



## Podcast 16: Naming the Grace: faith learning in church communities

Clare Watkins, Simon Sutcliffe and Emma Pavey

What resonated most with you in listening to this podcast?

What gave you pause for thought?

### Some quotes to reflect on:

- \* Clare: "There was something about the way in which, inevitably, ministerial theological education privileges a certain kind of a) instrumentalisation of theological education, but also it seems to me to be almost inevitably producing an elite."
- \* Simon: "One of the things that often comes out of working with lay adults who haven't been exposed to any academic theological work is that there's a grittiness to their reflection in a way that...they're not looking for the proper answer...or approval...and there's a freshness about that."
- \* Simon: "Certainly within my Methodist tradition, formation is used about people in theological colleges, and discipleship is used about people in the church and it raises questions for me around, if we think formation is good, and good enough for those who are going to be ordained, surely it's good enough for folk in our churches."
- \* Clare: "There's been a drive...which has tended to instrumentalise lay education according to a clergy agenda: we are equipping people, we're training them, we're giving them tools, and I'm like, for what?...If lay formation isn't for holiness, I don't know what it is for."
- \* Clare: "What keeps coming through is this sense that what is actually most profound for most people, wherever they are but particularly lay people, is the chance conversation...the people you bump into on the dog walk"
- \* Clare: "'Call no-one teacher'...the only person who teaches is God so learning formation is an act of the Spirit and it's attending to that that all of us should be interested in."
- \* Simon "[Decomposing and recomposiing], being a human being, means that there always bit of me, physically and in my head, that are dying and reforming all the time."
- \* Simon: "There's something around seeing...formation as compost...that says all of me is involved in this process, it's fully embodied."
- \* Simon: "People can figure out why they disagree with each other much better when they know why they've arrived, when they think 'oh that's why I think like that'...'oh I come to this from this place, that's why I feel like that"

# The Susanna Wesley Foundation



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### \* Resources and references mentioned

- \* Edward Farley's 'clerical paradigm'. See ch. in *Practical Theology* (Browning, ed).
- \* Kevin Kelly
- \* Donna Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble*
- \* Al Barrett & Ruth Harley, *Being Interrupted*
- \* Composting Christianity, episode series on the *Unknowing* podcast
- \* Bayo Akomolafe
- \* Sam Ewell *Faith Seeking Conviviality*
- \* Clare Watkins *Disclosing Church*
- \* Helen Cameron, Clare Watkins et al *Talking about God in Practice*
- \* Jeff Astley *Ordinary Theology*
- \* Avery Dulles *Models of the Church*
- \* Rooms: Thomas Aquinas, Karl Barth, Catherine Keller, Sallie McFague
- \* Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner, *Communities of Practice*
- \* Mike Higton *Vulnerable Learning*