|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| John Hunt Publishing - **Circle Books** - announces the new title | | |
| **Persuasion of Love, The** Is there a theological Theory of Everything?  John Blakely  The Persuasion of Love examines the implications of believing that ‘the meaning of the universe is love’. It is axiomatic that the Christian faith is about the love of God, but John Blakely seeks to delve behind this easy assertion by proposing that all human love has God as its source, even if marred by human failings, and by exploring what it might mean for God to have created out of love. Viewing theodicy through the lens of love, the book finishes with a lyrical reflection on the fact that suffering is built into the universe because of its source in the love of God, and that we live in the ‘now and not yet’ - in tension between the glory of creation and the agony of the cross, before the future glory of the new creation.  **Author Bio** A Christian writer, with a particular interest in theodicy and the theology of creation, John Blakely is also a professional classical pianist and accompanist teaching at the Royal College of Music. He is the author of God in the Dark, published under the pseudonym Peter Longson. He lives in Beckenham, South London, UK.  **Previous Titles** God in the Dark (9781849522151), (published under pseudonym Peter Longson), Wild Goose Publications, 2012.  **Endorsements** *‘If we are willing to do as God has done and risk everything for love, then he may be able to surprise us,’ says John Blakely. This book is an inspiring and poetic meditation on love, desire and grief in the context of Christian faith. Using practical insights from personal suffering, from science and scripture, from theology and from his professional musicianship, John Blakely writes beautifully about how our experiences of love challenge us to expand our thinking and doing in response to the love of God. Read it with joy, risk everything, and be surprised into action by the depths of God’s love in us and for us and for all the world.* ***The Very Revd Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London***  **Promotional Plans** Source key endorsements. Promote title by email newsletter to author's church, cathedral and ministry training contacts, and readers of his first book. Promotion through Balliol College, Oxford and Royal College of Music newsletters, and online social platforms.  **USP** Deep theology and philosophy written in an engaging and non-technical style. Approachable but with no dumbing-down, John Blakely risks asking some of humanity's most profound unanswered questions.  **Competing Books** The Work of Love: Creation as Kenosis 9780802848857, by J. C. Polkinghorne (Ed.) Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001  **Categories** RELIGION (General)(REL067000) -> Christian Theology (General)(REL067000) RELIGION (General)(REL012050) -> Christian Life (General)(REL012050) -> Love & Marriage(REL012050) PHILOSOPHY (General)(PHI022000) -> Religious(PHI022000) |  | **Publication Date** March 2019  **Paperback** ISBN: 978-1-78904-000-5 $16.95  |  £10.99 8.5x5.5 inches | 216x140 mm 144PP  **e-book** ISBN: 978-1-78904-001-2 $7.99  |  £4.99  **Library of Congress** 2018932807 |
| Distributed to the trade by National Book Network in US; by Orca Marston in UK Publisher contact: beccy@jhpbooks.net [circle-books.com](http://circle-books.com) |  |  |