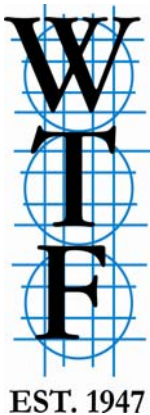


# Welcome to our Summer newsletter 2008



Please find a series of articles below, outlining the key features of what has been a very busy year for the Foundation in terms of changes in personnel, research and publications – and not forgetting that this our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year which we are celebrating with a series of high-profile events throughout 2008.

## WTF's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture series



This year sees an exciting series of nationwide events to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the William Temple College, which turned into a Foundation in the mid 1970s. These four lectures are designed to reflect different dimensions of William Temple's theological and political legacy and which have lain at the heart of the Foundation's mission for the past six decades; namely the engagement of theology with the fields of community development and civil society, welfare provision, economics and political economy and secularity. The programme of four events (some of which have already taken place) is as follows. We are especially honoured that the final lecture will be delivered by **Rt. Revd Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 at St James Piccadilly in London .**

1) February 7<sup>th</sup> – **'Learning to Flourish – Community, Church and Partnership in the post-industrial North-East'**

Ven Bob Langley, former Archdeacon of Lindisfarne and Chair of WTF – St Martin's Centre, Newcastle 19.30

2) May 13<sup>th</sup> – **'The demise of Prophecy or Reinventing Governance? – Faith and the Welfare State'**

Francis Davis, Von Hugel Institute, University of Cambridge – University of Manchester, 19.30

3) June 25<sup>th</sup> – **'Wellbeing in a post-scarcity age – the contribution of faith, health and economics'**

Canon Dr John Atherton, Honorary Research Fellow, William Temple Foundation – Church House, Westminster, 19.30

4) November 5<sup>th</sup> – **‘From Welfare State to Welfare society – the contribution of faiths to happiness and wellbeing in a pluralized civil society’**

Rt Revd Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury – St James Piccadilly, London – 17.30

Please note that all the above lectures will be published in a special edition of *Crucible*, due to be published in January 2009.

### **Comings and Goings**

It has been another year of comings and goings at the Foundation. Having just welcomed Jonathan Miles Watson as our Leverhulme Research Fellow in May 2007, we now have to get ready to say goodbye to him as he starts a new and exciting post as a researcher and lecturer in anthropology at the University of Tallinn, Estonia. Jonathan has worked hard in helping us collate the Leverhulme Year 1 literature review, as well as mapping out the research process for year 2 which we are now fully embarked on (see below).

However, we have been able to recruit a very suitable recruitment and we look forward to Dr Rana Jawad coming to replace Jonathan in September this year. Rana has a background in development and management studies, as well as social policy and has researched extensively into the role of faiths in civil society, both in Lebanon and the UK. She is currently ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellow in Religion and Social Policy in the Middle East at the University of Warwick

In the meantime we formalised the arrangement whereby the core staff of the Foundation are augmented by three Honorary Research Fellows, who have been working alongside the Foundation for several years in an informal and advisory capacity. These are Canon Dr John Atherton (former Canon Theologian at Manchester Cathedral), Dr John Reader (Priest-in-Charge of Chelford and Lower Withington and Diocesan Rural Officer, Diocese of Chester) and Professor Ian Steedman, (Emeritus Professor of Economics, Manchester Metropolitan University). Selected works from these research fellows are available on our website; [www.wtf.org.uk/publications/](http://www.wtf.org.uk/publications/)

## Recent research programmes

### **WTF'S Leverhulme Research into Religious Capital Enters new Phase**

The Foundations research project for the Leverhulme Trust, *Faith and Traditional Capitals: Defining the public scope of Religious Capital*, is beginning to enter its research phase. A dozen faith and spirituality groups in the Greater Manchester region have been approached to participate in the research and those who might be willing to participate in focus groups and semi-structured interviews are being approached. We hop[e to begin gathering data from these groups this coming autumn. The £143K project, which started in April 2007, has completed a literature review (available on our website at [www.wtf.org.uk/activities/](http://www.wtf.org.uk/activities/)) which has mapped the existing literature on religious and spiritual capital and other relevant ideas. The Foundation's researchers Chris Baker and Jonathan Miles-Watson, have also produced an article arising from the literature review exploring the increasingly significant relationship between secular and religious understandings of 'faith' and 'spirituality'. The article is entitled, 'Exploring Secular Spiritual Capital: An Engagement in Religious and Secular Dialogue for a Common Future' and will be published in International Journal for Public Theology in 2009.

### **WTF'S Research Partnership with the Glendale Team, Northumbria**

The Foundation completed its work as part of an exciting and creative partnership with a group of Anglican parishes working in deep rural communities in Northumbria in April this year. The Glendale Team commissioned the Foundation to do a feasibility study with regard to their future identity and mission within that part of the North East, particularly in relation to issues of sustainability – both for themselves and for the communities amongst which they work. The research identified five areas where these churches can build on existing activities to make a more effective, long-term contribution. These include:

- Historic buildings – a form of cultural capital that encourages local oral histories and informs present day community identity with reference to common shared experiences in the past;
- Church-owned land – how this form of economic and environmental capital might be used to develop awareness of environmental management and education, while at the same time making an active contribution to the provision of affordable housing which the area needs in order to ensure future sustainability;

- Caring networks – how existing social capital networks between churches and their communities can be further encouraged to meet the needs of specifically identified groups perceived to be at risk in the community – e.g. young people, low-waged or unwaged, frail elderly, lonely and isolated;
- Leadership – how can the human capital (especially amongst lay people) existing within churches be developed to take on a more proactive leadership role within local churches and communities;
- Developing Community Trusts – how churches might consider working in partnership with national, regional and local community groups to boost economic and education capital in deep rural areas.

A copy of the report is available to download for free from our website:

<http://www.wtf.org.uk/activities/>

### **Promoting Greater Wellbeing: Interacting the Happiness Hypothesis and Religion – AHRC Religion and Society Bid**

The third major piece of research in which the Foundation is involved relates to a successful bid and partnership with the University of Manchester to create an international network to explore the theme above. The funding for this network (£25k for 2 years) comes from the AHRC funded Religion and Society stream. The network is chaired by Professor Elaine Graham and John Atherton is the principle investigator. The network will debate the key features and indices revealed by the existing happiness research (including the nature and importance of work, income, mental health and spirituality, spiritual capital and globalisation, values and virtues, ethics and justice, inequalities, fair trade and religious finance in the Muslim tradition). The network will then attempt to locate the nature and extent of any added value that religion contributes to the agendas highlighted above with reference to debates in mainstream economics and by exploring appropriate measurement systems. The first meeting of the network, to review and discuss the work of 20 or so contributors, takes place in Manchester on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2008

### **Publications**

It has also been a very productive period for actual and forthcoming publications by WTF staff and research fellows.

#### **Chris Baker**

*Building Utopia? Seeking the Authentic Church for New Communities*, (London: SPCK – November 2008) – edited with Laurie Green

*Remoralising Britain? Social, Ethical and Theological Perspectives on New Labour* (London: Continuum 2009) – co-edited with Peter Scott and Elaine Graham

*Entering the New Theological Space – Blurred Encounters in Faith, Politics and Community* (Aldershot: Ashgate 2009) – edited with John Reader

'Blurred Encounters? Religious Literacy, Spiritual Capital and Language', in A. Dinham, R. Furbey and V. Lowndes (eds.) *Faith in the Public Realm: Controversies, Policies and Practices*, Bristol: The Policy Press, 2009

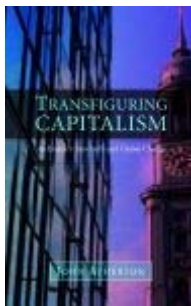
### **John Reader**

*Reconstructing Practical Theology – The Impact of Globalization* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008) – for flyer visit WTF's website (publications page)



### **John Atherton**

*Transfiguring Capitalism – An Enquiry into Religion and Global Change* (London: SCM Press, 2008)



### **Chris Baker and Jonathan Miles Watson**

'Exploring Secular Spiritual Capital: An Engagement in Religious and Secular Dialogue for a Common Future' in *International Journal for Public Theology* (2009 – forthcoming)

## Conference Participation

Chris Baker, Director of Research for the Foundation has been delivering papers and facilitating training events at a number of different venues over 2008. These include:

- Association of American Geographers: 2008 Annual General Meeting April 15-19, Boston, MA.
  - 'Seeking Hope in the Indifferent City – faith-based contributions to spaces of production and meaning-making in the postsecular city'
- University of Manchester: Church, Identity/ies and Postcolonialism; International Conference May 1-2, 2008
  - 'Postcolonial Principles for Church and Identity'
- Christian Interfaith Practitioner Association Annual Consultation (CIPA): Luther King House, Manchester, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008
  - 'Blurred Encounters in Religion, Politics and Economics'
- Leeds Church Institute: 16<sup>th</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2008
  - Only Connect: Creating Church Community in a postmodern city' (Two sessions)

## And finally...

Thanks for your continued interest and support in the work of the Foundation – we hope to see as many of you as possible at Rowan William's lecture in London in November – there is no need to book – please come and make this a fitting ending to a very busy and successful year for the Foundation.

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