



Doctoral candidates explore religion and education in a changing world

The St Mary's Centre continues to support doctoral candidates working in the fields of Christian education and ministry studies within the University of Warwick. Two doctoral candidates presented papers at the Postgraduate Research Conference on Saturday, 6 May, focusing on the conference theme, 'Education in a Changing World'.

At the fifth Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Research Conference hosted by the Centre for Education Studies and the University of Warwick, the Revd Adam Stevenson presented a paper entitled, 'Understanding Methodist local preachers: a psychological type and temperament profile'. The paper presented the research findings from data gathered from a sample of 142 (80 male and 62 female) Methodist Local Preachers, and reported on their psychological type and temperament profiles. The sample was set within the context of clergy studies, and grounded in the conceptualisation and operationalisation of psychological type theory. Empirical studies using the same instrument (Francis Psychological Type Scale) as this study have shown it to be a valid instrument. Here it was being used for the first time among Methodist Local Preachers and highlighted some of the blindspots of those engaged in teaching others in the Christian Faith through the medium of Sunday worship. The sample was further compared to a published study on the psychological type and temperament profiles of 1004 (639 male and 311 female) Methodist Ministers. In the candidating process for Methodist ministry, Methodist Ministers must first be accredited as Local Preachers before they can offer to candidate for ministry. With this in mind, the differences between the profiles of Methodist Local Preachers and Methodist Ministers becomes increasingly important. The results showed that both male (69% compared with 44%) and female (66% compared with 43%) Methodist Local Preachers have a higher Epimethean Temperament (SJ) which is characterized as the conserving-serving Pastor, when compared to Methodist Ministers. It was argued that this may well lead to particular issues especially in a world that is changing rapidly and in a Church that is facing issues of decline.

The Revd Neville Emslie presented a paper entitled, 'Research in emotional intelligence among clergy and future directions'. The presentation offered an introduction to current understandings of Emotional Intelligence (EI) and offered a summary of recent research in Great Britain related to Anglican clergy and EI, and EI and New Frontiers' (charismatic evangelical) leaders. EI research published in the USA was considered that related to pastors, clergy, ICT management style, clergy leadership effectiveness, and occupational burnout among clergy. The current research focused on EI and Archdeacons (senior clergy) in the Church of England because their role is pivotal to the functioning and health of the Church and its ministers. The research questions included: what do Archdeacons in the Church of England know about EI, how emotionally intelligent and capable are they, and is EI considered in their work related to appointments, pastoral care, legal advice and general ministry? Some hunches relating to EI development of clergy in the UK were offered.