

Benjamin Alan Pugh



D.O.B. 07/01/69

Occupation: Theology Lecturer

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Qualifications

BA (Hons) Fine Art (CNAAs), University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, 1991.

MA (with Distinction) in the Study of Pentecostal and Charismatic Issues (Manchester), 2004.

Schatzmann Prize for Academic Excellence
Regents Theological College, 2004.

PhD in Pentecostal Theology (Bangor). Title of thesis: "Power in the Blood': The Significance of the Blood of Jesus to the Spirituality of Early British Pentecostalism and its Precursors," 2009.

Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education in Teaching in Higher Education (Sheffield Hallam), 2019.

Following a dramatic conversion at the age of 19 as an art student, I have been a Christian for 35 years, beginning within the independent charismatic King's Church network in the South East of England and latterly moving more within classical Pentecostal circles. Together with my family, I have been an active member of the Eagle's Nest Church in Nottingham for 16 years. This church is a member of the Assemblies of God denomination.

Skills Summary

- 21 years of experience lecturing from a variety of theological disciplines beginning in systematics and moving into New Testament theology.
- 19 years of publishing in systematic, historical, philosophical and biblical theology applied to a variety of contexts. I am currently completing the third of three books on the atonement from the viewpoints first of tradition (*Atonement Theories*, 2014), then of experience (*The Old Rugged Cross*, 2016) and now of Scripture: *Pictures of Atonement: A New Testament Study*.
- 14 years of experience in academic leadership, having designed, taught and assessed modules at undergraduate and MA level, and having designed an entire BA by distance learning approved by Chester University, and having been a programme leader of both PGT and PGR programmes.

Employment

Sep 2012 – present: Lecturer in Theology, Cliff College, a Partner College of the University of Manchester.

I teach on the full range of programmes at Cliff College: short courses, the BA in Theology and Mission, the MA in Theology and Mission, and have so far supervised nine research students to completion. I am the module leader for 'Christian Theology in Outline, 'Christian Spirituality,' 'Philosophy,' and 'Discipleship and Discipling' at undergraduate level, and 'Christian Doctrine and Mission' on the MA. In May 2018 I became the founder and director of the Samuel Chadwick Centre, convening its first annual lecture in October 2018, and between May 2019 and January 2024 I took on the role of Postgraduate Research Programme Lead, which involved the oversight of two doctoral programmes: a standard PhD and a professional doctorate, the PhD Missiology. I convened the residential teaching weeks for this as well as chairing the Research Degrees Committee and taking the lead in the annual enhancement cycle in dialogue with the University of Manchester.

May 2010 – August 2012: Director of Graduate Studies, Mathersey Hall College, validated by Chester University.

This was a promotion, having been acting Director since January 2010. Responsibilities included providing academic and pastoral support to MA and DMin students, liaising with the validating university, module and curriculum development, and coordinating and delivering the formative and summative assessment of very large amounts of coursework. I played a leading role at exam boards, wrote the Annual Monitoring Reviews and steered the Graduate School through two validation processes in as many years (Glyndwr and Chester). Throughout these processes I nurtured a healthy annual intake of students that maintained Mathersey Hall Graduate School as one of the largest theological graduate schools in Europe. I also designed a BA by distance learning for approval by Chester University. I line managed three members of staff. The teaching load, however, was too light, prompting my application for the lecturing post at Cliff College. I taught two MA modules: Pentecostal Church History and Contemporary Issues in Atonement Theology.

August 2009 – May 2010: Graduate School Registrar, Mathersey Hall College, validated by the University of Bangor.

I coordinated all aspects of recruitment, admissions, and student support for Mathersey's graduate programmes as well as its distance learning BTh course. I also marked a considerable amount of work at all levels, gave tutorial supervision to the full time MA students and to a number of distance learning students.

February 2008 – July 2009: Customer Service Administrator, Welcome Financial Services, Nottingham.

Here, while I finished my PhD, and by now also supporting a young family, I worked as part of a team of young people, delivering administrative products and services.

September 2005- July 2008: Self-Employed Lecturer in Theology & Church History, Manchester Christian College, Birmingham Cosmopolitan College and Birmingham Christian College.

During the earlier stages of my PhD, I was self-employed as a visiting lecturer at some smaller institutions, teaching and assessing a considerable range of topics but maintaining systematic and historical theology as my central teaching interests. The teaching carried out at Manchester Christian College was part of a University of London Bachelor of Divinity,

taught by extension, and the teaching at Birmingham Christian College was under University of Wales validation at that time.

July 2003- July 2005: Visiting Lecturer in Church History *Filadelfia Bible College, Udaipur, India.*

This college is home to the Native Missionary Movement. Here, over three successive summer vacations, I prepared students for an MDiv degree, as well as delivering some undergraduate teaching, all accredited by the Asia Theological Association. The modules I taught were The Kingdom of God, the History of Pentecostal & Charismatic Movements and Church History: Reformation – Present Day.

May 1993-March 2005: Army Logistics. *HQ 4th Division (Aldershot) & HQ 49 Brigade (Nottingham).*

By the time I left Aldershot to marry Pearl, I had been promoted to Air Reservations Manager at HQ 4th Division, Aldershot. In this capacity I supervised one member of staff and managed a contract between the MoD and Qatar Airways for the transportation of Ghurkha families to and from Kathmandu. I was privileged to visit Nepal twice at this time.

July 1991-January 1993: Self-Employed Artist. Specialism: oil painting.

I was the only graduate of my year at what is now called the University for the Creative Arts who chose to become a full time artist. This was a bold move and was made on the basis that I sold almost all the pieces in my degree show, and, the following month was awarded a commission from Bang and Olufsen to paint some backdrops for an exhibition at Heathrow Airport. In my youthful naiveté I concluded that every month would be like this! I occupied myself doing one-man shows, taking part in some group exhibitions as far afield as Germany and Chelsea, and teaching 7-11 year olds in various extra-curricular art and craft classes, before financial constraints compelled me to close the business and start looking for a job.

Research and Teaching Interests

Core Disciplines: Interdisciplinary between systematic, biblical and philosophical theology
Specialist Subjects: Atonement, Pneumatology, Pentecostal Studies, Arts and Culture.

Voluntary Roles

2013-2021: Theological Adviser for Release International

Learned Societies and Professional Memberships

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
Honorary Research Fellow of Manchester University
Member of the editorial Board for the *Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association*
Fellow and Board Member of Manchester Wesley Research Centre

Research Supervision Completions

November 2023: PhD in Missiology with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: Conversions among folk Buddhists in Cambodia. Co-supervisor. Examined by Dr Kathryn Kraft.

November 2021: PhD in Missiology with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: the growth of house churches in Poland. Main supervisor. Examined by Dr Clare Watkins.

November 2021: PhD in Missiology with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: earthed spirituality in the Stroud area. Main supervisor. Examined by Dr Douglas Gay.

November 2019: PhD in Missiology with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: Aid Dependency in Haitian Methodist Churches. Co-supervisor. Examined by Dr George Mulrain.

November 2019: PhD in Missiology with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: The Theology of Rob Frost. Co-supervisor. Examined by Rev Professor David Wilkinson.

September 2019: PhD Missiology with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: conversion experiences within Charismatic churches in Britain. Co-supervisor. Examined by Dr Mark Cartledge.

October 2018: PhD with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: Risk-taking in mission within Mennonite churches in America. Co-supervisor. Examined by Dr Emma Wild-Wood.

August 2017: PhD with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: the 'spiritual senses' in John Wesley's writings. Main supervisor. Examined by Dr Kirsteen Kim.

March 2013: MPhil with University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: understandings of the role of the Spirit in the Church of Pentecost denomination. Main supervisor. Examined by Prof. Andrew Walker.

Currently supervising six PhD students:

1. On Pneumatology in relation to Anglican Resource Churches. Main supervisor.
2. On the recapitulation model of atonement as found in Luke's Gospel. Main supervisor.
3. On the covenant theology of the book of Hebrews. Main supervisor.
4. On the role of beauty in mission. Main supervisor.
5. On the formative element in preaching in a Northern Irish context. Main supervisor.
6. On discipleship and the environment in church children. Co supervisor.

Research Examination

November 2023: External examiner for PhD, University of Essex. Subject: Pentecostal church leadership in a knife crime area.

March 2020: Internal examiner for PhD, University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: Leadership Successions in Missional Organisations.

October 2016: Internal examiner for PhD, University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: Rooting the Practice of Church Planting Within a Trinitarian Theological Framework.

July 2016: Internal examiner for PhD, University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: the catechetical methods of Cyril of Jerusalem in the light of Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory.

May 2013: Internal examiner for MPhil, University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: the contextualisation of Methodism in Sierra Leone.

April 2013: Internal examiner for PhD, University of Manchester/Cliff College. Subject: C.S. Lewis as an evangelist.

March 2010: External examiner for Masters by Thesis, University of Hull. Subject: the *Munus Triplex* and the Trinity.

Publications and Papers

Academic Books

2020 *Pictures of Atonement: A New Testament Study* (Eugene: Cascade)

- 2018 *SCM Study Guide to Philosophy and Christian Faith* (London: SCM)
- 2017 *SCM Study Guide to Theology in the Contemporary World* (London: SCM)
- 2017 *Bold Faith: A Closer Look at the Five Key Ideas of Charismatic Christianity*
(Eugene: Wipf and Stock)
- 2016 *The Old Rugged Cross: A History of the Atonement in Popular Christian Devotion*
(Eugene: Cascade)
- 2014 *Atonement Theories: A Way Through the Maze* (Eugene: Cascade)

Papers Presented

October 2023 'The Gospel in a Material World,' Samuel Chadwick Lecture, Cliff College.

February 2022 'Correlative Retrieval: Towards a New Approach to Theological Reflection on Culture,' PhD Residential Teaching Week, Cliff College.

September 2021 'Secular Apathy: Why the Indifference?' PhD Residential Teaching Week, Cliff College.

March 2020 'Incarnation, Participation and Pentecost: The findings of a decade-long research project on the atonement,' Manchester Wesley Research Seminar, Nazarene Theological College.

September 2019 'The *Vestigia* Project: Connecting Gospel and Culture,' PhD Residential Teaching Week, Cliff College

February 2019 'The Pentecost Standpoint: At the Origins of the New Testament Metaphors of Atonement,' Erhardt Seminar, University of Manchester

June 2018 with Prof. Jonathan Warner, 'Debt and the Christian Doctrine of Atonement' Debt: the First 5000 Years. Birmingham University

Jan 2017 'Windows on the Son of God: a Study of the "I am" sayings of John's Gospel.' Study day in Wharfedale and Aireborough Methodist Circuit.

Sep 2016 'Atonement and Gospel: A Work in Progress. Montagu Barker Lecture. Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

June 2016 'The Holy Spirit: Who He Is and What He Does: A Biblical-Theological Account,' Welford Lecture, Stratford and Evesham Methodist Circuit

Jan 2016 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Story of a Remarkable Idea,' Seminar of the

Manchester Wesley Research Centre, Nazarene Theological College, Didsbury.

June 2015 'Succession Plans: Is There a Biblical Template?' EPTA Conference, SDA Institute, Florence, Italy.

June 2013 'Subverted Hierarchies: Towards a Biblical Theology of Leadership.' EPTA Conference, Mattersey Hall, UK.

Jan 2013 'Atonement Models and Contemporary Culture: the Case of Recapitulation, Theosis and Generation Y,' Theology Seminar, Chester University.

Sep 2012 'Kicking the Devil': The Re-appropriation of the Victory Motif in Some Recent Atonement Theology,' Alternative Salvations Conference, Chester University.

July 2006 'Incarnational Mission in a UK Context,' Conference for African-led churches in the UK.

April 2005 'There is Power in the Blood' – The Role of the Blood of Jesus in the Spirituality of Early British Pentecostalism,' Joint European Pentecostal Theological Association and European Pentecostal/Charismatic Research Association Conference, Basel.

Academic Articles

2023 'Epicurus and the Gospel,' *Theology Everywhere* November [Epicurus and the Gospel – Theology Everywhere](#)

2022 'The Gospel in a Material World: How do we Preach Good News in the 'Immanent Frame'? *Theology Everywhere* November [The Gospel in a Material World: How do we Preach Good News in the 'Immanent Frame'? – Theology Everywhere](#)

2021 'The Lord Your God is the Only God'(Deut.6:4) *Theology Everywhere* November [The Lord Your God is the Only God'\(Deut.6:4\) – Theology Everywhere](#)

2020 'The Great Divide,' *Theology Everywhere* November [The Great Divide – Theology Everywhere](#)

2019 'Thinking about a New Method for Doing Practical Theology' *Theology Everywhere* October <https://theologyeverywhere.org/2019/10/21/thinking-about-a-new-method-for-doing-practical-theology/>

2018 'An Update on the 'Atonement Project' *Theology Everywhere* October <https://theologyeverywhere.org/2018/10/15/an-update-on-the-atonement-project/>

2017 'Introducing the 'Atonement Project': A Work in Progress,' *Theology Everywhere* November <https://theologyeverywhere.org/2017/11/20/introducing-the-atonement-project-a-work-in-progress/>

- 2016 "Succession Plans: Is There a Biblical Template?" *Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association* 35:1 (2016): 1-14.
- 2015 "'Under the Blood' at Azusa Street: Exodus Typology at the Heart of Pentecostal Origins," *Journal of Religious History* 39:1 (March 2015): 86-103.
- 2014 "'Kicking the Daylights out of the Devil" The Victory Motif in Some Recent Atonement Theology," *European Journal of Theology* XXIII:1 (2014): 32-42.
- 2014 "The Wesleyan Way: Entire Sanctification and its spin-offs – a recurring theme in Evangelical Devotion," *Evangelical Review of Theology* 38:1 (Jan 2014): 4-21.
- 2013 'Subverted Hierarchies: Towards a Biblical Theology of Leadership,' *Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association* 32:2 (2013): 125-142.
- 2012 "The Spirit and the Cross: Insights from Barth and Moltmann into the Holy Spirit's Relationship to the Cross of Christ," *Evangelical Review of Theology* 36:4 (Oct 2012): 292-301.
- 2012 "The Mind of the Spirit: Explorations in the reciprocal relationship between the work of the Spirit and the work of the Son," *Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association* 32:1 (2012): 41-60.
- 2007 "A Brief History of the Blood: the Story of the Blood of Christ in Transatlantic Evangelical Devotion" *Evangelical Review of Theology* 31:3, 239-255.
- 2006 "There is Power in the Blood' – The Role of the Blood of Jesus in the Spirituality of Early British Pentecostalism," *Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association* 25: 54-66

Popular Books

- 2024 *Ruby in the Mist* (Eugene: Stone Table, in press)
- 2023 *One With Christ: 40 Biblical Meditations on Paul's 'in Christ' Theme* (Eugene: Cascade)
- 2023 *The Beauty of God: Beauty, the Divine Attributes and the Life of Faith* (Eugene: Cascade)
- 2022 *The Riches of Romans Part 1: Romans 1-8* (Seattle: Kindle)
- 2019 *Authentic Christianity: The Essentials of Christian Discipleship* (Seattle: kindle)

2018 *Authentic Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine for Churches* (Seattle: Kindle)

2017 With Jason Glover and Daniel Thompson, *Beyond This Darkness: A Faith-Based Pathway to Recovery from Addictive Behaviors* (Eugene: Resource)

2016 *The Hero's Journey Guidebook: Mapping the Story of Your Life* (Eugene: Resource)

2014 *Whose Baby? Therapy for the Christmas Season in Twelve Parts* (Eugene: Resource)

2014 *The King of the Jews: 28 Moments with the Son of God* (Eugene: Resource)

Popular Articles

2022 'Reflections on the Age of Authenticity,' *Methodist Recorder* (December 2022)

2020 'A Fruity Lockdown Life,' *Methodist Recorder* (December 2020).

2020 'Plato and His Big Idea: The Theory of Forms' *Dialogue: A Journal of Religion and Philosophy* 55 (November), 9-13.

2019 'Thoughts on being in Christ,' *Methodist Recorder* (March 2019).

2018 'The Allegory of the Cave and the Light of the World' *Methodist Recorder* (March 2018).

2017 "In Christ – What is it?" *Methodist Recorder* (February 2017).

2016 "Getting Past Your Grumpy Old Troll," *Methodist Recorder* (February 2016).

2015 "Have You Heard the Call?" *Methodist Recorder* (September 11, 2015).

2015 "Making Meaningful Connections," *Methodist Recorder* (January 9, 2014), 11.

2014 "The Day of Small Things," *Methodist Recorder* (March 2014)

2013 "Angles on the Cross," *Methodist Recorder* 8098 (March 2013), 9.

2012 "From Good Theology to Living the Dream," *Gideon News* (Summer 2012),

2008 "From Bad Trips to Good Theology," *Gideon News* (Autumn 2008), 14-15.

2005
16-18.

"The Lost Message of Jesus' What is all the fuss about?" *Direction* (Oct 2005),