



# THEOLOGY NETWORK



Bi-Monthly Theological Programme



# THEOLOGY NETWORK

**From September 2019 the Love Dudley Network is launching the Theology Network. The Theology Network is a chance for ministers, leaders and other interested Christians to gather on a bi-monthly basis to engage in some theological discussion, facilitated by guest academics.**

## Why a Theology Network?

- We recognise the value of theological study at any and every level. It is formational, intellectually and spiritually; it comprises one aspect of discipleship.
- We also recognise that many in our contemporary churches do not understand the value of such study and are less inclined to engage with it, even those who lead such churches.
- We recognise that this 'gap' will have a negative impact on the health of the church over the coming years.
- We want to offer a 'space' that allows those already interested to engage in some theological study and will also give a taste to others, which may help them to see its value.

## The principles

### What is it about?

- Stimulating and provoking thought
- Empowering us to reap the benefits of study/theology
- Exploring
- Engaging us with those outside our tradition and before our generation
- Experiencing something of the benefits of engaging with theological study

### What is it not about?

- Telling anyone what to think
- Reinforcing one particular theological tradition/view
- Preaching to one another or an extended bible study
- Purely arguing about contemporary hot topics



### What might it look like?

The network will meet bi-monthly. Each evening will focus on a different topic, varying between biblical theology, systematic theology and practical theology. Each will be led by someone who has some expertise on the topic they facilitate.

### Before the evening

A month before the evening we will circulate a couple of articles/book chapters on the topic, suggested by the guest facilitator, for all to read.

### On the evening:

30 minutes for the guest to get us into the theme and set the evening up.

Then the bulk of the time will be a 90-minute guided seminar, moving between facilitated smaller groups and speaker input allowing all to engage with the material.

15 minutes for some closing observations from the speaker.

### What is the expectation for those coming?

To engage with the material and discussion in the same open and constructive spirit with which it is offered.

- To have done the reading.
- To explore and be open to be challenged on our own current views/presuppositions
- To create a safe and constructive environment for genuinely stimulating and robust discussion.

### What will it cost?

To ensure we can support our speakers we are suggesting a donation of £5 per person for each session.

### Who is the Theology Network for?

Anyone who is interested! We hope primarily to engage Christian leaders, whether staff and other ministers or 'lay' leaders within our congregations.

**In providing this opportunity we trust that you will grow in your love of Christ revealed in bible.**



Greg Ellis  
Chawn Hill



Dave Morris  
Hope Baptist



Tim Murray  
Amblecote Christian Centre



On Behalf of the  
Love Dudley Network

# First half year: Subject and speakers

**23rd September, 8.00pm**

**Approaching the book of Revelation**

Rev. Dr Ian Paul completed his PhD on Revelation before ordaining in the Church of England and serving in ministry for a decade. He then went to St John's Nottingham and served as Academic Dean from 2005-2012. Ian has recently written the new Tyndale Commentary on Revelation, sits on the Church of England synod and is an independent speaker, writer and scholar. His widely read blog is [www.psephizo.com](http://www.psephizo.com)

**Venue:** Chawn Hill Church



**16th March, 8.00pm**

**The Holy Spirit and Christian Formation**

Dr Lucy Peppiatt completed her PhD in systematic theology from the University of Otago and now serves as the principal of the Westminster Theological Centre. The author of four books, Lucy's expertise lies in pneumatology, charismatic theology and discipleship.

**Venue:** Amblecote Christian Centre

**18th November, 8.00pm**

**Approaching the book of Isaiah**

Dr Matt Lynch completed his PhD at Emory University before pursuing post-doctoral studies at Göttingen, Germany. An expert in the Old Testament, Matt serves as academic dean for the Westminster Theological Centre.

**Venue:** Amblecote Christian Centre

**11th May 8.00pm**

**The Atonement – Christus Victor and Divine Violence**

Dr Martyn Smith completed and published his PhD on Divine Violence and the Atonement, has pastored two churches and now teaches young people religious education, philosophy and ethics.

**Venue:** Chawn Hill Church

**20th January, 8.00pm**

**What is the Church?**

Dr Stephen Backhouse gained his PhD from Oxford University and is now the director of Tent Theology – which is aimed at delivering real theology into the local church ([www.tenttheology.com](http://www.tenttheology.com)). Stephen also teaches for the Westminster Theological College and is an expert in the history of Christian thought and political theology.

**Venue:** Chawn Hill Church

**13th July, 8.00pm**

**Subject:** TBC



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**Love  
Dudley**