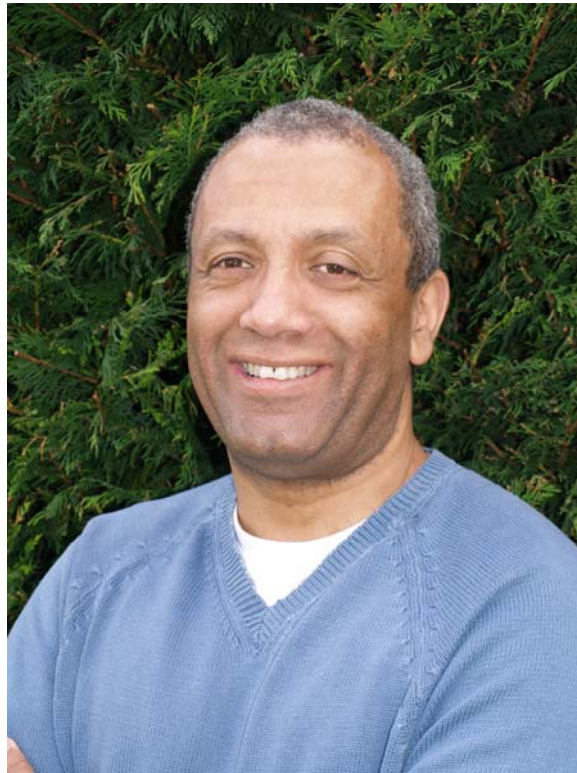


Rev. Prof John Swinton, Ph.D.



Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care (personal chair)
Director of the Centre for Spirituality, health and disability:

www.abdn.ac.uk/cshad

Honorary Professor of Nursing, Centre for Advanced Studies in Nursing
University of Aberdeen
Ordained minister of the Church of Scotland

Master of Christ's College: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/divinity/guide.shtml>

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Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D.
B.D.
R.M.N.(Registered Mental Nurse)
R.N.M.H (Registered Nurse for the
Mentally Handicapped)

Professional Organisations

American Academy of Religion
International Academy of Practical Theology.
British and Irish Association for Practical Theology
Midwifery and Nursing Council
Scottish Association of Chaplains in Health Care

Current Employment Status: Full-time Professor in Practical Theology at the University of Aberdeen.

Personal web page: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/divinity/staff/details.php?id=j.swinton>

Publications

Books

1. *Dementia: Living in the Memories of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. (In press 2012)
2. *Living Well and Dying Faithfully: Christian Practices for End-Of-Life Care* (2009) (Edited text with Richard Payne) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
3. *Living Gently in a Violent World: The Prophetic Witness of Weakness* (2008) (With Stanley Hauerwas and Jean Vanier) IVP
4. *Raging With Compassion: Pastoral responses to the problem of evil.*(2007) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. ISBN: 0-8028-2997
5. *Theology, Disability and the New Genetics: Why Science Needs the Church.* (2007) (Edited text with Dr. Brian Brock) London: T&T Clarke.
6. *Practical theology and qualitative research methods.* (2006) London: SCM Press (With Dr. Harriet Mowat) ISBN: 0334029805
7. *Critical Reflections on Stanley Hauerwas' Essays on Disability: Disabling society, enabling theology* (2005) (Edited text with Stanley Hauerwas) New York: Haworth Press. ISBN: 0-7890-2722-4
8. *Spirituality in Mental Health Care: Rediscovering a "forgotten" dimension.* (2001) Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London. ISBN 1853028045
9. *Resurrecting the Person: Friendship and the care of people with severe mental health problems.* (2000) Abingdon Press, Nashville. ISBN: 0687082285.

10. *The Spiritual Dimension of Pastoral Care: Practical theology in a multidisciplinary context.* (2000) (Edited Text with David Willows) Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London. ISBN 1853028924.
11. *From Bedlam to Shalom: Towards a practical theology of human nature. Interpersonal relationships and mental health care.* (2000) Peter Lang, New York. ISBN 0-8204-4425-1.

Short Monographs

Building a Church for Stranger: Theology, church and learning disability. (1999) Contact Monograph. : Contact Pastoral Trust, Edinburgh. ISBN 0 9522485 6 5.

Official reports from funded research projects

1. *Enabling Communities to meet People with Learning Disabilities and respond effectively to their expressed Spiritual and Religious Needs: A Participatory Action Research Approach.* (In Press)
2. 'Spiritual care at the end of life: a systematic review.' *Literature review of spirituality and end of life care.* Department of Health: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_123812
3. *Suicide in the Highlands: An exploratory study of the role of the Church in deaths by suicide in Highlands, Scotland.* (2006) Highland NHS Trust. (This is the report of a provisional exploration funded by the Highland NHS Trust, exploring the role of religious communities in suicide prevention and the care of families who have encountered suicide). ISBN: 0-954 9901-1-0
4. *What Do Chaplains Do?: A report on a two year investigation into the nature of chaplaincy in the NHS in Scotland.* (2005) Edinburgh: Scottish Executive. (This relates to an 18 month project funded by the Scottish Executive exploring spiritual care in the National Health Service in Scotland. ISBN: 0-9549901-0-2:
5. *Why Are We Here: Understanding the spiritual lives of people with learning disabilities.* (2004) London: Mental Health Foundation. (This is the report of a project done with The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities and funded by the Shelly Foundation.) ISBN: 1 903645 53 0
6. *A Space to Listen: Meeting the spiritual needs of people with learning disabilities.* (2002) ISBN 1903645255. (This is an official report of a piece of funded research I did in 1999 on behalf of the Mental Health Foundation, London, UK) ISBN: 1 903645 25 5.

Refereed papers in peer reviewed journals

1. 'Who is the God we Worship?: Theologies of disability; challenges and new possibilities.' *International Journal of Practical Theology*. Vol. 14. No. 2. Feb 2011.
2. Swinton, J. Bain, V. Ingram, S. Heys, S. "Moving inwards, moving outwards, moving upwards: The role of spirituality during the early stages of breast cancer." *European Journal of Cancer Care*. 20, 5, p. 640-652.
3. 'Whose Story am I? Theology, spirituality and profound intellectual disabilities.' (2011) *Journals of Religion Disability and Health*. Volume 15, Issue 1, pp. 5 - 19
4. John Swinton & Stephen Pattison (2010)' Moving beyond clarity: towards a thin, vague, and useful understanding of spirituality in nursing care.' *Nursing Philosophy* (2010), 11, pp. 226–237.
5. Swinton, J. Yong J, Kim J, Park J, Seo I, (2010) 'Effects of a Spirituality Training Program on the Spiritual and Psychosocial Well-Being of Hospital Middle Manager in Korea.' *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*. 8, pp. 1-9.
6. "Forgetting whose we are: Theological reflections on successful aging, personhood and dementia.' (2007) *Journal of religion, Disability and Health*.
7. Identity and resistance: why spiritual care needs 'enemies'"(2006) *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 15:7 918
8. 'Why psychiatry needs spirituality.' *Royal College of Psychiatrists Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group Newsletter No. 19*, September 2005.
http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college/sig/spirit/publications/NL_19/index.htm
9. 'What does it meant to be ill?: Spirituality and the meaning of illness.' *Journal of Holistic Healthcare*. Vol. 2. Issue 3 August 2005. pp. 31-37.
10. 'The Body of Christ has Down's Syndrome: Theological reflections on disability, vulnerability and Graceful Communities.' (2004) *Journal of Pastoral Theology*. ISSN: 1064-9867
11. 'A Question of Identity: What does it mean for chaplains to become healthcare professionals?' (2003) *Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplains* Volume 6 No.2 October 2003. pp 2-8
12. 'Reclaiming Mystery and Wonder: Towards a narrative based perspective on chaplaincy.' (2002) *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy* pp223-236

13. Response to: 'A critical view of spirituality and spiritual assessment' by P. Draper and W. McSherry (2002) *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 39, 1-2. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. 2002 Oct;40(2):158-60. (With Aru Narayanasamy)
14. 'Spirituality and the Lives of People With Learning Disabilities' *The Tizard Learning Disability Review*. (2002) Volume: 7 Number: 4 Page: 29 – 35
15. 'Spirituality and learning disability Nurses: A qualitative study.' Aru Narayanasamy, Bob Gates, John Swinton. *British Journal of Nursing* Vol. 11 Number 14: 925-988. 25 July-7 August 2002. pp. 948-957.
16. 'Does Evil Have to Exist to be Real: The discourse of evil and the practice of mental health care.' (2002) *Royal College of Psychiatrists Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group Newsletter* no. 7, April.
17. 'Come All Ye Faithful: Spirituality and healthcare practices' *The Health Services Journal* Thursday 20th December 2001 pp24-25. (With Stephen Pattison)
18. 'Building a Church for Strangers: Theology, church and disability' (2001) *Journal of Religion, Disability and Health* Vol. 4 No. 4 Pp. 25-65. ISSN 1522-8967(2001) 4:4
19. 'Persons-in-Relation: The Philosophy of John Macmurray and the Care of Persons with Profound Learning Disability.' *Theology Today* July 2000. Vol 57. 2. Pp 175-184. ISSN 00405736. (with Esther Mackintosh)
20. 'Community and Culture: The Place of the Virtues in Psychiatric Nursing.' (2000) *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. January. Pp. 35-42. ISSN 1351-0126 (200002) 7 : 1-S. (With Andy Mckie)
21. 'Care of Persons, Care of Families: Some Pastoral and Theological Reflections on Violence Within Families.'(1999) *Oates Journal* v. 2. September. (Online journal of pastoral studies) ISSN: 1098-1446.
22. 'The Politics of Caring: Pastoral Theology in an Age of Conflict and Change.' (1999) *Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy* Volume 2. No. 2. ISSN 1463-9920.
23. 'Healing presence: Reclaiming Friendship as a Pastoral Gift' 1998) *Contact: Interdisciplinary Journal of Pastoral Studies* No. 126, ISSN 1352-0806.
24. 'Helande nrvaro.' (1999) *Tro & Liv*. Nr1/199, -rg- ng 58 (Swedish journal of pastoral theology) Pp. 4-9. ISSN 0346-2803
1. 'Restoring the Image: Spirituality in People with Cognitive Disabilities'. (1997) *Journal of Religion and Health*, Vol. 36 No. 1 Spring. Pp. 21-27. ISSN 0022-4197

2. 'Friendship in Community: Creating a Space for Love'(1997) *Contact: Interdisciplinary Journal of Pastoral Studies* No 122. Pages 17–22 ISSN 1352–0806
3. 'Resurrecting the Person: Redefining Mental Illness - A Spiritual Perspective.' (1997) *Psychiatric Care*, 4 (3). P.p. 118-121. ISSN 1352 9579.
4. 'A Question of Values: People with Profound Learning Disabilities, Society and the Church' (1995) *Contact: Interdisciplinary Journal of Pastoral Studies* No 117 Pages 2–7. ISSN 1352–0806

Book Chapters

1. 'Disability Theology' *Wiley-Blackwell Reader in Practical theology*. Wiley-Blackwell. (2011)
2. "Where is your church?": Moving towards a hospitable and sanctified ethnography. In Pete ward (Ed) *Explorations in Ecclesiology and Ethnography* . Grand rapids: Eerdmans Pub. Co. (2011)
3. Swinton, J., and Parkes, M. (2011) "Researching Spirituality: Evidence and practice" in Gilbert, P. (Ed) *Spirituality and Mental Health*, Brighton: Pavilion. (Chapter 3)
4. 'The wisdom of L'Arche and the practices of care: disability, professional wisdom and encounter-in-community.' In Liz Bondi, David Carr, Chris Clark and Cecelia Clegg. *Towards Professional Wisdom Practical Deliberation in the 'People Professions'* London: Ashgate (2011)
5. 'Spirituality, Suffering and Palliative Care: A spiritual approach to palliative care with people who have learning disabilities.' (2006) In S Reed *Palliative Care and People with Learning Disabilities*, Quay Books, (a division of Mark Allen Healthcare)
6. 'Rediscovering Mystery and Wonder: Towards a narrative-based perspective on chaplaincy.' (2002) In Larry Vandecreek *Professional Chaplaincy and Clinical Education Should become more scientific: Yes and no*. Haworth Press'
7. 'Practical Theology.' in *A Companion to Theology and Religious Studies* (2003) Helen Bond, Francesca Murphy and Seth Kunin (Eds) Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
8. 'Constructing Persons: John Macmurray and the Social Construction of Disability' in David A. S. Fergusson and Nigel Dower, eds. *John Macmurray: Critical Perspectives* (New York: Peter Lang, 2001)

9. 'Spiritual Care in Forensic Nursing: Spiritual interventions and future directions in care.' pp. 206-224' in Kettles. Alyson M., Woods, Phil Collins, Mick. *Therapeutic Interventions for Forensic Mental Health Nurses.*(2002) Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London.
10. 'Reclaiming the Soul: A Spiritual Perspective on Forensic Nursing' pp 113–127
11. 'Autonomy and Personhood: The Forensic Nurse as a Moral Agent.' 128–141 in *Forensic Nursing and Multidisciplinary Care of the Mentally Disordered Offender.* (1999) Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London. ISBN 1–85302–754–5.
12. 'Building a Space for Love: Friendship in Community' in *The Spiritual Dimension of Pastoral Care: Practical Theology in a Multidisciplinary Context.* (2000) Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London. ISBN 1853028924.

Chapters in Press

'Spiritual Healing as Hermeneutics.' In Sarah Coakley and Fraser Watts (Eds) *Spiritual Dimensions of Healing.* Templeton Press. (In Press 2011)

Funded research projects (past three years)

1. British Academy BA/ACU Award. 'The lived experience of dementia: Developing a contextual theology.' £4220 This grant has just been awarded and the project commences in September 2011.
2. AHRC Speculative Route Grant Award: *Understanding the spiritual lives of people with profound and complex learning disabilities: a community oriented action research approach.*(£163754.): Completed October 2010. One academic paper has been completed and published (Journal of Religion, Disability and Health see above). I am currently writing up the full report plus one more academic paper.
3. Enabling Communities to meet the Religious and Spiritual Needs as expressed by People with Learning Disabilities: A Participatory Action Research Approach. (£120,000- funded by the Porticus Trust and the Jerusalem trust) Completed November 2010. Final report is currently being written up.
4. Department of Health: '*Spiritual care at the end of life: a systematic review.*' (£49,998) Literature review of spirituality and end of life care. This was a collaborative project with the Universities of Hull and Stafford. It will be completed by August 1st 2010 and published online at the DOH website. papers will be forthcoming..

Keynote Conference Presentations

- 11th November 2011. **Johannelund Theological Seminary, Sweden.**
'Dementia, theology and care.'
- 9th -10th November 2011. **Orebro Theological Seminary, Sweden.** 'The spiritual lives of people with severe intellectual disabilities.'
- 13th July 2011. British and Irish Association for Practical Theology annual conference. 'Autism and love: What does love look like?' **London School of Theology.**
- 29th March 2011. Royal College of Nursing Spirituality and Health Care Conference. 'Spirituality and people with learning disabilities' **London.**
- 29th June 2011. European Society for the Study of Disability Theology annual conference. 'Autistic Love.' **Schoorl, Holland.**
- 17th May 2011. *Annual Malcolm Goldsmith Lecture.* Who will hold my soul?: Dementia, friendship and spirituality of caring communities.' **University of Edinburgh.**
- September, 23rd 2010, *Theology, dementia and resurrection identities.* **University of Durham, UK.**
- May 15th 2010 *Looking at and Living in: Remembering the personal in religion and health research.* **2nd European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health, Berne, Switzerland.**
- February 23rd 2010 *Raging with Compassion: Pastoral responses to the problem of evil.* **Ambrose Theological Seminary, Calgary, Canada.**
- September 16th 2009 *Spirituality in healthcare* **Catholic University, Seoul, Korea.**
- September 11th 2009 *Spirituality and dementia care.* **The Better Practice Conference, Melbourne, Australia.**
- September 1st 2009 *Positioning, holding, and loving. The spiritual heart of dementia care.* **International conference on Ageing. University of Auckland, New Zealand.**
- March 2007 [*Learning From The Disabled: An interdisciplinary symposium sponsored by the Templeton Foundation*](#) **L'Arche, Le Ferm, Trosley-Breuil, France.**
- March 2007. **King's College London** 'Practical Theology and Qualitative Research.'
- December 2007 *Health in the midst of mental illness.* Duke Medical school, **North Carolina.**
- October 2007 *Theology and learning disabilities* Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, **Australia.**
- October 2006 **Houston Baptist University.** 'Spirituality and healthcare: Why nursing needs spirituality.'
- October 2006: **Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies, Canberra, Australia.** 'Alzheimer's and successful ageing?: A theology of dementia care.'
- August 2006 [*The Role of Christian Practices in End of Life Issues: Medical and theological foundations: An interdisciplinary symposium in collaboration with Duke Divinity School, North Carolina.*](#)
- June 2006 College of Healthcare Chaplains-**Durham** 'Why healthcare needs chaplains:' <http://www.wwwbeeson.co.uk/healthcarechaplains/conference06/co nf06day2.htm>

- May 2005 Lecture Series: 'Theology, Mental Health and depression.'
Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey.
- May 2005 **ACPE Annual conference**, *Tuscarora, Pennsylvania* 'Lecture series: 'Spiritual care as hermeneutics.'
- June 2005 **Royal College of Psychiatrists AGM**, Edinburgh *Why Psychiatry Needs Spirituality*.
- November 2004 **American Academy of Religion Conference**, San Antonio *Beyond the social model of disability: theological responses to reflections on disability, deafness and mental ill health*.
- November 2004 **University of Newcastle** *What are people for? Why it might not be such a good idea to kill disabled babies*.
- October 2004 **Ashworth Hospital, Liverpool** *Spirituality and Forensic Health Care*.
- August 2004 **Tayside NHS Trust** conference on Spirituality and Human Well-Being *More to life than Science: The importance of spirituality as meaningful knowledge*.
- June 2004 **Glasgow Caledonian University** *Theological foundations for nursing*.
- April 2004 **University of Kampen**, Holland. *Spirituality and the care of the elderly*.
- February 2004 **University of Glasgow**. *Spirituality in Contemporary Scotland: A healthcare perspective*.
- January 2004 **University of Aberdeen** international, multidisciplinary conference: Integrating Spirituality into Healthcare Practices: Remembering the "Forgotten Dimension." *Spirituality and mental health care*.
- [January 2004 University of Cambridge Symposium on the Spiritual Dimensions of Healing \(chaired by Sarah Coakley\). *Spiritual Healing as Hermeneutics: A practical theological exploration of Jesus' healing miracles*](#).
- August 2003 **Joint Institute of Theology Lectures 2003**, University of St Andrews. *Pastoral Response to Evil - transforming lives of victims and perpetrators of evil*.
- April 2003 **University of Manchester**. International Association for Practical Theology Annual Meeting. *The body of Christ has Down's Syndrome: Theological reflections on L'Arche, disability and Graceful communities*.
- November 2003 **Prague, Czech Republic**. Overcoming Violence: A challenge for the European Churches. *Suicide amongst young men in Scotland*. November 2002. King's College Conference Centre, **University of Aberdeen** Symposium on Palliative Care. *Spirituality in Palliative Care*.
- September 2002 **Royal Society of Medicine**, London *Creativity and learning disability: recognition, nurture and celebration*.

- January 2002 **Royal College of Psychiatrists** Special Interest Group on Spirituality in Psychiatry. *Does evil have to exist to be real? The social construction of evil and the practice of mental health care.*
- December 2001 **Harvard Medical School, Boston.** *Spirituality & Healing in Medicine: Practical Usage in Contemporary Healthcare.*
- December 2005. Stead Centre Lecture: 'Why it might not be such a good idea to kill disabled babies.' Garret Theological Seminary, **Chicago.**
- May 2005 Lecture series: 'Theology, Mental Health and Depression.' *Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey.*
- May 2005 **ACPE Annual conference, Tuscarora, Pennsylvania** 'Lecture series: 'Spiritual care as hermeneutics.'
- November 2004 *American Academy of Religion conference, San Antonio.* 'Why disability matters.'
- October 2004 *Spirituality and Mental Health Conference, Ashworth Hospital, Liverpool.* 'Why science struggles with religion and spirituality.'
- February 2004 *Spirituality in Contemporary Scotland Conference-University of Glasgow.* 'Spirituality in healthcare.'
- January 2004 *Integrating Spirituality into Healthcare Practices? Remembering the "Forgotten Dimension University of Aberdeen international, multidisciplinary conference. 'Spirituality and mental health care.'*
- January 2004 *Symposium on the Spiritual Dimensions of Healing* (chaired by Sarah Coakley) **University of Cambridge.** 'Spiritual Healing as Hermeneutics: A practical theological exploration of Jesus' healing miracles.'
- September 2003 *College of Healthcare Chaplains Annual Meeting. Leeds* 'Listening, hearing and understanding.'
- April 2003 *International Association for Practical Theology Annual Meeting. University of Manchester.* 'The body of Christ has Down's Syndrome: Theological reflections on L'Arche, disability and Graceful communities.'
- March 2003 *'Chaplaincy Tomorrow Conference, Crieff.* 'Can chaplains be healthcare professionals?'
- January 2003 *Tayside Health Board Conference on Spirituality and Healthcare, Dundee.* 'Why bother with spirituality?'
- November 2003 *Overcoming Violence: A challenge for the European Churches. Prague, Czech Republic.* 'Suicide amongst young men in Scotland.'
- November 2002. *Symposium on Palliative Care.* 'Spirituality in Palliative Care.' King's College Conference Centre, **Aberdeen.**
- September 2002 *Creativity and learning disability: recognition, nurture and celebration ?* Royal Society of Medicine, **London**
- June 2002 'Spirituality in dementia care.' *1st Global Conference Making Sense of: Health, Illness and Disease* **St Hilda's College, Oxford.**
- January 2002 *Royal College of Psychiatrists Special Interest Group on Spirituality in Psychiatry.* 'Does evil have to exist to be real? The social construction of evil and the practice of mental health care.'

- December 2001 *Harvard Medical School, Boston*. 'Spirituality & Healing in Medicine: Practical Usage in Contemporary Healthcare.'
- March 2001 *New College, University of Edinburgh* ? Special lecture: 'Resurrecting the Person: Liberation theology and people with severe mental health problems.'
- June 2001 ? *Wayne Oates Institute, Louisville, Kentucky* (Annual Conference) 'Spirituality and Mental Health.'
- 2000 *St John's College Lecture, University of Durham*: 'Liberation Theology and Schizophrenia.'
- September 1999 - 4th *National Symposium on Multidisciplinary Care in Forensic Psychiatric Services* at **Aberdeen** Exhibition Centre. 'Spirituality and Forensic Nursing.'
- April 1999 - *The 8th Annual Wheaton Theology Conference, Wheaton College, Illinois*. 'Spirituality in Mental Healthcare Practices'

Teaching experience and current responsibilities

Postgraduate

I currently have a full postgraduate teaching load within the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy. I also supervise PhD nursing students who are located in the medical school. Over the past four years I have had six PhD students complete their degrees.

Undergraduate

I teach a full range of undergraduate courses in practical theology, including courses in pastoral care and counselling, missiology, the theology of disability and spirituality health and healing. Of particular significance is my honours and masters level course on spirituality health and healing. This course was originally supported by a grant from the Templeton Foundation as part of their spirituality and health programme. It now receives a small amount of funding from the Church of Scotland. The course is unique within the United Kingdom in that it brings together students from medicine, theology and nursing (Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen) and draws them into constructive dialogue around the subject of spirituality, health and healing. In bringing together scientific and theological perspectives around the subject of spirituality and health, it has been possible to draw out the connections and explore the important interconnectivity and complementarity between these three disciplines. Such a combination of disciplines and variety of perspectives has provided a unique educational context within which the relevance and significance of spirituality both for the church in its healing ministry, and for contemporary health care practices, has been explored and its implications for research, theory and practice worked out.

The course has been extremely successful and I am keen to develop this multidisciplinary educational approach with other courses.

Teaching in other disciplines

1. I am an honorary professor at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Nursing at the University of Aberdeen. I teach courses in spirituality and health, healthcare ethics and in research methods to nurses and medics. I also collaborate within the centre's ongoing research programme. As mentioned I currently supervise four PhD students who are based within the centre.
2. I lecture regularly on spirituality, ethics and psychosocial issues to undergraduate nurses at the local nursing school which is based in Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen.
3. I teach students from other healthcare disciplines such as occupational therapy and social work on the significance of theology and spirituality for the practice of healthcare.
4. I also regularly teach medical students on ethics as part of their compulsory module on the moral dimensions of medicine.