

# Barrenness, Disability, and Death: Re-membering the Body

From Monday 5th to Friday 9th October 2026, St George's House will hold a Consultation entitled *Barrenness, Disability, and Death: Re-membering the Body*. This has been designed for Clergy with at least five years of ministerial experience. Three doctoral researchers from the University of Aberdeen – Stephanie Kate Judd, Phil King and Breanne Magill – will lead it, assisted by the Dean and Canons of Windsor.

Humans habitually set expectations based on what we consider to be normal. It can be disruptive, then, when our bodies or the bodies of people around us don't function according to those norms—as in cases of infertility, disability, or the tragic death of loved ones. These experiences can destabilise our spiritual identities and isolate us from ourselves, God, and our neighbours.

This consultation will consider how a richly theological understanding of infertility, disability, and death can help us reframe what it means to be, and thrive as, embodied, finite creatures. Doing so will ultimately help us re-member ourselves and one another, reintegrating what has been fractured in body, spirit, and community. We will explore inherent challenges and offer scriptural and liturgical resources that shape a faithful response. Moving from the particularities of these instances toward their shared human resonance, we will invite a renewed attentiveness to the body—both individually and collectively in Christ—as the site of shared suffering, grace, and wholeness.

The programme will feature shared discussion, individual reflection, and engaging presentations from our speakers:



## **Stephanie Kate Judd**

Stephanie is currently pursuing doctoral research in theological ethics at the University of Aberdeen. An Australian qualified lawyer, she is exploring the anthropologies behind certain practises of law-making in common law jurisdictions. She has a combined degree in Law and Arts from the University of Sydney, and has read theological studies at the University of Oxford. Her abiding interest in disability stems in part from her experience of living with hemidystonia for more than 20 years.

## **Phil King**

Phil is a doctoral student at the University of Aberdeen studying theological ethics, systematic theology, and philosophical theology. His research focuses on the intersections of philosophy of language, Reformed sacramentology, and theologies of death. He holds degrees with distinction across the following disciplines: a HDip in Philosophy from Maynooth University; an MDiv from Fuller Seminary; and an MTh in Theological Ethics from the University of Aberdeen. He has tutored master's-level courses at Fuller Seminary and regularly preaches for congregations within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

## **Breanne Magill**

Breanne is a postgraduate researcher in Practical Theology at the University of Aberdeen. Her work examines the impact of infertility on people's experiences of faith, with particular attention to theological embodiment, prayer, and the providence of God. She holds an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary and a BA in Theology from Whitworth University. An ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she has also served in a variety of pastoral contexts, including parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy.

If you would like to join us from 5-9 October, please email St George's House – [patricia.birdseye@stgeorghouse.org](mailto:patricia.birdseye@stgeorghouse.org) – or telephone 01753 848886 for an application form.

*Places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.*

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