

## Editorial

Jocelyn Bryan  
St John's College, Durham  
[j.m.bryan@durham.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.bryan@durham.ac.uk)

This issue has attracted three articles, which are rooted in Methodism. They clearly demonstrate the contribution that Methodism and Methodist Theology continue to make to enrich and develop theological discourse and ministerial practice.

Daniel J. Pratt Morris-Chapman's article *'Is the 'Wesleyan Quadrilateral' an accurate portrayal of Wesley's theological method?'* makes the case that Wesley's Theology and the common conception of the Wesley Quadrilateral is not a development of the 'Anglican Triad'. Instead, the paper argues that although Wesley's theology gave value to Scripture, tradition, reason and experience, the emphasis he gave to these varied. By exploring the different influences on Wesley, the paper provides a rich examination of not only Wesley's theology but also the influence on his thinking from different parties within Anglicanism.

John Wesley is central to Helen Boyles's paper *Common missions in John Wesley's Preface to the Methodist 'Hymns' and Wordsworth's Preface to 'The Lyrical Ballads'*, in which she finds a surprising correspondence between Wesley's Preface to the collected Hymns of 1780 and Wordsworth's preface to *The Lyrical Ballads*. The paper examines their common themes of accessibility and communicability in Wesley and Wordsworth providing an interesting comparison which draws on literary studies, history and theology. It also presents a convincing challenge to contemporary hymn and Christian song writers.

The other Methodist paper comes from Neil Cockling and addresses the practice of stationing Presbyters within the Methodist Church. In *Has the Stationing of Methodist Presbyters within Circuits become a Legal Fiction?*, a reconsideration of the normative understanding that presbyters are stationed in circuits by the Methodist Conference is called for and the paper argues for a district-centred approach to this process based on population figures.

The other papers in this issue exemplify the range of interests and issues supported by this journal. Lesley Sutherland's paper *Now I become myself: Narrative Psychology and Issues of Loss and Identity in the Third Age* is a moving analysis of the experience of ageing and the narratives which shape personal identity in the third age. The role of narrative in psychology and theology is described in detail: developed to provide insights for pastoral ministry and the construction of a new narrative for those in the third age.

Greg Smith's paper *Testimony & Theodicy: Evangelical Christians, answered and unanswered prayers for healing* focusses on prayer. The paper is based on a recent survey of British Evangelicals by the Evangelical Alliance, and presents data on the experience and understandings of healing and prayer of ordinary Christians. The testimonies regarding answered prayers and accounts of miraculous healing are set alongside those of recovery of health through medical intervention and the more widespread accounts of unanswered prayer. The paper uses both quantitative and qualitative data to sketch a range of everyday theodicies and theologies. Prayer is foundational in the Christian Tradition and it is hoped that these reflections on the experiences and accounts of Christian believers will help strengthen faithful and sensitive ministry in this area.

The final paper by Peter Varney *Theologies of Mission and the Fruits of Ministry in Malaysian Borneo* describes the response to Christianity of the Iban of Sarawak, a Malaysian State on the island of Borneo. It is a rich exploration of the Anglo-Catholic expression of Anglicanism there and how it relates to different theologies of mission. This interdisciplinary paper, describes people in the light of the challenges of globalisation and secularism who have a profound sense of the spiritual as part of the whole of life

The contents of this issue not only demonstrate the ecumenical emphasis of this journal but also the need for good interdisciplinary dialogue as a means to develop both our theological thinking and ministerial practice.

[www.theologyandministry.org](http://www.theologyandministry.org)