

Call for Papers 2010

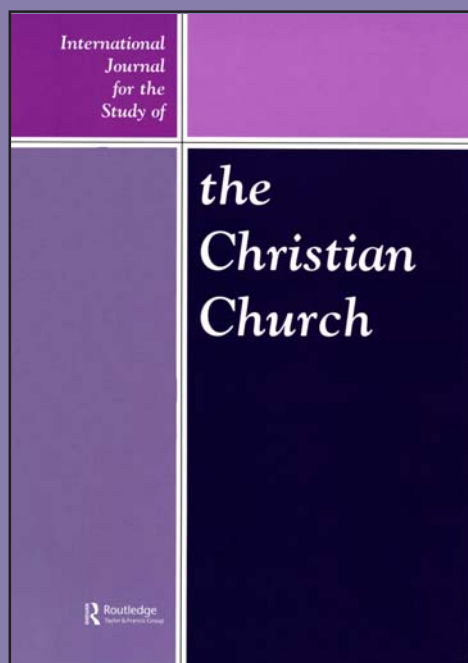
Human Mortality and the Church Triumphant

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The Christian Church originates in the saving acts of God in Christ, who through his Passion, Death and Resurrection brings about the new creation of which the Church is the first fruits. The Church therefore belongs to both time and eternity, and encompasses all in whatever part of the Church's history who have been baptised into Christ. Traditional Western theology has spoken of the Church Militant, the Church Expectant and the Church Triumphant, and Christian worship in both East and West has been understood as a participation in the worship of heaven. As St Augustine said, 'We are Easter people and "Alleluia!" is our song'.

In contemporary Western society Christian understandings of death are often challenged by the individualism of a changing culture, and the language of Christian hope is currently muted. It is against this background that we have planned a themed issue of *IJSCC* for November 2010 which will focus on a number of aspects of research currently being undertaken on human mortality, with particular reference to the concept of the Church Triumphant.

Articles of approx. 8000 words are invited for this issue. They may focus on ecclesiology in relation to the Christian hope; liturgy and prayer in relation to death, dying and the departed; cultural change and its impact on Christian understanding of death, dying, disposal and memorialisation; and significant interactions between the Christian tradition and other faiths in this area.

Articles may cover areas such as the following, though other topics of research are not excluded. A clear reference to the overall ecclesiological concern of *IJSCC* should be borne in mind.

- Death, heaven and the communion of saints
- Significant theological accounts of human mortality both historical, contemporary, and comparative
- Cultural change, including secularisation, and its impact on this area of Christian theology and liturgical practice
- The biblical roots of a Christian theology of death
- Significant literary treatments of the theme
- Grief, bereavement and mourning rituals and practices
- Final Judgement and the Christian hope of resurrection and eternal life
- Current interpretation of the 'four Last Things'
- Ethical, medical and legal issues about death and dying

The Editors seek research articles of high quality, both from those who have already made a key contribution in this field of study and from emerging scholars, in order to ensure that this special issue provides a wide and coherent conspectus that will make a significant contribution to the theme it seeks to address.

Guidelines for authors are available on the *IJSCC* website: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/ijsc>; other style guidance will be provided to authors whose Abstracts are accepted.

Prospective contributors should submit an Abstract (max. 500 words) by 30 October, 2009.

The Editors will communicate their choice of articles for this issue very shortly after that date.

Deadline for submission of finished articles for refereeing: 31 March, 2010. All abstracts and articles, and any other communications related to this call for papers must be sent to the Academic Editors, The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell and The Revd Deacon Dr Christine Hall at: editorsijsc@eastmarden.net