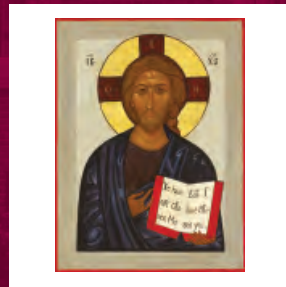


2010-11



WESTCOTT HOUSE CAMBRIDGE

PROSPECTUS





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Welcome from the Principal



Westcott House is an Anglican theological college in the heart of Cambridge that prepares men and women for ordained ministry in the Church of England. In addition to formation for the changing realities of parish ministry, we provide pathways for theological educators and pioneer ministers. We also welcome ordinands from other parts of the Anglican Communion, lay students exploring theology and vocation, and sabbatical visitors.

We are a diverse, inclusive and international community of people who share a vision of ministry to all society, local and global and a call to witness to and participate in God's mission of generosity, justice and transformation. Our rigorous integration of spiritual and personal development, theological learning and interpretation, and ministerial practice and reflection provide the foundation for a life of ministry and mission in a changing world.

We have over 80 ordinands and independent students, half of whom are under 30 years old, half are women, and half are single. We come from a wide range of backgrounds, socially, theologically and educationally. Together we represent the breadth of the Anglican eucharistic tradition, which means you will find Westcott ordinands at Greenbelt and Walsingham, at Iona and Taize, and sometimes at Spring Harvest!

Westcott House is a member of the Cambridge Theological Federation, which includes seven institutions within Cambridge. Most teaching is in one of these centres, or in the Cambridge University Divinity Faculty, all within about 20 minutes' walk of Westcott. Learning is enhanced by being with students from a great array of denominations and backgrounds. Our central location means we are very close to a wide range of shops and cultural facilities, and the vibrant city centre life enriches the experience of being at Westcott.

This prospectus is intended to give you a flavour of that experience. More information can be found on our website at www.westcott.cam.ac.uk where you will also find an application form.

We would be delighted if you would like to visit, and please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions.

Martin Seeley



“ Westcott House is a bright, energetic and creative community of disciples.”

**Our devotion
to the
Eucharist
and to the
life of prayer
is the
foundation
of all that we
are and are
becoming.**

Anglican Formation for Ministry

Holiness – Wisdom – Compassion

At Westcott House we focus on enabling each member of the community to become the person God is calling them to be as they move towards public ministry.

Our attention to formation has three interwoven aspects:

We nurture our relationship with God through worship and prayer – growing in holiness is the foundation of everything else.

We engage in the rigorous study of theology – growing in wisdom, to develop our potential to become “instinctive” theologians in ministry.

We develop pastorally and liturgically – growing in compassion, creativity and imagination to live the Gospel in every place to which God calls us.

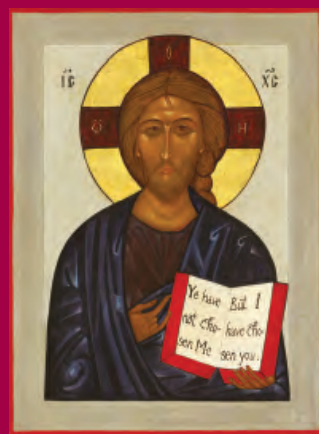
“ Whatever else happens the daily offices keep going as a constant – and beautiful – reminder of why we are all here. ”

Growing in Holiness: Spiritual Formation

As a community rooted in the worship and love of God, we are shaped most of all by the daily pattern of the eucharist and morning and evening prayer. On Thursday evenings the whole community – ordinands, students, families and friends – gather for the community eucharist and a shared meal prepared by ordinands. Compline is sung five evenings a week.

Everyone at Westcott is supported in developing a pattern of personal prayer that complements our corporate worship. Each ordinand meets regularly with a spiritual director and we hold a Quiet Day with addresses each term. There is a weekly hour for contemplative prayer, and time for meditation in chapel before each morning prayer.

We are blessed with two places of worship at Westcott House. For most services we are in the chapel, distinguished by its simplicity and the “Westcott Icon”. On Thursdays for morning prayer and candlelit compline, and usually for the community eucharist, we worship in All Saints’, a neo-gothic church adjacent to Westcott.



There are two texts that are woven through our daily life together.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you.” (John 15:16)
is the text written on the Westcott Icon in chapel.

“The one who calls is faithful” (1 Thess 5:24)
is inscribed on the bell that summons us to worship.
So we are constantly reminded of God’s call and God’s faithfulness.



“ The atmosphere of prayer, community and study at Westcott is very special. ”

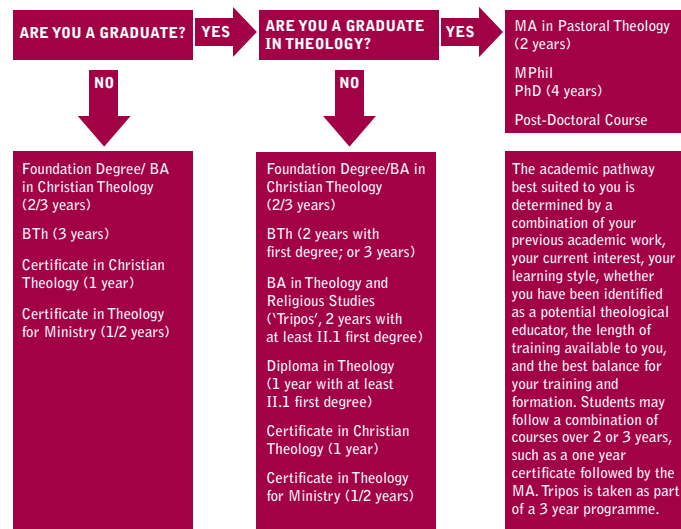
Growing in Wisdom: Theological Formation

Formal theological learning at Westcott is undertaken through a number of different academic qualifications and tailored to members' individual needs, previous experience and learning style. An extensive range of programmes means we welcome people with no formal theological background to those with theology doctorates – the only requirement is a thirst for the knowledge of God!

Some programmes are taught by the Cambridge University Divinity Faculty, some by the 40-strong teaching faculty of the ecumenical Cambridge Theological Federation, and some by a combination of the two. Degrees and awards offered are either from Cambridge University, or from Anglia Ruskin University. In many lectures and classes, students learn from and alongside Roman Catholics, Methodists, Orthodox, members of the United Reformed Church, and Anglicans of all traditions; an enriching and challenging context in which to study theology.

You will find details of the range of certificate, foundation, bachelor, master, doctorate and post-doctoral programmes available to Westcott students, as well as information about pathways for potential theological educators and pioneer ministers in the separate document, "Academic and Ministerial Pathways," available on our website. Below is a flow chart to show the range of courses and the issues that impact the selection of the right route for each ordinand or student.

Main Academic Pathways



scope

Grainee
Vicar

COME + SEE
AND

John 1 35-43

Growing in Compassion: Liturgical and Pastoral Formation



We understand worship to be our response to God's compassion for the world, and pastoral care to be sharing that compassion in the midst of the world. Our study of liturgy and pastoral theology, and our developing practice and self-understanding as public witnesses to God's love, are central to ministerial formation. As well as formal study of the subjects, opportunities for pastoral and liturgical practice in different contexts are integral to helping us grow in God's compassion, and these occur in a number of ways:

In college Every ordinand and student has a tutor with whom they meet to reflect on their formation and development. Tutor groups take turns leading the worship each week, so all are able to develop their abilities to officiate and develop in a range of liturgical roles. The chapel and All Saints provide two very different contexts for this.

On Sundays, ordinands worship alongside a local congregation or college chapel, gaining liturgical, pastoral and preaching experience.



Placements of 8-10 weeks enable ordinands to combine the practice of parish ministry with high quality supervision and theological reflection. Most ordinands undertake their placement in Manchester, within a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic context. Married ordinands may undertake placements from home.

Social context placements occur in hospices, prisons, primary schools, hospitals, the army and other institutions. Members develop pastoral awareness, apply understanding to practice, and reflect on their future roles in public ministry.

The Life and Service Course at Westcott covers aspects of Anglican patterns of ministry over a two year programme including ecclesiology and history, spirituality of priesthood, homiletics, mission and contemporary culture, sacramental theology, and the occasional offices. The course has a strong practical emphasis and explores Anglican identity in relation to life and mission in today's church, including the creativity for fresh expressions.

Overseas placements and study opportunities for many ordinands are a crucial part of their formation, and we encourage all who can to spend time experiencing the church in a different culture. Westcott has several formal and informal international links including a strong annual exchange programme with Yale Divinity School, and placement programmes in Delhi and Hong Kong. In recent years ordinands have spent a term or part of a vacation in Peru, Ethiopia, New York, Bermuda, Paris, South Africa, and Rome.

College Missions are opportunities for a group of ordinands to engage together with a local church in mission and evangelism. Usually a week long, a crucial part of these missions is the careful preparation made with the church over many months. Recent missions have taken place in Somersset, Manchester, Essex and Bradford.



Community Life at Westcott

Our common life is energising, supportive, challenging, transforming – and a context for honesty and humour. Through praying, eating and living together we grow in self awareness, seeing ourselves as others see us, and in our sensitivity to one another. We learn to value differences, to face fears, and to relinquish self-seeking. We see the depth of God's love in those who hold very different views from our own, and learn to practise the values of the Kingdom. Lifelong friendships are formed, that sustain us through the challenges of ministry. Many find that living in community with an informal on-going theological conversation at meals, in the bar, walking to classes, is the ideal environment to support our development as ministerial theologians. As well as sharing most meals together, each Wednesday morning we meet in tutor groups of about 12 people for prayer and breakfast.

While community life means attending to each other, it also means behaving responsibly towards the environment, and Westcott has a commitment to decreasing our carbon foot-print and promoting good stewardship of our resources.

Living in community means relaxation and fun too. We are the only college in the Federation with a bar, open most evenings, and film, poetry and sports clubs, amongst others, provide opportunities for recreation. While Saturday is the college "day off" and on Sundays first-year ordinands are attending local parishes or college chapels, a range of social activities and shared meals are organised for those in college at the weekends (a number of ordinands are weekly boarders).

The Cambridge Theological Federation, with nearly 300 students in Cambridge, adds a vital dimension to our experience of Christian community. Not only do ordinands and students learn together, but we worship together fortnightly on Tuesday evenings, and have joint social and sports events. All this extends our experience as Christians called into a "community of differences".

Weekends are also a time for seeing friends and keeping up home and relationship ties. Cambridge is well served by public transport.

“ I love community night – watching as the whole Westcott “family” line up to receive communion, cheering during notices in the common room and singing Compline with more gusto than necessary... ”



“ The MA has been a brilliant and refreshing approach to theology for me – it has given an academic rigour to the process of theologically reflecting on everyday life that I was already instinctively doing. ”



Partners and families are encouraged to be involved in community life, or not, as they wish. Partners organise their own events, and staff work with ordinands and partners in understanding the changes and challenges they face while in training and that will occur in the future.

A play area in New Court provides facilities for children, and there is an excellent ordinand-run “Thursday club” for the children that takes place during the first part of the weekly community eucharist. There are good schools nearby, and we will support and advise ordinands with children on the selection of schools. The ordinands elect partners and children’s representatives to ensure the concerns and well-being of these members of the community are taken care of.



The pastoral care of the ordinands and their families is attended to in a number of ways. For all ordinands and students the first point of contact on pastoral matters is their tutor. All members of the community – ordinands, students and staff – can speak in total confidence to the chaplain who is available most days in term time.

Being located in the heart of Cambridge, ordinands, students and families have easy access to parks, gardens and the river, as well as a remarkable range of high street shops and services. The vibrant accessible cultural and intellectual life of the town enriches the experience of training. We invite you to come and see the difference that Westcott could make for you.



“ Cambridge, as an historic centre both of learning and of development in the English Church, is the perfect place to deepen one's vocation. ”



Travelling to Westcott

There are good rail, road and coach links between Cambridge and London, and between Cambridge and Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports.

The London train journey takes under an hour. There are good rail and road links to the Midlands and north of England.

For further travel details, please see our website.

Getting in Touch

The address is: Westcott House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BP

The Principal, Canon Martin Seeley, can be reached on 01223 741010 or mas209@cam.ac.uk

If you have questions, want to arrange an informal visit or make an application, do contact us on admissions@westcott.cam.ac.uk or 01223 741000

You may find your questions answered on our website, where you will also find an application form www.westcott.cam.ac.uk



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