

1969 — 2019 GOLDEN JUBILEE



REUNION AND LIVING HISTORY—A Joyful Jubilee

July 8th 2019 proved to be a most memorable day in the calendar for all of those who gathered at the Urban Theology Suite in the Victoria Hall Sheffield to celebrate a unique occasion – the fiftieth anniversary of the UTU which began to take flesh with the move to Sheffield of John and Grace Vincent with the specific intention of beginning a movement which took urban mission seriously relating both context and theology.

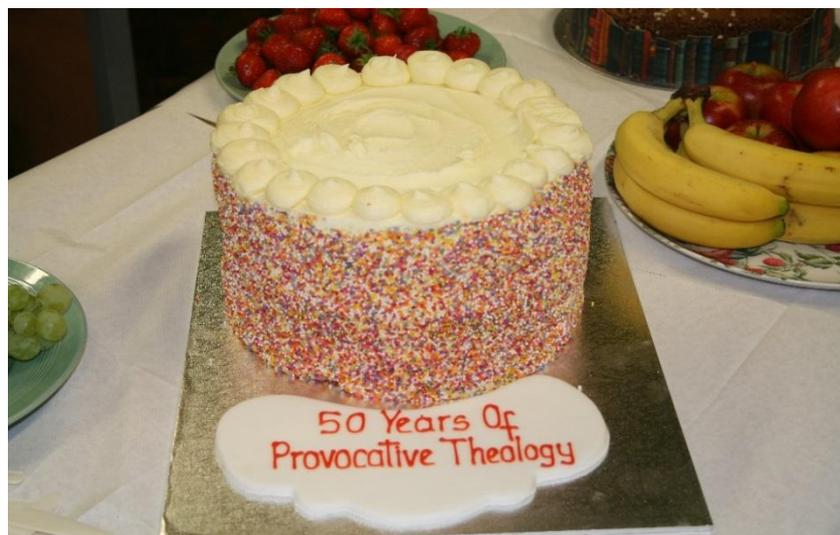
Those assembled (52 in all) were an eclectic mix of past and present staff and students with a lively buzz of conversation as both memories and present experiences were shared. Stories were heard from each of the five decades of UTU's life as those present gave their personal accounts of how the learning atmosphere of UTU had helped development in their understanding and practice of urban ministry and mission. Each story, as may be expected, was unique illustrating the fact that UTU knows no stereotypes, but nevertheless underlining what each had in common with the others – the desire to progress the work of the Kingdom (Realm) of God in ways which were relevant, contemporary and contextual.

Warm tributes were paid to the visionary leadership of John Vincent who, over the years had been ably partnered by his wife Grace in the ministry which they shared together. John's theological acumen and ability to motivate others and to influence them to undertake responsibilities outside their comfort zone, received a mention and not without some humour!

With regard to its current programme Ian Duffield presented an up to date synopsis describing the work in the PhD seminar groups and the collegial method used in the supervision of students. The graduate seminar is joined by those who undertake private study and support is given to potential authors in the writing and publication of books. Mention of books led into a moment of warm appreciation for Patsy Wheeler's 20 years sterling service as librarian including re-cataloguing to put the library online. John Vincent outlined a new course beginning in the autumn, a Certificate in Theology and Mission. Erica Dunmow, chair of the UTU Trustees, introduced the Action Research Project, beginning in the near future, designed to respond to the need to equip lay people for leadership roles in the churches, because of the reduction in the number of ordained clergy generally.



The lively fellowship continued in the lunch break which included the cutting of a multi-layered Jubilee cake, itself a symbol of the many faceted life, work and ministry of UTU.



But UTU never has and still does not dwell in the past! The afternoon session was devoted to exploring visions for the future and identifying the challenges faced by UTU as servant of the urban Church. It was thankfully acknowledged that places of training for ministry, these days, included the encouragement of the skills required to develop contextual theology leading to action.

Small groups were invited to consider the questions: What new thing should we be delivering? How should we train people for prophetic ministry? How can we build a prophetic Church? What issues in urban ministry require answers? Subjects suggested were: the need for a liberation theology; how to relate to those outside the Church; empowering the laity; collaborative working; inequality in society; inter-faith relations; the Brexit divide in society; need for more democracy; communicating out theological understanding; creating dialogue; encouraging people skills; marketing UTU.

The day concluded with a celebratory thanksgiving Agape, a prayerful sharing amidst the challenges we all face in today's world. There was truly a Spirit in the air which would remain with us in all the days to come and in all the places where we serve.

Richard Firth, UTU PhD student 2004-13, Trustee.



Present: John Barnabas, Judith Budworth, Barry Calder, Chris Bullock, Geoff Charlton, Tony Crisp, Geoff Curtiss, David Dale, Andrew Davey, Ian Duffield, Erica Dunmow, Sandra Dutson, Helen Elliott, Becky Farrell, Nirmal Fernando, Richard Firth, Joe Forde, David Fudger, Christine Gagan, Anne Giller, Katrin Hackett, Jonathan Haigh, David Jones, Paul Keeble, Richard Levitt, Margaret Mackley, David McLoughlin, Jonathan Marsden, John Mellor, Margaret Mellor, Beryl Metcalf, Richard Metcalf, Frances Morgan, David Mowat, Zadie Orr, Robin Pagan, David Peck, David Price, Manju Ray, Jenny Richardson, Chris Sissons, Greg Smith, Graham Sparkes, Kate Thompson, John Vincent, Jill Wagg, Ruth Weston, Patsy Wheeler, Andreas Wiesner, Jean Wildgoose, Mark Woodhead.

Apologies: Joe Aldred, Lesley Bailey, Trevor Bates, Mark Coleman, Anesia Cook, Simon Copley, Margaret Crawshaw, Andrew Crowley, James Curry, Terry Drummond, Kevin Ellis, Leslie Francis, Mike Gillingham, Laurie Green, David Halstead, Sarah Hall, Graham Hawley, Sam Humphrey, Noel Irwin, Christine Jones, Jamie Kissack, Stephen Millwood, Andrea Mislser, Josephine Newell, Gill Newton, Rachel O'Leary, Alan Powers, Sheila Powers, Clare Richardson, Christopher Rowland, Eileen Sanderson, Michael Sanderson, Alan Saxby, Paul Shackerley, Oliver Simon, Simon Topping, Gill Tutt, Julie Upton, Paul Walker, Pete Wilcox, Eric Wright.

UTU JUBILEE REGISTERS

ACADEMIC STAFF

DIRECTORS

Revd Dr John J Vincent 1969–97,
Emeritus 1997–
Revd Dr Inderjit S Bhogal 1997–2004
Revd Dr Christine Jones 2004–08
Revd Dr Ian K Duffield 2008–13
Revd Dr Noel G Irwin 2013–16
Revd Dr Keith Hebden 2016–19

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Revd Edward S Kessler 1973–1999

CURRENT STAFF

Revd Dr John J Vincent 1969–
Revd Dr Ian K Duffield 1985–
Revd Dr Robin Pagan 1985–
Revd Dr Christine Dutton 2016–

LECTURERS

Mr Roy B Crowder 1974–82
Fr Austin Smith 1975–77
Counc Francis Butler 1976–82
Ms Judith R Jenner 1981–84
Sister Nicola Mottley 1988–92
Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell 198?–99
Revd Jane Grinonneau 1995–98
Sister Una Burke 1997–2001
Ms Frances Morgan 1997–2006
Ms Jan Royan 1997–2008
Dr Debbie Herring 1996–2004

ECUMENICAL LECTURERS

Mr Thomas Thankatchen,
India 1983–86
Revd Dr Magdalena Hoebes,
Namibia 1987–91
Revd Dr Jonathan Gichaara,
Kenya 1995–2004

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISORS

The Directors & Current Staff, plus: Revd Dr Tony Crisp, Dr Christine Dodd, Revd David Fudger, Revd Dr John Hall, Dr Debbie Herring, Revd Dr Michael Jarratt, Revd Keith Lackenby, Revd Dr Terry Nowell, Revd Dr Oliver Simon, Revd Dr Paul Waller & Revd Dr Eric Wright,

TRUSTEES/OTHER STAFF

CHAIRS

Revd Graham Hawley 1972–77
Mr Christopher Gegg 1977–86
Revd Gerald L Letts 1986–90
Revd Raymond Goadby 1990–98
Canon Mike West 1998–2005
Mr Russell Blackwell OBE 2005–15
Revd Dr Ian K Duffield 2015–16
Dr Erica Dunmow 2016–

VICE CHAIRS

Revd Peter Green 1972–75
Revd John Wood 1975–77
Revd John Pritchard 1977–80
Revd Brian R Jenner 1980–86
Mr Mark Woodhead 1986–89
Revd Derek Jefferson 1989–95
Canon Julie Upton 2008–17

TRUST SECRETARY

Mr David M Dale 1980–

CO-ORDINATOR/

ADMINISTRATORS

Revd. Malcolm J Stringer 1975–79
Ms Margaret S Mackley 1981–95
Mr Peter S Colby 1995–2001
Ms Janet Colby 2002–2007
Mrs Kate Thompson 2007–2017
Mrs Helen Coates 2017–2018
Mrs Jill Wagg 2018–

OTHER KEY OFFICE STAFF

Ms Anne Lewis
Mrs Judith Simm
Mrs Rachel O'Leary
Ms Suhaidy Frometa

Apologies if anyone is missing. Please inform the office.

PATSY WHEELER

THANKS FOR 20 YEARS OF THEOLOGICAL CLASSIFYING



In January 2019, Patsy, on the left, clocked up 20 years as our volunteer Librarian. We are so fortunate that someone with theological library experience (the Department of Biblical Studies at Sheffield) was willing to help on her retirement with the apparently sisyphian (we checked the word using the library!) task of sorting the books that had been gifted to UTU as well as accumulated by over 40 years of academic endeavour. Re-classification to the standard Dewey system, to make it easier for students to find their way around the books, was well underway when we undertook the move to Victoria Hall, necessitating a process of packing, unpacking and arranging the books on the newly commissioned shelving. Ably assisted by Christine Gagan, who has also volunteered for many years, Patsy, pictured on the left, has faithfully kept at the task of checking new donations and archiving, whilst working steadily on re-classification towards the time when the whole collection can go on-line. The task is well over half completed – which is great news. Many students have benefitted from her understanding of the subject, and her quiet support in finding the books they've needed. We are very appreciative of her sterling commitment and all she does to help us function as an academic place. Thank you to both Patsy and Christine.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Following recent deaths we have good additions to the UTU Library from the libraries of Professor John Rogerson, with thanks to his wife Rosalind, and the Revd Jonathan Jasper (who was ordained on the same day with Ian Duffield) with thanks to his sister Celia. Thanks In Memoriam. Also, we have thankfully received books from the library of Professor Ron Chapman Methodist Local Preacher, scholar of the Jewish Bible and Associate Professor of Risk Assessment at Loughbrough University. We are very grateful to others who from time to time donate books to the library, most recently Robin Pagan and Mike Gillingham. Since the Jubilee, we are extremely grateful to Greg Smith who has made all his publications and his collections of urban journals, magazines and bulletins electronically available to the Library. If anyone can plug the gap in the sequence of the Racial Justice Magazine (issues 18-33), please let us or Greg know. Thanks also to Simon Vincent from London who is letting us have his books on social responsibility and Christian Socialism.

PUBLICATIONS

Members Book

The UTU Membership book this year will be Reverberations a collection of Gospel studies by John Vincent on Mark and Ian K Duffield on Matthew containing articles previously published in journals, to make them more readily available. Non-members can purchase copies from UTU at a price of £3.50 (plus postage and packing).

Commentary on the Gospels

Ian K Duffield and Robin Pagan hope to publish their Radical Commentary on the First Three Gospels. Keep your eye out for details.

Practice Interpretation Series

Future Titles (to be published by Brill)

Vol. 7 New Testament Discipleship in Practice, publication 2019

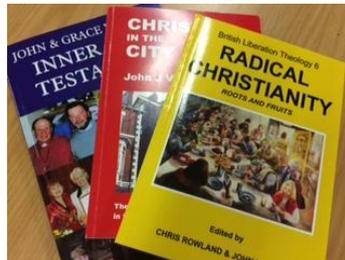
Vol. 8 Mark and Discipleship in Practice, publication 2020

Vol. 9 New Testament Community in Practice: the subject of July 2019 Summer School, publication 2021

Enquiries welcome to John Vincent (Series Editor)

WRITER NEEDED

As UTU celebrates its Golden Jubilee, we are inviting a member or friend to write up an account of UTU's pedagogical practices over its first 50 years. Robin Pagan and Ian Duffield have offered to work with whoever might volunteer. This work would be done with the expectation of its publication in the not too distant future. This will be an important way of marking UTU's contribution to doing theology.



If you are interested, please contact office@utusheffield.org.uk

KEITH HODGKINSON

We sadly report the death of Keith Hodgkinson in May after an illness lasting eighteen months. Keith was recruited by Kate Thompson when we were at Abbeyfield Road. He assisted with gardening and cleaning as well as repairs. Keith was an excellent worker, totally reliable and could put his hand to most things. If you gave a job to him you could trust that it would be done well for a fair price. His wife Margaret and family will miss him. We give thanks for his good-natured practical ministry at UTU.

REVEREND PROFESSOR JOHN W. ROGERSON

Photo by Merab Cracknell



From John's arrival in 1979 as Head of Biblical Studies at Sheffield University, he found us out and joined us as a member. In 1990, he appointed me as an Honorary Lecturer in the department and asked me to become a PHD supervisor. "In what?", he asked. Without a thought, "In Contextual, Urban and Liberation Theologies," I replied. So it was that from 1993 until the final graduate's completion in 2010, I worked in double harness with a Biblical Studies professor in getting people through the PhD. In the 1990's, John was involved in helping us launch the first DMin in the UK, and UTU became the first college to be in the University's Board of Collegiate Studies, with BMinTh, M/MinTh and DMinTh degrees.

On his retirement in 1996, John said he wanted to work with two communities – the Nine O'Clock Service (publishing sermons with this title in 2002) and the Urban Theology Unit. For UTU, John would come and do lectures to groups of our students.

Also, from 1995, John brought an annual Institute for Socio-Biblical Studies with a wide range of Old Testament Scholars, joined in time by a group of my New Testament studies friends. This developed into the Practice Interpretation series published by David Orton (previously Sheffield Academic Press) of Deo Publishing (now incidentally, to be continued by Brill Publishers of Leiden, Netherlands). John edited Leviticus in Practice (2014) and The

Servant of God in Practice (2016) (jointly with myself).

John Rogerson's unfailing kindness and generosity were enlarged by his own commitment to taking the Bible to contemporary Britain. We were both together on the Bible and Society group and wrote together The City in Biblical Perspective (2009). John was scrupulously honest. Christopher Rowland and myself invited him to join our Institute for British Liberation Theology. He replied that he was totally with us but did not think that his post in the Academy entitled him to say that he was doing Liberation Theology.

These pieces of this deeply committed and insightful friend and colleague were part of our story. Praise God for it. And thanks for the memory of a lovely man and a committed disciple.

John Vincent

Our New Governance Structure

In the summer of 2018 the Trustees and staff met together to look at where UTU was needed for the future. This led to a re-focussing of our priorities on short-courses, one-off events and the PhD-level research and graduate study seminars for independent study and book-writing. We also considered how to run things without a Director, after Keith Hebden stood down.

The Directors/Trustees of UTU not only to want to develop and promote UTU, but also need to have competencies in the six key areas for a training, research and employing organisation. The Board also need to reflect the range of opinions and strands of members within the organisation. The Directors/Trustees meet four times a year, and have the overview of the direction and policies of UTU.

The core of our new structure is the Operations Group, which exercises collective management of all our activities in place of the Director. A lead trustee for each of the first four competencies are appointed onto the Operations Group which meets monthly. They are Chair, Erica Dunmow (Governance); Treasurer, Andrew Crowley (Finance); Joe Forde, Personnel Lead; and, Ian Duffield, Director of Research (Theological Education, as a Consultant, not a Trustee). These post-holders also represent our constituents: members - Erica and Andrew; students - Joe Forde, staff - Ian. The Minutes Secretary of the Board, David Dale is Administration Lead, but does not attend the Ops Group.

For the future, we need to develop a Board with a full range of finance, theological education, personnel, governance, administration and marketing competencies and have a Trustee who is shadowing in each of the six areas of expertise, to support the lead trustee. At the moment, we need people with governance, financial, personnel and marketing expertise. So, if you know any people of potential who might be supportive of our work and interested in developing and enhancing their skills then please put them in touch with Jill Wagg on 0114 2709907 or Erica Dunmow on 07910 850122 and ed.chair.utusheffield@gmail.com

Erica Dunmow



DEGREE VALIDATIONS

UTU is a constituent college of Luther King House (LKH) in Manchester, through whom the MA and PhD degrees are awarded. In 2018, the University of Manchester announced that it would cease to award degrees through some external bodies, including LKH, so the search is on for LKH to find another university.

UTU has been through this hoop several times before, and once again it is about academic politics and priorities moving around us. The good news is that existing MA and PhD students will complete their degrees through Manchester University supervised by UTU staff.

Manchester University are assisting in this process to make as smooth a transition as possible. As we go to print, LKH is in talks with Durham University about their undergraduate programme. We are in regular contact with the LKH Board and staff, through our places on the Academic Boards, with Erica Dunmow as Chair in contact with Graham Sparkes, their President and since January on the LKH Board instead of the UTU Director.

AGM 2018: BISHOP OF SHEFFIELD VISITS UTU

We were delighted to welcome the Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox, the Bishop of Sheffield as speaker at our AGM back in November 2018.



He gave a thought-provoking talk entitled: 'Contrary to their Profession': Reflections on being an urban misfit in a majority-suburban church'. This was followed by a lively and robust question and answer session.

UTU AGM 2019

Saturday 23 November 2019

1pm: Informal time to catch up

Bring and share lunch – tea and coffee provided

AGM 2.00pm-4.30pm

Come and find out what has been happening and our plans to take UTU forward.

Speaker: Bishop Dr Joe Aldred

Principal Officer for Pentecostal and Multicultural Relations,
Churches Together in England

on

**The Good Samaritan: Search and Rescue
– UTU's place in my journey in the call for Reparatory Justice**

If you can't make the whole afternoon, you are welcome to join us for a cup of tea and to listen to Bishop Dr Joe Aldred at 2.45pm.

Venue: UTU Library (see last page for contact details)

SUMMER SCHOOL 8 & 9 July 2019

The UTU Summer School followed on from the Jubilee Event and was led by the Revd Dr John Vincent around 'New Testament Community in Practice'—the theme of a forthcoming book in the Practice Interpretation Series (see p.6). A host of guest speakers provided much food for thought and lively debate on topics such as Intentional Community, Community and Community Development and Finance in the Jesus Community.

NEW CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY AND MISSION

The UTU Diploma in Theology and Mission was from 1972 to 1999 the pioneering programme that provided a unique experience of theological and vocational training, linked to the realities of the city, and developing new theological and biblical studies which influenced profoundly the several hundred who took the course, often through the famous UTU study years.

Now, twenty years later, we have revived the course to suit 21st century needs, and offer a new programme of Theology and Mission work.

The Certificate Group will meet at UTU from 10.00am to 3.00pm on Mondays: 21 October, 11 November & 16 December 2019, 20 January, 24 February, 23 March, 20 April, 18 May & 15 June 2020. The tutors are Rev Dr John Vincent and Ms Erica Dunmow.

For more details, see website or contact the UTU office: office@utusheffield.org.uk

UTU MONTHLY LUNCHTIME FORUMS 2019

The theme for the summer was *What Makes a Good City?* with speakers: Qari Mohammed Siddique, Islamic scholar, University of Sheffield Chaplain, Greg Fell, Director of Public Health Sheffield & Simon Duffy, Director of the Centre for Welfare.

The theme for the autumn is *Developing the Contributions of Christian People*.

9 October: John Vincent, UTU Director Emeritus

6 November: Ruth Willis, South Yorkshire Community Foundation

11 December: Erica Dunmow: UTU Chair of Trustees

12-1.30pm. UTU Library Suite. All welcome. Free.

Bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Speaking Truth to Power

“As followers of Jesus, we are called to speak truth to power — especially when too many people are struggling to make ends meet across the U.K.” This was the theme of a recent Church Action on Poverty event I attended in Middleton, Greater Manchester. But what does it mean in practice?

One way it can be achieved is by supporting more experts by experience (that is, people who understand poverty because they have lived it) to speak truth to power. Church Action on Poverty’s Poverty Media Unit can train experts by experience to speak confidently and powerfully to the media and politicians. They become effective campaigners and spokespeople, and can inspire others to take action. The Poverty Media Unit also produces podcasts which show some inspiring examples of experts by experience speaking truth to power, and these can be downloaded from their website for wider dissemination and use by local branches of CAP, as well as by churches and other charitable organisations that are engaged in training those living at the margins to speak truth to power.

Another innovative way of speaking truth to power has been the emergence of “Food Glorious Food” in Sheffield, the first food bank choir in the U.K. and supported by a grant from Church Action on Poverty. It brings together people who have used or volunteered in food banks, building community through music. Recently, it gave an inspirational performance at Sheffield Cathedral for the launch of the End Hunger U.K. campaign. Choir leader Yo Tozer-Loft said: “People were really motivated by the chance to lobby their MPs about food poverty. Even people who didn’t think they were singers said, “I want to raise my voice somehow.”



Of course, we know that music has often been connected with protests by those who have been experiencing social injustices, marginalisation, exclusion or exploitation, and has been seen to be a great way of speaking truth to power. Think of how blues music emerged in America in the late 19th Century as an authentic form of protest by black cotton workers (and later by others), who had been experiencing what

Fr. Kenneth Leech later aptly described as the viciousness of injustice that unconstrained capitalism ineluctably produces. Think also of how British folk songs have often expressed the struggles by workers for better terms and conditions from their employers, and a more just society in which to bring up their children. Music will always be an effective way of speaking truth to power, and protest songs sung by Christians are one way of doing precisely that, not least when out campaigning against social injustices.

Empowering those at the margins to speak truth to power confidently and effectively is the central aim of this latest initiative from CAP. But one can also speak truth to power as an advocate for those at the margins who may not be able to do it themselves. Christian writers have a long history of doing this, often with impressive results. Examples are the seminal work by R.H. Tawney of 1931, *Equality*, in which he powerfully argues for a more egalitarian society than existed in interwar Britain, as a means of reducing poverty and improving the life chances of working class men and women. Another is the ground-breaking work by William Temple of 1942, *Christianity and Social Order*, which was in part a critique of interwar poverty in Britain and its causes, and was pivotal in shaping the post-war British Welfare State.

The autobiography of 1958 by Martin Luther King, *Stride Toward Freedom*, is a third example, with its memorable account of the Montgomery bus boycott of 1956-58 that set the scene for so much that followed in the struggle for equality and opportunity for blacks in America in the late 1950s and 1960s. These three authors shared a view that the radicality of Jesus's ministry merits nothing less from us.

And this sentiment is reflected in Church Action on Poverty's new series of Bible studies, *Untold Stories*, which aims to help people to think more deeply about their personal commitment to speaking truth to power and to unlocking UK poverty. See <https://voicesfromthemargins.org.uk/>

Joe Forde
PhD student at UTU and Chair of Sheffield's branch of Church Action on Poverty

UTU SUPPORTER IS NEW METHODIST PRESIDENT

This year's President of the British Methodist Conference is the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson. A long-time supporter of the Urban Theology Union, she wrote a cover commendation to UTU's *For Church and Nation* in 2013, and is a well-known theologian and author.

She became President at Birmingham on 29 June 2019, and carries the love and best wishes of UTU – not least our 60 Methodist ministerial and lay members!

John Vincent

MEMBERSHIP FEES

We are very grateful
that you support UTU and hope
that you will continue to do so.

We would also be grateful if you could
check that your 2019/20 membership
renewal is set up for the correct amount:

£45 full membership
£16.50 concession

Don't forget that you can pay monthly-
see www.utusheffield.org.uk

or contact our administrator,
Jill Wagg



office@utusheffield.org.uk/www.utusheffield.org.uk

Tel: 014 2709907

**Lower Ground Floor, Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street,
Sheffield S1 2JB (entrance opposite Superdrug in Chapelwalk)**