key components of the theology of vocation and calling with a 'career studies' perspective, outlining overlaps and omissions. Using the framework of noting what is rooted, changed, lost and claimed from Bennett et al (2018)* I shall share the story so far of my action research project to look at how Christian women can be equipped and supported to discern and enact their call.

Gill Frigerio is an Associate Professor in the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Warwick and is undertaking a Doctorate in Education in the Centre for Education Studies there, currently entering the fourth of five years. A careers adviser by training, in her day job she runs an MA in Career Development and Coaching Studies. She is also a Spiritual Director and Discernment Adviser for Coventry Anglican Diocese. These two areas of experience form the springboard to her thesis.

*Bennett, Z., Graham, E., Pattison, S. and Walton, H. (2018). *Invitation to Research in Practical Theology.* Routledge.