

POWER AND CHURCH PLANTING

Church Planting Theology Conference 2026
St John's College, 6-8th July



THE BEDE CENTRE
for church planting theology

WELCOME



St John's College and Cranmer Hall warmly welcome you to our fourth annual church planting theology conference hosted by the Bede Centre. The conference provides an opportunity to engage in a theological and critical conversation about the practice of church planting and pioneering. The theme of our conference this week is: "power". Over the course of the next three days, we will be

reflecting together on questions which explore different dynamics of power in church planting contexts, and the ways in which power can damage or enable the flourishing of God's mission.

Our sessions will be led by a mixture of practitioners, researchers, and academics, aiming to stimulate dialogue and theological reflection across the church. We encourage you to engage deeply; to ask questions, to disagree charitably, and to reflect on what you have heard.

Thank you for joining us!



THE BEDE CENTRE

The Bede Centre exists to tell the story of church planting by encouraging a conversation across the whole church.

Theological

We seek to sustain church planting through quality theological and empirical research, which draws theologians and practitioners into dialogue.

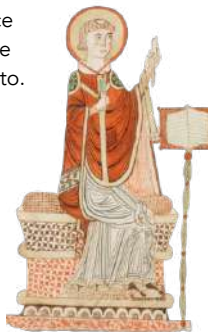
Critical

We offer a rigorous and analytic voice in the conversation to help guide best practice and future strategy and to encourage careful and theologically informed thinking on church planting.

Practical

We seek to provide practical means to resource church planters to engage theologically and be equipped for the ministry God is calling them to. We seek to build partnerships and collaborate with others for the good of the whole church.

Please stay in touch with us at the Bede Centre and find out more about our research, others events, and register for our mailing list at: cranmerhall.com/the-bede-centre



MONDAY 6TH JULY

11.30	Arrivals
12.00	Lunch (Haughton Dining Room)
13.00	Welcome: Nick Moore and Josh Cockayne
14.00	Break
14.15	Practitioner Stories: Make Do Mend and Create, Lisa Noon
	Plenary Session 1, Kate Middleton: "'We are family?'" Issues of power, expectation and risk of harm resulting from the use of family language in missional churches'
15.30	Tea (Haughton Dining Room)
16.00	Parallel Sessions 1 (See abstracts later in booklet)
17.30	Dinner (Find you own in Durham)
19.30	Plenary Session 2, Sanjee Perera 'Power & Perspective taking; Locating affluence and agency in Church Planting.'

TUESDAY 7TH JULY

8.30	Morning Prayer (Chapel) <i>Optional</i>
9.00	Bible Reflection, Elizabeth Hare: 'Power in the Joseph Cycle: To Use, Lose, Abuse, or Choose?'
9.30	Practitioner Stories: Community Organising at St Fridewides, Ayo Audu & Catherine Butt
	Plenary Session 3, Matthew Guest 'Faith, Growth and Power: the Church in a Neoliberal Culture'
11.30	Coffee (Haughton Dining Room)
12.00	Parallel Sessions 2 (See abstracts later in booklet)
13.00	Lunch (Haughton Dining Room)
14.00	Parallel Sessions 3 (See abstracts later in booklet)
15.45	Tea (Haughton Dining Room)
16.30	Plenary Session 4, Centre for Theology and Community 'Church planting in an era of polarisation'
18.00	Dinner (Find you own in Durham)
19.30	Research Launch, Sally Gaze and CCX: 'Listening to the Voice of Rural Church Planters and Pioneers'

WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY

8.30	Morning Prayer (Chapel) <i>Optional</i>
9.00	Bible Reflection, Elizabeth Hare: 'Power in the Joseph Cycle: To Use, Lose, Abuse, or Choose?'
9.30	Practitioner Stories, The Anglican Province of Burundi, Bishop Potien Ribakare
	Plenary Session 5, Harvey Kwiyani: 'The Galilean Way: How the Kingdom Reimagines Power.'
11.00	Coffee (Haughton Dining Room)
11.30	Closing Remarks, Josh Cockayne
12.00	Carrying the Weight: Creative Reflections on Power, Beth Honey, Lindsey Morgan-Lundle, Tina Hodgett, Olly Peel
12.30	Lunch (Haughton Dining Room)

CARRYING THE WEIGHT

Creative Reflections on power

Alongside the programme of plenary sessions and short papers, the chapel of St Mary the Less will be open throughout the conference to engage creatively with the themes of the conference. Each of the installations in the chapel will contend with issues of weight, balance, power, and authority.



You are free to explore, reflect, ponder, listen, interact, challenge, create, and pray.

There will also be opportunities for more spontaneous responses to what is happening in the space of this conference - and there will be invitations to odd moments of playfulness on our theme of power which you can take up or leave alone, as you feel safe. We will draw together our collective creativity during our final act of worship on Wednesday.

The Carrying the Weight installations have been curated by the following team:

Beth Honey enjoys the visual arts, especially the physical experience of making, and is based in Cumbria enabling others to lead and create new worshipping communities.

Lindsey Morgan Lundie is a fine artist who explores theological themes through installations in mixed media. She enables others to use their creativity in missional action in their communities.

Tina Hodgett is a gifted theologian and leader in the church and values the freedom and authenticity that play brings to all aspects of life and authority.

Olly Peel is a poet, musician, and academic based at Cranmer Hall. His research and teaching explore the intersection of literature, theology, and creativity.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary Session 1, Monday 6th July, 2.15pm

“‘We are family?’ Issues of power, expectation and risk of harm resulting from the use of family language in missional churches’



Rev Dr Kate Middleton is a psychologist with over 2 decades of experience in church leadership across Pentecostal, free church and ordained Anglican missional contexts. She is also one of the directors of the Mind & Soul Foundation, a national organisation working to equip leaders

interdenominationally around issues of mental and emotional ill health. Kate writes and speaks widely, and recently produced a podcast series on emotionally healthy leadership in conjunction with Spring Harvest.

Plenary Session 2, Monday 6th July, 7.30pm

'Power & Perspective taking; Locating affluence and agency in Church Planting.'



Canon Dr Sanjee Perera is a Cognitive Psychologist and Theologian, who serves as the lecturer in Mission and Evangelism at Cranmer Hall. She is also an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral, and holds fellowships In Theology & Religion at the University of Durham, the University of

Chester and an associate fellowship at the Open University School of Law. She was previously the Archbishops' Adviser for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns in the Church of England.

Plenary Session 3, Tuesday 7th July, 9.30am

'Faith, Growth and Power: the Church in a Neoliberal Culture'



Professor Matthew Guest is Professor Sociology and Religion at the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. Prof. Guest's research has explored religion and generational change, and the institutional forces that

frame how religious identities are perpetuated, sustained and subverted within 'western' capitalist societies. He is the author of a number of books, including, *Neoliberal Religion: Faith and Power in the Twenty-first Century* (Bloomsbury, 2022).

Plenary Session 4, Tuesday 7th July, 4.30pm

'Church planting in an era of polarisation'



Charnelle Barclay helps institutions and leaders navigate cultural differences, build authentic relationships, and create lasting change. She is the co-director of Organising for Growth at the Centre of Theology and Community, overseeing the South East region.



Rhiannon Winstanley-Sharples works for the Centre for Theology and Community, where she co-directs the Organising for Growth programme, supporting churches to use faith-filled community organising to grow in number, depth, and social impact, and to cultivate lay leadership and new expressions of church rooted in local relationships.



Ana França-Ferreira is an Assistant Director at the Centre for Theology and Community. She oversees the Research arm of the charity, where she is developing a Participatory Research Centre to encourage the voices, experiences and insights of communities and their members to contribute to the development of theological understanding and faith-filled community organising.

Plenary Session 4, Tuesday 7th July, 4.30pm

'The Galilean Way: How the Kingdom Reimagines Power.'



Dr Harvey Kwiyani leads the Acts 11 Project at the Church Mission Society. He is a Malawian missiologist and theologian who has lived, worked and studied in Europe and North America for the past 20 years. He has researched African

Christianity and African theology for his PhD, and taught African theology at Liverpool Hope University. Harvey is also founder and executive director of Missio Africanus, a mission organisation established in 2014 as a learning community focused on releasing the missional potential of African and other minority ethnic Christians living in the UK.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS



Revd Dr Joshua Cockayne is the Director of the Bede Centre and Academic Dean at Cranmer Hall Durham. His research focuses on ecclesiology, worship, and church planting.



Dr Elizabeth Hare is Lecturer in Old Testament at Cranmer Hall, Durham. She is passionate about making the Old Testament as interesting and accessible as possible, and enjoys enabling others to explore connections between different biblical texts, and between these texts and contemporary life.



Canon Sally Gaze is a priest, church planter, author and researcher specialising in rural mission. She served as the Church of England's first Archdeacon for Rural Mission in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, where she oversaw and championed innovative forms of church through the Lightwave Community, a county-wide network of fresh expressions and church plants. Sally is widely recognised as a leading voice in pioneering ministry, rural discipleship and church planting.

PRACTITIONER STORIES



Lisa Noon is a pioneer worker who worships at Ashby Baptist Church where she leads the group, Make Do Mend and Create. She has a love for all things creative and enjoys sewing, crocheting, drawing, painting, and dressmaking. She recently completed a Master's degree in

Mission, Pioneering and Theology, where her dissertation explored the connections between creativity, God, and mission - a theme that continues to inspire her work today.



Ayo Audu is Associate Minister at St Frideswide's Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. An autoethnographer at heart; when not cycling or applying the craft of community organizing, he will be found musing on the interplay of culture and soteriology and what this presents for

our calling as pilgrims. He enjoys facilitating spaces that nurture learning and reflection.



Catherine Butt serves as incumbent at St Frideswide's Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. St Frideswide's is a resourcing church with a difference, seeking to embed the methodology and tools of community organizing in the life of the congregation and to watch what

happens in terms of 'growth'. Catherine is particularly interested in how we live with the institutional tensions of today's Church and in how what is happening around the edges might speak to the agenda at the centre.



The Right Revd Pontien Ribakare is

Bishop of the Diocese of Rutana in Burundi, Central-East Africa. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Bujumbura Christian University (BCU's governing body) as well as Chairman of the General Assembly of the Burundi

Mission Alliance. He is also a member of the Anglican Consultative Council, within the Anglican Communion.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Each parallel session explores a theme, with two different speakers presenting short papers, leaving time for in-depth discussion with those present. The speakers come from a range of backgrounds— church planting practitioners, pioneers, church leaders, and academic teachers and researchers. The aim of the sessions is to create space for discussion and dialogue across these different backgrounds,

The parallel sessions will be held in 3 different locations:

- **LRC Lecture Room** (same room as main sessions)
- **All Churches** (down the corridor, in the same building as the lecture room)
- **LRC Study Room:** (upstairs, on the first floor inside the library. Please be mindful of revising students as you pass through!)

Parallel Session 1, Monday 6th July, 4.00pm

LRC Lecture Room: Historical Perspectives on Church Planting

Retrieving Bede's missional ecclesiology

This paper explores how we might draw inspiration from the work of Bede (d. 735) for missional ecclesiology today. After a short discussion on why we need historical conversation partners for thinking about the church, it draws out some of Bede's ideas about mission and reflects on how his insights can inspire and challenge us today.

Miriam Jones is a priest in the Church of England. She currently serves as associate minister of the Vale Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford, following her curacy in Newcastle and ordination training in Durham. She studied theology in Leuven (Belgium) and Amsterdam (The Netherlands), and holds a doctorate in church history from the Faculty of Religion and Theology of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her academic work focuses on the early medieval church in Britain. Miriam is married to Thomas and together they have four school-aged children.

Who is worthy to lead? Insights on power, character and behaviour in ministry from a missional Pope

Handling power well has been a concern in Christian ministry from its beginnings: for examples, see the dispute over leadership at the Last Supper (Luke 22:24-27), or St Paul's exhortation to the elders of Ephesus to "keep watch over yourselves" (Acts 20:28). To that extent handling power when church planting is not different in kind from handling it in other forms of ministry and mission, even though it often has considerable intensity about it. The Christian tradition provides wisdom on this issue; this paper draws on *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, written by Gregory the Great towards the end of the sixth century. It will explain briefly its origins and make use of the qualifications Gregory believes are necessary in spiritual leadership and touch on some of the behaviours he is looking for. Using a text which will be less familiar to most of us and which uses terminology we tend not to use allows us to hear afresh God's wisdom in handling power well.

Gavin Wakefield is an ordained priest in the Church of England who has a long association with church planting, going back to initiating a church plant in Sheffield Diocese in 1989 in an ex-coal mining area. Subsequently he wrote one of the first PhDs on church planting in the Church of England (*Finding a Church*, University of Kent, 1998). Since then he has been involved in mentoring church planters and pioneers, through his role in Cranmer Hall and then as Director of Ministry and Mission in York Diocese.

Allchurches: Power, Vulnerability, and Leadership

Church Planting and the Power-Vulnerability Nexus: How Testimonies of Harm Can Positively Shape Practice

In view of the experiences of harm spanning four decades that have come to light in recent years and that relate to Soul Survivor Watford – a 1990s church plant emerging from St Andrew's Chorleywood – this paper engages with the Durham Report (Kurlberg, Kurlberg and Higton 2025) to address the question: what insights do survivor experiences and perspectives bring to discussions on power in church planting? More specifically, I home in on the power-vulnerability nexus (de Weger and Death 2017) within church contexts, both examining the ways this was manifest within Soul Survivor Watford as well as providing constructive suggestions for the field of church planting.

Nina Kurlberg is a postdoctoral research associate in theological education at the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. She is the author of *Institutional Logics within Faith-Based Aid* (Routledge, 2024) and co-editor of *Theologies and Practices of Inclusion* (SCM Press, 2021) and *Disability Inclusion in Africa* (Langham Publishing, 2024). Her current research focuses on organisational responses to abuse within the church.

Power, Gender, and Church Planting in the Church of England: Exploring Hidden Barriers and Transformative Uses of Power

Why are there so few stipendiary women church planters in the Church of England, even in well-resourced contexts? This paper explores how power is exercised and misused within the Church of England. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with theological educators and narrative interviews with women engaged in planting and revitalisation, the study identifies eight interrelated themes: gatekeeping and informal networks; discernment and self-perception; structural constraints in training and deployment; vocational imagination; gendered cultural and theological assumptions; leadership norms; and confidence and affirmation. This paper analyses how different forms of power shape access to church planting opportunities and influence leadership expectation, using a typology of power as an interpretive framework. Findings reveal a male-coded "heroic" leadership ideal and limited role model visibility. Relational power, though capable of mutuality, was experienced as exclusionary. Reflective use of positional power by senior leaders showed its potential for advocacy and inclusion, reframing power as collaborative and generative.

Genevieve Langdon is the Sub-Prior of the Community of St Paulinus, a new missional community starting at Sheffield Cathedral dedicated to spiritual formation, church planting, community and social justice. She was previously a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and an elder in a Baptist Church in South Africa. She is now in the final stages of completing a MA in Theology, Mission and Ministry at St Hild College and will be ordained during Pentecost 2026.

Group Study Room: Power and Anglican Church Planting

Are Resource Churches Colonialist?

A common critique of the resource church model is that is colonial. By engaging with scholarship on the relationship between church planting and colonialism, the conclusion will be drawn that, whilst there is a danger of colonialism through the resource church model, it is possible for the practices of resource churches in the Church of England to provide examples of mission that are authentically post-colonial.

Rev Dr Jack Shepherd is Incumbent at Christ Church Pennington and Mission Community Leader for Leigh in the Diocese of Manchester. He has recently completed a PhD, providing an account of the theological values of resource churches in the Church of England.

A Renewal of Confident Anglican Church Planting: Power, Integrity and Institutional Alignment

This paper argues that the most fruitful use of power in Church of England church planting lies not in bypassing inherited structures, but in stewarding them confidently and coherently. Drawing on three years' experience in the Diocese of Durham, it reflects on a shift from attempting to innovate around diocesan systems toward working through them. I suggest that

demoralising narratives about the death of clergy-led, parish-based ministry have weakened our will to plant, and that excessive experimentation—often born of anxiety rather than conviction—has diffused energy and eroded confidence. Power, rightly exercised, is not domination but alignment: aligning theology, ecclesiology, and institutional design. Ultimately, the crisis is not structural but spiritual. The most transformative use of power is to cultivate confidence in the gospel, renew clerical identity, and call the Church to wholehearted discipleship—so that parish-based church planting once again becomes a joyful, norm-shaping expression of Anglican life.

John Cottey has served in the Diocese of Durham for the past three years as Church Planting Enabler, where he coaches both lay and ordained leaders and works across the diocese to develop strategy for church planting and revitalisation. John has been involved in church leadership for over 25 years and has served on several church planting teams in different contexts.

Parallel Session 2, Tuesday 7th July, 12.00pm

LRC Lecture Room: Intercultural Mission and Power

Migration and Missio Dei

The account of early Caribbean Christians arriving in Britain can be approached as more than migration; it may be understood as the emergence of a church planting movement formed in transition. Without the benefit of formal strategies, funding structures, or leadership frameworks, these pioneers who came perhaps solely with the intention to improve their economic wealth and help rebuild the UK as the 'mother country' appear to have formed communities of faith through prayer, resilience, and a deep sense that God was already present in their journey. What may have begun as necessity gradually unfolded into something more expansive, with fellowships appearing across cities. It is worth exploring whether this was simply survival, or something more missional - an unfolding participation in God's activity. In this framing, migration itself becomes more than movement; it becomes a context in which new expressions of Christian communities take root and grow.

Barry Hutchinson is an ordained minister in the Church of God of Prophecy (COGOP). Married to Coreen for more than 34 years, he has over three decades of pastoral and mission experience. Barry serves on COGOP's executive and as regional supervisor for South & West Yorkshire and East Midlands. He is also the church's national ecumenical representative to Churches Together in England, teaches with Spirit & Life Seminary, and researches migration through the lens of Missio Dei.

Whose Church, Whose Power? The Homogeneous Unit Principle and the Mixed Ecology of Intercultural Mission

In multicultural Britain, the homogeneous unit principle still shapes church-planting strategy: congregations grow more readily along lines of shared culture and language. Yet the principle poses a dilemma for intercultural mission. To reach those existing churches do not reach, we start new congregations around a single group, closed by design to others. Drawing on early research in intercultural ecclesiology, this paper proposes a mixed intercultural ecology of ethnolinguistic congregations, multicultural churches, and churches that are intercultural by design — in which interculturality belongs to the network, not the single congregation. This raises a question of agency, since intercultural churches usually begin with an indigenous founder's own initiative. The paper argues that an intercultural ecology depends on the centre authorising and resourcing such initiative rather than originating it: holding responsibility for the whole, while leaving agency with those who plant.

Revd Canon Dr Christian Selvaratnam is Dean of Church Planting at St Hild College. He oversees the Church Planting Track of Common Awards modules, Seedbed (a lay training pathway), and Camino (a programme for resource church leaders). He also serves as Director of Studies for the Asbury Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry cohort based in the UK.

Allchurches: Leadership, Power, and Culture

The Behavioural Ecology of Power: Spiritual Direction and Psychological Safety in the Church Planting Process

Church planting contexts are marked by heightened concentrations of power, risk, and uncertainty. These same conditions that make innovation and growth possible also intensify the formative impact of leadership; shaping cultures either of trust and learning, or of fear, silence, and fragility. This paper proposes that the question is not whether power is present in church planting, but how it is held, interpreted, and formed. By bringing monastic Christian spirituality and the practice of spiritual direction into dialogue with contemporary research on psychological safety, the paper offers a constructive reframing of power within ecclesiology and church planting practice. The paper argues that psychologically safe church planting cultures are not sustained by managerial techniques alone, but by spiritually formed leaders capable of holding power contemplatively.

David Clayton is a Spiritual Director and Behavioural Adviser whose work explores the formative space where Christian spirituality, leadership practice, and human behaviour meet. He works alongside clergy, seminarians, and leaders, helping them attend to the inner dynamics that shape how power is held, discernment exercised, and leadership sustained within contemporary ecclesial life.

Clericalism 'on the couch'

This paper seeks to address the phenomenon of clericalism from a psychotherapeutic perspective. Clericalism refers to complex power dynamics in which a leader is elevated in particular ways above the people they serve. As such, it extends into all traditions of the church. This paper will proceed in two parts. First, I will explore why clericalism happens: what deep seated motivations in both leaders and followers create such a dynamic? Without blaming the mistreated, I propose ways in which clericalism is sometimes co-created as both leader and followers collude in creating a dynamic in which both parties 'gain' something and 'lose' something too. Second, this paper will consider the effect of clericalism on the leader themselves and asks the questions: How is it that clericalism serves to avoid pain and anxiety in the life of the leader? What might predispose some of us to misusing power? And how might this be guarded against? While much attention is rightly paid to the survivors of power imbalances within the church context, less attention is paid to the inner life of the person understood to be the cause of the pain.

Stephen Squirrel is an honorary psychotherapist at two low cost clinics in London where he sees patients who might not otherwise have access to psychotherapeutic support. He is a visiting lecturer at London School of Theology and a PhD candidate at Exeter University.

Parallel Session 3, Tuesday 7th July, 2.00pm

LRC Lecture Room: Power, Agency, and Pioneering

Relinquishing Power – Becoming Church

In a context where the church is reflecting on its Christendom and colonial legacy, and where trust in institutions is in decline, the church's understanding and practice of power and agency is under scrutiny. This is no less the case in mission and church planting. A critique of some forms of church planting is that they rely too heavily on models of missional ecclesiology which distract from the need to attend deeply to context. Using examples from empirical research this paper explores processes of church planting that rely on more emergent processes of development. These express a desire to eschew church planting models and positions of power, and to enter collaborative conversation with people in their context toward encountering God and forming new communities of faith. This practice invites a pneumatological reading of the formation of new Christian communities where collaborative community building is understood as a locus for participation in the *missio Dei*.

Paul Bradbury is a researcher, writer and ordained pioneer minister, based in Poole, Dorset. He founded and led the pioneer initiative Poole Missional Communities from 2008-2024. He is an associate tutor with CMS, Sarum College & RCC Cuddesdon and recently completed a DTh with the University of Roehampton exploring the connections between emergence and missional ecclesiology.

Pedagogy for freedom: the power to resist the pressure to conform

In this presentation I will offer the results of exit interviews over 5 cohorts of the Southwest Pioneer Hub who have studying the unaccredited Church Mission Society Certificate in Pioneer Mission. The interview results have shown a surprising consistency over seven years; they are marked by expressions of increased spiritual freedom, the individual's increasing ability to trust the voice of the Holy Spirit, and a sense of joyous growing into a confidence in being oneself and a willingness to follow a surprising or challenging call beyond the walls of their home church. I will offer an account of the culture, structure, values, pedagogy and leadership approach that appears to have given rise to these responses from the perspective of my own leadership of the Hub, drawing on material from interviews with former students and my own sense of surprise at the outcomes they and other researchers report. Finally I offer a theological reflection on how Christian communities can be fostered where human beings are able and encouraged to resist conformity, trust their own belovedness call and spiritual agency, and respond obediently to the missional call of God on their lives.

Tina Hodgett works at the Church Mission Society. She is leader of the CMS Pioneer Hub in the southwest of England and co-founder of Pioneering Parishes, a training organisation that enables clergy and engaged lay people shift the energy of their church outwards into the community and co-author with Greg Bakker of 'Into All The Parish: Pioneering Practices for the Local Church' published last month.

Allchurches: Power: Funding and Finance

Power dynamics and target setting in grant-funded church plants: In search of a better way

This paper will reflect on power dynamics linked to the practice of target setting within grant-funded church planting initiatives and consider what theological resources are available to funding bodies, church leaders and other practitioners in search of a 'better way'. Drawing on the author's professional experiences as a fund manager, researcher and project evaluator, the first part of the paper will explore some of the tensions and challenges associated with the introduction of targets, before locating these issues in a wider theoretical context. The second part will then begin to consider what theological resources are available to help church planters and funding bodies navigate funding power dynamics more faithfully. Though the author will share some thoughts about this, he will also be seeking to work with the 'the wisdom in the room' by inviting ideas and suggestions from other conference participants.

Dr Andy Wier is a researcher, consultant and practical theologian. Over the past decade, he has led many church planting related research projects and programme evaluations for Anglican dioceses and national Church bodies – both through previous roles within Church Army's Research Unit (2014-2025) and his more recently-established consultancy practice Winging It Consulting. Andy is also a part-time Academic and Formational Tutor at St Hild College and an honorary Fellow of St John's College Durham.

Financial investment: abandonment of justice or a bold strategy for the future?

Why would the church deliberately invest in some churches rather than others? Does this represent an abandonment of justice or a bold strategy for the future? This presentation will look at how these questions might be framed in terms of Jesus' parables and looks at the different ways in which we articulate a biblical basis for strategic decisions facing the church today.

Mark Powley is Archbishop's Mission Enabler for the North, and works to help build the capacity and coordination needed to launch hundreds of new Christian communities across the region. Before this role he was the founding Principal of St Hild College. He has a PhD from Kings College London, and currently teaches in the area of Biblical Theology.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Arrival and sign-in is from 11.30am at St John's College reception, with lunch (for those registered for lunch) at 12.00. Our first session starts at 1.00pm in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). If you are not having lunch, you will be able to sign in at the LRC from 12.50.

Address of St John's College (please note map) 3 South Bailey, Durham, DH1 3RJ, Tel: +44 (0) 191 334 3500

Accessing the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | Access code #9924* (for access until 18.00 only).

Other spaces If you would like some time away from the conference, please do make use of the 'crossroads' space in college. You can also ask one of the conference hosts to open the chapel if you would like to time to sit quietly and or pray.

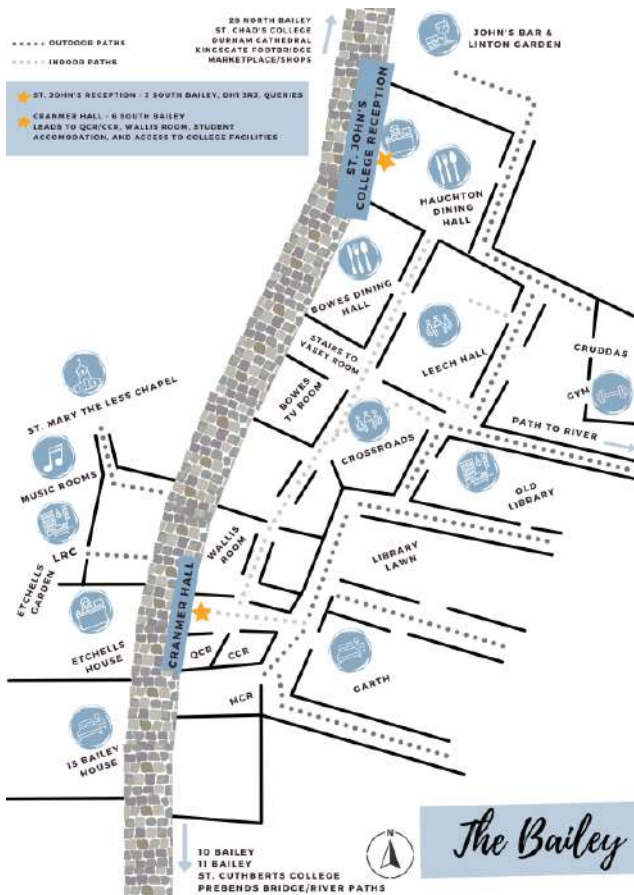
Refreshments There are some slots during the day when tea (and biscuits) will be served in the Haughton dining room for all delegates. However, the coffee machines in Haughton will be accessible all day.

Transport The nearest parking spaces are at Prince Bishops Shopping Centre (DH1 3UJ), around a 10-15 minute walk away. The train station is 15-20mins walk from St John's College, and the bus station 10-15minutes. Park and Ride facilities are available, with regular buses into the city centre. More information is available here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/parkandride>

Wi-Fi Durham University guest wireless partner, Sky Wifi, provides free wireless across the whole university campus via TheCloud@Durham.

1. Create a free TheCloud account at the Cloud Wifi webpage or on the login page that appears when you first try to access the network. Once you've set up your account, you can access the guest wifi network on your devices free of charge.
2. Select TheCloud@Durham from the list of available networks & Log in with your TheCloud account details.

Guidance on Use: To use TheCloud@Durham, you'll need to register with Sky Wifi. By using this service you are bound by their Terms & Conditions, which can be found at: <https://www.sky.com/wifi>



WHERE TO EAT OUT?

Lebaneat, 47 North Bailey:

Lebanese food, close to college

Rudy's, 30-31 Silver Street:

Neapolitan Pizza

Fat Hippo, 36 Saddler Street:

Burgers

Shaheens, 48 North Bailey:

Indian Curry House

Turtle Bay, Riverwalk:

Caribbean Food

Akarsu, 66 Sadler Street:

Turkish food, kebabs

Bells, Durham Marketplace:

Excellent Fish and Chips

Whitechurch, 29 Church

Street: Pub with good food and cafe

Belli E Brutti, 51 Sadler St:

Italian Gelato and pizza to go

Flat White Kitchen, 40

Saddler St: Hipster coffee, brunch

Vennels, 71s Saddler Street:

teas, amazing scones, quiches, sandwiches, etc...

The Undercroft Restaurant,

Durham Cathedral: traditional tea and cake, Church of England quiche.

CHURCH PLANTING THEOLOGY BOOKS



We are pleased to partner with SCM Press in editing, **Durham Studies in Church Planting & Theology**, a new series of scholarly monographs which seeks to understand and articulate what mission looks like within various cultural, social, and ecclesial contexts. Find out more about the series and how to submit proposals at: <https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/series/church-planting>

SCM are also offering a virtual book sale during the conference at: scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/churchplanting2026

Add the code **PLANT26** to your basket to take 20% off a selection of titles, including books from keynote speakers Harvey Kwiyani and Sanjee Perera. Ends on the 12th of July.



The Grove Church Multiplication series is edited by the Bede Centre in partnership with St Hild Centre for Church Planting, and the Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication. We invite proposals for short booklets examining any aspect of church multiplication. Find out more at: <https://grovebooks.co.uk/series/churchmultiplication/>



THE BEDE CENTRE
for church planting theology