



Insights into Christian leadership styles

Tania ap Sion and Leslie J Francis

The Annual Symposium of the Network for Psychological Type and Christian Faith met at King's Park, Northampton, 31 October – 1 November 2013. The theme for this year's conference was *Type, Faith and Christian Leadership*, and 21 participants from across the UK attended.

This year the keynote speaker was the Revd Graham Osborne who presented on *Sixteen Types of Christian Leadership*. Graham is Rector of a united benefice, an active Spiritual Director and Supervisor, and a registered Myers-Briggs practitioner. Observations in the course of Spiritual Direction sessions with clerical directees, and work as a Myers-Briggs practitioner with Anglican and Methodist clergy and lay ministers, led Graham to the understanding that ministers of different psychological types approach their Christian ministry in distinctive ways and that different types find different aspects of their ministry energising and other aspects enervating. He then set out to explore the implications of psychological type theory for understanding the performance and experience of men and women engaged in professional Christian ministry.

According to psychological type theory, each of the sixteen complete types displays both characteristic strengths and characteristic weaknesses. When these strengths and weaknesses are projected onto the life experience and professional expectations of ministers, each of the sixteen types displays distinguishing characteristics. The Type Profiles resulting from Graham's research will hopefully enable those engaged in Christian ministry to generate new insights into their own experience and performance, and develop better strategies both for maximising their strengths and for protecting themselves against inevitable consequences of recognised weaknesses.

The keynote address described the process of developing the Type Profiles and how they are structured, including the model of ministry, and the Symposium gave the opportunity to explore Type Profiles in detail and to assess how applicable and useful they might be in practice.

The aim of the Network's symposia is to provide opportunities for Christian MBTI practitioners and others interested in the relationship between Jung's model of psychological type and the Christian faith to network together and to exchange ideas.

Information about the Network's Symposia may be found on the St Mary's Centre website in the 'Courses' section.

Professor Leslie J Francis is Co-convener and Dr Tania ap Sion (St Mary's Centre) is Secretary to the Network for Psychological Type and Christian Faith.