

Lincoln Theological Institute

Issue 2—Winter 2006/07

Newsletter

LTI hosts
international
conference
on women
and
ordination

Nearly seventy researchers and clergy from around the world gathered at the University of Manchester's Hulme Hall conference centre in July 2006 to discuss the position of ordained women across the Christian churches, sharing insights and experiences.



Above: Dr. Ian Jones (principal conference organiser, right) introduces Dr. Esther Mombo (centre), one of the main conference speakers, from St. Paul's United Theological Seminary, Kenya

Speakers from four continents discussed Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran and the Salvation Army perspectives (amongst others) and covered topics including: the professionalisation of

(Continued on page 2)

From the Director—

Welcome to Winter 06/07 edition of the Institute's newsletter. Let me begin by thanking all those who in response to the previous newsletter contacted me with their good wishes on my appointment as Director. I was very moved by this wave of encouragement and support.

Second, I would like to thank Ian Jones for all his hard work as a research associate at the Institute during the last six years. Ian is leaving to take up the post of Director of the St Peter's Saltley Trust, based in Birmingham, and assumes these new responsibilities in March 2007. I am sure that you will want to join with me in congratulating Ian on an excellent move for him and in wishing him well for the future in this prestigious post.

Ian has of course played a vital role at LTI: his primary area of work has been in the area of women's ordination. Milestones of this hugely successful project are the publication of *Women and Priesthood in the Church of England: Ten Years On* (Church House Publishing, 2004); the



LTI Director Peter Scott (L) and Prof. Ed Soja at God/City/Place—p. 2

(Continued on page 2)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE for conference booking, past newsletters and latest news:
<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/subjectareas/religionstheology/research/crpc/lti/>

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Conference Reports, contd *page 2*
- From the Director, contd *page 2*
- Archbishop speaks at launch of new research institute, *page 3*
- New PhD research on communion and Anglican Unity, *page 3*
- News of recent research by LTI's staff *page 3*
- Conference on 10 years of New Labour—*page 4*

From the Director (contd from bottom of page 1)

international conference *Women and Ordination in the Christian Churches: International Perspectives* (University of Manchester, July 2006); and publication of the conference volume (to be published by Continuum in 2007). On behalf of the Institute, I would like to thank Ian for his hard work on this project and the fine contribution that he has made to the life of the Institute.

Last, as you will see from the items in this newsletter, the challenging and exciting work of the Institute is being vigorously pursued. As you may be aware, the Institute has the ambitious goal of creating a national and international centre of expertise in the theological study of religion and society. Since publication of the last newsletter, the Institute has—among many other activities—staged two conferences and is gearing up for a third, and has contributed to the establishment of the Manchester Research Institute for Religion and Civil Society. There is information on all these events in this newsletter. The very latest news on the Institute’s activities and events can of course be found on our website. If you have a moment, please visit it.

With best wishes for 2007.

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Women and Ordination (contd from top of page 1)

ordained ministry, women in senior leadership, ordination legislation and human rights, and denominational cultures. Main speakers included Dr. Esther Mombo (Dean of St. Paul’s United Theological Seminary in Limuru, Kenya) who gave a wide-ranging review of women’s ordination in Africa (on which very little has been published so far); from the UK Professor Frances Young examined how typological argument from biblical or patristic tradition has influenced theologies of priesthood and arguments over women’s ordination.

Dr. Adair Lummis (Hartford Centre for Religious Research, USA) shared some of her recent research on clergywomen in the Episcopal Church of the USA and Christina Odenberg, the first woman to become a bishop of the Church of Sweden, wove her own testimony into the wider story of the Church of Sweden’s journey to ordaining women as priests and bishops.

A big thank you to all those who attended or supported the conference— particularly the Lincoln Trustees whose generous funding contributed towards main speakers’ expenses, several postgraduate bursaries and a reception prior to the conference dinner. Work is now in progress to produce an edited collection of conference papers (see p. 3)

LTI Conference Report: God/City/Place

How and where does God take place? How does the Holy Spirit make herself at home?

These were the challenging questions posed by theologian Sigurd Bergmann at the international conference *God/city/place: interdisciplinary perspectives*, held at the University of Manchester on 8 December 2006.

Opening the conference, urban geographer Edward Soja (UCLA and LSE) presented new contours of the emerging postmetropolis: global forces are leading to an intensification of social and economic inequalities in the city, and new forms of control. Soja closed his remarks by arguing for spatial justice and democracy in the



Speakers (L to R) Professors Sigurd Bergmann, Tim Gorringe and Ed Soja

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Picking up some of these themes, Sigurd

Bergmann (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim) argued for a critical theory of the urban, and posed the question: given the boundaries and symbolics of exclusion in our cities, what sort of God, and what account of the spatiality of God, might be understood as critical of these?

Timothy Gorringe (University of Exeter, UK) argued that the built environment of the city is a material expression of culture and thereby is informed by values. However, what are these values and what is their source? Gorringe then posed the question: how might the church bear liberatory witness to the homeliness of the world?

This conference, described as ‘inspiring’ by one of the participants, ended with a spirited plenary session. Warm thanks to the conference delegates and speakers, the trustees of the Lincoln Theological Institute and the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures for their financial support of the conference, and to Janet Meredith and Stefani Schatz for administrative support.

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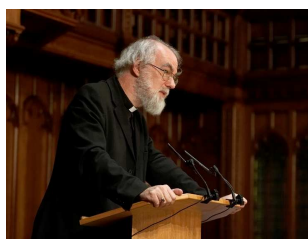
Research and Publications by LTI Staff

DR PETER SCOTT, LTI DIRECTOR

In addition to continuing work as principal organiser for the conferences *God/city/place* and *Re-moralising Britain*, Peter spoke at the international conference *Without nature: a new condition for theology* at the University of Chicago in October 2006—the title of his paper was ‘The end of nature and the last human? Thinking theologically about ‘nature’ in a postnatural condition’. (Yes, really!) In July, he attended a seminar on Theology and Climate Change, organised by Christian Aid at Christ Church, Oxford. November saw the publication of the paperback edition of *The Blackwell Companion to Political Theology*, co-edited with William T. Cavanaugh, and a visit to Dublin to be external examiner for a PhD by publication. He is presently a member of the Church of England’s Human Genome Working Party – its report for General Synod is due for publication next year.

DR IAN JONES, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Since the women and ordination conference in July, Ian has been working on an edited book arising from the conference with co-editors Janet Wootton and Kirsty Thorpe. The book includes a selection of papers given at the conference and is scheduled for publication by T & T Clark/Continuum at the end of this year. In addition, Ian has been hard at work seeking to finish another book before he leaves his current post! He is preparing *The Local Church and Generational Change: Mainstream Christianity in Birmingham, 1945-2000* for the Royal Historical Society’s ‘Studies in History’ series. In addition, with co-author Peter Webster, he has also contributed articles on church music to a recent edition of *Crucible* on theology and popular culture, and to: Jane Garnett *et al.* (eds), *Redefining Christian Britain: Post-1945 Perspectives* (SCM Press) to be published in March.



Archbishop Launches Research Centre

By Stefan Skrimshire

Speaking to a packed Whitworth Hall at the University of Manchester, the Archbishop of Canterbury marked the launch of the Manchester Research Institute for Religion and Civil Society (MRIRCS) last November.

The public lecture, ‘Faith, Freedom, Secularity’, was a re-examination of popular assumptions about secular society. Drawing on recent debates such as those over the right to wear the Muslim veil and related concerns over Islamophobia in the UK, Dr. Rowan Williams questioned the role assumed by the state in such matters and called for “the apparatus of law and administration to build into it a statutory understanding of faith”.

Dr Williams’ examination of the relationship between political freedom and religious freedom echoes many of the concerns of the MRIRCS. One of its stated aims is to “engage with religion as it impinges at different levels of public life: in intellectual and academic debate; in practical policy-making; at local, national and international contexts.” The Lincoln Theological Institute is one of the key founding partners in MRIRCS.

You can watch a live recording of Dr. Williams’ lecture at:

<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/mrircs/events/>

Stefan Skrimshire is the Post-Doctoral Research Assistant for MRIRCS

New PhD research on Communion and Anglican Unity

Joe Duggan, a first year PhD student in Religions and Theology and a recently ordained priest in The Episcopal Church of the USA (a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion), reads about his research in the daily headlines of newspapers across the world. Joe’s research is on the contested identity and difference issues of the Anglican Communion. Joe is drawing upon the resources of political theory to develop a political ecclesiological approach that creates multiple identity spaces to engage the coexistence of difference represented within the thirty-eight autonomous member churches of the Anglican Communion. Joe hopes to reframe an otherwise polarized conversation.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE A BOOK REVIEW OR SHORT ARTICLE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AT LTI?

If so, please email us at: liti@manchester.ac.uk

Re-moralising Britain? 10 Years of New Labour: Faith, Morals and Governance



The University of Manchester
May 17th - 18th 2007

Speakers:

John Atherton *William Temple Foundation*
Mark Chapman *Cuddesdon, Oxford*
Anthony Giddens *LSE*
Elaine Graham *The University of Manchester*
Will Hutton *The Work Foundation*
Ian Linden *SOAS*
Jess Steele *BURA*
Gerry Stoker *The University of Manchester*

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For further details, and a booking form, please go to:
<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/subjectareas/religionstheology/research/crpc/mcpt>