

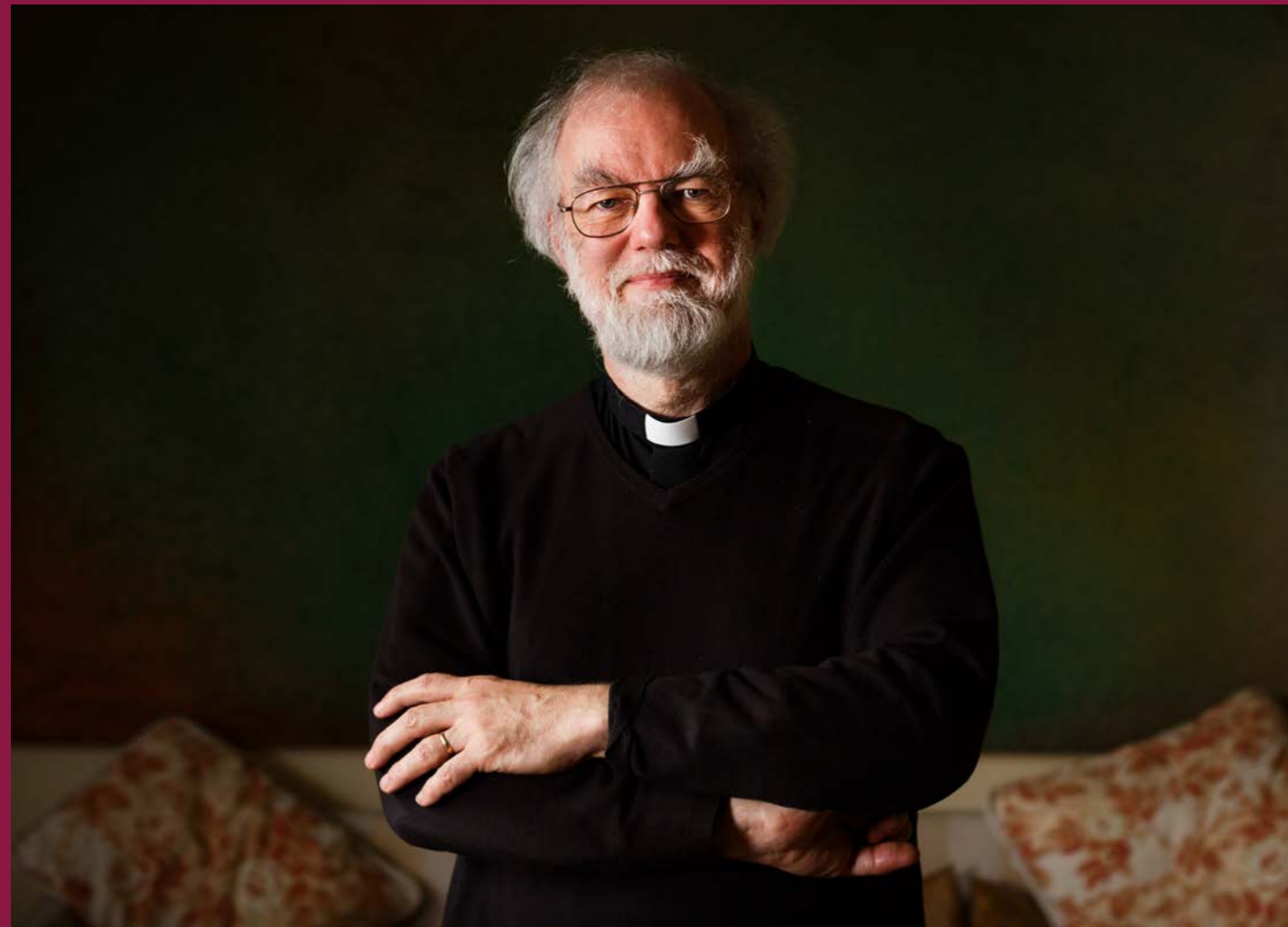


Prospectus

A MEMBER OF THE
CAMBRIDGE THEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

“Westcott House continues to offer one of the most encouraging spectacles in the Church of England – a large group of young, gifted, committed people, from all social and professional backgrounds, who are actively exploring God’s call to ordained ministry in the Church. It is a real sign of hope for the Church of England that it can attract such a diversity of candidates who want to grow in a spiritual discipline deeply rooted in the tradition and to be equipped with the intellectual and imaginative resources they will need for ministry in a complex and fast-developing society. Westcott takes theology seriously and it takes spiritual growth and maturity seriously. Its goal is to continue to help the Church take these things just as seriously – because without these, the Church loses its direction and its integrity.”

**LORD WILLIAMS
OF OYSTERMOUTH,**
*Master of Magdalene College,
Cambridge.*



WELCOME

For more than a century, Westcott House has been serving the Church and wider community by preparing and equipping people for public ministry in the Church of England and Anglican churches around the world. While many come to Westcott House to prepare for ordained ministry, we welcome those seeking to deepen their Christian faith and calling as lay women and men.

Our vision is to help you become wise and faithful priests and lay leaders, committed to the renewal of the Church and the transformation of society.

We seek to equip each student with a robust faith, a deep-rooted spirituality and the intellectual rigour to participate confidently and imaginatively in God’s mission of justice and reconciliation.

At Westcott House, our community is diverse, inclusive and international, drawing men and women from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Our flexible training pathways are designed to enable you to respond to the spiritual and pastoral needs of those you will be serving in local, regional and national contexts – often in challenging environments. Former students are now working in demanding posts in parishes, prisons, hospitals, the armed forces, schools and universities.

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

Helen Dawes, Principal



*“The one
who calls you
is faithful”*

1 Thess. 5.24



FORMATION

Public ministry requires imagination, creativity and a deep trust in God. We help students grow in their faith, and assist them in developing the openness and resilience they will need to follow God's call for the rest of their lives.

Your learning will be enriched by belonging to a community of Christian discipleship. Living in community and exploring a shared rule of life will help you to develop an understanding of working together and exercising leadership. It will enable you to discover that combination of confidence and humility essential to public ministry.

A life of ministry can be very demanding, and we help students understand the importance of self-awareness, personal boundaries and essential care of themselves and their families. For many, one of the most challenging aspects of formation is moving from being a 'personal' Christian, whose faith is known by those closest to them, to being a 'public' Christian with a role, and responsibility to their community – and beyond.

We pay particular attention to this shift of identity for those preparing for the priesthood. Formation for priestly ministry is not simply about preparing for a new and distinctive role. If priests are called 'to set forth the mystery of love', then priestly formation will also affect the depths of their being.

"...until Christ be formed in you"

Galatians 4.19

Four distinct elements lie at the heart of our understanding of formation:



HOLINESS

Nurturing our relationship with God through worship and prayer – growing to become holy and faithful ministers, disciplined in the life of prayer, nourished by word and sacrament, and building our awareness of ourselves in relation to God and others.



WISDOM

Engaging in rigorous theological study – growing in wisdom to become 'instinctive' theologians, immersed in the riches of the Christian tradition, committed to intellectual rigour and alert to the demands of public ministry in ecumenical and multifaith contexts.



COMPASSION

Developing our understanding of pastoral care and cultivating an awareness of the world and its needs – growing in compassion, creativity and imagination to become true pastors.



OPENNESS

Participating in God's mission in the world – growing in our passion for the transformation of society, and our commitment to the flourishing and renewal of the Church.

"The closeness with others in prayer, in community, in study, and in ecumenical dialogue is a huge part of the Westcott experience. It is challenging, rewarding, nurturing, and totally holistic."

WORSHIP

Worship and prayer are at the centre of our life, and at the heart of the process of formation. The Eucharist and the rhythm of the daily office – morning prayer, evening prayer and night prayer – hold and shape us.

On Thursday evenings the whole community – ordinands, students, families and friends – gathers for the community Eucharist and a shared meal. The evening ends with the singing of compline by candlelight.

Everyone at Westcott House is supported in developing a pattern of personal prayer. Each ordinand meets regularly with a spiritual director.

There is a weekly hour for contemplative prayer, opportunities for developing fresh expressions of worship, and time for meditation in chapel before morning prayer.

We are blessed with two places of worship. On Thursdays, we worship in All Saints Church, a Gothic revival church adjacent to Westcott.

For most services, we are in the chapel, a building distinguished by its uncluttered simplicity. It is an ideal space for the wide range of services held there: from sung high mass to all-age worship, from adoration of the blessed sacrament to informal prayer and praise.

We believe it is important to inhabit the Anglican tradition of worship and to learn how to adapt and improvise from a deep understanding of the structures of common prayer. Students are thoroughly involved in the planning and leading of worship.

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



“Our devotion to the Eucharist and to the life of prayer is at the heart of all that we are and are becoming.”

STUDY

The calling to theological study and learning is an adventure into the depths of the very nature of God and the mystery of his redeeming love.

Through our commitment to theological excellence, creativity and rigour, we form enthusiastic and perceptive lifelong learners, immersed in the riches of the Christian tradition. The fruit of such learning is practical wisdom for faithful Christian discipleship and ministry.

We will work with you to construct a personal learning plan and a tailored programme of study that takes into account your educational background, work experience and learning style.

Westcott students work towards a range of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate awards from both Cambridge and Durham Universities.

Some programmes are taught by the University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity, others by the 40-strong teaching faculty of the ecumenical Cambridge Theological Federation, and some by a combination of both. Students learn from and alongside Roman Catholics, Methodists, Orthodox, members of the United Reformed Church, and Anglicans of all traditions. This is a particularly stimulating, enriching and challenging context in which to grow in wisdom.



“Being a part of the Federation, studying and worshipping together, is a great example of ecumenism in practice.”



“Westcott provides a unique space to let your calling grow.”



MINISTRY

God's mission in the world and our participation in it are central to our approach to theological learning. The more we learn about God's love and compassion, the more we long for ourselves and the Church to become instruments of His grace and mercy, and bearers of the good news. Being equipped for ministry is a process of being transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Such an outward-facing disposition is woven into the life of Westcott House. Self-giving and vulnerable engagement with the realities of our world and the fragility of Christian community are opportunities to practise the values of God's kingdom and discover the abundance of His grace.

PRACTISING THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

We will encourage and enable you to reflect on your studies in the light of the mission of God and the complex realities of the Church and the world today.

VOLUNTEERING IN LOCAL PROJECTS

Opportunities include working with homeless people, helping with projects for children and young people and church-run community projects.

TAKING PART IN WESTCOTT MISSION INITIATIVES

The Student Mission Committee organises mission activities throughout the year. Recently these have included 'Beer and Carols' in local pubs at Christmas, putting on a passion play for the public, and organising a garden party for neighbouring homes and businesses.

Westcott House places a strong emphasis on contextual learning for ministry and mission. In addition to encouraging students to reflect on the 'real life' implications of their studies, we offer a range of placements that form an integral part of the study programme. Students can practise and develop the skills, knowledge and dispositions of Christian ministry by working and learning alongside a priest, chaplain or other experienced practitioner, and reflecting on their learning with the support of a tutor in college.

THE CHESTERTON PROJECT

In parallel to their studies, students from Westcott House and Ridley Hall engage with parishes in the Chesterton area of Cambridge. They meet together once a week with their tutors for theological reflection, prayer and other group activities. This pathway offers a rich, collaborative and integrated approach to learning.

THE MANCHESTER PROJECT

Four students can spend two months at a time in multi-ethnic communities in Manchester and Salford. A college house provides the base from which the students work in nearby parishes under the supervision of our Manchester-based tutor. During this time the students form a transient community, working on projects and praying together.

LYN'S HOUSE

This is a small residential community which offers hospitality to adults with learning disabilities and seeks to nurture Christian faith and spirituality. Each year two Westcott students reside at Lyn's House while many others volunteer by helping with meals, tea parties and prayers.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

These church placements involve two or more months of full or part-time engagement in a parish local to the student, offering opportunities for in-depth involvement in the parish and reflection on the life of the Church and its embodiment of God's mission. Students are also engaged in placements outside of parish or church contexts – in hospices, hospitals, prisons, schools, the army and other institutions and community projects.



“There are great opportunities to get involved in various outreach projects that make a real difference to people's lives and help you grow in faith.”

INTERNATIONAL

We encourage our students to explore opportunities for ministry and mission overseas. Each year approximately a quarter of our students travel overseas as part of their programme of training and formation.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

Westcott currently has exchange relationships in America with Yale Divinity School and The University of the South (Sewanee), where students can undertake formal study for an academic term each year. We also arrange shorter exchange programmes with Ming Hua Theological College (Hong Kong), and the Evangelisches Predigerseminar (Wittenberg).

OVERSEAS CHURCH PLACEMENTS

In addition to their placement in a UK parish, many students arrange short placements overseas. We have strong contacts with Anglican churches in many global contexts, including America, Hong Kong, India, and Brazil. Some students use their own contacts as well. In these placements, students learn about global Anglicanism, global Christianity, interfaith relations, and Christian ministry in contexts and cultures outside their own.

OTHER OVERSEAS PLACEMENTS

We gather information on other overseas opportunities, which is made available to our students. Two of the most popular programmes run by other institutions are the short study programmes at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, and the Contextual Theology Programme of the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown, South Africa.

MINISTRY DIVISION OPPORTUNITIES

We also encourage ordinands to apply for overseas study opportunities administered by Ministry Division. These include study in Germany as part of the Meissen Agreement, or in Switzerland at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey. There are also several opportunities for study in Rome, at The Pontifical Bede College, The Venerable English College, or The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas.



COMMUNITY

Our common life is energising, supportive, challenging and transforming. It is an intense experience that forms friendships, sparks conversations and generates ideas that set students thinking for the rest of their lives.

“The community is diverse and international with a real call for embracing diversity in unity.”

Public ministry demands a disposition of openness to others; by praying, eating and living as a community we grow in self-awareness, seeing ourselves as others see us and being attentive to those around us. We meet together over meals served in the House’s dining room. Each Wednesday, we meet in small tutor groups for prayer and breakfast.

Living at Westcott House involves relaxation and recreation as well as study and prayer. While Saturday is the college ‘day off’ and ordinands are attending local parishes or college chapels on Sundays, a range of social activities and shared meals are organised for those in college at the weekends. Our common room has a well-stocked and convivial bar.

Partners and families are encouraged to be involved in community life. Partners can organise their own events, and elect their own representatives on the Common Room Committee.

Preparing for public ministry is a time of transition and we provide support for everyone. The first point of contact on pastoral matters for students is their tutor. All members of the community – ordinands, students, and partners – can speak to the chaplain in total confidence.

“The friends I’ve made will support me through a lifetime of ministry.”



ACCOMMODATION

Situated in beautiful private gardens, the main buildings of Westcott House are noble examples of the late Victorian Arts and Crafts style. Our location is unrivalled; being in the heart of the city you will find all the facilities and opportunities offered by Cambridge on your doorstep. The experience of training and formation at Westcott House is enriched by the vibrant, accessible cultural and intellectual life of the city.

SINGLE STUDENTS

Students who live in college are offered either a single room or a set (study and bedroom) on one of the staircases in Old Court. Each staircase has shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. A limited number of students may be resident all year round.

COMMUTERS OR ‘WEEKLY BOARDERS’

Students who study in Cambridge during the week and go home at the weekend are usually offered a double room in Old Court. The accommodation costs are the same as those for a single student.

MARRIED STUDENTS AND THOSE WITH DEPENDANTS

The college has a number of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments on-site. Students may choose to rent accommodation privately in the city. A study space is provided on-site.

A play area in New Court, overlooked by the family accommodation block, provides facilities for children. There are good schools nearby, and we offer support and advice to students with children on the selection of schools.

All our accommodation has unlimited broadband access.



“I really like the surroundings – it’s so peaceful, calm and beautiful.”



AND THEN...

Westcott's students go on to serve in demanding posts in a wide variety of contexts. They are shaping the future, envisioning their congregations and transforming the communities they serve for the common good.

BILL CAVE
Chaplain, HM Prison,
The Verne, Portland

"Prisons are institutions for broken people, and I am often reminded of what people are capable of doing to each other through those I meet. Meeting with penitent people who find forgiveness and a fresh hope is a very real experience in prison work. For me, there is no better way to live out my life of faith."

KARIN VOTH HARMAN
Non-stipendiary curate,
East Northamptonshire

"In communities where many local facilities such as shops and public transport have ceased to exist, the church is all the more necessary. Clergy are significant figures who have the opportunity to affect the social and spiritual aspects of village life."

MICHAEL WOMACK
Rector of the rural Hoxne,
Benefice near Diss, Suffolk

"In Redlingfield there is no school, pub, shop, village hall or post office so where will a sense of community come from? The church is active and involved in its community, making a contribution, giving people a place to gather – and the church is growing."

JENNIE HOGAN
Chaplain, Goodenough
College, London (below)

"I like serving all sorts of people who would never come into contact with a priest. It is a challenge being a public person of faith in the midst of the ultra-secular world."



JAMES HUGHESDON
Vicar of St Paul and St Mark,
Old Ford, East London

"I arrived at Westcott as a Stepney ordinand coming out of working in social enterprise and unsure of what to expect. I left having grown more than I could imagine, with a wonderful group of friends and ready to face whatever curacy threw at me."

Whether it was praying together, talking late into the night in the bar or kicking a football around together, the community provided a safe and supportive environment in which I could spiritually grow.

To those applying now I'd say be yourself and take the long view – the seeds sown in you at Westcott will keep bearing surprising but wonderful fruit for a long time!"



ABI THOMPSON
Vicar of St James,
Clifton in Rotherham

"I was a relatively new Christian when I arrived at Westcott having been baptised and confirmed only 10 years earlier. I learnt to incorporate a regular pattern of prayer into my day. I also developed a true love of the Eucharist, mainly encouraged by friends with a deeply Catholic spirituality. Singing through the tears at Mass became something that I experienced more and more – and still do."

I enjoyed the Chapel and the opportunity to live alongside fellow ordinands. The conversations and the time given to priestly development have been extraordinary blessings to me as time has gone on.

I served my curacy on the Manor Estate in Sheffield and I have now been Vicar of St James, Clifton in Rotherham for nearly five years. The area I serve is deeply deprived; the challenges of running a church with few resources is occasionally tiring and difficult, but it is also incredibly rewarding. It feels a long way away from Cambridge, but a place where I have made my home and love the people."



PAUL MUNDY
Curate, Parish of St Mary's,
Barcombe, East Sussex

"I am from Lewes in the Diocese of Chichester and before coming to train for ordination at Westcott House I spent 23 years behind bars! No, not at Her Majesty's pleasure, but as a publican in and around the Lewes area."

Community life at Westcott House was both challenging and rewarding. One of my first challenges, apart from spending time away from my family, was to cope with spending my first six months in plaster, after receiving a football injury playing against Ridley Hall!

During this time I had to learn to receive help from others, realising that I cannot do everything in my own strength.

This 'surrendering' has been invaluable in my ministry so far. A sense of letting go of the person I thought I wanted to be and allowing God to reshape me into the person God intended me to be."



PETRA SHAKESHAF
Curate, St John the Evangelist,
Cambridge

"There was a point at which I thought I never wanted to leave Westcott. Such was the excitement of learning new things, exploring avenues I never knew existed, being excited about scripture, conversing with likeminded people and, often most fruitfully, those whose experience and understanding was different from mine. All this helped me to better articulate the faith which underpins everything I do."

I felt privileged to be a part of Westcott House from the moment I stepped into Old Court and still feel a sense of homecoming when I return. Quite often during the working week I am aware that something I am doing has a sense of being rooted in my time there. It was perhaps, like a gestation period, just the beginning of a remarkable journey of continued learning, experience, discovery and a sense of endless privilege."

NEXT STEPS

COME AND VISIT US

To arrange a visit or book a place on one of our open days, please contact the Admissions Office.

More information about our flexible training pathways can be found on the enclosed inserts.

To apply to Westcott House, please download and complete an application form:

www.westcott.cam.ac.uk/applications

TRAVELLING TO WESTCOTT

BY RAIL OR CAR

Cambridge has good rail and road links to London, the Midlands and the north of England. The London–Cambridge train journey takes approximately one hour.

BY AIR

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

CONTACT US

If you have questions, wish to arrange an informal visit or make an application, please contact us at:
admissions@westcott.cam.ac.uk or
01223 741000 (international: +44 1223 741000).

Our postal address is:

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Jesus Lane
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