

Participant Information FAQ/ Plain Language Statement	
Study Title:	What are the key joys and challenges experienced by current and retired ministers serving in rural contexts, and how do these shape their understanding of ministry and mission in this context?
Researcher:	Annemarie Douglas
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Course:	MTh Missiology
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Invitation	
<p>You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.</p>	
What is the purpose of the study?	
<p>This study explores the experiences of ministers serving in rural contexts, focusing on both the joys and challenges they encounter. Rural ministry presents unique opportunities, such as fostering deep relationships within close-knit communities, but also significant difficulties, including geographic isolation, resource limitations, and evolving congregational needs. Understanding these dynamics is essential for supporting ministers and ensuring the sustainability of rural faith communities.</p> <p>By taking part, you will have the opportunity to reflect on your experiences in rural ministry and contribute to a broader understanding of how ministers navigate their roles. The study seeks to highlight the realities of rural church leadership and explore how these experiences shape theology, mission, and pastoral care. Participants' insights could help inform strategies to better support clergy wellbeing and enhance the effectiveness of rural ministry. By participating, you will be helping to shape conversations around the future of rural ministry.</p>	
Why have I been chosen?	
<p>You have been chosen on the following basis</p> <p>You have a professional involvement in an area directly relevant to the research topic.</p>	
Do I have to take part?	
<p>It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, then up until any cut-off date for the anonymisation of data, you may still free to withdraw without giving a reason.</p>	

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If you do not opt to remain anonymous then you can withdraw at any time in the process without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be invited to take part in the following participant activities

- An interview lasting approximately 60 minutes. The interview can be conducted either be in-person or via Microsoft Teams. If the interview is in person, it will take place in a safe location agreed between you and the researcher. The interview will be audio recorded.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential? What will happen to the project data and the results of the research study?

The data gathered for this project is for the purposes of a postgraduate research project. The project data will be securely kept. Interview contributions will either be anonymised, or you can choose to be cited by name/ referred to by a pseudonym of your choosing. Once transcribed and redacted, the data may be cited and discussed in publications (online and in print), as well as in other public domain outputs typically associated with HE research contexts (e.g. conference and other presentations).

The transcripts from this work will be deposited for long-term safekeeping in the research data repository Enlighten: Research Data. If you have consented to being identifiable, your name will be included in the transcript. If you have requested anonymity or the use of a pseudonym, please note that while every effort will be made to ensure no identifying information is included in the repository deposit, it may be possible for people to identify you from things you have said in the interview.

The transcripts will be made openly available for people who are interested in this work to read and re-use in future work.

Please read the agreement form for detailed terms and conditions regarding the use of your contribution and the handling and processing of data.

- Data collected as part of this project will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). Please note that the 'lawful basis' that applies for data processing in this case is **Public Task**. Under the selected basis, your data subject rights are limited to access and objection. Where necessary or requested, the researcher may agree to you withdrawing your contribution from the project, in which case this is in addition to your statutory rights. Anonymised data are exempt from data subject rights – unless you have grounds to believe that you remain identifiable from the data as presented.
- Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

Who is organising and funding the research? (If relevant)

Who has reviewed the study?	
Materials relating to the study have been scrutinised and approved by members of the College of Arts & Humanities Research Ethics reviewer panel.	
Application reference number:	Date of approval letter:
How can I access information relating to me or complain if I suspect information has been misused/ used for purposes other than I agreed to?	
<p>You can contact the researcher or their supervisor in the first instance if you have any concerns. If you are not comfortable doing this, or if you have tried but don't get a response or if the person in question appears to have left the University, you can contact the College of Arts & Humanities Ethics Officer (email: arts-ethics@glasgow.ac.uk).</p> <p>Where there appear to have been problems, you can – and indeed may be advised to – submit an 'access request' or an objection to the use of data. As part of the University's obligations under UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), participants retain the rights to <u>access</u> and <u>objection</u> with regard to the use of non-anonymised data for research purposes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access requests and objections can be submitted via the UofG online proforma accessible at: https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/dpfooffice/gdpr/gdprrequests/#. 2. Access requests and objection are formal procedures not because we mean to intimidate participants into not raising issues, but rather because the University is legally required to respond and address concerns. The system provides a clear point of contact, appropriate support and a clear set of responsibilities. 3. Anyone who submits a request will need to provide proof of their identity. Again, this is not to deter inquiries, but rather reflects the University's duty to guard against fraudulent approaches that might result in data breaches. 4. You also have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (https://ico.org.uk/concerns/). 	