



Exploring the Public Significance of Religion

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Over 35 researchers in practical theology and religious education came together for a three-day symposium at the retreat centre, Noddfa, in Penmaenmawr. This annual event, convened by the St Mary's Centre in association with the Centre for Education Studies at the University of Warwick and Pastoral Sciences at Glyndwr University, drew participants from around the world, including Ireland, Malta, Italy, and Canada as well as the UK.

This year the symposium theme focused on *Exploring the Public Significance of Religion*, which stimulated the presentation and discussion of a diverse range of papers and topics including, temperament and Celtic Christianity, values research, meditation and attitudes among young Buddhists, teenagers and afterlife beliefs, exploratory studies in prayer research, loneliness and God, faith in research, song in church and school, ministry and mission in later years, and clergy psychological health, among others.

For the past two decades, this unique research community has brought together and connected experienced researchers and student researchers by providing a supportive and mature collegial environment for the development of research connected with faith-based and religion-related education.

This year the two evening Public Lectures of the Symposium featured the Revd Professor Andrew Village, Professor of Practical and Empirical Theology at York St John University, speaking on *Change and decay in all around I see? Changing attitudes among readers of the Church Times* and the Revd Canon Professor Leslie J Francis, Professor of Religions and Education at the University of Warwick, speaking on *The idea of a Christian University: Where are we now?*

For further information about the Symposium and its programme visit:

st-marys-centre.org.uk/courses.html