

BOOK REVIEWS



**John Caperon, Andrew Todd, and James Walters, eds.,
A Christian Theology of Chaplaincy
(London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018), 174 pp.**

In Britain, where institutional churches are becoming increasingly marginalized and at the same time as there has been an “apparent burgeoning of chaplaincy” (p. 16), the editors of this slender volume assemble several essays that grapple with the theology of chaplaincy understood within a Christian context. All except one of the seven authors are Anglican clergy. Even though their scope of inquiry is limited to chaplains from the Church of England in that country, the book offers broader implications regarding how chaplaincy relates to the life and ministry of the church in other countries and cultures.

Andrew Todd contributes a chapter titled “A Theology of the World” and the conclusion, subtitled “An Invitation to Theology.” Other chapters are by James Walters, “Twenty-First Century Chaplaincy: Finding the Church in the Post-Secular”; Rowan Williams, “All Faiths and None?: Theological Issues in Multi-Faith Chaplaincy”; and Ben Ryan (a researcher at a Christian think tank and the only non-clergy among the authors), “Theology and Models of Chaplaincy.” Other contributors are Margaret Whipp, “Embedding Chaplaincy: Integrity and Presence”; John Caperon, “Introduction: The Age of Chaplaincy” and “Chaplaincy and Traditional Church Structures”; and James Walters and Charlotte Bradley, “Chaplaincy and Evangelism.”

Ryan cites evidence that many Anglican chaplains in the United Kingdom, including a disproportionate number in same-sex relationships, feel disenfranchised from their church. This would also seem to be the case for

many chaplains who gravitate—or, theologically, are called—to this ministry in the United States. The invitation of this book is for chaplains across the religious spectrum to reflect on how they see their ministry, often in secular institutions, in relationship to the mission of their endorsing religious body. Where is the coherence, and where are the points of tension?

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