

SCARF OR STOLE AT ORDINATION: A Plea for the Evangelical Conscience (Latimer Briefing 10)

Andrew Atherstone

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The question of scarf or stole at ordination has rumbled on for over a century. Evangelical clergy and ordinands today may know it is an issue but are not always able to articulate the reasons for it. Bishops also make it an issue, often on different grounds. Last year two conservative evangelical curates I know were told to wear a stole at ordination. The first was my curate, and a letter to our Bishop secured a concession and no stole was worn. The second, in a different Diocese, was challenged even on the pre-ordination retreat. In the end he was allowed to wear a scarf, but it made a miserable experience of what should have been a time of celebration. Such stories could be multiplied. The issue of scarf or stole has not gone away.

This booklet is written to help all sides better understand the historical debates. Atherstone shows why wearing a preaching scarf is a question of conscience, historically and theologically informed. He shows why the scarf is a mark of evangelical ministry, and how comprehension in this matter should be a mark of episcopal ministry. It is a courteous plea to Bishops, based on new research.

This booklet should be required reading for all evangelical clergy and ordinands. It would also be worth finding out whether your Diocesan Bishop and DDO have received a copy.

ED MOLL

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'ALL SHALL BE WELL': Explorations in Universal Salvation and Christian Theology from Origen to Moltmann

Gregory MacDonald (=Robin Parry), ed.

Cambridge: James Clarke & Co, 2011 448pp £27.75pb
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Robin Parry is on a mission. Having published (also using the pseudonym 'Gregory MacDonald'), *The Evangelical Universalist*, in 2008, he here commends to the reader seventeen theologians who have advocated some form of belief in universal salvation. Each of these theologians receives a chapter-length treatment from an academic expert, and Parry provides an introductory survey. His aim is explicit, and stated from the outset: to recover the 'slender thread' of universalistic doctrine that runs throughout Christian history, and so to re-locate universalism in the

