



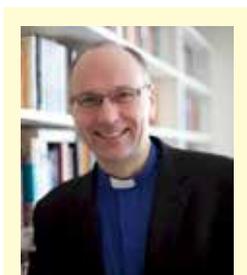
# FROM THE grove

LATEST NEWS AND REVIEWS FROM ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

SUMMER 2018

Message from  
the Principal:

## Vocation, Vocation, Vocation



Revd Dr David Hilborn, Principal

As I write this, I've just returned from the European Leadership Forum in Wisla, Poland. 'ELF', as it's known, draws together some 700 evangelical leaders from a wide range of denominations and networks right across the European continent - from Portugal to Ukraine, from Norway to Greece, and all countries in between. It was a great week of lectures, seminars and sermons, of networking and mentoring. I very much enjoyed speaking there and

continued on page 2

VOCATIONS WEEKEND  
Exploring Your Calling  
5-7 October 2018  
at Launde Abbey, Leics  
Come and explore God's call on your life.  
Lead by faculty and friends of St John's  
College Nottingham.  
Details to follow but save the date now!  
Places limited, register your interest now  
by emailing [j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

StJohn's  
COLLEGE NOTTINGHAM

Our God is a God who speaks; and as he speaks, he also calls. The very cosmos was spoken into being when God said, 'Let there be light!' (Genesis 1:3). Men and women were spoken into existence when God said, 'Let us make humankind in our own image' (Genesis 1:26). And soon enough, God was calling – calling Adam and Eve to enjoy creation while obeying his word; calling Israel to follow his Law, leave slavery behind, and become a light to all nations. When Jesus made that calling possible as God's Son, Israel's Messiah and the world's Saviour, he himself called disciples to follow him, and to make disciples who would in turn call others to mission and ministry. Today, the need for servants of Christ who heed God's call is as great as ever, and here at St John's we're committed to enabling folk to discern and develop their calling.

The Latin word for 'to call' is vocare, from which we derive the term vocation. Often, 'vocations' are associated with ordained ministry, and we must certainly encourage Christians to consider ordination when they appear to have the potential for it. But the church as a whole is a 'royal priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9), and vocation in its fullest sense is about all disciples, lay and ordained, living out their calling together, for the glory of God. Historically, we've run regular college 'Vocations Weekends' with a particular focus on prospective ordinands. But as initiatives like the recent Setting God's People Free report emphasise the ministry of the whole body of Christ, we've reworked our approach to vocations accordingly. So, the first in a series of 'new look' Vocations events will take place at Launde Abbey in the autumn. Please encourage anyone you know who wants to explore their calling, or live it out more effectively, to come along. Please also consider coming yourself.

continued from front page

## contents

- 3 A Trio of Chaplains
- 4 Boosting Business Development
- 5 Partnering the Church of Ireland
- 6 Miscellany
- 8 Resources
- 10 Youth Ministry in the Footsteps of St Paul
- 11 MCYM News
- 14 Distance Learning News
- 16 Where are You Now?

hearing others speak, and particularly valued the opportunity to encourage and advise younger theologians in their research and teaching. But the executive team of ELF are insistent that it's not a conference, but a community - a community on the move, dedicated to uniting, equipping and resourcing Christian leaders to evangelise Europe and renew the European church. In this vein, the many tangible partnerships and programmes that it fosters work all year round under its aegis to inspire congregations and agencies, and to transform communities and nations in the name of Christ.

In the Bible, we're frequently exhorted to model forms of Christian unity that are more than just fleeting or abstract. In John 17:21 Jesus prays intensely to the Father as he prepares for the cross, that his disciples might be one as he and the Father are one, so that 'that the world may believe'. As I write this we've also just celebrated Trinity Sunday, when we remember the profound unity of the Son with the Father, and of both with the Holy Spirit, and when we're challenged to redouble our efforts to reflect that unity in activities that are tangibly and meaningfully co-ordinated with other Christian sisters, brothers, churches and organisations. One of the terms most frequently used by Paul to describe such visible and practical unity is *koinonia*, often translated 'fellowship', but also significantly rendered as 'communion'. Too often, we Christians are content with the notion that it's fine to do our own thing in our own silos because we're somehow ethereally 'one in spirit', or because we'll eventually be 'one in heaven'. But that's not the oneness for which Jesus prayed, or for which Paul called. True oneness in Christ is oneness in his body (Matt. 26:26-28; Rom. 12:5) – a substantive, enduring, demonstrable oneness in which we 'do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit' and 'look to the interests of others' (Phil. 2:3-4).

Twenty years ago, St John's entered into just such a partnership with CYM - the Centre for Youth Mission, now the Institute for Children, Youth and Mission. That partnership continues to this day in the form of our Midlands CYM centre and has been strengthened more recently as we've taken on administration for national CYM. Likewise, we cherish our partnership with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, with whom we deliver pre-ordination training through our Graduate Certificate programme. And right now, I'm delighted to say that we're developing exciting new partnerships in the gospel with Hope, Nottingham and Workplace Ministries through our updated distance and blended learning curricula. Furthermore, the Resourcing Ministerial Education initiative has opened up positive new opportunities for authentic unity and co-operation between different Anglican training institutions in our region. There'll be more to report on the latter in the next newsletter, but as in all our endeavours for unity, we'd greatly value your prayers that the bonds we form with others would be rich, deep and durable, to the glory of the triune God who calls us in all of our diversity to true oneness in the body, for the sake of his mission to the world.



# A Trio of Chaplains!



Most of us are familiar with the saying “*good things come in threes*”. This is certainly the case with the appointment earlier this year of Rev Amanda Lees as Chaplain to the Right Reverend Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. Amanda becomes the third appointment as a Chaplain to Bishops and even an Archbishop! She follows in the footsteps of two other past students, Revd Dr Jenny Corcoran who is Chaplain to the Bishop of Dover, and Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to none other than the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Amanda trained on the St John’s part time ordination route prior to becoming curate in the United Benefice of Blidworth and Rainworth and was also a Trustee of St John’s for a short time prior to her new appointment. Drawing on her experience as a student and her previous strategic role at Boots, Amanda shared guidance, professional insights and knowledge with her fellow Trustees.

Jenny Corcoran and Isabelle Hamley were Biblical Studies tutors at St John’s, having previously trained with us for ordination. Both have gone on to complete their PhDs. All at St John’s give thanks for Isabelle and Jenny’s skills as gifted tutors and wise and insightful team members supporting colleagues and students with dedication and enthusiasm.

It is encouraging and affirming to be reminded that St John’s ordination training is producing high calibre ministers and leaders in the church. At St John’s we’re thrilled and proud to have these three amazing alumni appointed to such prominent, high profile posts. We continue to pray for them and all our past students as they continue to grow the Kingdom.



Story to tell? We would love to include stories from students, alumni and Trustees in future newsletters. Please email [j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

# Boosting Business Development

Keith Tripp joined the team in February as Business Development Director. Here he tells us how he is looking to help grow St John's programmes and partnerships.

How many of us believe that we have a good enough understanding of the Bible and how to interpret it for our life today? Certainly, I do not consider myself to be in that position, and I've been a Christian for 50 years and am currently studying for a Masters in Theology.

St John's is currently reviewing itself to meet today's needs whilst maintaining the theological robustness that we are well known for. We have a suite of University validated programmes that have gained good traction, and as Business Development Director, I have a brief to develop courses in partnership with other organisations that will address the need for additional theologically robust learning. This has led me to explore partnerships with organisations that support Christians in their ministry expression in the workplace, organisations that encourage a strategic approach to prayer, and organisations that encourage evangelical Christian mission to address everyday needs. I'm interested in meeting with anyone that is involved in these types of activities so that we can ensure that the theologically robust training that we develop will be totally relevant and can be applied effectively.

For many years I was mentored in how to be more effective in my ministry within the workplace as my responsibilities for international management grew. I've studied ardently and have several managerial qualifications, including an MBA, and see the need for theologically robust managerial training. That is training that does not just accept expansion of the rich-to-poor divide, resigned to the belief that there is nothing that we can do about it because globalisation and market economics drive an agenda that cannot be changed. I believe that as Christians we have a responsibility to make a difference by ensuring that business decisions consider the poor, the disadvantaged, the environment and society in general, rather than just profit generation.

Prayer is high on my agenda, I have a prayer room at home, because I firmly believe that



strategic prayer facilitates the fulfilment of God's plan and purpose. Theologically there are diverse approaches to the impact that we can have in prayer and to how we can release the power of God into situations through our intercession. By developing a series of courses on prayer we aim to guide individuals in these different models as they explore their calling in prayer.

I'm sure that we could all improve the effectiveness and consistency of our Christian mission in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and meeting the needs of those around us. This takes many different forms and there are many organisations that help with the practicalities of this, but we will endeavour to facilitate individuals' thinking so that they can come to a place where they are inspired effectively to fulfil their calling in Christian mission.

The impact of studying theology goes beyond one's own benefit because there will be an overflowing of the reality of Jesus Christ through us that will positively impact the people that we are in contact with. So, if you're interested in being part of building the future through partnership, or are interested in studying yourself, I'd love to hear from you.

Keith Tripp MBA, DipM, MCIM Chartered Marketer  
Business Development Director  
[keith.tripp@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:keith.tripp@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

# Partnering the Church of Ireland

Every year we make a special visit to Dublin to meet a group of about 30 new students who study with us through the Church of Ireland. They are Readers in training and those who are preparing for selection for ordination, all of them working in the church across Ireland. Studying for the Graduate Certificate through distance learning they embark on the course for one or two years. The Certificate, validated by Durham, takes the students through three modules on Biblical Studies, Christian Doctrine and Christian Ministry.

At the introductory weekend the focus is on vocation, with key sessions very ably led by our former Principal, Christina Baxter. We were guided through a Biblical analysis of the call of God in our lives and asked to reflect on our next steps in ministry. In groups the students had the opportunity to discern and respond to where God is guiding them. This sets the pattern for their future studies, where on study days through the year students are introduced to the academic modules and have the opportunity in groups to share ideas and support one another in their academic work. Technically, this is known as 'blended learning', a mix of distance and face-to-face learning, enabling students to benefit from a rounded education.

Despite the weather of a February weekend

in Dublin we always enjoy the generous Irish welcome and hospitality that extends to excellent accommodation, and good food and company. Furthermore, on the Saturday evening there was the opportunity to partake of a glass of Guinness in a local hostelry, where the televised presence of the international rugby matches provided a memorable atmosphere of excitement. On the Sunday morning the weekend culminated with the service of Holy Communion where we gathered together our thoughts and prayers as we looked to the future with God.

Our work with the Church of Ireland at the Dublin introductory weekend continues with other visits from St John's academic staff to introduce specific modules. For instance our current Principal David Hilborn introduces the ministry module each November. These visits build on our partnering relationships and are a valuable part of our distance learning programme. They provide us with a model to use with other potential partners both in the UK and beyond, and are yet another opportunity for St John's to serve the wider church as people extend their theological education and discern the call of God in their lives.

**Revd Dr John Tomlinson**  
Director of Studies

[john.tomlinson@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:john.tomlinson@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)



<https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk>

**StJohn's**  
COLLEGE NOTTINGHAM

# Miscellany

## Dates for the Diary

- 7-9 September'18 [Skilled Pastoral Carer opening residential](#)  
A six month course, predominantly distance learning, to equip people in basic skills in communication and interpersonal relationships. See p15
- 11 September'18 [Thiselton Lecture](#)  
This year's lecture will be delivered by Melody Briggs. See p7
- 5-7 October'18 [Vocations weekend - Exploring Your Calling](#)  
Join us for an exploration of God's call on your life. Details to follow, places limited, register your interest now by emailing [j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)
- 14-17 January'19 [Chaplaincy](#)  
A course covering basic skills and key aspects of chaplaincy including religious, spiritual and pastoral care in range of contexts of school, college, young offenders and hospital. Email [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk) to book
- 8-12 April'19 [Skilled Pastoral Carer closing residential](#)
- 13-16 May'19 [Religious Education](#)  
This course considers the role of RE in the school curriculum, its cultural and theology issues and its impact upon the emotional and spiritual development of young people. Email [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk) to book

Details of all future events can be found on the website  
<https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/events/events-calendar/>



## Congratulations!

Warmest congratulations to four of our faculty team who have been awarded fellowships of the Higher Education Academy through Durham University. David Hilborn and John Tomlinson have both been awarded Senior Fellowships and Lucie Hutson and Nigel Roberts are Fellows. All four took on working for this award in addition to their normal work at St John's and we are grateful for their efforts.

## Prayers

As the end of term approaches, please pray for the students who are finishing their studies and moving on to the next part of their journeys in faith. For some this will mean moving house, finding jobs and starting new adventures and challenges.

Please carry on praying for Trustees and all staff at St John's as they discern the college's future direction. May all concerned be directed by God's wisdom, peace and joy.

As the summer beckons pray for rest, relaxation and recharging of batteries for all.

Join everyone at St John's as we continue to pray for all those over the years who have studied as a student, whether for ordination, as independent students, through MCYM or by distance learning. We give thanks for the work they do spreading the Gospel and walking with others.

If you have any specific prayer requests we would love to pray for you. Please email these to [j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

## Thiselton Lecture 11 September 2018, 2.00pm BOOK NOW!



We are delighted that Dr Melody Briggs will deliver this year's Thiselton lecture. Melody is the Senior Formational Tutor for Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership, which works in partnership with Durham and Newcastle Dioceses. She has been involved in theological education and church work for over twenty years, and for five years taught theology to youth and children's workers at Durham University. She is a Visiting Fellow in the Bible and Christian Ministry at St John's College, Durham. She has recently published *How Children Read Biblical Narrative: An Investigation of Children's Readings of the Gospel of Luke* (Eugene: Pickwick, 2017) and a Grove booklet, *Interpreting Bible Stories with Children and Young Teens* (Cambridge: Grove, 2016). She lives and works in Durham.

### Through the Scriptural Looking Glass: Children and Young People Reading Scripture

2.00pm, inc afternoon Q&A, tea and cake

Cost £10.00 All welcome.

To book please call 0115 925 1114 or email  
[j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

## New Bishop of Bristol

All at St John's are delighted with the recent announcement that the Very Revd Viv Faull has been appointed the next Bishop of Bristol. Viv was the first woman paid by the Church of England to train for ordination at St John's in Autumn 1979. As Viv left St John's in 1982 to be a deaconess at Mossley Hill Parish Church, Liverpool, the Ember List magazine that year stated 'Viv was advised by ACCM to study theology seriously'. Since leaving us Viv has practiced her ministry seriously too. We were thrilled that Viv preached at the St John's College 150th anniversary at Southwell Minster in July 2013.

We shall be praying for Viv and her husband Michael as she prepares to move south, and for her consecration as Bishop at a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 3 July and installed as Bishop of Bristol at Bristol Cathedral in the autumn.



# Resources

## Library membership

Have you thought about taking out membership to our excellent library?

Whether you are preaching on / researching into mentoring, mission or Matthew's gospel you would be very welcome to join St John's College library!

A year's library membership gives you access to over 50,000 items covering an extensive range of subjects.

Take a look at our online catalogue <http://library.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search1> to see if we have the kind of books that you are interested in. Alternatively, browse the library page for external members on the college website for more information about the library <https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/hmsec/sjlib/external-members/>

The library is open Monday to Thursday 10 – 1 and 2 – 5pm. We are just off the A52 in Bramcote, and about a 10 minute walk from tram and bus stops with free car parking. We look forward to hearing from you!

Whatever your denomination - Anglican, Pentecostal, Methodist, Baptist, AOG, Vineyard, independent, Cornerstone, Quaker or other - we have the books for you!

'Fantastic resource for sermon preparation and academic study, and really helpful librarians'

## Timeline

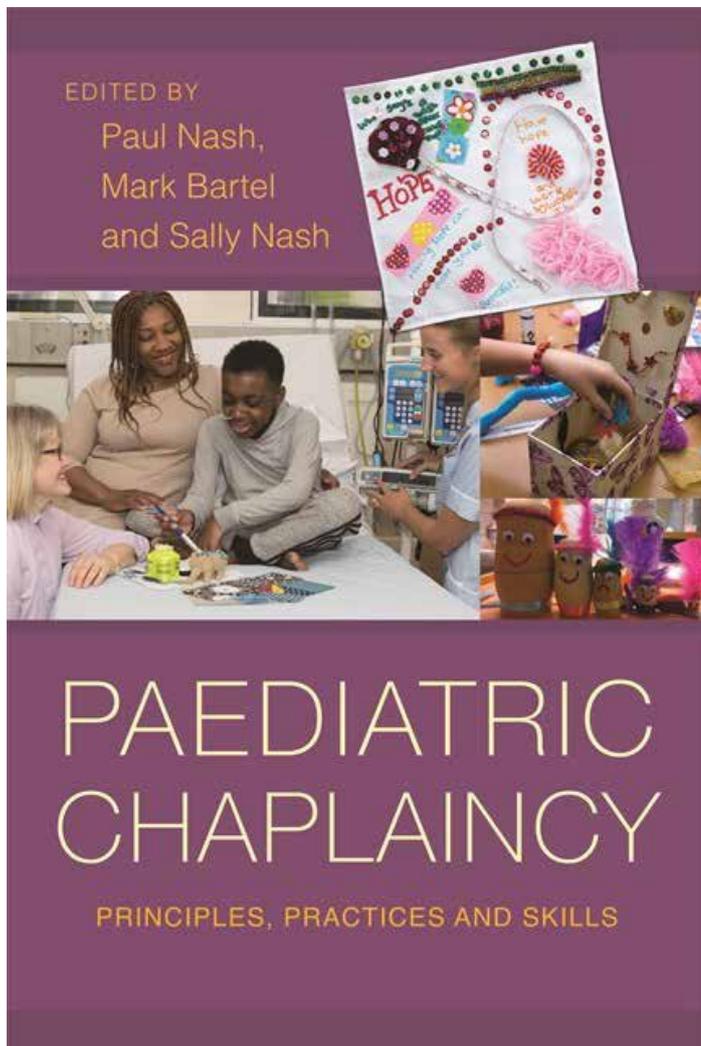


Timeline is a great multi-media resource with dozens of richly illustrated presentations from leading academics which you can access on your tablet or laptop. It continues to grow, with new videos being added. We are also developing new features which will be available later in the year.

Interviews with Marcus Pound at Durham University on Postmodernism and Anna Rowlands also at Durham University will feature over the coming months.

Watch samples of the interviews on YouTube to whet your appetite. Buy your annual subscription on our shop <https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/hmsec/shop/timeline-project/>

'I find this a superb resource for teaching undergraduate and graduate students, and always encourage students to go here first. The Timeline-Project attracts leading experts on key thinkers and movements. These experts manage not only to provide a highly stimulating introduction to the topic, but often set out state-of-the-art research. The student is introduced to a thinker in the best possible way, by being taken directly to the heart of fundamental questions, by someone who has lived with the material for a long time. The visual backdrops are subtle and well-judged, enhancing the listener's engagement. There is nothing quite like it available anywhere else, and it gets more comprehensive in its range week by week'.  
Professor Christopher Insole, (University of Durham)



Sally and Paul Nash, two of our MCYM tutors, have co-edited the first book on Paediatric Chaplaincy with Mark Bartel. Drawing on a range of approaches developed by paediatric chaplaincy teams worldwide, this edited collection provides best principles, practices and skills of chaplaincy work with neonates, infants, children, young people and their families.

By engaging with paediatric chaplaincy from an international, multifaith perspective, contributors from around the world and different faith traditions show what good spiritual, religious and pastoral care for children and their families looks like. The book contains contributions from specialists who work with children with mental health issues or profound disabilities, as well as chapters that focus on how best to provide palliative and bereavement care. Includes resources and activities for use in specialist care situations and tools for assessment, making this a must-have for any paediatric chaplaincy team working in a hospital or hospice

April 2018 • 320pp

ISBN: 9781785920769 • pb • £22.99

[www.jkp.com/uk/paediatric-chaplaincy-2.html](http://www.jkp.com/uk/paediatric-chaplaincy-2.html)

## Chaplaincy with Children & Young People

This course will cover basic skills in chaplaincy and key aspects of chaplaincy, including religious, spiritual and pastoral care in a range of contexts of school, college, young offenders and hospital. It will consider the history and theological basis of chaplaincy and engage in exploring various models of chaplaincy from a theoretical and practical perspective. We will use a range of interactive learning approaches to reflect on chaplaincy in context and develop skills relevant to ministry within a chaplaincy setting.

Costs and details on [stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](http://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

Discounted rates for MCYM graduates, tutors and agencies

**14-17 January 2019**

at St John's College, Nottingham

**BOOK NOW!**

email [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)



Check the website for details of the Centre for Chaplaincy - <https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/hmsec/centre-for-chaplaincy/>



# Youth Ministry in the footsteps of St Paul



In April I was lucky enough to attend The International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry European Conference in Malta with delegates from Scandinavia, Germany, Malta, the US and two of us from the UK.

The theme for the conference was 'Youth Ministry in Times of Transformation' and we opened with a pre-apocalyptic vision of our changing world, envisioning a time when our existence will be contained online and bodies will become useless – we then retired for the first of three outstanding meals, demonstrating why bodies are to be held on to as long as possible.

There were presentations from Finnish Youth Pastors who were panicking that levels of young people being confirmed had dropped to only 72% of the population, and Norwegians worrying that changes to income from church tax laws were meaning that they could only employ two Youth Pastors in their parishes. The local Catholics introduced us to a thriving project standing in the face of a rising secularism in their culture.

In this context, I apologetically presented a paper on 'the role of Outdoors Education as a tool for exploring spirituality with young people' speaking to our post...or perhaps pre-Christian context in the UK – how do we open up conversations to allow people to imagine that they are part of something beyond their virtual, screen-based existence? One Finn responded with a story of his annual Confirmation Pilgrimage where they take 35 young people into the wilderness of Lapland for two weeks to explore survival and faith – I feel a field trip coming on!

The Conference was a fantastic mix of enlivening presentation, long networking lunches and organised activities. On the second night we took a trip round the historical town of Rabat based round St Paul's ship-wrecked stay on the Island. We stopped at Paul's prison cave in the form of a hole in the ground where he wrote Ephesians – you could grasp his inspiration as he looked to the ceiling at his skylight of a door when he wrote: "When it says, "[Christ] ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?" (Eph. 4:9). At the end of the trip some local youth pastors lead us in worship in the unbelievably ornate Cathedral of St Paul – a far cry from his prison cell.

One of the most interesting presentations was by a Dutch lecturer presenting a Biblical Theology of Youth – remarkably a shallow area of research to scrape from, but it was inspiring to be pointed towards young biblical characters who were present at times of change in their world.

Our young people go ahead of us, leading the way for better for worse, and this conference inspired us to hang on to their coat tails as they forge new spiritualities – our feet in the past and heads looking forward.

Robin Smith  
Deputy Director, Midlands Centre for Youth

# MCYM News



## New postgraduate courses

**Great new postgraduate courses - apply now!**

**Youth and Community Work and Practical Theology (JNC)**

**Chaplaincy with Children and Young People**

**Professional Practice and Practical Theology**

- delivery in Northern Ireland and England
- part-time courses designed to fit around full-time or part-time job
- one-to-one support in developing your practice
- postgraduate loans available



**Apply now and arrange an interview and visit**

To book a time please email [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)



[cym.ac.uk](http://cym.ac.uk)

### MIDLANDS CYM

We offer high quality, creative undergraduate and postgraduate courses for anyone who wants to be involved in mission & ministry in a range of settings.

BA (Hons) Youth & Community Work and Practical Theology (JNC Professional Qualification)

BA (Hons) in Contextual Ministry and Practical Theology

MA Youth Work, Communities and Practical Theology (JNC Professional Qualification)

MA Professional Practice and Practical Theology

MA Chaplaincy with Children and Young People

Our courses are practice based and are

- university validated
- eligible for Student Finance (inc postgrad)
- can be studied full or part-time



**OPEN DAYS - book now!**  
**3 July'18**

Email [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk) to book  
Come and visit, we'd love to meet you!

## Meet the Students



When I commenced my study with CYM I was a volunteer youth worker. I enjoyed youth work but always knew there was something more to my ministry than youth work. Unlike some I like to talk about faith and its impact on my life so it is unsurprising that I am often referred to as an evangelist.

Studying Ministry and Mission with CYM has challenged my perspective on Gods Mission, who I am in God and who God is calling me to be. The non-judgemental teaching at CYM, which encourages reasoned thinking and stretches the student beyond their norms along with the additional support, has impacted me immensely. As I reflect on my first 2 years of study it is no surprise that I have stepped into new territory in more ways than one. I am no longer a youth worker but am now a Community Pioneer on a new housing estate where I daily see God working through those who have yet to be introduced to Him. As I look toward to my dissertation year I am motivated by the opportunities my new placement offers knowing that I will be undertaking a piece of work that could benefit others in years to come.

Nicky Carter

Postgraduate Studies Ministry, Mission & Professional Studies



I'm a 52 year old pioneer minister with the Methodist Church, in the Meadows area of Nottingham. The Meadows neighbourhood is a mixed community, ethically and in regards to socio-economic profile, with some significant areas of deprivation.

Since joining CYM I've improved my leadership skills, managing the local foodbank; which is an increasingly demanding role serving some of the neediest folk in our community. I've also been challenged to reflect theologically on human growth and development and how the nature environment contribute to who our foodbank guests are today. This has expanded my understanding of and empathy for those I encounter in ministry.

David Shaw

BA (Hons) Professional Practice, Contextual Ministry & Practical Theology



As a keen motorcyclist, I'm careful to ensure I don't leave my fifteen year old 'bike too long with old petrol in the tank because, if I do, chances are it won't start. Similarly, as a fifty-something youth worker with over twenty five years of professional experience, I think it's more important than ever to freshen up my knowledge and skills-base to ensure I'm not "running on old fuel".

Working with adolescents in an acute health-care setting presents a curious mixture of challenge, reward and opportunity for the youth worker. We are engaging with young people and families in some of life's most difficult circumstances every day; And yet it is the critical nature of this environment that means that young people are often ready to 'open up' and place their trust in us far more quickly than would normally be the case. "Spiritual Care" is, therefore, core to our service delivery on a daily basis.

I'm halfway into the advanced module in Multi-disciplinary Spiritual Care with Sick Children and I have to say that the combination of teaching, research, group-interaction and 1:1 support is incredibly exciting for me, professionally and personally. In its focus on the interaction between child/adolescent development, spiritual development and professional practice/ethics it is both affirming and informing my practice.

In short, it's exciting to be a student again and I definitely feel that I'm taking on some 'high-octane' learning and development alongside some great fellow students.

David Baker,

CYM graduate, Senior Youth Worker at Birmingham Children's Hospital



Romans 8:28 says this: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (NIV). This verse has been my anthem for the last year as I have begun walking out my freedom in Christ alongside finishing the final year of my degree.

Back in 2015 my life took a downward spiral. Things hadn't been great for long before then, however it was only at the start of my second year doing my BA (Hons) in Youth Work, Communities & Practical Theology with CYM that my issues were becoming more prominent. My mental health was far from stable and this was eating into every aspect of my life. Growing up with lies being spoken over me deeply impacted the way I lived my life – I never felt worthy or valued and constantly questioned my work. So when I was finally diagnosed with anxiety, depression and borderline personality disorder in early 2016, my self-destructive patterns finally made sense. Unfortunately, knowing the cause to my ill health made no difference in my ability as a youth worker or as a student. I had to take time out from my placement at the time and after things getting even worse, it was evident that I wouldn't be able to carry on with completing my degree if I didn't seek help. However, I had been on medication for 18 months at this point with no signs of improvement, and I didn't feel counselling was helping either. But it's at this point I decided to take a year out of my studies to focus on gaining my freedom.

This is when I applied to attend Mercy UK's residential home in West Yorkshire where they offered a six month Christian discipleship programme for young women who were dealing with life controlling issues. Here I learnt about the steps to freedom and the keys to freedom – or rather, the Key to Freedom, and that Key is Jesus Christ. I learnt what it truly meant to be free. All the darkness that had plagued my mind since the age of 10 was released. Since a doctor's appointment in December 2016 I have not had any symptoms of any of the mental health issues I was previously told I had. I have not been self-destructive because I now know the value of who I am – especially who I am as a daughter of the Most High King.

I came back to finish my degree in September 2017 a different woman. I left after 2nd year a broken, fragile and insecure girl but returned a strong woman of God. I left after 2nd year with an average mark of mid-50's, but returned with more headspace and a better ability to concentrate, meaning my average mark sits in the 1st bracket – that's a whole 2 grades higher!

God is a God of the impossible. I never thought I would finish my degree and now I'm only days away from handing in my final assignment. I never imagined I'd be able to face being rejected from applying for jobs and manage to reapply for others, but I've been rejected from four and applying for three more! Romans 8:28 is my song – because all the rubbish that I have faced in my life will be used for good. I will use my experiences to support and walk alongside young people in similar situations. Because that is what God called me to do.

Heulwen Evans  
BA (Hons) Youth Work, Communities & Practical Theology

## INSPIRED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR COURSES?



Join us on 3 July 2018 at our Open Day in Nottingham for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Come and meet staff, discuss all our courses and look around. To book please contact Gill Benson on 0115 968 3222 or email [mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

# Distance Learning News

Apply by 31 August to start September 2018

NEW DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES -APPLY NOW!

COMMON AWARDS in Theology, Ministry & Mission

- Foundation Award
- Diploma (HE)
- Graduate Certificate
- BA top up
- MA

ST JOHN'S AWARDS

- Certificate

- The Work of a Church Administrator
- The Skilled Pastoral Carer

Call 0115 925 1114 or email [registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

We now offer a range of Common Awards distance learning programmes from level 4 to level 7. Apply now and start with some reading and study in preparation for registration in September.

Foundation Award - new one year part time course is an ideal start to studying theology and is designed for those who have not studied at university before.

Diploma - our three year part time course is a thorough grounding in theology, providing a solid foundation for active ministry in the Church, both lay and ordained.

BA top up- two year part time course for those who already have a Diploma who want to top up to a full BA degree.

Graduate Certificate - designed for those who want to study theology at an advanced level over a short period.

MA - an opportunity to develop theological studies and is particularly suitable for those in early years ministry or later where sabbatical leave enables further study and reflection.

## The Work of a Church Administrator - apply now!



This module is a joint venture between St John's and the UK Church Administrator Network (UCAN). *The Work of a Church Administrator* represents something of a first: a distance learning course prepared specifically for those who are employed by their church as an Administrator, usually working out of the church office.

The module is studied alongside working and it takes approximately 18 months to finish. Several students have now completed the course and their feedback is very positive with many telling us how it has transformed not only their way of working but how others perceive them within the life and daily running of the church. Contact [registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

'15 months ago, my vicar spotted a new training course led by St John's College called *The Work of a Church Administrator*. I had been in the role of Parish Administrator for about 2 years when my vicar showed me the course. I had been a PA and administrator in a recruitment company for 12 years prior to joining the church staff team. The training course came at the right time for me. I was still learning the role and rules of the Church of England as well as getting used to working in a church rather than a secular office environment. The course gave me structure, focus and purpose. I realised how important the role of church administrator is to the ministry of the church and freeing the vicar to do his or her job. It was humbling to see my role as a spiritual gift from God. The course gave me tips and ideas on how to improve my role. The most exciting and life changing part of the course was the unit on filing. Yes, filing!!! My desk now no longer looks like a bomb site or covered in a pile of post-it notes. The congregation are not allowed to clutter my desk with their 'lost property'. The most difficult part of the course was waiting for my grades from St John's College. It was also difficult to fit the extra course work into my everyday life - but it was well worth it! I would highly recommend this course to any church administrator. It will transform your life as well as the church you work for!'

*Ginny Nicholls*

## St John's Certificate

The new St John's Certificate is up running! It offers accessible, engaging and stimulating modules which provide a good foundation for further study. If you are interested in studying on this exciting programme, please check the website for details. If you would like to talk to someone about the course please call the Registry team on 0115 925 1114 or email [registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

If you are an existing student and would like to start another module and would like to talk to someone about what we can offer please call John Tomlinson, Director of Studies, on 0115 925 1114.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all my learning! The knowledge I have gained is already being used and helping within our church. Everyone I have dealt with at St John's has always been extremely helpful and the advice I have received has been correct and appropriate. Just knowing you are all there has been a great support.

*Sharon Grant  
Reader in Training, The Church in the  
Costa Brava*

## The Skilled Pastoral Carer - apply now!



Our Skilled Pastoral Carer course helps you develop a Christian understanding of people and equips you to express God's love and care to them in a practical way. Its well regarded but don't take our word for it, here are some of the students thoughts...



'I would highly recommend the Skilled Pastoral Carer course to anyone interested in this area of ministry. Not only did I learn a lot of new skills but I grew in my Christian walk. With a large element of self study you need to be motivated but your tutor is always there to provide support, help and encouragement. The residentials are a key element of the course and really help you to gain confidence as you practice the skills you learn, as well as giving you a chance to meet others and share your experiences. At first glance the cost of this course may seem prohibitive but it is great value for money and worth every penny. This course gives you skills that you will use for a lifetime.'

*Naomi Thorp*

What a great experience the Skilled Pastoral Carer course has been. The residential elements were well structured with a great team of tutors and with good opportunities to practice and develop skills. The assignments were interesting and met my desire to consider a Biblical perspective on how God works in us. More than this the assignments enabled excellent self-reflection and a better understanding of myself as a pastoral carer. Overall, the course has increased my reliance on God and my confidence to engage with others. My wife and I often provide pastoral care together and we have found it really helpful to do the programme at the same time.'

*Jack Telfer*

The programme begins and ends with a short residential, dates are 7-9 September 2018 and 8-12 April 2019 respectively.

This six month distance learning course equips people in basic skills in communication and interpersonal relationships. The course offers face to face and distance learning experiences.

Further information, application and reference forms are on the website, <https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/study/skilled-pastoral-carer/>

For any queries please call 0115 925 1114 or email [registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

# Where are You Now?

At St John's we are aware that, to say the least, those in ministry move around quite a lot! We can of course try to keep track of movements within the Church of England through Crockford's, but even that is not always completely up to date.

Sadly, over time, we have lost touch with some of you. But be sure we are very interested to hear about the endeavours you are undertaking and the plans you are making. Do let us know!

Having attended conferences, exhibitions and talks we understand that very many of you hold dear the time you spent studying at St John's. In the coming months we plan to relaunch how and when we keep in touch with you. It may be some time since you studied with us and though we keep you all in our prayers, we are eager to learn where you are, what you are doing and if there are ways we can help to support you in your ministry.

St John's hopes to be out on the road from time to time - so watch out, we may be coming to a church near you soon! One thing we are very keen to put in place is to have alumni ambassadors in each diocese. Might this be a role for you? Or do you have other interesting ideas and thoughts? Please do get in touch, if only to say hello, on [alumni@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)



**StJohn's**  
COLLEGE NOTTINGHAM

[stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](http://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)