



FROM THE grove

LATEST NEWS AND REVIEWS FROM ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

WINTER 2018



Revd Dr Sally Nash,
Team Leader

The first thing I do when I get to work at St John's is a brisk walk to the golf course and back. I find walking, praying and reflecting over the day ahead a useful discipline. It means that I get to see each season as it unfolds and am now walking in the light again as spring approaches. Disciplines and rhythms are an important part of the life of any institution and one of things I have introduced since starting as team leader is a weekly coffee, cake and chat. We take it in turns to bring in cake (and fruit!) and it is a weekly

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HOPE for us all

Lifting people from Hunger to Hope

St John's College is privileged to support a fantastic charity down the road in Beeston called Hope Nottingham. The venture was set up by Nigel Adams, Hope Nottingham Director, nine years ago.

Working with local partners and agencies Hope brings together local churches and communities to help transform the lives of poor and disadvantaged people - children, families, single parents, young and old. It provides a one-stop community support centre, a food bank, cafe, youth and friendship groups. It helps people to get back into work by providing training, work experience, mentoring and volunteering opportunities to build people's skills and confidence. Hope is tackling the reasons why people are hungry and empowering people to live better lives. Some of those who have benefitted from help and training have then gone on to become helpers themselves and, for some, to get back into paid work.



Over the years St John's has sent MCYM students on placement, donated food and student help at the foodbank. Last year we fundraised for Hope with our Christmas jumper day in early December and during Lent we are having a food and toiletries collection for the food bank.

Jade Lewis-Roe, one of our MCYM undergraduate students, has been involved in the project for 18 months, initially on work placement as part of her course and more recently as a paid employee working one day a week running the Youth provision for approximately 30 youngsters, some of whom have behavioural issues such as ADHD. Jade manages a team of volunteers and runs sessions including arts and crafts, confidence

building, and internet safety, in addition to offering hot food for those who join in. The focus for evenings is to build relationships, provide young people with a consistent foundation and create a safe environment for them to develop and grow.

Nigel, is currently studying the MA in Professional Practice and Practical Theology run by CYM and validated by Staffordshire University, formalising his vast experience and passion into a qualification. As a result of his significant contribution to the community and in recognition that Nigel is a 'person of distinction' he has just been made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Broxtowe.

If you would like to find out more about the excellent work Hope undertakes, support or be more involved check out their website hope-nottingham.org.uk

'Whilst praying God kept presenting the word hope to me. Then following a job interview, someone suggested that Hope Nottingham might be a really good fit for me. It all fell into place! Since then Nigel has been my spiritual mentor'

JADE LEWIS -ROE

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update of both personal and college news. We get to celebrate the joys such as when, with 100% completion rate, our MCYM students gave us 100% rating in the National Student Survey but also to share sorrows and widen the net of prayer for things we are carrying. I am grateful for our committed and creative team as we explore this new phase in our life at St John's. Each year I pray and ask God for a scripture to focus on for the year ahead. This year our focus is 1 Thessalonians 5.11: "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other as indeed you are doing". That is a foundation for all that we offer.



A Fond Farewell

Our Principal, the Revd Dr David Hilborn, announced last Autumn that he had been appointed as the new Principal of Moorlands College in Sopley near Christchurch, Dorset. He took up his post in January, after completing a period of research leave here at St John's. He succeeded the Revd Dr Steve Brady, who will be returning to pastoral ministry after two decades on the staff of Moorlands.

The Chair of the Moorlands Board, Steve May-Miller, told students and staff there that David "arrives with an enviable academic record, including major roles at the Evangelical Alliance and St Mellitus College" in addition to his seven years as Principal of St John's. He added that David is "deeply committed to a well-grounded, evangelical and orthodox faith, and is an excellent fit for Moorlands at this point in its history."

David added: "As I prepare to depart from Nottingham and move back 'down south', I do so knowing that St John's is in good hands under my colleague Sally Nash, who has been covering day to day Principal's duties while I have been on research leave, and who will be steering St John's into the coming year. Please be assured that I will be praying for Sally and for St John's as a whole as it continues to develop in meeting the needs of God's mission in the East Midlands and beyond."

The Chair of St John's Council, Chris Smith, said: "David has served St John's with distinction, great commitment, loyalty and hard work, ensuring that St John's has maintained the highest academic standards. I wish David and Moorlands every success in the future."

Trustees, staff, friends and past colleagues had the opportunity to thank David and say farewell in a leaving reception on the 11 September at St John's College.



There's always Hope!

I dropped out of St John's College ten years ago! I had been studying for a part-time theology degree, whilst working as an evangelist at Christ Church Chilwell, in the adjoining parish. Only one year in to the course everything started to collide. I had been leading the local churches in the Hope '08 initiative, enabling "the whole church to reach the whole nation for a whole year." That had comprised unprecedented shared outreach involving several local churches, so much so that my role in it somewhat overshadowed the role I was supposedly paid to do! Simultaneously a friend and I had been trying to minister to a small number of homeless people on the doorstep of the church, which not everybody was happy with! Alongside that I'd been asked by the Vicar of Beeston Parish to help drum up support for their small soup kitchen, "Parish Pantry." Finally, at St John's College I'd been deeply challenged by study of Deuteronomy, "There shall be no poor among you" Deut. 15:4.

As a result of all this I dropped out of college, I resigned from my job at Christ Church and, with the encouragement and prayers of many, I stepped out in faith to set up Hope Nottingham to "Unite Christians, Serve those in Need and Bring People to Christ."

Now in its ninth year its been quite a journey. Hope Nottingham in partnership with many churches and with wide ranging support, including the Trussell Trust, now supports 15 foodbank centres across Nottingham. Our main centre is Hope House in Beeston, which is better described as a Christ Centred Community enabling holistic, transformational support for all kinds

of people in need. The centre aims to empower people not just to help themselves but to reach out and help others and, in the process, become part of this family of Christ. Hope House has become the model for the other centres we support as we seek to see God's Kingdom Come in local communities all around the region. We've recently helped establish a new holistic support centre just outside Nottinghamshire in Long Eaton.

Throughout this journey, it has felt like I've been running to keep up with God as he throws my way: opportunity, provision (just in time) and amazing gifted people. Often, I've only been able to see with hindsight what God is doing and I've needed, from time to time, to step back and reflect to make sense of the journey God has taken us on. This is what has led me to undertake a Masters Degree with MCYM: to reflect on the last 10 years of ministry, to make sense of the successes and failures, and to learn from theologians and practitioners involved in similar work. One of the most surprising developments of the work at Hope House, is the extent to which this very practical needs-based ministry has become the most close-knit Christian community, of all kinds of people, that I've ever known. I want to reflect on how this has happened so that I can support and equip others to do something similar. True to form, I already find myself doing this kind of work, when I don't feel as though I yet have the resources for it. However, one thing I have definitely learnt in the last ten years is: God Provides.

Nigel Adams

Director of Hope Nottingham, CYM MA student

A Visitor from Afar - Working Together



St John's was blessed in February with a visit from Jacqueline Hoover from Nottingham University and The Rt Revd Dr Joseph Wandera, the Bishop of the Diocese of Mumias, western Kenya. Before Bishop Joseph was consecrated on 3rd September 2017 he served for several years as senior Lecturer, Faculty of Theology, St Paul's University, Limuru.



A group of staff and students met with the Bishop to talk about theological education and training in Kenya and the UK. With the Bishop we are exploring how we can work together training the clergy in his Diocese in Kenya through the excellent St John's distance learning Common Awards programmes. Bishop Joseph kindly donated a copy of his book to the library and in turn we presented Bishop Joseph and Jacqueline with copies of the History of St John's, written by Colin Buchanan as part of St John's 150 years celebration in 2013.

We shared a very enjoyable time with Bishop Joseph and Jacqueline prior to them heading to Nottingham University for an evening presentation.

Thiselton Lecture



We were delighted to welcome Dr Melody Briggs to St John's in September to deliver this year's Thiselton Lecture as part of the MCYM Community Week programme. Melody is the Director of Studies at Lindisfarne College of Theology and has been involved in theological education and church work for over twenty years. Her current work has a particular focus on how children read scripture, drawing on her academic background in the fields of both theology and children's literature.

The lecture entitled **Through the Scriptural Looking Glass: Children & Young People Reading Scripture** was particularly relevant for the students from

MCYM. The chapel was packed with visitors as well as students and staff and Anthony Thiselton joined us for the lecture and Q&A session.

Richard Briggs, Melody's husband, accompanied her, selling copies of Melody's recent book. This was a welcome return to St John's given Richard delivered the Thiselton Lecture in 2014.



THISELTON LECTURE
2019
Tuesday 10 September
2pm–3.30pm
Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley
Chaplain to Archbishop of Canterbury
and St John's alumni
details to follow
SAVE THE DATE !
stjohns-nottm.ac.uk

Save the Date!

We are thrilled to announce that Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and alumni and past tutor at St John's will deliver this year's Thiselton Lecture.

Details of the lecture and how to book will follow but for now please do Save the Date!

Prayers

Staff and students at St John's are celebrating a new season in the weather and also in the life of the College.

We pray for Sally Nash as she continues in her role as Team Leader, the senior leadership team, Trustees as they make decisions about the future life and work of St John's, staff as they work on a day to day basis supporting students and the important work which is undertaken here to equip people to serve and lead in God's mission and all the students studying our courses at Bramcote and across the world.

We welcome and are grateful for your continued prayers and support.

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

Developing New Partnerships

St John's College Nottingham is committed to helping Christians fulfil their God given calling through their robust theological training based on their values of being evangelical, Spirit Led and Missional. We believe that all Christians are called and chosen by God to fulfil their God given purpose therefore we are focused on 'setting all God's Children' free to fulfil their potential. We are doing this by developing accessible, part-time distance learning courses in partnership with well established Christian organisations.

The partnership with Governance Ministries is up and running, with the two-year distance learning Workplace Ministers Certificate (HE) in Theology, Ministry & Mission. Two of Governance Ministries divisions are Workplace Ministers and TBNUK, therefore they are a very strong partner for St John's College Nottingham. They are focused on building up people who are called to business but have the understanding that they also have a God ordained missional role to fulfil in their workplace.

St John's have developed the Durham University validated Certificate (HE) in Theology, Ministry & Mission, which comprises of 6 modules studied over 2 years because developing the missional calling is as important as developing the skills to fulfil a job role. In addition, TBNUK have started a "Workplace Church" programme, hosted by their MD, Richard Fleming, which is aired each Tuesday evening at 21:30. When individuals have completed the Workplace Ministers Certificate, the Workplace Ministers division of Governance Ministries is well positioned to support them in the fulfilment of God's calling on their lives.

The Certificate (HE) in Theology, Ministry & Mission is 120 credits towards a BA Degree in Theology, Ministry & Mission which requires 360 credits, therefore the

entrance requirement is an 'A' level or equivalent. However, St John's College Nottingham has a longstanding approach of giving access to those who might not necessarily have considered studying at this level before. Therefore, they have introduced a Taster Module, in fact a choice of modules, either, Introduction to the Bible or Spirituality and Discipleship. Successful completion of this Taster Module will be counted as an 'A' Level equivalent, thereby giving access to the Workplace Ministers Certificate in Theology, Ministry & Mission. The Taster Module can be studied during April and May for submission in early June so that they are all set to start the Certificate in September.

St John's College Nottingham is also in advanced discussions with another partner to develop a similar Certificate in Theology, Ministry & Mission focused on Community Mission. So be on the lookout for further announcements on this.

Many people reading this will have already completed their diploma or degree level studies in Theology and will be aware of the impact that this has had to enable them to work out their God given calling. So, I ask you to encourage those people that you know who are called to work in the Workplace or Community Mission to contact me so that together we can help them to maximise their God given potential through this part-time distance learning approach.

May God continue to bless you as you advance your ministry and service for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Keith Tripp, Business Development Director
Keith.tripp@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk
Telephone: 07825 527735



Dates for the Diary

19 March '19	MCYM Open evening
22-24 March '19	Vocations weekend, Exploring Your Calling Join us for an exploration of God's call on your life. Last few places - BOOK NOW!
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 to book
15 May '19	MCYM Open Day
22 May '19	Chaplaincy Ethical Dilemmas Workshop Email mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk to book
6-8 Sep '19	Skilled Pastoral Carer opening residential
10 Sep '19	Thiselton Lecture Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and alumni and past tutor at St John's, will deliver this year's lecture. Details to follow - Save the date!
20-24 April '20	Skilled Pastoral Carer closing residential



VOCATIONS WEEKEND
Exploring Your Calling at Launde Abbey, Leics
22-24 March 2019

Come and explore God's call on your life. Lead by faculty & friends of St John's College covering ordination and lay training, chaplaincy, workplace ministry, youth and children's ministry.

£195 for accommodation, meals and distance learning short course

Places filling fast, book now through the website!
or contact j.travis@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk

'Very nearly didn't come, thinking it was all about ordained ministry - really glad I did come ... really, really helpful'

stjohns-nottm.ac.uk



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. It considers the history of RE, curriculum content, policy issues and the place of RE within schools. It explores the role of the school and the youth and community worker within the RE curriculum. Participants develop their skills in planning and delivering programmes appropriate to a range of learners in school and youth work settings. It incorporates various engaging learning strategies, including discussion, group activities, student-led work and skills practice in context.

Costs and details on stjohns-nottm.ac.uk

Discounted rates for MCYM graduates, tutors and agencies

13 - 16 May 2019
at St John's College, Nottingham

BOOK NOW!
email mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk



Chaplaincy Ethical Dilemmas

Join us for a chaplaincy ethical dilemmas day. Topics will include:

- the chaplain as multi faith facilitator
- the chaplain and the questions of sexuality and gender
- the chaplain as a prophetic voice dealing with institutional injustice
- the chaplain as evangelist

Cost - £20, including a light lunch

For further details and to book please email Gill Benson, mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk

22 May 2019
at St John's College, Nottingham

BOOK NOW!



Vocation, vocation, vocation!



As announced in the summer edition of the Grove newsletter and following a two year break, we hosted a **Vocations Weekend - Exploring Your Calling** in October. The event was held in the beautiful, peaceful surroundings of Launde Abbey in East Norton, Leicestershire, a Christian retreat and conference centre run by Leicester and Peterborough Dioceses.

Built on the site of the Augustinian Launde Priory, the Elizabethan manor house was a perfect setting for a weekend of talks, prayers and quiet reflection. Full use was made of the worship times followed by the Launde Abbey staff as part of their everyday rhythm of life.

The weekend was lead by Rev Dr John Tomlinson, our Director of Studies and over the weekend colleagues with difference specialisms joined in. On Saturday Mark Rodel, St John's Tutor in Practical Theology and part time Vicar in Lady Bay talked about Pioneer Ministry, Robin Smith, Deputy Director of Midlands Institute for Children Youth and Mission lead a session on youth work and working with children and families, and Mo Trudel, one of St John's trustees, chatted about Ministry at Work. Paul Nash, another of our MCYM tutors and Chaplain at Birmingham Children's Hospital joined us on Sunday morning to talk about chaplaincy.

It was a rich and varied programme, enjoyed by all who attended.

The next **Vocations weekend will be 22-24 March 2019**, again at Launde Abbey and bookings are now open. Details are on the website <https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/hmsec/vocations-weekend/>

Do join us!

*'A very enjoyable weekend in a relaxed atmosphere and Spirit filled'
'Fellowship, tutorials and reflection were excellent'*



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 Tuesday 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.

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)

Youth Work or Youth Ministry?

'I don't know why we continue to offer the JNC Youth and Community Work BA award – there's no future in it and it just takes time away from teaching theology.' This was one version of a conversation I had 14 years ago when I took my first academic job teaching youth work and ministry in a Christian college, and it comes up regularly in and beyond the Christian youth work training community.

In the February edition of Youth and Children's Work Magazine the debate surfaced again with one Diocesan Youth Officer singing the praises of on the job training topped up with occasional conferences, short courses and if time, a theology or ministry degree. He declared that JNC courses were *"missing the target"* and that the underlying values of Professional Youth Work were incompatible with Christian Ministry.

If true, this is a problem for the 200 or so students studying in the 5 Christian colleges like MCYM still offering the National Youth Association validated courses, not to mention the 1,000+ who have graduated from CYM in the 20 years we have been running. Have we let them, or the church down by holding on to the JNC while others have moved away from it?

Carl, a CYM graduate who now line manages one of our students said the course *"grounds you in your faith and sets you up for life skills, youth work and to do ministry,"* so there is strength in the personal development an individual experiences through their studies, but what about those pesky incompatible 'secular' values?

One of those core values - Informal education - has liberation in its DNA so can be used in the development of individuals and engagement with communities to reach their full potential...or their life in all its fullness, you might say.

Similarly, values of participation and empowerment, when understood fully can transform ministry from being something we adults 'do to young people' hoping to keep hold of them long enough for them

to enter the real church, instead supporting them to develop the gifts and skills they have to create radical expressions of faith which make sense in their culture. This was the eye opening, neon flashing light bulb moment in my own ministry which made me realise that young people are creators of the church of today, not just tomorrow - in fact a JNC student would argue this is their right as part of the body of Christ and under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It doesn't stop with youth work of course. We have embedded those values in both the 'Youth and Community Work' and 'Contextual Ministry' courses at BA and MA level as they fit people working with young people, children and families and out in the wider community. One of the realities of our industry is that many excellent youth pastors leave the industry after a number of years – for some it's as they struggle long term with evening and weekend work, others realise the pay and conditions for many youth workers are incompatible with mortgages and family life and there are a significant number who feel their calling develops in to general church ministry.

Ben, another graduate who has a first year student on placement at the church where he is the Pastor feels the values within the church gave him the attitude and skills to lead a community focussed church. I might cautiously suggest that a course with Youth and Community Work values is perhaps the perfect training ground for many of the pioneer ministries we see blossoming at the moment.

So youth work or ministry? It's not an either/or choice – the professional values equip students to develop young people and communities in their personal, social and spiritual lives, and the ministry training gives them the foundation and theological tools to engage in personal and communal theological reflection appropriate to their context.

Robin Smith

Director of Postgraduate Studies for CYM and
Deputy Director of MCYM



JOIN US - it can change your life!

OPEN DAYS Nottingham - 19 March (evening), 15 May

email mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk to arrange a visit

OPEN DAYS Belfast - 14 May

email suzanne@youthlink.org.uk to arrange a visit

VOLUNTEER/ FIRST POST

- Contact enquiries@cym.ac.uk for advice on courses



FOUND YOUR CALLING UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

- BA (Hons) in Youth Work, Communities and Practical Theology (JNC)
- BA (Hons) in Professional Practice, Contextual Ministry and Practical Theology

CAREER CHANGE POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- PG Diploma/ MA in Youth Work, Communities and Practical Theology (JNC)
- PG Certificate/ PG Diploma / MA in Professional Practice and Practical Theology
- PG Certificate/ PG Diploma / MA in Chaplaincy with Children and Young People



EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

- CPD Training
- Chaplaincy
- Religious Education
- Supervision



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 [@cymnews](https://twitter.com/cymnews)

MCYM News



Celebrating success!

The sun shone, the sky was bright blue, the families and friends had arrived and the female graduands were anxious about tripping up in their high heels while going up to collect their hard earned certificates! Yes, it was that glorious day of the year when staff, students and guests could celebrate, cheer and applaud success - it was time for the CYM Awards Ceremony!

For the first time the ceremony was held in Belfast, in the beautiful setting of Malone House, a Georgian mansion with delightful gardens and parkland and extensive views across Belfast.

For many this had been a journey in more ways than one. People graduating had come from a range of backgrounds - some had failed at school,

leaving with little in the way of A levels, others had come to formal education late in life, thinking their chance of studying a degree was long gone. For one a life after military service meant he was called to a new form of service with Christ. CYM has a great reputation for offering accessible, practical courses, equipping people with tools and knowledge enabling them to go on and do great things in the name of Christ.

One graduand was joined by his twin brother who had graduated the previous year!

The day was full of smiles, tears and joy - oh and lots of cake. The weeks of planning had all been worth it - bring on 2019's ceremony!



Meet our Partner, Staffordshire University

We were thrilled to be at the Children Youth & Mission (CYM) Awards Ceremony at the end of 2018 to celebrate the amazing achievements of their students. As one of their University partners, we joined the celebrations at the beautiful Malone House in Belfast along with worship leaders and members of the brilliant CYM support staff and teaching team.

Through our partnership arrangement, students can study for Staffordshire University qualifications with CYM, without having to attend Staffordshire University campus in Stoke-on-Trent – this offers fantastic opportunities for those who wish to undertake higher education but for many reasons are unable to attend a campus away from their home.

It was a privilege to meet students graduating with a Certificate in Higher Education and a range of BA (Hons) degrees in Children and Family Work and Practical Theology; Youth & Children's Studies and Practical Theology, and Youthwork, Communities and Practical Theology. The sense of pride and the dedication and commitment from everyone involved (students, tutors, supporters, friends and relatives) was immediately apparent, and I knew that this day of graduation and celebration exuded the pleasure only felt from extraordinary effort and through exceptional hard work.

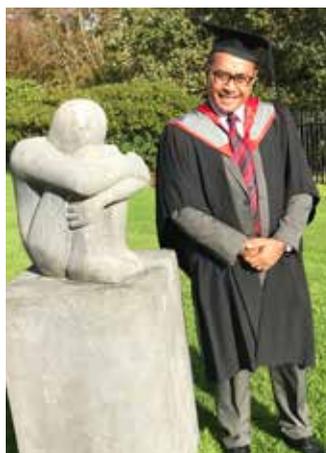
We spoke to some fabulous students including Selina, Nimilote and Tonia and we plan to keep in touch with them to follow the success we are confident they will have as graduates.

Tonia shared how her student journey has become so positive by studying her degree, after failing 'A

Levels' 30 years ago, and in fact blogger Tonia, was commended for the quality of her reflective work during her HE studies. Selina told us her moving story of turning her life around through becoming a Christian and spoke about the support and outstanding educational experience she has had whilst studying her degree, and is now studying a PGCE in Religious Education, hoping to become a teacher. Further, it was an honour to meet Fijian, Nimilote, who started a nine-year military career in Germany and is now completing his master's degree in theology with plans already taking shape for his PhD! Nimilote is no stranger to the Stoke-on-Trent campus of Staffordshire Uni and has been working locally as Hospital Chaplain at the University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust and has been known to be found studying in the main campus library. We wish Nimilote every success when he will be ordained as a minister next year, and we will follow his missionary career with interest.

We are immensely proud of all the new graduates and were delighted to welcome them to our globally connected Staffordshire Alumni community, we always want to know what our graduates are doing and would love everyone to keep in touch. You can visit our alumni website at staffs.ac.uk/alumni to find out latest news, information and events, and follow our dedicated social media accounts on Twitter or Instagram @StaffsAlumni or on Facebook @StaffsUniAlumni

Nichola Edwards
Development & Alumni Relations,
Staffordshire University



Well Done Rebecca!



My name is Becca and I'm a first year student at Nottingham, studying Youth, Communities and Theology. I work at Worcester Baptist Church as their Student Youth Worker, and I have a blog!

During the Summer of this year, a number of friends nominated me for Premier Digital Awards, in the 'Young Blogger' category. There were seventeen categories all together, including 'best app', 'best Christian organisation website' and 'best use of social media'. The 'Young Blogger' category was for anyone with a blog under the age of twenty-five. And, in late September, I received a very exciting email telling me the I have been shortlisted, and inviting me to the Awards in November! I spent the next few weeks updating my blog weekly, comparing my blog to the other finalists in my category, decided what I was going to wear, and growing more and more excited.

One rainy November evening, I went to The Brewery in the Barbican, London, with my parents to attend the Premier Digital Awards. I had a wonderful evening: eating posh food, making contacts and connections, and meeting individuals and organisations that inspire me. I had a strange mix of feeling both inadequate, mixing with such amazing creatives, as well as a sense of pride and excitement. To top the evening off, I was awarded Runner Up of Young Blogger of the Year, 2018! My name was called out and I walked to the stage, in front of all the other finalists and their supporters to receive my certificate and have a photo taken.

I first started creative writing when I was seven or eight. I'd write 'books' for my Grandad and he'd always be excited read them and critique them. They weren't books as such, more like ten or so A4 pages of scribbles and crayon illustrations, all stapled together. Over the last ten years, I stopped creative writing and moved onto journaling. For the last four years, I've liked to buy a journal in January and try and fill it by the following December.

Over the last year, I've begun a blog, creatively titled, 'Rebecca Rammell'. It's a space for me to express myself, create, and share my faith. I write about life lessons, reflections of the world I see around me, Bible studies and the odd travel photo here and there.

Rebecca Rammell
MCYM student

<https://www.rebecca-rammell.co.uk/blog>

INSPIRED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR COURSES?



Join us at our Open Days (19 March (evening) and 15 May) 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

Distance Learning News

Apply by 31 August to start September 2019

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

We offer a range of Durham University 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 - one year part time course is an ideal start to studying theology and is designed for those who have not studied at a university level 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.

New Taster Modules

Over the years we have often heard from our students that studying theology is very different to many other subjects. So are you wondering if learning about theology is for you? For some starting to study a formal university course can feel daunting, it may be some time since you undertook any formal learning, or may you never have made the progress you wanted to at school.

Why not sign up for one of our new taster modules? Start in March/April and if you enjoy the studying and you do well you can then continue in September for a more formal programme on either the Certificate or Graduate Certificate, validated by Durham University. Or if you left school without any A levels or equivalent use a taster module as an access course to then study at a higher level.

We are offering three taster modules - two at entry level and one at a more advanced level for those who already have a degree in another subject. Contact registry@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk for more details

St John's Certificate

The 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

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!



'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

New Dates for 2019/20

6-8 September 2019, 20-24 April 2020

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...

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 is on the website, <https://stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/study/skilled-pastoral-carer/>

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

'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

And finally...

New Online Lent Resource

Many of you will remember the Advent books which faculty, staff and students produced each year. Our most recent advent offering in 2014 was an online multimedia resource.

This time we have compiled a Lent resource with contributions and reflections from staff, faculty, students (both from MCYM and distance learning), Trustees and alumni. It's an exciting resource with texts, poems, video clips, audio pieces, musical compositions and visual art pieces. We have called it **Lent with St John** as all the readings are taken from John's Gospel.



Each day starting on Ash Wednesday a new reflection will be released on the website. Check the website for the reflections calendar and take time through Lent to pray, reflect and move closer to God.



Philip Carver

It is with immense sadness that we advise that Philip Carver, the treasurer for St John's Trustees, died suddenly in June 2018. Philip served on St John's Council with energy, enthusiasm and great diligence for many years and we are enormously grateful for the service he gave. His expertise and knowledge is greatly missed. St John's was well represented at Philip's Service of Thanksgiving in Leicester Cathedral.

Michael Green

We are very sad to announce that Michael Green, one of our past Principals, died peacefully on 6 February. Michael was the Principal of St John's College from 1969-1975 and he oversaw the transfer to Nottingham. He was just 39 at the time, was brilliant academically and a gifted evangelist. He was very engaging and became well known overseas and at home, which helped to raise the College profile with the result that the numbers of students coming into St John's College rose. This growth in students was the catalyst for the move to Nottingham. Michael attended the 150 years of St John's celebrations at Southwell Minister in 2013.

Michael Green's funeral was held at 10.00 am on Saturday 2 March at St Aldate's Church, Oxford, for family and friends, followed by a private family cremation. There will also be a Thanksgiving service in Coventry Cathedral at 11.00 am on September 7th. We are praying for his wife, Rosemary, and his family.



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