**Methodist Studies Seminar 11th December 2021**

Methodist Ecclesiology and Mission in Times of Transition

The Covid pandemic has raised many significant ecclesiological and missiological questions and issues for the church. Historically, Methodist theology and practice has exhibited pragmatism in adapting to times of transition and cultural shift. The December Methodist Studies Seminar 2021 will include papers examining how Methodist ecclesiology and mission has responded to times of transition in the past and how it may do so now.

**Programme**

9.30 Arrivals, Tea & Coffee, Zoom opens

10.00 Welcome & Opening Remarks - Rev Dr Liz Kent, Wesley Study Centre, St John’s College, Durham

10.05 *Earthquakes, pandemics and liturgy:  Science engaged theology post Covid* - Rev Professor David Wilkinson, Principal, St John’s College, Durham

10.50-11.10 Coffee (Zoom screen break)

11.10 Keynote Address - *Wholly for God, wholly for others: From polity to priesthood after covid.*

Professor Tom Greggs, FRSE, Marischal Chair (1616) and Head of Divinity, University of Aberdeen

11.55 Keynote Q & A

12.10 - 1.10 Lunch

1.10 - 1.55 *"More Authority than the Pope" ? Conference, the Deed of Union and British Methodist Theology*

Rev Dr Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman, Research Fellow at Wesley House Cambridge, the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History and Stellenbosch University.

1.55 - 2.40 *Methodism in France: odd man out or hidden gem?*

Dr Jérôme Grosclaude, Senior Lecturer, British History, Clermont Auvergne University.

2.40- 3pm Coffee (Zoom screen break)

3.00 - 3.45 *Resetting Methodist Short Term Mission*

Rev Dr Rob Haynes, Director of Education and Leadership, World Methodist Evangelism

3.45 - 4pm Closing remarks

**Participation details:**

I**f you are joining us in person**, we are at St John’s College, 3 South Bailey, Durham, DH1 3RJ.

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/colleges/st-johns/about/location/>

If you are coming by train or coach it takes approximately 20 minutes to walk from the railway station and slightly less from the bus station.  There is a taxi rank at the railway station, and at the Framwellgate Bridge end of North Road.  There is also a ‘Cathedral Bus’ which runs between the railway station and the Cathedral (which is then just a couple of minutes walk to St John’s), leaving the station at 20 minute intervals.

If you are coming by car, please note that we are currently unable to offer you parking close to the college,

Parking is possible at:

Prince Bishops multi-storey – good security and 5 minutes walk to college

Durham station – good security and 20 minutes walk to college or use the ‘Cathedral bus’

Once on foot in Durham, you should make your way to the Market Place and then along Saddler Street.  Keep on this road, which becomes the North Bailey.  It leads on to the South Bailey, and you will pass the Cathedral on your right hand side.  The main entrance to St John’s College, Haughton House, is an 18th century building set back behind railings on the left-hand side of the road.

**If you are joining on Zoom, the details are:**

Topic: Methodist Studies Seminar

Time: Dec 11, 2021 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://durhamuniversity.zoom.us/j/94447054079?pwd=OFFMWmZnQjB6VmliR0pFaWlxZkNVZz09>

Meeting ID: 944 4705 4079

Passcode: 735266

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Find your local number: https://durhamuniversity.zoom.us/u/aigLI76Jo

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162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

213.244.140.110 (Germany)

103.122.166.55 (Australia Sydney)

103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)

209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong SAR)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)

65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)

207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)

**Abstracts of Papers for Methodist Studies Seminar - December 2021**

**Earthquakes, pandemics and liturgy:  Science engaged theology post Covid**

The theological and liturgical response of John and Charles Wesley to earthquakes poses the question of how we respond in our time to a pandemic and to public discourse which has emphasised being ‘led by the science’.   Drawing on research done by the project Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, which is based at St John’s, David Wilkinson will explore some of these issues for apologetics, liturgy and ministry post Covid.

**"More Authority than the Pope" ? Conference, the Deed of Union and British Methodist Theology**

Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman, Research Fellow at Wesley House Cambridge, the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History and Stellenbosch University.

Over the last two hundred years, British Methodism exported its ecclesiology and its standards of doctrine to several countries around the world. After gaining independence, these churches have generally continued to retain the doctrinal clauses inherited from the founding denomination.  Despite this, theological discourse within the British Methodist context has often had no explicit connection to these criteria. Moreover, the neglect of these standards has coincided with an increasing emphasis on the magisterial authority of the annual Methodist Conference Here the constitution of the British Methodist church is explored in order to determine whether or not there is a distinctive theological method latent within its Deed of Union and whether or not this approach continues to be relevant today?

**Methodism in France: odd man out or hidden gem?**

Dr Jérôme Grosclaude, Senior Lecturer, British History, Clermont Auvergne University.

Methodism in France has always been a minority into the larger Protestant minority. The year 1870 with its 30 Methodist ministers and 184 places of worship was indeed the high-water mark of a confession which only went downhill from there until 1938 when French Methodism merged (or should one say ‘was absorbed’?) into the Presbyterian Église réformée de France. Some congregations refused to follow the movement and tried to remain independant but they soon disappeared or joined the US-based United Methodist Church. The present-day 24 congregations of the Église évangélique méthodiste de France are affiliated to the UMC.

This paper will first present the birth and implantation of Methodism in France through Normandy (I), then the consolidation and salient features of French Methodism (II) before concluding on the enduring, albeit largely silent, influence of Methodism in French Protestantism after 1939 (III).

**Resetting Methodist Short-Term Mission**

Rev Dr Rob Haynes

The pandemic’s disruption to travel has impacted global international short-term mission. While this has presented several difficulties, it can also provide an opportunity for needed corrections in the practice. The paper addresses the common use of Short-Term Mission (hereafter STM) as a means of Christian Pilgrimage. There is significant data to suggest that participants gave their time, money, sacrifice, and service, applied in the name of mission, to purchase an experience akin to personal growth historically sought by pilgrims. The resulting tensions of mixing mission, pilgrimage, and tourism are explored. Steps are offered to engage the STM movement with biblical missiological reflection and subsequent practice.