



# trinitycollege

Prospectus



Live like the  
**Kingdom** is near

# Trinity College shapes leaders of Christ-like character in community for a missional church.

I survived doctrine,  
it blew my mind,  
I am still recovering.  
Mark Nam  
Independent Student

Having the chance to talk  
about the things I'm learning,  
especially with friends who may  
see things differently to me,  
every day over lunch or  
coffee or on placement, has  
been a massive help to me!

Mike Walker  
Ordinand, diploma

One of the best parts of the  
community at Trinity is that  
once a week the students  
have the opportunity to bless  
the spouses by looking after  
their children so that the  
spouses can share a time of  
worship, teaching and  
fellowship.

Naomi,  
Independent Student

Trinity has been a really  
healing community for me.

I have really enjoyed the balance of being placed at  
Bristol Cathedral as my context church, but being at Trinity  
as my training college. This has enabled me to have a really  
wide-ranging experience as part of my formation, + feel better  
equipped for working in various contexts in my future ministry.



Why Trinity?	<b>2</b>	Meet our faculty	<b>14</b>
A word from our principal	<b>4</b>	Life (and housing) in Bristol	<b>16</b>
Programmes and classes	<b>6</b>	Flexible training options	<b>18</b>
Learning in context	<b>8</b>	Postgraduate research	<b>20</b>
Spiritual formation	<b>10</b>	Hear from our leavers	<b>22</b>
Learning in community	<b>12</b>	How to visit and apply	<b>24</b>



# WHY TRINITY?



Coming to Trinity has been a gift for me and my family .  
 I came with a five month old baby and being here meant  
 that I didn't have to choose between motherhood and  
 my calling. The community, students and faculty, have  
 been completely welcoming and supportive .  
 - Jo Parrott (1<sup>st</sup> year ordinand) .

Whether you are in the midst of a discernment process in the Church of England or from another church background considering how you might best prepare to lead a church or ministry—with all the options before you, why should you consider Trinity?

**1 Within our community, we seek to provide an integrated educational experience.**

As you learn from the Bible and interact with our faculty, as you engage in church and other placements alongside fellow students and a mentoring vicar, as you practise spiritual disciplines together with the rest of the community—you will grow as a whole person seeking to follow Jesus and bear witness to his coming kingdom as a missional leader. We will not prioritise your academic experience over your context learning, or context learning over your lectures. We blend challenging study and context experiences together for holistic growth.

**2 What we gain by studying in community together is a deeper engagement in every area.**

Lecture discussions spill out into coffee times. Your tutors aren't only in your lectures, but are eating lunch with you, meeting in smaller groups with you, as well as regularly available for appointments. The students in your pastoral group will serve alongside you in church placements, and you'll discuss your questions, ideas, and experiences. We spend enough time together to become like family, and to practise living Christ's Beatitudes together (see page 5). We learn how to discuss differing opinions with respect despite disagreement, how to offer confession and forgiveness to one another when needed, how to grow in unity and our ability to love as Christ loves. When you have moments of struggling or feeling discouraged, our community of tutors, students, as well as college chaplains will be there to offer support for you and your family. We are on this journey together at Trinity—and what we build here with one another is carried on after college as a supportive network of relationships.

**3 At Trinity you also gain faculty and staff members who invest in each student individually.**

We will look at your background and situation and take time to consider the ways in which your time at Trinity could be best constructed to help you grow as a Christian leader. In discussion with you, we will connect you with a context church experience designed to stretch you. We will make sure your classes fit with what you most need to learn academically. If you are pregnant or have recently had a baby, we will work with you around due dates and figure out with you how to train while juggling the baby's feedings and care.

Taking the step to move in order to train can feel daunting at moments, but if God is calling you to take that step of faith, he will also provide you and your family with what you need to follow him.



# A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

At Trinity, our passion is to see people embrace the call to live like the kingdom is near. But what does that actually mean for us?

How do we grapple with the now-and-not-yet tension, partially experiencing kingdom life through our relationship with Jesus but still waiting for it to come in all its fullness? Although there are many things we don't know about the nature of God's kingdom, the Bible doesn't leave us in the dark: the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5, describe the key blessings and promises of the kingdom and the character of those who live in it. At Trinity, we want these kingdom values to permeate every area of our lives, affecting how we live and work each day, how we learn more of God, and how we lead his people in being a light to the world. It's so important for us not only to talk about God's coming kingdom, but to live whole lives that reflect and draw people to him.



## HUMILITY

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.* Believing that the grace of God comes to each as it comes to all, and that Christ showed us to consider others better than ourselves, we will constantly endeavour to shape and learn from each other.

## WHOLENESS

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.* Graciously and honestly confronting our sufferings together, we will receive the healing and comfort of God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, and extend the invitation of wholeness in Christ to others.

## SERVICE

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.* We will encourage one another towards servant-hearted living, learning, and leading, striving for all our interactions to be characterised by gentleness, kindness, and a deep love for others.

## HOLINESS

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* We will wholeheartedly pursue holiness through gracious renewal in Jesus' righteousness each day, seeking a Christ-like character, and a biblical way of living to be evident in all we do.



## JUSTICE

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* We will always make sure that people who are vulnerable or oppressed are protected, valued, and given a voice, abundantly expressing the compassion of God.

## WORSHIP

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* We will aim to learn and worship together in a way that relies upon the Holy Spirit moving through every activity, reminding us that everything we do is ultimately about better knowing, loving, and serving God.

## DIVERSITY

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.* Confessing Christ as the Prince of Peace for all the world and knowing that all followers of Jesus are united by an identity in him, regardless of background, leadership style, or opinion, we will seek to love one another in our life together and stay focused on the mission he has given us.



## COURAGE

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom.* With our hope and faith in Christ alone, we will passionately and persistently share the good news of the kingdom, living out its values in every area of our lives and constantly acknowledging our own weakness and need for the help of the Holy Spirit.

As an evangelical theological college we're preparing people for ordained ministry in the Church of England, church leadership in other denominations, local and international mission work, and the gaining of theological knowledge to take back into the workplaces, homes, and communities of our nation; it's our aim that people would be equipped to live like the kingdom is near in all of those different callings.

Of course we don't always get it right and in studying here you won't be joining a perfect community. But you will be joining a passionate community, looking to God every day to help us 'seek first his kingdom and his righteousness' by living the kind of kingdom lives that draw others towards the King.

**Rev Dr Emma Ineson**  
Principal



At Trinity, our lectures are not simply about trying to put tools in your hands to serve God better at some later point. Your classes and your time spent reading, in the Bible, and in reflection will be in themselves acts of service and worship to God.

In Trinity's community, you will be doing theology just as actively when you engage in ministry practice as when you discuss ideas with your tutor. You will be working to make your theology obedient to God just as much when you hand someone in need a hot meal in your community placement as you will when you are thinking through a research paper on the nature of salvation. We want to encourage you while at Trinity to live out the gospel, Christ's coming kingdom, at all times—to live an integrated life that will bear witness to him in every area as you lead others.

## PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

### Undergraduate Study in Theology, Ministry and Mission

- Foundation Award (one year)
- Certificate (one year)
- Diploma (two years)
- BA (Hons) (three years)

### Graduate Study in Theology, Ministry and Mission

- Grad Dip (one year)

### Postgraduate Study in Theology, Ministry and Mission

- PGDip (one year)
- MA (one year)
- MPhil, MLitt, and PhD (see page 20)

Our taught theology courses are accredited by **Durham University**, and research programmes are accredited by **Aberdeen University**.

The course lengths shown are for full-time study, but all of our programmes can be completed part time if needed due to work and family commitments, and some can be completed through full-time non-residential study. If you do not wish to aim for an accredited qualification, it may be possible for you to attend classes for individual modules that interest you, at a reduced rate, without the need to submit any written work.

We warmly welcome both ordinands and independent students into our programmes, and, primarily through our partnership with Bristol Baptist College, our classes include students who are Anglican, Baptist, as well as other denominations and backgrounds.

## LEARNING SUPPORT

If you have a learning difficulty or disability, we offer an on-site Disability Adviser and Study Support Tutor who is a qualified specialist teacher offering screening, individual study skills tutorials, and other supports for students with learning difficulties. She is an Associate Member of the British Dyslexia Association; she also holds an Irlen Screening Certificate and is able to help students with problems of visual stress and perception. The Disability Adviser can also give help in academic English to those returning to formal education after a lengthy break and assists all students at Trinity with additional needs to access the appropriate support.

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*To find out more about our programmes, including entry requirements and fees, visit [www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk](http://www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk).*

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The intro to the Bible module has absolutely grounded, inspired and stretched me in my understanding of God's word.

Mike Knight, BA, ordinand

A photograph of two young men playing instruments in a church. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue sweater over a pink shirt and is playing a blue electric bass guitar. The man on the right is wearing a red, white, and blue checkered shirt and is playing an acoustic guitar. They are both smiling. The background shows the interior of a church with tall, arched windows and stained glass. The text "LEARNING IN CONTEXT" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# LEARNING IN CONTEXT

*My placement church  
has grounded all  
the academic and  
formational learning  
with real-life praxis.*



When you join Trinity's community, we will work with you to discern what experiences you need to gain to help you prepare well for the type of ministry to which God is calling you.

## PLACEMENT CHURCH

We carefully and prayerfully connect all of our residential ordinands with Bristol-area churches, where you will embark on an experience that will last for the duration of your training, alongside a mentoring vicar (whom we refer to as your supervisor) as well as a group of fellow Trinity students. We partner with more than twenty vicars in the villages, deprived neighbourhoods, suburban areas, and city centre of Bristol, and many students and their families choose to live in the neighbourhood of their context church. You will complete a learning agreement with your supervisor to set goals and to ensure the intentionality of your involvement. As part of the integrated nature of your training, much of what you do in context will be intertwined with the curriculum of your programme, so that some assignments will be completed through your context.

## PASTORAL GROUPS

Based on your church placement, we will include you in a pastoral group (usually those students with whom you serve in your placement church) that meets bi-weekly with a Trinity tutor to chat, pray for one another, socialise, engage in critical theological

reflection, and worship together. Your pastoral group will also meet monthly with your church supervisor to reflect on your experiences within the church and engage in discussions about the realities of ministry. These meetings provide vital opportunities for deeper reflection, for learning from one another, and for support as you practise mission and ministry. This collaborative approach—regularly connecting students, supervisors, and college tutors in smaller groups—creates a rich and stimulating learning environment and enables holistic formation.

## COMMUNITY AND SUMMER PLACEMENTS

As part of your training, you will also gain additional, contrasting experiences of ministry through a community placement and a summer placement. Your ongoing church experiences could help you discern areas to explore in the shorter placement experiences. For example, one ordinand discerned through her church placement that God might be calling her to chaplaincy, and she completed a shorter community placement shadowing a chaplain at a local school. Another ordinand wanted to build relationships with people of different faiths, and he spent his community

placement with a local Bristol charity that brings Muslims, Christians, and Jews together to build bridges through shared meals, among other activities, and the provision of practical help to refugees living in Bristol.

## PIONEER MINISTERS

Is God calling you to pioneer ministry? Our pioneer students meet regularly in a cohort of both residential and non-residential students. The pioneer cohort engages with guest practitioners and shares ideas with one another, whilst engaging in missional opportunities within placements. The cohort also encourages reflection on how your classroom learning will impact your pioneer ministry, and within classes you will be offered assessment options with a pioneering focus.

## PREPARING FOR CURACY

When the time comes for you to select a curacy, we will help connect you with curacy posts, offer informational sessions on how to discern the right one for you and your family, and help you solve any issues that may arise.

A photograph of a diverse group of people, mostly in profile, looking upwards and clapping. The group includes a woman with long brown hair in a red sweater and patterned scarf, a man with short dark hair in a dark jacket, a woman with glasses in a purple top, and a man with a beard and a dark cap. The background is softly blurred, showing more people and bright light from windows. The text 'SPIRITUAL FORMATION' is overlaid in large white capital letters.

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Being Surrounded by a diverse group of people has helped the development of my spirituality and gave me new ideas on how to explore faith in creative ways.

J Niblett  
1<sup>st</sup> year ordinand



We approach your spiritual formation just as intentionally as we do your placement and academic study—we want to walk alongside you in your journey to become more like Jesus Christ, to help you bear witness to his kingdom in all you do, and this happens daily at Trinity within the context of community life.

As you join in Morning Prayer, gather weekly with your tutor and fellow pastoral group students, as you participate in prayer triplets and meet with your spiritual director, you will take steps to draw nearer to Christ with your tutors and fellow students—whether through discussions, informal chats, or as you keep silence together.

### WORSHIP AND PRAYER

We begin every day with worship and prayer together in the chapel, and celebrate communion together every week. Students frequently share testimonies with the larger community in chapel, and a student, faculty member, or outside guest preaches a sermon for the community each Friday.

### SILENCE AND REFLECTION

The whole college observes an hour of silence every Wednesday and three quiet days each year. These offer a variety of opportunities for personal and corporate reflection, prayer, and spiritual growth. Annually, you would also be offered the option to visit the Franciscan community at Hilfield Priory.

### PASTORAL GROUPS

You will meet weekly for formation in a smaller group under the guidance of one of our tutors (see pp 14-15). These groups engage in worship, prayer, and reflection, whilst also providing practical support and encouragement for you and your family.

### PRAYER TRIPLETS

Prayer triplets are a key part of our community life, helping provide personal support, encouragement, and accountability for each student. These relationships often continue to provide valuable support well beyond your time at Trinity.

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

In partnership with the local diocese, we encourage and facilitate all students in finding a spiritual director who will walk with you as you discover more about God and grow in your relationship with him.

### WEEKLY SPIRITUALITY SESSIONS

These sessions help you to learn more about spiritual disciplines and traditions in the church, and to engage in different forms of prayer and the rule of life.

# LEARNING IN COMMUNITY





*From the moment I walked in, I felt like I belonged. Community life at Trinity is vibrant and loving and the two years I have spent here have been the most fruitful and enjoyable years of my life.*

*Emma Swarbrick  
(ordinand)*

Our commitment to shaping leaders in community means that we put a lot of emphasis on spending time together during the college week.

Some of the best moments of spiritual formation and theological questioning happen when you're not in the classroom but just enjoying the company of others on a similar journey to yours. In addition to coffee breaks and lunch together, regular socials throughout the year have included a Christmas Ball, Burns Night, Bonfire Night, and quiz nights, among others. Our Student Executive plan most of our social events and help coordinate key aspects of community life. They also represent the student voice to staff, faculty, and trustees, enabling good communication and giving everyone a chance to participate in and shape college life. We have two college sports teams—the Trinity Tigers (a men's football team) and the Trinity Wolves (a women's rugby team)—who welcome new members. Other student-led groups form around shared interests. Or you can always take a break from studying in our games room, which has ping-pong, table football, and a full-size snooker table.

### CONNECT FOR SPOUSES

Connect is a group led by and for the husbands and wives of Trinity students. Connect's vision is to nurture a community of people who care for one another, whether you have children or not, stay at home or go to work, are male or female, or whether your spouse is an independent student or an ordinand. Your calling is not secondary to your partner's and as such we want be a community where everyone can be involved, feel valued, and use and develop gifts and skills. We want to see friendships grow that will support you in your faith and prayer life and will outlast your time at Trinity. Connect offers weekly sessions of worship, prayer and teaching (both a morning option with crèche provided and an evening option), a weekly Tea & Tots group, regular socials and retreat days. All Connect members are encouraged and helped to form prayer triplets, which can be a valuable place for sharing your life more deeply. Student wives and husbands are also welcomed to join the community at lunchtime and to sit in on classes at college free of charge, or to attend classes for credit at a 50 percent reduction in fees.

### MUDDY BOOTS DAY NURSERY

To support the families of our students, we have our own Ofsted-registered day nursery on college grounds. The nursery provides a safe, 'home away from home' environment where children can learn, grow, and have fun, with lots of outdoor time. In addition to two secure outdoor play spaces with all-weather safety surfaces, climbing equipment, and a vegetable patch, the nursery is able to utilise Trinity's nine acres of grounds for a forest school. Muddy Boots Day Nursery offers care between 8AM and 6PM, and the children of full-time Trinity students are able to attend for a significantly subsidised fee. Read more about the nursery at [www.muddybootsdawnursery.co.uk](http://www.muddybootsdawnursery.co.uk).

### COLLEGE CHAPLAINS

For times when you may need additional support spiritually or personally, our chaplains keep regular hours at college once a week, although they can also meet up with students (or their spouses) at other times as well. They offer a listening, impartial ear, as well as a willingness to pray with and for you, whether you are wrestling with personal issues, or just needing a place to talk.

# MEET OUR FACULTY

Our teaching faculty will challenge, encourage, inspire and invest in you during your time at Trinity. You can read more about each of our faculty members at [www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk](http://www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk) when you click on the top 'Kingdom Learning' menu.



**Rev Dr Emma Ineson**  
*Principal*



**Rev Dr Jon Coutts, BTh, MA, PhD**  
*Tutor in Theology and Ethics*



**Rev Dr David Firth, BTh, MA, PhD**  
*Tutor in Old Testament, Academic Dean*



**Rev Prof John Nolland, BSc, ThL, BD, PhD**  
*Tutor in New Testament*

'Is the gospel a detachable thing we can possess and pass on, or is it in the very dynamic of our engagement with one another? That question has occurred to me often, both when I've been studying and when I've been involved in church leadership. At Trinity we refuse to wedge apart theology and practice. We want a rich theology of the gospel of Christ to inform not only our message but also our ministry, the end as well as the means.'



**Rev Sue Gent, LLB, BA, MPhil, DipCouns**  
*Director of Mixed Mode Training, Director of the Part-Time Programme*



**Rev Dr Helen Collins, BA, PGCE, MA, PhD**  
*Tutor in Pastoral and Ministerial Studies*

'The church of this generation desperately needs ministers who can confidently and rigorously engage their theological learning with the challenging realities of church life in ways which inspire churches joyfully to incarnate the life of God in their communities. My passion is to see women and men formed into such Christlike servant leaders through study and practical experience, in the context of a worshipping community.'



**Dr Jamie Davies, BA, MLitt, PhD**  
*Tutor in New Testament, Tutor for Independent Students*

'Whether it's a lecture on the first century Jewish world, a seminar on the theology of the book of Revelation, or (yes!) a Greek grammar class, my hope is that my students are equipped to fulfil their calling to read and expound the New Testament with rich historical insight and deep theological understanding. And, more importantly, that they—and through them others—encounter afresh the God who reveals himself to us in its pages.'



**Dr Justin Stratis,**  
BMus, MDiv,  
ThM, PhD  
*Tutor in Christian  
Doctrine, Director  
of Postgraduate  
Research*

'My goal is to open up before students the vast and wondrous realities of the Christian faith so they are compelled to preach the gospel confidently, imaginatively, and with great spiritual wisdom. I want them to carry into their work and ministries a clearer vision of the God who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ and so to grow in their trust that this God can indeed empower them to do all he has called them to do.'



**Rev Dr Paul  
Roberts, BA, PhD,  
PGCE**  
*Tutor in Worship  
and Church History*



**Rev Dr Howard  
Worsley, BA, MA,  
PhD**  
*Vice Principal, Tutor  
in Missiology*

### Our associate faculty include:

**Dr David Ball**

**Rev Prof Craig Bartholomew**

**Dr John Bimson**

**Prof Craig Evans**

**Rev Dr Michael Goheen**

**Dr Paula Gooder**

**Dr Ninjay Gupta**

**Rev Dr David John Hart**

**The Very Revd Dr David Hoyle**

**Prof Gordon McConville**

**Rev Ian Parkinson**

**Rev David Runcorn**

**Prof Steve Walton**

**Rev Dr David Wenham**

**Dr Gordon Wenham**

Our teaching is shared with our partners Bristol Baptist College, so you will also benefit from the wisdom and experience of their teaching staff.



**Rev Dr Stephen  
Finamore**  
*Tutor in Doctrine  
and Biblical Studies*



**Rev Dr Peter  
Hatton**  
*Tutor in Biblical  
Studies*



**Stuart Murray  
Williams**  
*Tutor in Mission*



**Rev Dr Helen  
Paynter**  
*Research Fellow*



**Rev Dr Mike Pears**  
*Tutor in Urban  
Mission*



**Rev Dr Tim Welch**  
*Tutor in Practical  
Theology*

# LIFE (AND HOUSING) IN BRISTOL



When you relocate to Trinity to join our community, you gain the added benefit of our Bristol location and all it has to offer.

## BRISTOL

Named regularly as one of Britain's best places to live, Bristol offers many unique pubs, restaurants, shops, and music venues. You can enjoy a show at the historic Hippodrome or Old Vic theatres, claim a spot to watch the summer hot-air balloon fiesta, stroll along the harbourside or across the Clifton Suspension Bridge, climb to the top of Cabot Tower, and shop in the old St Nicholas Market. Take your children to the zoo, science centre and planetarium, aquarium, or the Bristol Museum, complete with dinosaur and gemstone exhibits. Try a Banksy walking tour, enjoy the street art and independent shops of Gloucester Road, and sample the restaurants in Clifton Village. Wander Bristol's open spaces, parks, and walking trails. And don't forget the variety of Bristol's neighbourhoods and churches, and the opportunities they will offer you to grow through your placements (see page 9).

## HOW WILL YOUR HOUSING WORK?

We know that where you make your home has a big impact on what you're able to gain from and give to the community during your time here, and that's especially true for those relocating to Bristol to study with us.

If you're going to be attached to a local church as part of your study programme, we'll work hard to make sure you live in or close to your context parish. If you're bringing a family with you we can help you think about local schools and family-friendly areas. If you have a specific part of Bristol you're already connected to or want to engage with we'll do our best to explore all the possible living options.

We can house up to 45 people in our on-site Carter building. In an average year, a close-knit community of between 25 and 30 single and weekly commuter students live in Carter, as well as two other nearby houses. The Carter building offers a separate keycode for residents to ensure privacy, its own large kitchen with adjacent dining area for Carter students' breakfasts and suppers when desired, and kitchenettes on every corridor with a sink, kettle, and toaster. Lunches are shared with the larger Trinity community in the main dining hall.

For our students who are married and those with families, Trinity owns or leases many properties that are mostly within a 3-mile radius of college, and we can also help direct you to agencies for private rentals. We recognise that your housing will impact your time at college, and we will prayerfully pursue with you what could be the best fit during your time here.

When you speak with our admissions office, you can ask them any questions you may have about your housing options.

*Trinity has provided a warm and generous welcome into a Christ centred community for my whole family. They supported us through the transition to living in Bristol, settling children into new schools and building new friendships.*

*Chris Brown (Ordinand)*

A close-up photograph of a man with short brown hair and a light beard, smiling broadly. He is wearing a red crewneck sweater over a blue collared shirt. The background is blurred, showing other people in a classroom or training setting. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text 'FLEXIBLE TRAINING OPTIONS' in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# FLEXIBLE TRAINING OPTIONS

At Trinity, we want to help make the programmes that we offer accessible to you, and to that end we offer training through three possible modes. These options pertain to those who wish to pursue our undergraduate and graduate study options; for more information about postgraduate research, please see page 21.

### 1. FULL-TIME RESIDENTIAL TRAINING

This mode offers you an integrated learning experience in the context of Trinity's community. You will attend lectures and seminars, tackle issues and personal concerns in your weekly tutor-led pastoral groups, share in worship and lunch together on weekdays, and engage in intentional church ministry alongside a mentoring vicar and fellow students. You will be immersed in a formational community experience to help you wrestle with how to understand more deeply and live out more faithfully the teachings of the Bible.

You can complete any of Trinity's programmes through this mode of study.

### 2. FULL-TIME NON-RESIDENTIAL TRAINING

Can't relocate to Bristol? Set your theological learning within your current context, attending college for six block weeks spread throughout the academic year. During block weeks, we will be intentional about building community, both within your cohort and with the wider Trinity community. Between block week sessions, you will log in to a weekly virtual tutor group and seminar, which will offer you additional support for learning in context and formation. Close integration between your context church and the college is a priority, and we will offer support and training to supervisors to facilitate your engagement in your context.

You can complete the Diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission or the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theology, Ministry and Mission through this mode.



### 3. PART-TIME TRAINING

If you live in the Bristol area and want to deepen your faith and understanding of the Bible alongside your current work, church, or family commitments, consider joining us part time. Most of our part-time students attend Tuesday evening classes, though you may have the option of attending daytime weekday classes as well. We invite our part-time students to meet before Tuesday evening classes for supper and a time of worship together, to foster friendships and community within their cohort.

You can complete any of Trinity's programmes through this mode of study. The Foundation Award and Certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission are taught on Tuesday evenings. Part-time students in the Diploma, Degree, or MA programmes attend daytime classes.

As a P/T MA Student  
flexibility has been great  
in making it possible to study



# POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Justin Strahis is an incredible Postgraduate Director, not only creating an amazing programme for our research seminars and putting on a brilliant conference, but also being pastorally available for his students. The level of PhD supervision from my supervisor has also been excellent.

Alison Walker



For those called to serve the kingdom through scholarship at the highest levels, Trinity offers two postgraduate research degrees: the Master of Theology (MTh) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

The expertise of the faculty, our commitment as a community to Jesus Christ, and the programme's flourishing cohort of more than forty postgraduate researchers make Trinity an excellent context in which to take your first steps into the academy.

You can choose to pursue a research degree full-time, part-time, in residence at Bristol, or by distance. Trinity's research degrees are validated by the **University of Aberdeen**, a university with a globally recognised reputation for excellence in the study of Christian theology.

As our distance students conduct their research, they meet regularly about their writing (via Skype or over the phone) with two advisers—one Trinity faculty member, and a second who is usually a faculty member from another university with added expertise in the student's area of interest.

### FORTNIGHTLY RESEARCH SEMINARS

Regardless of location, our postgraduate students participate in fortnightly research seminars to discuss assigned texts as well as papers by visiting scholars, faculty members, and the students themselves. Through our new video conferencing suite, international students can call into and fully participate in the seminars alongside local research students.

### ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Our local and international postgraduate students all gather together in Bristol for a week in June to attend a postgraduate research conference, during which students share research papers, listen to a lecture from a senior scholar (recent scholars have included Prof NT Wright, Dr Katherine Sonderegger, Prof Walter Moberly, Prof Francis Watson, and the late Prof John Webster), and enjoy meals and a sightseeing day trip together.

### RESEARCH PROGRAMMES FOR ORDINANDS

Trinity ordinands who are called to become future theological educators have an option to pursue a research programme (MTh or PhD) as part of their ordination training. If you wish to pursue this option, please mention it when you contact the postgraduate research office, as you will need to fill out both prospective ordinand and prospective research student forms.

### CONNECT WITH TOP SCHOLARS

The Director of Postgraduate Research works to connect Trinity's research students with key scholars in their fields to help supervise their research, whilst simultaneously working to organise a rota of outside scholars to address research seminars and a well-known scholar to provide the keynote lecture for the June research conference. Trinity's research students also regularly present their work at national and international theology conferences.

To learn more about our postgraduate study programme, visit [www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk](http://www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk) and click on 'Theology Programmes' on the 'Kingdom Learning' menu. Or contact postgraduate admissions directly on +44 (0) 117 968 0268 or [pg-admin@trinity-bris.ac.uk](mailto:pg-admin@trinity-bris.ac.uk).

# HEAR FROM



One of the best legacies of my time at Trinity was my prayer triplet. We tried to meet and catch up and pray most weeks while we were there, and then committed to carry on being in touch—initially a 3-way Skype every other week plus 24 hours away every six months. Almost four years on we still Skype for two hours every three weeks and have 48 hours away twice a year. It has been a Godsend to know there are two others specifically praying for me from outside my situation whom I can talk to regularly about day-to-day annoyances, encouragements, and challenges, as well as longer-term discipleship issues.

***Rev James Gandon (2014 leaver), Vicar, St Andrew's Church, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent***



I knew Trinity was the right place for me when I came for my interview. As a wife and mum of one it was important to me that the college did not simply tolerate families but would actively embrace families. For me, that was the case. Support from tutors and other ordinands was vital; I am now part of a prayer triplet. I felt supported by tutors when I changed programme due to having a baby, and even though academically I might not have achieved as much as I longed for, my time at college has increased my desire for lifelong learning. Knowing the tutors want you to succeed not only in studies but in ministry is vital.

***Rev Anika Gardiner (2016 leaver), Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Syston, Warmley and Bitton***



Residential training gave me a break from my sending context and immersed me in a new one with a rebalanced life rhythm where the studying community had a bigger percentage of my life than it would have been in a non-residential model. There was, in the three years I spent at Trinity, a sense of community that was woven across the staff, students and faculty that made the rigorous theology studied come to life. I could argue with someone in a lecture or seminar then have to sit beside them at lunch, meet them in the library, and worship with them in the chapel. Education, discipleship, and formation were constant. I was also fortunate to get really good practical training alongside a thorough theological one. By the time I was leaving, I had had the chance to think through much of what would face me in curacy not only with my peers but with input from people who had ministered for long enough to have learnt from common mistakes and successes.

***Rev Denis Adide (2016 leaver), Curate at Christ Church W4, London***

# OUR LEAVERS



The time at Trinity spent really digging in to the Bible and other theology through lectures, conversations, and even around the table-tennis table has helped me communicate the gospel with clarity in a number of different environments and to different groups. Being part of the Trinity community was also crucial for me. Living and working as part of a community that was thriving has helped me think through and implement ways to make our church community stronger. Just as the best way to grow a church is to have been part of a growing church, so being part of a thriving community at Trinity will help me grow community in my churches.

***Rev Ed Down (2017 leaver), Assistant Curate, St James in the City, Liverpool***



Trinity College has been the most amazing blessing to my life. During my time at Trinity I received both personal and spiritual formation to prepare me for ministry in whatever context God would present. I grew leaps and bounds in my faith as I was able to explore a variety of subjects such as doctrine, worship, biblical studies, pastoral care, church history and many more. Thankfully at Trinity, such growth in head knowledge of God was not kept separate from the heart knowledge of God; as I grew in how I thought about God I grew in how I could connect with God spiritually. It was a privilege to be a part of community of so many people I could learn from, people who cared about me and took time to invest in me while at Trinity. I can definitely say that I am all the better for it.

***Shakeel Nurmah (2017 leaver, independent student) is chair of the Church of England Youth Council and working as a church intern at St Andrews Church Kettering, in Peterborough Diocese***



I enjoyed broadening and deepening my theological understanding at Trinity. A surprise love of mine was getting the opportunity to study NT Greek. It still helps with sermon prep and personal study. I also met some wonderful people. You don't realise how good it is until you are no longer there—having chats between lessons over a cuppa, people around readily praying with each other. There were a few class clowns that really brightened up the day—I had many laughs at Trinity. I'm still in contact with a few people and one lovely family with whom we take holidays once a year. Pastoral groups were, again, fun but also supportive and prayerful. So for me it was the people, lecturers, friends, and laughter.

***Rev Donna Wilkie (2016 leaver), Curate at Christchurch Clevedon***

# VISIT US

When we ask new students why they chose Trinity, the top reason is consistently because they visited us.

Trinity College Bristol is all about its people—the faculty, staff, students, and families with whom you will seek to learn how to live Christ's coming kingdom. Come and see us for yourself! If you visit us for an interview, that offers us the chance to talk more personally with you about your spiritual journey, education and work experiences, and your sense of God's calling in your life. Interviews can be scheduled both during Open Days and on individual visits to college.

To book a visit or interview, or if you have any questions, please contact us on [admissions@trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk) or 0117 968 0254.

For more information, visit [www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk](http://www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.



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**+44 (0) 117 968 0254**

Trinity HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY for my family  
AND I. WE HAVE FOUND 'FAMILY' HERE.

My Prayer Quod has been  
a wonderful support spiritually  
throughout my time at Trinity. I  
am so thankful for this being  
so acutely encouraged in this  
community.

Caroline Reebin

Learning Greek in community  
while studying New Testament  
theology has been massively  
significant and has added  
layers of depth to many other  
disciplines of theology for me!

(Becca Rimmer - 1st yr Ordinand)

A Pastoral Care lecture  
on reconciliation  
challenged and left me  
wanting to research further.

We have felt so welcomed as  
a whole family, and that we  
are being prepared for ministry together.

Patrick  
Ordinand.

