

WTF NEWSLETTER - SPRING/SUMMER 2007

William Temple Foundation is 60 years old this year!

Congratulations are in probably in order for the Foundation which will be 60 years old in October this year. The Foundation actually started out as the William Temple College which was founded in 1947 within the grand setting of St Deiniol's Rectory in Hawarden, next to the famous Library instituted by William Gladstone. Its first intake was six women being trained for the order of the diaconate. It subsequently moved to its building in Rugby where for a period of two decades it trained lay people to be Industrial missionaries in the factories and business of post-war Britain (as part of the brave new 'incarnational' theology of church engagement beyond the safe confines of its own walls pioneered by William Temple himself when he was Bishop of Manchester in the 1920s and Archbishop of York and Canterbury in the 1930s and 1940s). With the closure of the College in the early 1970s, it became a research Foundation based at the Manchester Business School for over thirty years before relocating to its present base at Luther King House just south of the University. A full series of events are being planned by the Council and executive for 2007/8 including a major conference and follow-on publication, regional seminars and possible documentary/programming with the BBC.



Comings and Goings at the Foundation

The last few months since our last newsletter have seen a lot of coming and goings in terms of the Foundation's personnel.

First, we are delighted to report that our Economic Affairs advisor, Hannah Skinner has given birth safely to her first baby, Archie. Archie was born just before Christmas last year and both mother and son are doing extremely well. Our warmest best wishes and congratulations go to Hannah and her husband Andy. Hannah will be on maternity leave until October 2007 and when she returns she will be working halftime, focusing primarily on the economics briefings for the Church of England and the wider ecumenical community.

Second our Administrator Hilary Bichovsky left after over three year's excellent service for the Foundation. We miss Hilary's warmth and humour and a particularly grateful for her work in proof-reading and editing the various reports and documents associated with the *Regenerating Communities* research programme. We wish her well her well in her ongoing writing and music-making and her new job working for a Manchester-based conflict resolution consultancy.

Third, we welcome our new Administrator Debbie Concagh who started working for the Foundation in April 2007, and very much look forward to harnessing her skills and enthusiasm for the Foundation's cause. Debbie is a native Mancunian and a true Red (in the football sense at least). Debbie introduces herself below.

Hi everyone,

I've been with the company now for 4 weeks after working as a Reception Manager for the last 6 months. (13 years experience within finance and 3 years within the Council)

Attended the AGM meeting this week and met the team. Great to put names to faces and look forward to getting to know you all more.

I'm based at Luther King House with Chris Baker, Jonathan Miles-Watson and Hannah Skinner.

Enjoying the experience so far. Challenging yet rewarding (being a techno-phobe – ha ha!!)

In my spare time I like to keep fit at the gym, love my soul music and grow a few spuds down on my allotment.

Well that's about it really. Bye for now.

Finally, we are also thrilled to welcome our newest staff member, Dr Jonathan Miles-Watson who starts in May 2007 as our Leverhulme Trust research fellow (see item on Leverhulme Trust funding below). Jonathan's main role will be to help deliver the Leverhulme research over the next three years, but he also hopes to get embedded in the other aspects of the Foundation's growing research portfolio as the wider Manchester research scene. Jonathan's research background is in anthropology and he brings considerable research and publication experience. He introduces himself below.

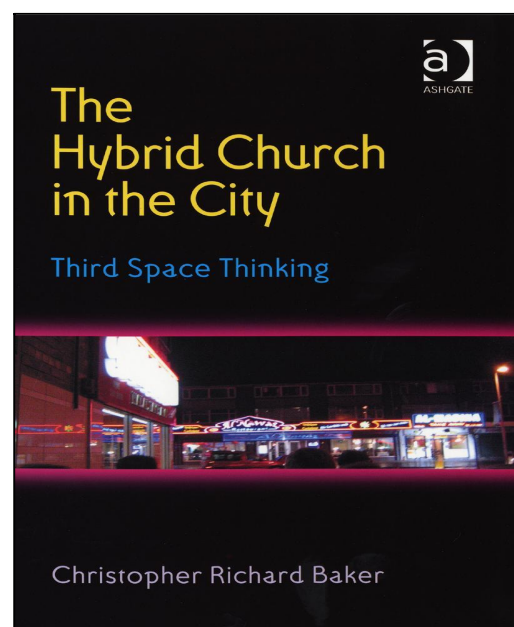
Through the Eye of a Needle launched in London and Manchester

Through the eye of a needle – theological conversations over political economy is a book with the Foundation's mark stamped all over it. Published by Epworth Press and edited by John Atherton and Hannah Skinner, it was launched within the prestigious surroundings of the Jerusalem Chambers in Westminster Abbey on May 10th 2007. The launch attracted over 35 guests over a lunchtime reception of wine and smoked salmon sandwiches and was chaired by Canon Nick Sagovsky, canon theologian at the Abbey and featured introductory remarks by Bishop Stephen Hulme (WTF Chair and Church of England bishop for Urban Life and Faith) and Dr Malcolm Brown (former WTF executive secretary and recently appointed director of the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Division), and John Atherton, one of the joint editors. Several contributors were present including Chris Baker, Peter Heslem Ian Steedman, Patrick O'Riordan, John Kennedy and Wilfe Wilde. Other contributors not able to be present included Michael Northcott, Hannah Skinner, Zahid Hussein and Peter Sedgewick. The book is currently available from all the usual outlets at £19.99 and will also be launched at the forthcoming Remoralising Britain conference in Manchester by Hannah Skinner on May 17th.



The Hybrid Church in the City – Third Space thinking published by Ashgate Press

The busy publishing profile of the Foundation was also maintained by the publication in April 2007 of Chris Baker's new book by Ashgate Press. Chris is WTF's Director of Research and much of the practical material within the book emerged from the Manchester-based research of the *Regenerating Communities*. The book focuses particularly on the role and identity of the church in post-modern urban space; the role of public theology in addressing key issues of marginalisation and urbanisation as they impact on the 21st century; the nature and role of local civil society as a local response to globalised patterns of urban, economic, social and cultural change. It is available from all usual outlets for £50.00 but Chris is able to purchase copies at an author's discount of 35% (i.e. a price of £32.50). If you would like



him to order you a copy at this rate, please contact him on chris.baker@wtf.org.uk.

Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology programme recruits its second cohort

As part of an increasingly close partnership with the University of Manchester (see also the newly-instituted Manchester Centre for Public Theology) Chris has continued to be actively engaged in the delivery of training and supervision of research for the newly inaugurated Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology programme under the directorship of Professor Elaine Graham (also a WTF executive member). This innovative programme allows Ph.d students to research their own professional contexts from a theological perspective whilst still employed and doing so through a portfolio system. Seven researchers are currently signed up to the programme covering professional contexts such as parish and church development, children's work, therapy and counselling, hospital chaplaincy, dementia care and emerging church. The second cohort is already recruiting and so far over 20 students have expressed an interest. Further details can be found on www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/subjectareas/religionstheology/postgraduatestudy/practicaltheology/ or contact the Programme Director, Professor Elaine Graham: elaine.graham@manchester.ac.uk

Malcolm Brown – New post at Mission and Public Affairs

Our warmest congratulations go to Malcolm Brown, former executive secretary of William Temple Foundation, who was recently appointed head of Mission and Public Affairs for the Church of England. Malcolm's interest and knowledge in economic issues, and continuing close working relationship with the Foundation, will enable economic emphasis of the Foundation's work to reach a wider audience. Malcolm's latest book *The Church and Economic Life – a documentary study:1945 to the present*, co-authored with Paul Ballard, is available from Epworth, priced £25.00.

Blurred Encounters colloquium – Ripon College, Cuddesdon 9/10th September, 2007

A colloquium based on John Reader's book of the same name is planned for the Autumn of 2007. In his book (published in 2005), John traces the new blurred spaces in which he experienced his ministry as a parish priest working in four 'rural' communities on the outer edges of the West Midlands conurbation. One blurred space is the geographical space of the ex-urban community – i.e. new suburbanites working in Birmingham and wider afield who had moved to rural communities beyond the suburban fringe in search of home working, flexible commuting and a new sense of 'community'. Another blurred space is the growing professionalism of the roles John was asked to perform as a trustee on the board of a housing association for example (business management, health and safety etc), which raised wider questions over the professionalisation of the voluntary and community sector including faith communities. Are there costs associated with these shifts including loss of autonomy and a critical edge and the introduction of the market into what is an arena of human activity hitherto offered on the basis of care for neighbour? A further area of blurred

encounter is the now widespread interface between traditional religious practice and beliefs as epitomised by rural churches and the people's growing spiritual beliefs which may have elements of traditional beliefs in them, but also will be drawn from other pre-Christian and postmodern sources. John also notes that with the influx of rural immigration based on seasonal farm work has also brought in global communities who also have different religious as well as ethnic backgrounds. These blurred encounters are of course expressed in all sectors of society and the economy, and it is these sectors that this colloquium will seek to explore. Thus practitioners working in the field (industrial and healthcare chaplains, ministers working in a variety of urban and rural settings) will meet with theorists and policy strategists to begin to define a public theology of the blurred space. The outcomes of these discussions will be published towards the end of 2008 by Ashgate Press.

Postcards from Utopia – faith and belonging in new urban areas - SPCK 2008

As well as the initiative with John Reader, Chris Baker is undertaking a jointly edited book with Laurie Green, Bishop of Bradwell (Diocese of Chelmsford), exploring the response of churches and other faith groups to the opportunities and challenges that will be presented by the rolling out of the Thames gateway – a new 'linear' city that will stretch 30 miles from the East end of London on both side of the Thames estuary, linking existing towns and villages with new housing and other forms of infrastructure for a further million people over the next twenty years. The book looks at the experience of new and existing communities, public services, community and voluntary sectors and churches before the reflecting theologically on this experience and recommending good practice based on experience of previous church engagements in other new urban spaces such as new towns and town extensions.

Religious Capital – Reshaping the Field – 2007–9 now underway

The Foundation's three year contract to deliver the research project *Religious Capital – reshaping the field* for the Leverhulme Trust began on 1st April and will continue apace with the appointment of our new researcher Jonathan Miles-Watson (see above). The next few months will see the mapping of the field of religious capital literature (along with associated concepts such as spiritual, religious social and faithful capital) with a view to shaping emerging the research questions that we want to share with faith communities in Greater Manchester in Year 2. These will be shared at a residential research management meeting in January 2008, with a view to being tested out with pilot groups before being implemented in April 2008. The third year will see the writing up and publication of the research findings.

Manchester Research Institute for Religion and Civil Society

A new Manchester based network focusing on the increasing research and policy agendas being generated by the increasing profile of faiths in public life and civil society within the UK was established in November last year. The Institute aims to enquire after the changing role of religion in the public sphere and to examine the changing nature of civil society and the contribution of religion to such changes. The

Foundation is one of four Manchester-based institutes attached to the Department of Religions and Theology within the School of Arts, History and Cultures. The other institutes include Manchester Centre for Public Theology, Lincoln Theological Institute and the Centre for Religion and Political Culture. The Institute was launched at a public lecture at the University given by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, who spoke on the subject of *Faiths, Freedom and Secularity*.

A video of the launch, including the lecture by Dr Williams, and updated information on the work of MRIRCS is available on www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/mrircs/events.

Faiths and Finance Paper launched – Christian-Muslim engagement on faith-based economics

On the same day as the MRIRCS was launched, an important paper was also launched at a meeting of the Muslim-Christian Forum (a national response by the Church of England in to the need for dialogue and debate in the light of heightened religious tension and discrimination against faith groups, but Islam in particular, following the London bombings in July 2005). The meeting took place in Manchester Town Hall and the paper written by John Atherton, Ian Steedman, Martin Miller and Zahid Hussain was publicly endorsed. The paper took two years of careful negotiation and discussion to be agreed upon and identifies the relative approaches of both Islam and Christianity to economics with case studies of direct engagement by these two traditions in global finances and economic debate, as well as those differences of approach and theology that exist within the two traditions. The report concludes with future campaigns and areas in which faiths might make a direct contribution to the purposes and outcomes of ‘mainstream’ economics. The report is available to download for free from our WTF website –www.wtf.org.uk.

FAITHS AND FINANCE:
A PLACE FOR FAITH-BASED ECONOMICS
*(a preliminary statement from Muslims and Christians
in Manchester)*

Zahid Hussain: CEO, Social Enterprise Development Initiative
Akhtar Hussain: Pakistani Historian
Ajmal Ramzan: CEO ANSAR Finance Group
Ian Steedman: Emeritus Professor of Economics
Martin Miller: Partnership Development Officer, Diocese of Manchester
John Atherton: William Temple Foundation, University of Manchester and retired Canon Theologian, Manchester Cathedral.

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News in brief

Chris Baker gave a seminar paper entitled ‘Religious Literacy, Faithful capital and Language’ at a seminar series organised by ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) on *faiths and Civil Society* at Cambridge in January. The paper will be the basis of a chapter contribution to a book entitled *Faith in the Public Realm: Controversies, Policies and Practices* to be published by the Policy Press in 2008.

Chris Baker and Elaine Graham recently attended the inaugural launch of the new Global Network for Public Theology (GNPT) at Princeton Centre for Theological Inquiry in the States in May. They delivered a joint paper on public theology from a Manchester perspective entitled, *Doing Theology in Global Cities: The example of Manchester, UK* which featured much of the Manchester-based research undertaken by the Foundation.