



Ordinary sacramental theology in rural Wales

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Professor Peter Neil, Vice Chancellor of Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, has recently published a significant new study exploring the beliefs of ordinary churchgoers in rural Wales.

Neil's study employs Astley's notion of ordinary theology as a conceptual framework through which to hear, analyse and interpret the ordinary sacramental theology of Anglican churchgoers in rural Wales. The in-depth interviews conducted with thirteen churchgoers identified ways in which they thought about and spoke about the three Anglican

sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the eucharist. The data generate insights into the core sacramental beliefs of ordinary churchgoers and highlight how the participants struggle at times to articulate their faith without an extensive vocabulary or syntax to express their deeply felt beliefs and sacramental experiences.

This paper, published in *Rural Theology* adds to a growing body of empirical studies exploring the significance for the Church today of listening carefully to ordinary churchgoers.

Professor Neil is a member of the St Mary's and St Giles' Centre Visiting Faculty of Anglican Theology and Pastoral Sciences at Glyndwr University and an active participant