



PROSPECTUS

A guide to learning at Cuddesdon

Faithful worship – Eager learning – Diverse community
Formation for generous service in God's Church

A warm WELCOME

Thank you for taking time to find out more about Cuddesdon. As you read these pages, I hope you'll catch something of the warmth and welcome of our community and all that it has to offer you.

Around a quarter of our students study full-time and live in Cuddesdon, for one, two or three years. A growing number of students choose our Context-Based Pathway which offers a combination of academic study and an extended placement in a parish context.

The rest of our ordinands train part-time for two or three years. Depending on your location, you can study at Cuddesdon, Gloucester, Ludlow or Portsmouth.

Through our partnership with Church Mission Society we also offer training for Ordained Pioneer Ministry preparing students to work in fresh expressions of church and other ground-breaking areas of mission.

We delight in the wide theological and liturgical experience of our students. We receive ordinands from across a broad range of Anglican traditions, and that gives us a unique role in nurturing an open and enquiring attitude as we work, pray and learn together.

Whether you are exploring training for ordained or lay ministry, pioneer ministry or further learning as an independent student, we do hope that what you read here will stimulate your own spiritual journey and encourage you to study with Cuddesdon and experience what we have to offer for yourselves.



Bishop Humphrey Southern
Principal



Who we are and what we do

We train men and women for ministry in the Church of England: stipendiary, non-stipendiary, local ordained and lay ministry.

Through a wide range of flexible full-time and part-time programmes, we have courses to suit students at different stages of life, various personal circumstances and all kinds of academic abilities.

Our strength comes from our commitment to the diversity of the church, and to the range of communities we are called to serve.

Choosing a Cuddesdon pathway

There is no such thing as a typical Cuddesdon student and we are here to help you work out the best fit for your training. With the flexibility of our pathways, and courses at all levels of study, there is a place for you here.

4-11 Ethos and Approach

12-19 Full-Time Pathways

12 Ripon College Cuddesdon Full-Time Pathway

Residential ordination training at Cuddesdon for one, two or three years depending on prior learning

18 Context-Based Pathway

Full-time ordination training which is part residential and part context-based for two or three years

19 Ordained Pioneer Ministry

Full-time non-residential context-based ordination training shared between Church Mission Society and our Part-Time Pathway for two or three years

20-25 Part-Time Pathways

23 Ripon College Cuddesdon Part-Time Pathway

Non-residential ordination training for two or three years at Cuddesdon

23 Ripon College Cuddesdon Part-Time Pathway (Accelerated)

Non-residential ordination training at Cuddesdon plus an additional day with the Full-Time Pathway so that training can be achieved in two years

24 Cuddesdon Gloucester and Hereford

Non-residential ordination training for two or three years at Gloucester or Ludlow

26-27 Cuddesdon Study Centre

A programme of guided retreats, short courses and lectures, research and consultancy





A kaleidoscope of TRADITIONS

We attract people from across the Church of England spectrum. High, middle and low, conservative and liberal, catholic, evangelical and charismatic – this rich kaleidoscope of traditions is a defining characteristic of our student body, as well as our staff and the College itself.

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I came here because of the breadth and depth Cuddesdon has to offer. It's somewhere that reflects the breadth of the Church of England.

Steve, Full-Time Pathway

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Our breadth is genuinely educational in itself. Because of the significant differences in the way we worship and believe, we learn the qualities of listening, openness and generosity. We allow for the possibility that we may be surprised by God.

Our students might leave us more firmly convinced than ever about their own tradition. Or they might discover a way of worship and theology that is a long way from where they started. We welcome both outcomes, because they come about through the lived experience of worshipping and studying together. Both are signs of growth and new life.

Crucially, diversity is not just a lifestyle choice. It goes much deeper than that. It is about theological commitment to a broad orthodoxy which says: God is much greater than our church traditions, and greater than the church itself.

Academic excellence in **THEOLOGY**

We believe in excellence in teaching and learning theology. That's because we want you to become rooted and secure in Christ and discover a vision for your work in today's church and in the world it serves.

Most of our students follow the course of Common Awards validated by Durham University. Others become members of Oxford University, which gives them full access to the Faculty of Theology and Religion, and the Bodleian libraries. And all students enjoy the academic excellence of our Oxford approved faculty.

Because we are close to Oxford and strongly networked into the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, we have regular visits from significant leaders, authors and theologians from all over the world, and our students benefit from their creative input.

Having said that, some of the best moments of theological learning might happen chatting with fellow students over a meal. Cuddesdon is a learning community, and we're committed to understanding, questioning and following the Anglican way as part of our life together, day by day.

If you're new to higher education, or if you've had a gap since you were last in a classroom, you'll need some time to develop your study skills. We understand that, and the way we teach will help you find your feet academically. Your tutors, including specialist staff, will provide guidance and support, and our university links mean we can offer additional help with special educational needs such as dyslexia.



A rich and rounded curriculum

If you're training for the Common Awards, you'll be studying in the following three areas:

- **Biblical Studies with Homiletics**
- **Pastoral Theology with Ethics**
- **Doctrine, History and Liturgy**

Examples of modules in each of these areas are Introduction to the Bible; Spirituality and Discipleship; and Sacramental Theology and Ministry.

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The scholarship of the staff is infused with deep pastoral experience, and that produces something that is very exciting for training in ministry. For me, that has been both challenging and stretching.

Catherine, Part-Time Pathway

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The people who teach here completely buy into the idea that the academic side is important but it's not everything – the most essential things are probably not in the curriculum. They're the things you learn by chatting to someone over coffee in the Common Room, learning together and getting used to people being different from you.

Philippa, Part-Time Pathway

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Shaping your life for **MINISTRY**

The heart of what we do is to encourage your spiritual formation. Worship and study, practice and reflection, prayer and the life of the community are all integrated to help shape and prepare you for your future ministry.

We understand that personal formation can be a demanding and costly process, but it is also deeply rewarding, as you offer yourself to God and grow to become the person you are called to be.

This is a personal process, but it takes place in the safety and support of the community. We help each other grow in our relationship with God. We discover ways of praying and worshipping together. We try to learn from each other in an open-hearted way, especially when we come from different backgrounds or church traditions.

The qualities which encourage this kind of formation are generosity, openness, breadth, hospitality, experience and faithfulness. They are in the DNA of Cuddesdon and they help shape us as a community, as well as individually.

All our students are encouraged to have a spiritual director, someone outside our formal assessment process, in whom they can confide. Our chaplains are available to support students, their partners and families pastorally as well as spiritually in their time in the communities of Cuddesdon.

Developing your gifts and skills for

MINISTRY & MISSION



The Cuddesdon pathways equip you for pastoral ministry and mission leadership in today's world. This is achieved through a balance of taught courses, extensive hands-on experience and theological reflection. Together, they aim to give you the practical skills you will need for your ministry, underpinned by a depth of theological understanding.

“Our students are given the tools of theological reflection, together with practical skills, so that in a parish context they are able to conduct a funeral, offer marriage preparation, navigate the Prayer Book and offer pastoral help. Hopefully this gives them knowledge, skills, functionality, humility and a certain natural ease as the public face of the church.”

Dr Hywel Clifford, Lecturer in Old Testament

Our taught courses in mission and ministry help you understand the mission of God and the tasks of ministry today. They are supported by courses in human development and pastoral practice which examine what it means to live a fully human life and how pastoral care is responsibly exercised.

Optional courses in the area of pastoral psychology cover topics such as group dynamics, conflict, sexuality, mental health issues and human identity.

Listening Skills

Good listening – to God, other people and yourself – is a foundation skill of effective pastoral ministry. If you haven't had previous training in attentive listening skills, you'll be offered it during your first year. The emphasis on good listening is reinforced in courses on spirituality and theological reflection.

Theological Reflection

Taking your practical experience and reflecting on it in light of your faith is an essential practice for your own spiritual life and your ministry. Most students quickly get the hang of theological reflection and use it enthusiastically to help them get the most out of their placements.

Library

Our extensive theological library contains over 30,000 volumes and is continually updated with academic books and journals. In addition, students who are taking the Common Awards qualifications have access to a wide range of on-line resources through Durham University. Students who are members of Oxford University also have full access to the Bodleian and other University libraries in Oxford.

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The development of our students' practical skills is central to what we do, but it's rooted in something far more than simple, skills-based learning. We aim for the acquisition of wisdom, and a robust, realistic spirituality.

Canon Prof Mark Chapman,
Academic Dean

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Full-Time **PATHWAY**

Although Cuddesdon is just a couple of miles from the M40, it is in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, in 55 acres of high ground overlooking a valley of fields and farmland. The community flourishes in this outstanding natural setting.

Most full-time students, together with the staff, live in Cuddesdon, and the sense of community here is strong. Small teams share in the daily work of hospitality, serving and worship, and the whole community focusses attention on studying, eating and praying together.

Our ever-popular Common Room is the centre of operations in the College's social life, with a licensed bar and a busy diary of events. If you're a musician, you can join in with a variety of music-making; if you're into sports, there's a sports field and a croquet lawn.

The community includes families, of course. If you visit us on a sunny afternoon, you'll find children and dogs running around in the spacious grounds. There's a club for children during College Eucharists, as well as a playroom next to the Common Room. There are also excellent local primary and secondary schools.

“Students commented on their appreciation for the abundance of safe physical space for families and that Cuddesdon was a place that welcomed pets. One child wanted us to state specifically that Cuddesdon is great for kids.”

Ministry Division Periodic External Review Report



A group of people are seated around a wooden table in a bright, airy dining room. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a blue polo shirt is looking down at something on the table. To his left, a woman with long brown hair is looking towards him. In the background, other people are seated at tables, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The room has large windows with light-colored curtains, and the overall atmosphere is calm and focused.

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It's a beautiful place and exudes a great sense of calm – although of course from day to day there's a lot of work to be done. But there's always an opportunity for quiet, still reflection which really helps. There's a balance.

Paul, Full-Time Pathway

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We commend the outstanding provision for spouses and families.

Ministry Division Periodic External
Review Report

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Where you'll live

We provide a wide range of accommodation for students, depending on your situation.

There are furnished study-bedrooms on campus, with a communal living area consisting of a kitchen, dining area, lounge and laundry room.

There is also a range of College-owned unfurnished flats and houses on campus, in Cuddesdon or in nearby villages.

All your meals are provided in term-time, and we welcome families to join us for lunch and dinner.

The Village

The College lies on the north edge of Cuddesdon, a small village with a population of just over 400. The village is six miles from Oxford city centre, close to mainline stations in Oxford and at Haddenham and Thame Parkway, and just four miles from Thornhill Park and Ride with frequent coaches to London and the airports.

The centre of the village is a short stroll away, and includes the 12th century church of All Saints, the Bat and Ball pub, the Village Hall and a recreation ground with a play area. There is a weekly playgroup, regular film nights, bingo, gardening club and a WI.

The College community is interwoven with the life of the village. We share in village events such as the fete, cricket matches and bonfire night.

A member of staff is associate priest of the parish, with the College worshipping in All Saints for Evening Prayer and the weekly sung Eucharist.

“One Friday we had a Eucharist in the Chapel, and then later in the evening I was in the centre of Oxford helping to feed the homeless. Those sorts of contrast are a wonderful experience, giving you the chance to push yourself.”

Mark, Full-Time Pathway



Placements

Sunday church-based placements encourage you to engage with a wide variety of church traditions and social contexts, and they help you make the transition from lay to ordained ministry. You will usually serve at three churches during your training, including a four-week summer placement.

Mid-week community placements enable you to encounter mission and pastoral care in a variety of settings, including hospitals, prisons and schools. You might work with people who are homeless, elderly, disabled, vulnerable or seeking asylum. These placements typically take the form of a weekly supervised attachment.

Themed Study Weeks

Themed Study Weeks provide in-depth, practical introductions to specific areas of ministry. All full-time students complete a one-week course on Death, Dying and Bereavement, and choose from other options covering subjects such as Marriage and Ministry; Children, Young People and Families; Rural Ministry; Pioneer Ministry; Ageing and Spirituality; Trauma and Tragedy; and Community Mission, plus opportunities to spend time with intentional communities such as L'Arche and Pilsdon. Additional day courses have included community mission and race awareness.

Preaching

Preaching workshops in your final year are followed by preaching groups with feedback. All students preach on their placements and constructive comments are gathered from congregations and placement supervisors.

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The rhythm of worship throughout the week is enriched by a variety of services and worship styles, allowing space for all traditions to flourish and learn from each other.

Michael, Full-Time Pathway

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Prayer, worship and **REFLECTION**

College life is rooted in prayer and worship. We follow a daily pattern of prayer which combines the richness of the Anglican liturgical tradition with the diversity of contemporary worship.

On most mornings we say a simple form of Common Worship Daily Prayer in Chapel with a variety of music, followed by a quiet Eucharist. In the evening we usually use the Parish Church of All Saints and have a rich variety of worship which varies between a Service of the Word with worship songs, Common Worship Evening Prayer, and creative and experimental services devised around special themes. During some periods of the year we replace Common Worship Evening Prayer with BCP Evensong.

On Wednesday mornings we have the main community service which is usually a Eucharist and where we use a variety of musical styles. Special programmes for children and young people are held at the same time, and twice a term we all join together for an all-age service. Once a term the Full-Time Pathway gathers for a shared Eucharist with the Part-Time Pathway. The late evening quiet meditative service of Compline is said or sung at 9.30pm each night for those who wish to attend.

The rhythm, simplicity and continuity of the services through the week provide space for prayer, worship and reflection on scripture in our busy life.

Full-Time Context-Based PATHWAY

This pathway combines the structure and community formation of residential training with the advantages of immersion in a context to shape formation for ministry.

In term-time you spend three days a week (Monday-Wednesday) within the College environment, and four days (including a day off) in a parish context overseen by a supervisor who will be trained and supported in the role by College staff. You will also have the opportunity for complementary community placements within your context in addition to placements in other environments to develop experience in a range of ministerial settings.

“
Spending three days a week at College and three days at my training church offers me a full spectrum of experience and study, and I believe that is key to a future in effective ministry and mission.

Emily, Context-Based Pathway ”

Community

Some students might be placed in contexts close to home to minimise disruption to partners and families, and accommodated within the College for the residential component each week. Others could be in placement contexts within daily commuting range of the College. Sharing and comparing experience with colleagues training on other pathways, as well as from other contexts makes for a truly distinctive and rich formational experience. This reflects the College's commitment to engagement with the breadth of the Church of England.

Whether living on or off site, you will become part of the residential community, including being part of a close-knit 'College group' for mutual support and collective worship each week, for Monday to Wednesday. This is a close community made up of single and married students, families, children, pets, Sisters and staff. The Common Room is the centre of the College's social life, with a licensed bar and a busy diary of events.

Worship

On the days you are in College, you will join in the regular pattern of prayer and worship. The rhythm, simplicity and continuity of the offices provide space for prayer, worship and reflection on Scripture in an otherwise busy day.

Students, who come from a wide diversity of traditions, are encouraged to bring variety to this pattern of worship by preparing and leading creative liturgy and worship in weekly small groups and sometimes for the whole College.

Ordained Pioneer MINISTRY

Innovative forms of mission for ordained pioneer ministers.

The cultural landscape in Britain has changed beyond all recognition in the past few decades. That situation has given rise to experiments in new ways of being church, forms of mission which look like nothing the church has ever done before, and innovative ways of engaging the subcultures of the UK with the gospel.

Church Mission Society (CMS) has been at the forefront of providing training and theological resources which connect with ground-breaking and sustainable mission. Their Pioneer Mission Leadership Training programme is for leaders who possess 'the gift of not fitting in' and who are running pioneer projects.

Cuddesdon is working in partnership with CMS on this programme, so that candidates selected for Ordained Pioneer Ministry in the Church of England can gain the additional training and qualifications they need.

Dr Cathy Ross, Head of Pioneer Mission Leadership Training at Church Mission Society, says the mission contexts represented on the course are quite tough. "Students are working with disenfranchised youth, comedy clubbers, pagan festivalgoers, drug addicts, men who experience mental health issues – all of them quite challenging contexts."

Ordinands take modules alongside pioneers on the three-year course. They train at CMS, which is about four miles away from Cuddesdon, every Tuesday from 10.30am to 4pm. Added to that, they attend six weekends a year, plus two residential weeks over the three years, with the Ripon College Cuddesdon Part-Time Pathway.

For further information, visit
www.pioneer.cms-uk.org



Training for ministry

WHERE YOU LIVE & WORK

For many people, training for ministry without having to move from where you live and work, and without having to uproot yourself from the church where you already minister, is an attractive and realistic choice.

That is why we offer part-time non-residential training and formation leading to either ordination or accredited lay ministry. We have study centres at Cuddesdon near Oxford, Gloucester, Ludlow and Portsmouth.

Training part-time has many strengths. On a practical level, you don't go through the major upheaval of moving home and church. If you have children, they stay in the school and in the neighbourhood where they are settled. And from the point of view of spiritual formation, you are enriched by bringing the real-life issues of your discipleship and ministry into the whole experience of learning.

However, while the training and study programme may be part-time, we recognise that formation is a full-time commitment and activity that takes place in all the areas of your life including church, home, family, job, friends and interests.

Like all methods of studying theology, part-time training has its own challenges, not least of which are evening classes after a busy day of work or parenting, and making time for essays and projects during the week.

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Cuddesdon offers the best of the past mixed with cutting-edge, forward looking training geared towards the needs of the church in the twenty-first century.

Dr Tobias Tanton, Lecturer in Theology

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Coming to Cuddesdon on a Tuesday always feels like a little sanctuary: the joy of being with friends, praying, eating and studying together, with the weekend residential giving a little glimpse of community life.

Cara, Part-Time Pathway

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We meet in small prayer groups on residential weekends. There is five of us in my group and we've become quite close. We share each other's prayer needs and our journeys, and we have things we can teach each other and learn from each other about how we do prayer.

Matthew, Part-Time Pathway

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Prayer and Worship

Students take part in worship when they meet together for training on weekday evenings following the forms of Evening Prayer in Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

At residential weekends, there are meetings of small prayer groups as well as services in chapel: one daily office and a service of creative worship on the Saturday, and the Eucharist on the Sunday. A week-long residential gives students from different part-time pathways the opportunity to worship together in a sustained way over the course of the week together.

Placements

Students on the Part-Time Pathway are expected to complete two placements during their course of study. In their penultimate year, they engage in a community placement, experiencing ministry in a secular context. In their final year, students complete a parish-based placement, during which they experience ministry in a context or of a tradition different from that of their home church.

Part-Time Pathway (Accelerated)

Also available at Ripon College Cuddesdon is a two-year accelerated part-time training option. If you have the time available, you can come to the regular Part-Time Pathway Tuesday evenings at Cuddesdon and then stay overnight to join classes with the full-time students on Wednesday mornings. It means that you mix with different year groups of part-time and full-time students, with a strong sense of belonging to both communities.

Part-Time PATHWAY

The Ripon College Cuddesdon Part-Time Pathway (PTP) is taught at the Cuddesdon campus. Students are ordinands from Oxford Diocese and the surrounding dioceses, and we welcome ministerial and independent students from other areas, who join us in part or for the entire programme. The course is popular, with around forty students.

The three-year course prepares you for ministry by providing a programme of academic study which integrates with your local experience.

We meet at the College for thirty Tuesday evenings across three terms, for a meal, worship, lectures and tutorials. Added to that are six residential weekends and a week-long summer or Easter residential each year at Cuddesdon, shared with students from other part-time pathways. These periods together enable you to study in depth and build lasting relationships with your fellow students.

“A good number of students arrive early for the Tuesday evenings, and that provides a chance for people to chat and socialise. Then once we get going, we eat, we pray and we have classes. There’s a coffee break between the two hours of teaching, which gives everyone time to reconnect.”

Revd Dr Susanna Snyder, Director, PTP

We make support for our students a priority. You will be supported by a network of course tutors, a personal tutor, placement supervisors and chaplains, as well as by people you know at home and church. We help you find a spiritual director if you don’t already have one. You also have access to all the resources of the College, including the Chapel and the Library.

CUDDESDON

Gloucester and Hereford

Cuddesdon Gloucester and Hereford (CGH) provides part-time training for ordinands, readers-in-training and independent students living in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and the surrounding area.

We meet at two centres in Gloucester and Ludlow for one weekday evening over three ten-week terms with teaching delivered by core staff and a wide range of local tutors. For ordinands, this is supplemented by six residential weekends, plus a residential week at Cuddesdon shared with the other Cuddesdon part-time pathways.

Our emphasis is on training for ministry and so a significant part of the course involves placements, formation and competence skills. Some students opt to do additional taught modules, but the emphasis is always on the practical application of theology to ministry. Our students constantly ask themselves: How do I integrate my learning from this with my ministry and my own discipleship?

Student support includes a gentle introduction to academic study at the beginning of the course, since many of our students will not have engaged in formal education for a long time. And we have a network of pastoral tutors who are there to offer support with formation and study.

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The experience and wisdom our students bring with them is one of our most important resources in learning together. I am constantly amazed and humbled at the level of investment our students make in their learning, and we in turn work hard to provide the support needed.

Revd Dr Roger Latham, Director, CGH

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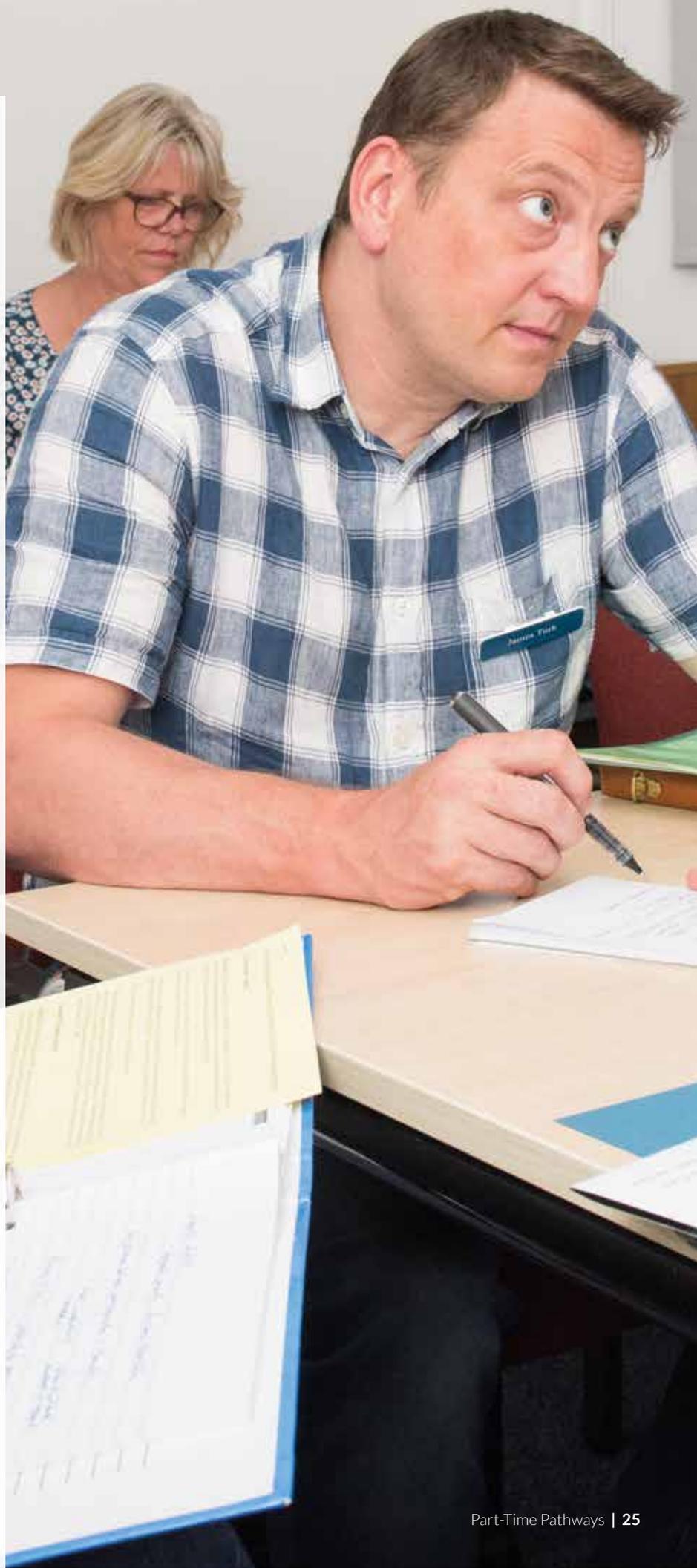
Gloucester Foundations in Theology, Ministry and Mission

Offered by the Diocese of Gloucester and in partnership with Cuddesdon Gloucester and Hereford, this course is an opportunity to explore your sense of vocation. If you are already involved in some aspect of ministry – perhaps as a Pastoral Assistant or Worship Leader, as a member of an ‘Open the Book’ team, a PCC member or Churchwarden – this course could be what you have been looking for to learn more, deepen your connection with God and learn to live out your vocation with increased confidence.

This is a one year course, with teaching taking place on Thursday evenings from 7 - 10pm across three ten-week terms, meeting at St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester. There are also optional Saturday workshops, and information ‘formation evenings’ usually on a Monday. The majority of learning takes place during the evening sessions through structured study, informal discussion and fellowship. The experience and learning will be enriched through shared study with ordinands and readers-in-training studying on the Cuddesdon Gloucester and Hereford pathway, as well as other independent students taking the course to support their own discipleship and ministry.

For detailed programmes and fees, please see Learning Theology at:

www.rcc.ac.uk





Cuddesdon Study **CENTRE**

Research, relationships and shared resources.

Our Study Centre has a simple, two-way vision. We want to be enriched by people, especially from the world church, who visit or live with us for a time to share their stories and scholarship, as well as sharing the resources and expertise of Cuddesdon with the church globally.

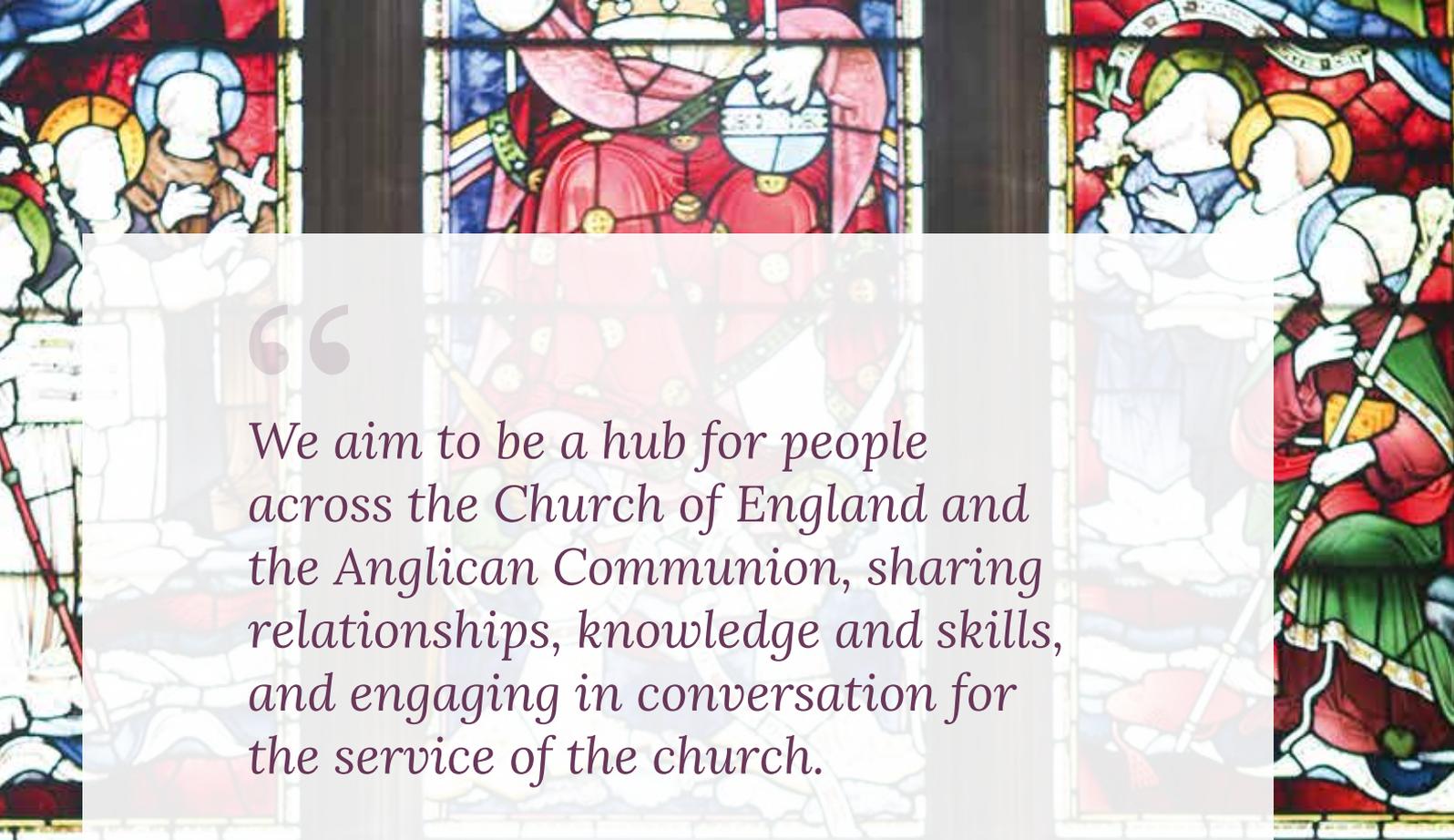
We see this vision being realised in three major ways:

Firstly, we want to engage in outward-facing research and consultancy. We already have a strong reputation for research into areas such as pioneering, fresh expressions, black majority churches and street pastors. Our interest is in research which makes a difference by impacting and transforming practice.

Secondly, we want to make our learning accessible to a wider audience through lectures, retreats, study days, short courses and summer schools.

Thirdly, we want to encourage learning and community through exchanges of people, particularly from the world church. Our aim is to invite people who will contribute to classes and see it as their role to hang out with students for a few weeks. We want to create relationships and tap into the dinner table kind of learning which happens in residential communities.





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We aim to be a hub for people across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, sharing relationships, knowledge and skills, and engaging in conversation for the service of the church.

*The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern,
Principal*

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Thank you for reading our prospectus. If you're interested in finding out more about Cuddesdon, or would like to talk about studying with us, here are our details.

**Ripon College Cuddesdon Full-Time Pathway
Context-Based Pathway
Part-Time Pathway**

Phone: 01865 874404

Email: enquiries@rcc.ac.uk

Address: Ripon College Cuddesdon, Nr Oxford OX44 9EX

Cuddesdon Gloucester and Hereford

Phone: 01452 874969

Email: GloucesterHereford@rcc.ac.uk

Address: 12 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LX

www.rcc.ac.uk



Join us for an Open Day or Evening

We hold a range of Open Days or Evenings at our different locations. They are opportunities to chat with staff and students, gather information and ask questions to get a feel for whether our training is right for you. Please book a place on our website:

www.rcc.ac.uk/openday

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