

Now available from Ashgate Publishing...



Entering the New Theological Space

Blurred Encounters of Faith, Politics and Community

Edited by **Revd Dr John Reader**, Diocese of Chester, UK and William Temple Foundation, University of Manchester, UK and **Dr Christopher R. Baker**, William Temple Foundation, University of Manchester, UK

This book presents theological reflections on the changing nature of church mission and Christian identity within a theology of 'blurred encounter' – a physical, social, political and spiritual space where once solid hierarchies and patterns are giving way to more fluid and, in many ways, unsettling exchanges. The issues raised and dynamics explored apply to all socially-produced space, thus tending to 'blur' that most fundamental of theological categories – namely urban vs. rural theology. Engaging in a sharper way with some of the helpful but inevitably broad-brush conclusions raised by recent church-based reports, the authors examine some of the practical and theological implications of this research for the issue of effective management and therefore church leadership generally. Speaking to practitioners in the field of practical theology as well as those engaged in theological and ministerial training, key voices encompass dimensions of power and conflict, and identify some of the present and future opportunities and challenges to church/faith-based engagement and leadership arising from blurred encounters.

Contents: Introduction: entering the new space of the blurred encounter between faith, politics and community, *Christopher Baker and John Reader*; Mainstreaming the edges: reflections on Edinburgh's royal mile and fair trade, *John Atherton*; Brief engagements; processional encounters, *Ian Ball*; A blurred interfaith, intercultural experience: a Kidderminster story, *Owain Bell*; Blurred encounters in the suburbs: problems of place and problematic places, *Malcolm Brown*; Networks – the blurring of institutions and networks: how should the church engage?, *Helen Cameron*; How to see the wood for the trees: a multi-disciplinary approach to dementia, *Margaret Goodall*; Kent – the garden of dilemma, *David Grimwood and Jane Winter*; Weightless identity in post-material communities, *Phillip Jones*; Negotiating identity: the Christian individual and the secular institution, *Karen Lord*; Sanctuary and liminality: stories, reflection and liturgy exploring the blurred encounters between mental health and illness as an inner-city church, *Clare McBeath*; 'Betwixt and between': anthropological approaches to blurred encounters, *Jonathan Miles-Watson*; Baptism as cultural conversation: explorations in implicit theology, *Martyn Percy*; Truth in science and theology: Latour, Zizek and the theory of circulating reference, *John Reader*; An experience of rural ministry, *Philip Wagstaff*; Mapping the new theological space: from blurred encounters to thresholds of transformation, *Christopher Baker and John Reader*; Indexes.

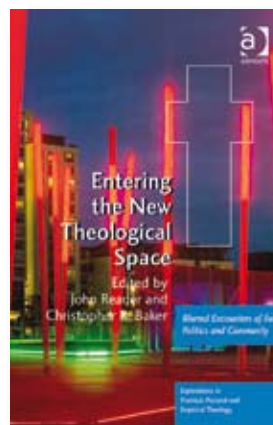
Sample pages for published titles are available to view online at: www.ashgate.com

To order, please visit: www.ashgate.com

All online orders receive a discount

Alternatively, contact our distributor:

Bookpoint Ltd, Ashgate Publishing Direct Sales,
130 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4SB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1235 827730 Fax: +44 (0)1235 400454
Email: ashgate@bookpoint.co.uk



May 2009

256 pages

Hardback

978-0-7546-6339-3

£50.00

This title is also available
as an eBook,

978-0-7546-9378-9

ASHGATE
www.ashgate.com