



Participant Information Sheet

Research into beliefs about dreams and their interpretations in pastoral ministry among Anglican clergy and ordinands.

CUREC Approval Reference:

Dear Participant,

Thank you for your interest in this exciting project and for potentially providing insightful data into this fascinating topic. It is particularly concerned with what both clergy and ordinands believe about dreams theologically, and with their own personal experiences around dreams, the dreams of others and the role of dream-interpretation in pastoral practice. Your contributions to this project may come in two parts:

- Part 1: Completing an Online Questionnaire
- Part 2: Participating in a One-to-one Interview (online via MS Teams or Zoom)

You are invited to participate in the questionnaire (1) and if interested, volunteer for a follow-up interview (2). Please read the following information about the project before completing the online questionnaire using the link sent to you by email.

General Information

The aim of this research is to address a gap in the practical theology literature by exploring clergy beliefs on dreams and their interpretations in pastoral ministry through a qualitative research method known as interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA). With dreams occurring numerous times across the biblical literature and being a key part to the Christian story, this project seeks to explore current views among Anglican clergy and ordinands in relation to their spiritual traditions and pastoral ministries. The aim is to contribute to the conversation on dreams in Christian theology and offer some further insight into dreams and interpretations for both current and training clergy.

You have been invited to participate as you are either ordained in the Church of England or an ordinand currently studying at a recognised Theological Education Institution. Please read through this information before agreeing to participate (if you wish to). You may ask any questions before deciding to take part by contacting the researcher (details below).

The Principal Researcher is Joshua Stenner, who is attached to the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford. This research is being completed under the supervision of Dr Jonathan Jong & Dr Joanna Collicutt.

For this project, we are asking participants to complete an online questionnaire to record their beliefs in dreams, the possibility of interpretation, and their potential use across pastoral ministry.

This should take about 10-15 minutes. No background knowledge is required. Secondly, we are asking some participants if they would be willing to be contacted for a follow-up interview at a later stage to provide more insight into their beliefs and experiences of dreams.

The data is needed to explore, in a meaningful way, what some beliefs among Anglican clergy and ordinands are in relation to their [future] pastoral ministry. Responses to the online questionnaire and interview questions will be analysed for key themes that emerge from the data which can later be critically discussed in relation to Christian theology. This data will be stored securely on the University's Nexus365 OneDrive for Business, where only the principal researcher and appropriate supervisor will have access.

Do I have to take part?

No. Please note that participation is voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point for any reason before submitting your answers by pressing the 'Exit' button/ closing the browser.

We have made each set of questions optional should you prefer not to answer a particular question.

How will my data be used?

We will not collect any data that could directly identify you for the online survey. If you are willing to be interviewed, your email address will be stored safely with only the primary researcher having access. Any identifiable information collected through the interview questions shall be pseudonymised.

Your IP address will not be stored¹. We will take all reasonable measures to ensure that data remain confidential. The responses you provide will be stored in a password-protected electronic file on University of Oxford secure servers and may be used in academic publications, conference presentations, and reports for external organisations. Research data will be stored for 3 years after publication or public release of the work of the research.

Who will have access to my data²?

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data and, as such, will determine how your personal data is used in the research. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights>.

We would also like your permission to use the data in future studies, and to share data with other researchers (e.g. in online databases). Data will be de-identified before it is shared with other researchers or results are made public.

The results will be written up for an MTh Applied Theology degree.

¹ Guidance is available within CUREC's [Best Practice Guidance \(06\) on Internet-mediated research](#)

² Guidance is available within CUREC's [Best Practice Guidance \(09\) on Data collection, protection and management](#)

Who has reviewed this research?

This research has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee **R86167/RE001**.

Who do I contact if I have a concern or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this research, please speak to Joshua Stenner, Joshua.stenner@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk or their supervisor Dr Jonathan Jong, Jonathan.jong@anthrop.ox.ac.uk and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Social Sciences & Humanities Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Boundary Brook House, Churchill Drive, Headington, Oxford OX3 7GB

Please note that you may only participate in this survey if you are 18 years of age or over.