Professional Doctorate Summer School 2026
Schedule

Hello and a warm welcome to all summer school participants! We're looking forward to gathering together at High Leigh, Hertfordshire, for this year's summer school, sharing ideas, research and spending some time in workshops and special plenary sessions.

Booking for the summer school is via the BIAPT website. This is separate from conference bookings! Your booking will include overnight accommodation, meals and refreshments.

We welcome as our guest speaker, Revd Dr David Kirk Beedon:

David is a retired Anglican parish priest who served in Lichfield diocese (1989 - 2012) before becoming a prison chaplain (2012 - 2021), firstly at HMP Ranby (Nottinghamshire) and finally at HMP Stafford (Staffordshire). During his time with (what was then) Her Majesty's Prison Service he undertook a professional doctorate at the University of Birmingham (2013 - 2020), *Hope Deferred, Humanity Diminished?*: An ethnographic enquiry into the improvement of pastoral care offered to those serving an indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP).

His general research interest remains with matters of prison reform and penal pastoral care. He is especially focused on issues arising from an indeterminate sentence (IPP) that currently incarcerates over 2,500 people in England and Wales, although abolished in 2012. He is married to Julie and both are active in the campaign to challenge the ongoing cruelties and injustices of the Imprisonment for Public Protection sentence. In 2022 his book *Pastoral Care for the Incarcerated* expanded upon his thesis and more broadly critiques theologically the rationale and practices of modern mass incarceration (published by Palgrave-Macmillan).

If you would like to read some of David's work before his time with us at the summer school, we recommend:

- Beedon, David. 2021. "Tilting at windmills? Pastorally inhabiting the hopelessness of prison life as a researching practitioner." Practical Theology 14 (5):402-415. https://doi.org/10.1080/1756073X.2021.1881298

- Beedon, David. 2024. "From hostility to hospitality: Feeling my way towards a theological reimagining of incarceration." Practical Theology 17 (4):324-336. https://doi.org/10.1080/1756073X.2024.2383045

We encourage everyone's participation in the wider BIAPT conference – this will involve an additional booking, with information available here: BIAPT website

We look forward to seeing you there!

Professional Doctorate Summer School 2026

Rooms TBC

Monday 6th July			
14.00	**Gathering in** Three-minute thesis workshop		
15.15	**Break**		
15.30	**Workshop A** **Andrew Todd**	**Workshop B –** **Amy Daughton**	**Workshop C –** **Andrew Rogers**
Parallel workshops	How to Establish a Professional Doctorate Project	Data, data, every where…	Writing a theological practical theology thesis
16.30	**Break**		
17.00	**Keynote: Revd Dr David Kirk Beedon** **Penal Power and the Common Good** *Reflections on a research journey through spaces of incarceration*		
18.30	**Evening meal**		
19.30	**A conversation with David Beedon, introducing the exhibition of visual work from his research**		
20.00	Exhibition and informal time		

Tuesday 7th July			
08.00-09.00	**Breakfast**		
9.15	**Workshop A –** **Andrew Todd**	**Workshop B –** **Amy Daughton**	**Workshop C –** **Andrew Rogers**
Parallel workshops	How to establish a professional doctorate project	Data, data, every where…	Writing a theological practical theology thesis
10.15	Break		
10.45	**Keynote: Revd Dr David Kirk Beedon** **Pastorally Dwelling in Lands of Lament** *Seeking hopeful practices for desperate times and places*		
12.15	**SCM Press book stall** will be open during July 7th! **Lunch and farewells**		

Abstracts and Workshop Information

Three Minute Thesis

As an early part of meeting each other and hearing more about different approaches to research going on across the group, the first session will split into small groups to run a 'three minute thesis' exercise where we hear from all student researchers participating in the summer school.

To prepare your three-minute thesis presentation, we ask you to follow the structures of the 3MT National Competition. This means that this summer school session will be great preparation to participate in the competition through your university next year – or as a way to tell your friends and family what you're working on!

On the day we'll split into groups and go alphabetically by surname through the participants of each group. Everyone will get three minutes each. We won't do individual Q&As, but we'll hope to have a broader conversation about how the 3MT exercise can help you refine your project.

Here's some advice for what a 3MT might include, and how to prepare for your three minutes:

Your presentation should aim to:

- Outline motivation, background and significance to the research question;
- Describe the research strategy/design
- Describe the results/findings of the research; and
- Outline the conclusions, outcomes and impact of the research.

Not every student will yet be in a position to speak to all four items of course. For example, you may need to approach the latter two bullet points in more 'speculative' terms – i.e. what you *expect* to find, or *possible* outcomes and the impact you might hope to have.

Aim to:

- communicate clearly and using language appropriate for a non-specialist audience;
- convey enthusiasm for your research and capture our attention; and
- **IF you use a powerpoint, it must be only one slide only**. The slide should be well-defined and enhance your presentation.
- **Please bring your ppt slide ready to be emailed to the relevant colleague.**

Parallel Workshops

A. How to establish a professional doctorate project
Dr Andrew Todd

This workshop is designed to support those in the early part of the research stage of a DProf/DPT in Practical Theology. It will help you think through how to manage setting up, establishing and coordinating different threads of your research project, including: your conceptual framework, putting a methodology into practice, fieldwork, ethical clearance, etc.

B. Data, data, every where…
Dr Amy Daughton

This workshop aims to support you in troubleshooting your data analysis. We'll consider a range of different approaches to data analysis, work through what sorts of data they fit and hear from participants how they are going about their analysis. This workshop will be of use to those who already have some data and also to researchers who are thinking through the design of their project, by looking at the types of research question that certain tools of data discovery, collection and analysis can best investigate.

C. Writing a theological practical theology thesis
Dr Andrew Rogers

What makes a practical theology thesis theological? In this workshop we will consider what is distinctive about a practical theology thesis in terms of its theological framing. We will consider different ways the theological might be engaged through formal models; making normative moves; viewing through theological categories; thesis structure; and the place of the empirical, amongst others. Case studies of different approaches, drawing out their potential strengths and weaknesses, will form the basis of our conversation time together.

Keynotes

Content warning for keynotes: Whilst not the primary subjects of the presentations, topics will be referenced that may be upsetting: trauma, self-harm and suicide.

Keynote 1 - Penal Power and the Common Good
Reflections on a research journey through spaces of incarceration
Revd Dr David Kirk Beedon

Using the lens of the BIAPT 2026 conference theme (*Power and the Common Good*), this keynote will offer an example (not a template!) of a context-based and practice-focussed research journey that was undertaken in challenging institutional circumstances and amongst a vulnerable participant group. It will be an opportunity for me to share some 'researcher lessons learned', both good and bad.

Keynote 2 - Pastorally Dwelling in Lands of Lament
Seeking hopeful practices for desperate times and places
Revd Dr David Kirk Beedon

Subsequent to the formal ending of my initial research (with the submission of my thesis and publishing of my book) I felt there were still a few unresolved theological loose ends that had ongoing implications for pastoral practice. A major one, I felt, was the nature of hope that pastoral care might offer to truly desperate folk. What is the substance of hope where there is no redress to injustice and inhumanity has become normalised? This is a question for our times whose scope is beyond just carceral space. This keynote will bring Judaeo-Christian scriptural reflections on lament experiences (Psalms, Lamentations, The Exile and Holy Saturday) into conversation with the limbo experience of the IPP sentence. By extension, thought will be given to resonances of 'hope in lament' for fields of contemporary pastoral practice and politics. It is hoped Summer School participants will join me in reflectively shaping this latter element.