



Editorial

Janet Morley

Welcome to the first issue of Wesley House's new online journal, *HOLINESS*. We are hoping the journal will become a platform for all scholars who are interested in addressing an international readership who are engaged with Wesleyan and Holiness traditions, as they are lived out in the contemporary world.

As we launch *HOLINESS*, we want to announce our clear intention of developing a truly international journal. Most contributors to our first issue are writing from a British perspective. But we are delighted to have secured the agreement of several eminent Methodist scholars from across the world to act as international consultants. We hope they will recommend potential contributors and peer reviewers. Already we are receiving proposals and offers of help from outside Britain – please be in touch, wherever you live, if you would like to contribute to the journal in any way.

In calling for contributions, the format of proposing a theme which is specific but not too narrow, attached to the title *HOLINESS*, is proving popular. 'Holiness & Education' has mainly generated debate about the importance of theological education. Controversial matters within British Methodism are not avoided. In the peer-reviewed articles, Professor Tom Greggs explores the nature and purpose of theological teaching and learning throughout the Church ('If it is teaching, then teach!'). Dr Jane Leach asks what is the central point of it all, and therefore what considerations should be shaping how we provide formation for church leaders ('Is wisdom the principal thing?'). Dr Roger Walton ('A discipleship movement shaped for mission?') looks at the development of a new ecclesial strapline for the British Methodist Church and its impact on its identity within education and ecumenism.

Some of the shorter articles explore different aspects of theological education. Dr Clive Marsh engages with the insights of Les Ball's study of theological

training institutions in Australia, asking how these may have a wider, cross-cultural application ('Transforming theological learning'). In 'The role of the creative arts in initial ministerial education', Anne Holmes explores the concept of 'creative repair' and its role in initial formation in preventing burnout in ministry. David Deeks' article takes a distinctive approach, looking at the role of week-by-week congregational worship as a drama of holy learning that potentially incorporates the whole congregation. Val Ogden, from her new perspective of the South Pacific, writes as a mission partner who has been appointed to a role that involves theological education by extension. She reflects on the meaning of her vocation at this time, and the insights of Pacific theologians. Finally, there is an article addressing Methodist involvement in faith schools. Barbara Easton, who is the newly appointed Director of Education for The Methodist Church in Britain, looks at the history of Methodist involvement in schools, and whether the founders would recognise what is happening now.

We are publishing some regular columns, for which we would be delighted to receive additional contributions. Dr Cindy Wesley introduces a column, 'What have the sermons of John Wesley ever done for us?', which is intended to revisit some of the classic sermons and explore what is their value to the enterprise of holy living in different contexts today. In this issue we look at the whole principle of being guided by these sermons, and invite contributions in relation to individual Wesley sermons for future issues.

Our review section of books and films is not limited to the theme of the issue but will seek to cover a variety of key new releases within the whole range of disciplines that should affect theological reflection, as well as revisiting classic texts.

In addition to the discursive articles, we hope to develop a poetic and liturgical section, and we look forward to receiving creative as well as academic contributions. In this issue, as a taster, we are offering a devotional reflection based on Charles Wesley's hymn 'Open Lord my inward ear', sung to Nicola Morrison's contemporary lyrical setting. This is published as an online podcast only, with the hymn text available on screen. As part of Wesley House's commitment to be a place of both worship and scholarship, it is a devotional piece, asking God to open our ears and eyes, minds and hearts to each other and to a shared search for truth, as we seek to live out the holiness to which we are called.

Janet Morley, Commissioning Editor
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