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The Healthy Churches' Handbook

A Process for Revitalizing Your Church

Church House Publishing This practical guide helps churches identify their strengths and weaknesses and discover what action to take in order to develop the health of their church. The focus is on the quality of the church's life rather than just the numbers attending. There are no quick fixes, no '60-minutes to the perfect church' type of solutions. The material and process outlined here is the fruit of 10 years of research and reflection on how the church can best express its faith and life in today's setting. The material is fully road-tested and has been used in local churches across the UK and beyond.

The Invisible Church

Saint Andrew Press This ground-breaking book offers hope, insight, reflection and practical ideas

The Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book

A Guide to Mental Health and Social Problems

Oxford University Press This all-in-one guide is designed to better equip clergy and the church leaders to meet their congregations' needs in a spiritually grounded and scientifically sound manner. Succinct, easy-to-read chapters summarize all a pastor needs to know about a given problem area, including its signs or symptoms, questions to ask, effective helping skills, and, most importantly, when to refer to a mental health professional. Synthesizing what research says about treatment approaches for mental health issues, this user-friendly reference is filled with guidelines, case scenarios, key points to remember, resources for further help, advice on integrating scripture and theology with the best available research, and tips on partnering with others to provide the best possible care for each church member. Each chapter is designed for quick lookup by problem area, empowering church leaders to understand and help meet the challenges facing the children, adults, families, and communities that they serve.

International Handbook on Ageing and Public Policy

Edward Elgar Publishing With the collective knowledge of expert contributors in the field, The International Handbook on Ageing and Public Policy explores the challenges arising from the ageing of populations across the globe. With an expansive look at the topic, this com

Kingdom Learning

SCM Press Drawing on the discipline of adult education and his own research into the way people learn, David Heywood explains how churches can become learning communities in which people grow as disciples and find their place in a collaborative pattern of ministry.

A Future That's Bigger Than The Past

Towards the renewal of the Church

Canterbury Press A Future that's Bigger than the Past sets out a vision for renewing the local church that is energising, realistic and practical for small and large congregations alike. In response to prevailing narratives of decline, it reimagines how the church can live its vocation of receiving the abundance God gives us, and sharing that abundance far and wide. It recognises the surprising, exuberant and plentiful things that the Holy Spirit is doing in the world and calls the church to celebrate creation, enjoy culture and share in their flourishing. With a rich theological foundation and borne out in the practical experience of a growing number of local church communities, this groundbreaking book will enable churches to discover fresh ways in which they can become a blessing to the communities they serve.

The Impact of Church Consultancy

Explore the Impact of One Model of Church Consultancy on Church Health and Church Growth in NSW/ACT Baptist Churches

Wipf and Stock Publishers This book follows the journey of ten churches who underwent church consultancies, and explores in depth both the consultancy and its outcomes. Pre-consultancy and post-consultancy "snapshots," four to five years apart, of vitality indicators and attendance figures (using National Church Life Survey and other data) are used to compare these with churches that have not undertaken church consultancies. Theologies of church consultancy, church health, and church growth are also developed and examined, intersecting with a wide body of literature, including contemporary ecclesiologies. Consultancy outcomes are examined in detail. This includes interviews with pastors of some of those churches, reflecting on their perceptions of whether and how the church consultancy impacted the health and growth of their church. Conclusions are drawn about the efficacy of church consultancy in influencing the health and growth of churches, as well as contexts for the best use of church consultancy. This is a significant book for denominational leaders, theological lecturers, pastors, and church leaders as they encounter lack of health in churches and seek ways forward for greater health and impact in their local communities.

Rediscovering a Ministry of Health

Parish Nursing as a Mission of the Local Church

Wipf and Stock Publishers It is not possible to look at the ministry of Jesus without noticing his concern for the poor and the sick. He not only had a huge sense of compassion for people who were suffering, but sent people out to heal the sick and tell them the Kingdom of God is near them. This concern for health and wholeness has inspired Christians through the ages as they have cared for the sick, founded hospitals, and been at the forefront of public health movements. In the nineteenth century, the church was one of the major influencers in initiating ministries of health, both through the work of its own deaconesses and the involvement of its members as they felt a sense of vocation to nursing and public health work. Florence Nightingale was a theologian and statistician as well as being a nurse leader. However, with the advent of state health provision and private health insurance schemes, the role of the local church in health has diminished. This book describes a simple way for churches

to re-engage with health ministry and presents evidence that underlines not only a Biblical authenticity for its place in the mission of a local church, but also a compelling rationale for its implementation. It will be of interest to church leaders and all those involved in health care.

Bridgebuilding

Making peace with conflict in the Church

Canterbury Press There is a prevailing culture of 'niceness' within churches which can lead to conflict avoidance, suppression and denial. Consequently, ministers and church leaders often struggle to handle tensions, difference and competing demands within their congregations. Drawing on practical theology, conflict theory, family systems theory and experience, Bridgebuilding will help church ministers and church members find more fruitful ways of engaging with tensions and conflicts in the life of the Church. It offers numerous practical tools for transforming conflict into opportunities for personal and corporate growth. It complements the 'Growing Bridgebuilders' training course developed by Bridge Builders with CPAS.

What Makes Churches Grow?

Vision and practice in effective mission

Church House Publishing Churches are growing. This prophetic and inspirational handbook by church growth expert Bob Jackson explores a variety of growing churches to identify what is making the difference between them and churches which are static or declining. In addition to numerical growth, it asks how we measure spiritual growth and identifies the signs of spiritual vitality. Bob Jackson relates inspiring stories of effective mission with families, children and young people but also issues pertinent challenges about praying for growth, training leaders, diocesan strategies, spending money effectively, multi-church leadership, the future of the parish model, discipleship in fresh expressions and more. Earthed, practical and inspirational, What Makes Churches Grow lays a practical and theological foundation for continued growth into the future.

Private Security

An Introduction to Principles and Practice

CRC Press Private Security: An Introduction to Principles and Practice, Second Edition explains foundational security principles—defining terms and outlining the increasing scope of security in daily life—while reflecting current practices of private security as an industry and profession. The book looks at the development and history of the industry, outlines fundamental security principles, and the growing dynamic and overlap that exists between the private sector security and public safety and law enforcement—especially since the events of 9/11. Chapters focus on current practice, reflecting the technology-driven, fast-paced, global security environment. Such topics covered include security law and legal issues, risk management, physical security, human resources and personnel considerations, investigations, institutional and industry-specific security, crisis and emergency planning, computer, and information security. A running theme of this edition is highlighting—where appropriate—how security awareness, features, and applications have permeated all aspects of our modern lives. Key Features: • Provides current best practices detailing the skills that professionals, in the diverse and expanding range of career options, need to succeed in the field • Outlines the unique role of private sector security companies as compared to federal and state law enforcement responsibilities • Includes key terms, learning objectives, end of chapter questions, Web exercises, and numerous references—throughout the book—to enhance student learning Critical infrastructure protection and terrorism concepts, increasingly of interest and relevant to the private sector, are referenced throughout the book. Threat assessment and information sharing partnerships between private security entities public sector authorities—at the state and federal levels—are highlighted. Private Security, Second Edition takes a fresh, practical approach to the private security industry's role and impact in a dynamic, ever-changing threat landscape.

Servantship

Sixteen Servants on the Four Movements of Radical Servantship

Wipf and Stock Publishers Servantship is essentially about following our Lord Jesus Christ, the servant Lord, and his mission--it is a life of discipleship to him, patterned after his self-emptying, humility, sacrifice, love, values, and mission. Servantship is humbly valuing others more than yourself, and looking out for the interests and wellbeing of others. Servantship is the cultivation of the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: making yourself nothing, being a servant, humbling yourself, and submitting yourself to the will and purposes of the triune God. Since servantship is the imitation of Christ, it involves an unreserved participation in the missio Dei--the Trinitarian mission of God. In this pioneering work, sixteen servants describe the four movements of radical servantship. Servantship is the movement 1.from leadership to radical servantship; 2.from shallowness to dynamic theological reflection; 3.from theories to courageous practices; and 4.from forgetfulness to transforming memory. Servantship recognizes, in word, thought, and deed, that "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

How to do Mission Action Planning

Prayer, process and practice

SPCK How to Do Mission Action Planning (SPCK, 2009) was the first book to appear on the MAP process, at a time when it was beginning to have a significant impact. In this fully revised and expanded edition, the authors offer further critical evaluation and theological reflection, by drawing on the experiences of people who have been using the MAP process in different contexts from their own: Fr Damian Feeney, parish priest and Catholic Missioner of Lichfield diocese Canon David Banbury, leader of Parish Mission Support, Blackburn diocese The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans Dr Stephen Hance, Canon Missioner of Southwark diocese Linda Rayner, the United Reformed Church co-ordinator for Fresh Expressions 'This is a rare book - a refreshing meditation on planning for mission - and one that is rooted in spirituality. As the authors show, the church and its mission arise from our vision of God. And once that vision has been realised, churches are able to become more intentional about their mission. Our vocation to share God's love is not an option or an afterthought. It is the heart and soul of our faith. Mission - and our planning of it - should not fill us with fear or foreboding. Rather, as the authors argue, the call to share God's love can be evermore meaningful, even as mission becomes more methodical.' The Very Revd Prof. Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford 'This is a must-read for anyone using MAP. The rich theological reflection, the detailed unpacking of the 4 MAP phases and the learning offered by the 5 guest practitioners add up to an impressive offering. This book enables good questions to be asked, overflows with wise reflection and contains oodles of practical examples, ideas and resources. I commend it to all local church leaders who are seeking to discern how best to translate the prayer 'your kingdom come' into appropriate church and congregational action.' John Dunnett, General Director, CPAS 'This timely revision is honest, well researched and carefully put together - an important contribution to the necessary change of culture required in today's Church.' Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn

Living in Love and Faith: The Course

A 5-session course for groups

Church House Publishing Living in Love and Faith: The Course aims to help Christians think more deeply about what it means to be human. It provides a structured and accessible way for local groups to engage in and reflect on Living in Love and Faith, a major exploration of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The five sessions of the course each address a key question: • What does it mean to learn together as followers of Jesus Christ? • How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender? • What kinds of relationships does God call us to? • Where do our bodies and sex fit in to all of this? • How do diversity and difference affect our life together as a church? Each session includes an opening reflection about learning together, followed by teaching, time for discussion and Bible study. The sessions end with an invitation to reflect on our learning, bringing it to God in prayer. As well as providing notes for those leading groups, the course also signposts the relevant sections of the Living in Love and Faith book as well as recommending films, podcasts and other digital resources available.

Religious Addiction, Mental Health and Spirituality

Xulon Press The most destructive Frankenstein was created "in the name of God," among Brazilians in Somerville, Massachusetts. An unhealthy faith system it was established. As a result, many Brazilians may not trust any authority. They are becoming unable to discern who supports their integrity, and who not. Visibly, the mental health of some religious leaders became an issue. The questions that arise at the intersection of faith and mental illness are not easily answered. It is impossible to deny the damage caused by some leaders around the Boston greater area. Faith has been destroyed, lives have been lost and an entire generation has been spiritually, emotionally and psychologically mutilated. This book represents an action to take responsibility before God and the second generation of Brazilians in the United States. In order to understand the reasons behind this process of "deconversion" the challenge is to consider some aspects of religious addictions, mental health and spirituality. The Brazilian community has been diagnosed with a "spiritual tumor." This illness has the potential for causing isolation. Unless addressed, this sense of isolation and unproductive faith can be ongoing. Many of the Brazilians feel that their faith has been stolen, and it's time to take it back. Authentic accountability with each other could be the very thing that re-ignites our passion for Christ and His kingdom. Rev. Dr. Regina Pinto-Moura The Rev. Dr. Regina Pinto-Moura pastors the Shalom International Baptist Community in Somerville, Massachusetts. She also serves side by side with her husband, the Rev. Dr. Jota Moura Rocha. Ordained in Massachusetts in 2003, Regina earned a Masters in Counseling Psychology and Addiction from Cambridge College, Cambridge, MA. She has a Doctorate from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary for her studies in Ministry in Complex Urban Settings.

Congregational Revival for America's Heartland

Lulu.com This manual provides lenses- geography, religion, politics, culture, economics, history, ethnicity- to better understand the complexity and depth of congregations as social institutions and as the body of Christ within a multi-layered context of life.

Parish Safeguarding Handbook

This essential handbook summarizes the safeguarding responsibilities of parishes, as outlined in the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. It includes a basic parish safeguarding policy and a guide to roles and responsibilities, as well as advice on: * Safe recruitment; * Safeguarding training requirements; * How to respond promptly to safeguarding concerns; * Confidentiality and data protection; * Pastoral care of victims, alleged abusers and those who pose a risk; * Creating safe environments; * Use of social media; * Support from the diocese; * Useful contacts and support networks.

Practical Church Management

A Guide for Every Parish

Gracewing Publishing

Leadership in Small Churches

Lexington Books Leadership in Small Churches inspires and equips men and women who are called to serve in churches of less than 100 people, which are the majority of churches in the United States. Small churches in the United States suffer from a lack of leadership. On the one hand, there is a shortage of leaders. On the other hand, leaders who serve faithfully sometimes feel ill-equipped to carry out their calling due to inadequate training, especially a lack of training specific to small churches. This volume provides guidance from scholars and practitioners with experience in small churches. Because of their experience in and commitment to ministry in small churches, these writers are well qualified to discuss the breadth of topics in this book. These topics include developing vision, handling conflict, pastoral care, preaching, discipleship, ministry to youth and children, missions, and identifying and training leaders.

The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Violence, Homicide, and War

Oxford University Press The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Violence, Homicide, and War synthesizes the theoretical and empirical work of leading scholars in the evolutionary sciences to produce the first extensive and authoritative review of this literature. Its breadth of coverage is unique, and ensures that the handbook provides essential reading for students and researchers in the fields of psychology, anthropology, criminology, sociology, ethology, biology, and behavioral ecology.

Promoting a Safer Church

Safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults

Church House Publishing Promoting a Safer Church presents the Church of England's policy statement for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, which applies to all Church bodies and Church officers. It sets out the five foundations on which the policy is based, the six policy commitments that need to underpin all safeguarding work within the Church, and the drive to improve safeguarding practice. All Church bodies should ensure that all Church officers have access to this policy statement and should make sure its contents are promoted, publicised and put into action.

The Deliberate Church

Building Your Ministry on the Gospel

Crossway Dever and Alexander propose a model of complete reliance and submission to the gospel when building a healthy church. Great resource for pastors, elders, and others interested in the vitality of their church.

Seven Churches of Revelation

Enjoy having an easy-to-understand overview on the seven churches in Revelation! Packed with quick-reference charts, simple summaries, and a full-color map, this quick-reference pamphlet explains Jesus' message to each of the seven churches and shows key information at a glance! Perfect for personal use, small groups, or to add depth to any Revelation Bible study.

Apostolic Church Planting

Birthing New Churches from New Believers

InterVarsity Press Church planting is not just about gathering new communities of people who are already Christians. Planting churches flows naturally out of making disciples. In this concise guide, pastor J. D. Payne explains the process and stages of church planting, with biblical foundations and practical steps for planting teams both domestically and internationally.

Sending Well

B&H Publishing Group Sending Well: A Field Guide to Great Church Planter Coaching gives practical steps for creating a system that delivers great coaching to church planters. Whether you are coaching planters or attempting to develop coaches for multiple planters, this book will help you. Sending Well helps coaches and leaders enhance their coaching efforts in three parts: Part One: Build a Coaching Framework - Coaching is a vehicle to help church planters pursue their unique Kingdom assignment. Building a coaching framework is crucial to this assignment. Church planter coaches and the planters they coach must have the same purposes in mind. Building a framework helps ensure this will be the case. Part Two: Develop Great Coaches - Great coaches are made not born; they are

developed. [Sending Well](#) creates simple targets for coaches who want to move from “good enough” to “great.” Part Three: Deliver Great Coaching –The meaning of the word “coach” must evolve from training to action. “Coach” is a verb, and supporting church planters is the desired outcome. [Sending Well](#) explores four vital elements of a coaching delivery system.

Leisure and Fellowship in the Life of the Black Church

Theology and Praxis

Xlibris Corporation [Leisure and Fellowship in the Life of the Black Church](#) explores why leisure and fellowship in congregational life of African American churches matters. The book provides a biblical and theological foundation for the concepts of work, rest, Sabbath, play, leisure and fellowship. Moreover, the book explores how religious tradition and doctrine shape and constrains our attitudes and behaviors about leisure, fellowship and living abundantly. Several churches are lifted as exemplars based on the way that they embrace leisure and fellowship within their respective congregations. In the closing chapters, the book examines what leisure and fellowship might be like in Heaven and how we engage Christ and each other in congregations.

The Child Safeguarding Policy Guide for Churches and Ministries

New Growth Press [Churches](#) have always sought to be a safe haven for children and families, but many today are dealing with the tragic reality of child sexual abuse. For the first time in history, this issue is finally being acknowledged by churches and faith communities. But the task of developing a policy to keep children safe can seem too overwhelming—it feels like an impossible task to plan for every contingency. This results in churches neglecting to put working safety plans in place, leaving themselves, and the children they care for, vulnerable. This handbook, supported by a multidisciplinary team of child abuse experts, is designed to help churches and faith communities formulate policies and procedures to protect children and deal with possible child abuse in their ministries, school, and church. By walking through a wide range of scenarios, this book will assist churches and ministries to assess their current child abuse policies and guide them through each step they should take to address the safety of children under their care. Covering vitally important topics including the warning signs of abuse, how to respond to abuse allegations and care for victims, and the legal implications and requirements for churches and Christian ministries, working through this book will guide churches and Christian ministries in creating and implementing policies to protect children in a Christian environment from child abuse. This handbook is an invaluable resource for Christians who are seeking to educate themselves and others about child abuse and how they can best protect the little ones under their care.

Making New Disciples

Exploring the Paradoxes of Evangelism

SPCK Ten years on from their first book, [Evangelism: Which way now?](#) which has become a valuable and much recommended resource, Mark Ireland and Mike Booker aim to take people a step further. [Making New Disciples](#) offers a practical approach, based on careful theological reflection and years of hands-on experience in local church leadership, theological education and the national church. The book is not so much a Which? guide to the available resources, as a wrestling with the paradoxes of evangelism in a changing world, backed up with plenty of stories and specific examples.

International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2017

Springer This book presents an important discussion on soil and sustainable agriculture from a range of perspectives, addressing key topics such as sustainable intensification, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines, and the crucial role of appropriate tenure rights. This second volume of the International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy is divided into four parts, the first of which deals with several aspects of the theme “soil and sustainable agriculture.” In turn, the second part covers recent international developments, the third part presents regional and national reports, and the fourth discusses cross-cutting issues. Given the range of key topics covered, the book offers an indispensable tool for all academics, legislators and policymakers working in this field. The “International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy” is a book series that discusses central questions in law and politics with regard to the protection and sustainable management of soil and land – at the international, national and regional level. The Chapter “The Use of Property Law Tools for Soil Protection” by Jessica Owley is available open access under a CC BY 4.0 license at link.springer.com.

For the Strength of Youth

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints OUR DEAR YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN, we have great confidence in you. You are beloved sons and daughters of God and He is mindful of you. You have come to earth at a time of great opportunities and also of great challenges. The standards in this booklet will help you with the important choices you are making now and will yet make in the future. We promise that as you keep the covenants you have made and these standards, you will be blessed with the companionship of the Holy Ghost, your faith and testimony will grow stronger, and you will enjoy increasing happiness.

Transcultural Nursing - E-Book

Assessment and Intervention

Elsevier Health Sciences Provide quality care for clients from culturally diverse backgrounds! Transcultural Nursing, 8th Edition shows you how to apply assessment and intervention strategies to individuals from a variety of different cultures. Based on Giger and Davidhizer's unique transcultural model, this text helps you design culturally sensitive care with use of the six key aspects of cultural assessment: communication, time, space, social organization, environmental control, and biologic variations. Written by nursing educators Joyce Newman Giger and Linda G. Haddad, Transcultural Nursing shows how an understanding of cultural variations and individual patient needs will help you provide safe and effective care. UNIQUE! The six key aspects of cultural assessment each receive a full chapter of coverage, allowing you to also apply the Transcultural Assessment Model to cultures not covered in the text. Case studies and critical decision-making questions help you apply the assessment framework to practice. 23 chapters on specific cultural groups apply this assessment model to the clients most commonly encountered in United States health care settings, with nearly all chapters written by contributors who are part of that ethnic group. Client care plans in culture-specific chapters show how to apply principles to the needs of individuals. Review questions reinforce your understanding of cultural principles, with answers found in the back of the book. Discussions of spirituality throughout the text provide a holistic, integrated approach to culture, beliefs, and assessment. NEW co-author Dr. Linda Haddad is an internationally recognized cultural scholar who has taught nursing around the globe, has acted as an advisor and coordinator for the World Health Organization, and has published over 30 scholarly articles on nursing with a focus on understanding the cultural implication to care. UPDATED! Cultural chapters are completely revised to reflect the shifting experiences of cultural groups in our society.

Israel's Law and the Church's Faith

Paul and His Recent Interpreters

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing "Westerholm is admirably concerned to focus our attention on Paul's theology, specifically on the theological issues that arose for the Apostle in his valiant attempt to assess the role of the law after the advent of Christ. Beginning with an unusually mature account of the debate that is currently raging over Paul's understanding of the law, Westerholm has provided an analysis of his own that will certainly claim the attention of all students of Paul the theologian." - J. Louis Martyn "This is the most clearly written and understandable treatment of the debate over the law in Pauline thought that I have seen." - Robert Jewett "Westerholm has produced an illuminating, engaging, and refreshing book. He sets forth the views of major interpreters of Paul with clarity and candor, engages them, and then makes proposals of his own, which are both well considered and instructive. The book is both interesting and informative, a reader's delight." - Arland J. Hultgren

Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual.

Review and Herald Pub Assoc

Natural Church Development 101

Revised introductory brochure for Natural Church Development

Technology, Management and the Evangelical Church

McFarland This book explores the technological innovations and management practices of evangelical Christian religions. Beginning from the late 19th century, the author examines the evangelical church's increasing appropriation of business practices from the secular world as solutions to organizational problems. He notes especially the importance of the church growth movement and the formation of church networks. Particular attention is paid to the history of evangelical uses of computer technology, including connections the Christian Right has made within Silicon Valley. Most significantly, this book offers one of the first academic explorations of the use of cybernetics, systems theory and complexity theory by evangelical leaders and management theorists.

Church Representation Rules

Canterbury Press The essential handbook for everyone in church governance at any level, this new edition has been updated to reflect the changes to the church representation rules since 2006. An essential purchase for all clergy, churchwardens, PCC and synod members.

The Palgrave Handbook of Sustainable Peace and Security in Africa

Springer Nature This handbook takes stock of the African Union's Vision 2020 to rid the African continent of wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, and humanitarian disasters - including violent conflicts and genocide - and provides recommendations on how to address contemporary threats to peace and security in Africa. It explores the continent's current peace and security landscape, including new actors, emerging threats, and the prospects for achieving sustainable peace. With contributions from highly respected experts in the field, both academics and practitioners, the volume unpacks the sources of conflict, instability and the challenges of peace and development, and provides research-based policy advice to guide and inform African governments, policy makers, practitioners, and scholarly audiences on the continent and beyond.

The Christian Writer's Market Guide 2014

Your Comprehensive Resource for Getting Published

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. For more than 25 years, The Christian Writer's Market Guide has been the most comprehensive and highly recommended resource available for Christian writers, agents, editors, publishers, publicists, and writing teachers. In addition to providing a wealth of tips and ideas for publishing in the Christian industry, The Christian Writer's Market Guide also includes up-to-date information on hundreds of book publishers, periodicals, agents, conferences, contests, editorial services niche markets, self-publishing services, and more. This is the ultimate reference tool for the aspiring Christian writer.

The Bloomsbury Handbook to Studying Christians

Bloomsbury Publishing Drawing on a range of methodologies, editors George D. Chryssides and Stephen E. Gregg shift attention from normative textual and doctrinal matters to issues of materiality and everyday life in Christianity. This handbook is structured in four parts, which include coverage of the following aspects of Christianity: sacred space and objects, cyber-Christianity, food, prayer, education, family life, fundamentalism and sexuality. In addition, issues of gender, race and ethnicity are treated throughout. The international team of contributors provide in-depth analysis that highlight the current state of academic study in the field and explores areas in which future research might develop. Clearly organised to help users quickly locate key information and analysis, the book includes an A to Z of key terms, extensive guides to further resources, a comprehensive bibliography and a chronology of landmark events, making it a unique resource to upper-level students and researchers.

Living in Love and Faith

Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage

Church House Publishing Issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience: their sense of identity, their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them. The life and mission of the Church of England – and of the worldwide Anglican Communion – are affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements about these matters, divisions brought into sharper focus because of society's changing perspectives and practices, especially in relation to LGBTBI+ people. Living in Love and Faith sets out to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change. Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, the Living in Love and Faith project has involved many people across the Church and beyond, bringing together a great diversity and depth of expertise, conviction and experience to explore these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say. After a Foreword from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the book opens with an invitation from the Bishops of the Church of England to embark on a learning journey in five parts: Part One sets current questions about human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the context of God's gift of life. Part Two takes a careful and dispassionate look at what is happening in the world with regard to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Part Three explores current Christian thinking and discussions about human identity, sexuality, and marriage. In the light of the good news of Jesus Christ, how do Christians understand and respond to the trends observed in Part Two? Part Four considers what it means for us as individuals and as a church to be Christ-like when it comes to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Part Five invites the reader into a conversation between some of the people who have been involved in writing this book who, having engaged with and written Parts One to Four, nevertheless come to different conclusions. Amid the biblical, theological, historical and scientific exploration, each part includes Encounters with real, contemporary disciples of Christ whose stories raise questions which ask us to discern where God is active in human lives. The book ends with an appeal from the Bishops to join them in a period of discernment and decision-making following the publication of Living in Love and Faith. The Living in Love and Faith book is accompanied by a range of free digital resources including films, podcasts and an online library, together with Living in Love and Faith: The Course, a 5-session course which is designed to help local groups engage with the resources, also published by Church House Publishing.