



Sarum College
CATHEDRAL CLOSE, SALISBURY



Learning to Nourish the Human Spirit

Courses & Events Programme ♦ Spring 2026



Welcome to Sarum College

For us, the questions are as important as the answers.

The College is an inclusive, welcoming space for reflection and personal development.

Through excellent teaching, unpretentious hospitality, great food, and a break from the outside world, the College offers a safe haven for challenging exploration and conversation, where everyone is valued and heard.

Please consider joining us and sharing our learning offer with others.

James Woodward

James Woodward,
Principal of Sarum College

Affordable Learning

The course programme includes both onsite and online courses, as noted. Most day courses are onsite and cost £70 for the standard rate. A day course with ensuite B&B at the educational rate is £145.

Our online courses are either half-days, usually costing £40, or evenings, which cost £20. Look out for our special deals on online courses that run across a series of sessions.

A small discount on course fees is available to those who:

- are studying or have studied on one of Sarum College's postgraduate courses;
- are training or have trained for ministry at Sarum College or previous organisations at 19 The Close, Salisbury.

If you are eligible for a discount, please contact courses@sarum.ac.uk for the code to use when making your booking online.



Fabulous location in the Cathedral grounds. Welcoming staff, the room was small and basic, super clean and it had all I needed for my one night stay. Super comfy bed, small but powerful shower and big towels. Awesome breakfast.

It pays to book early!

Early bird discount tickets (£65 for day courses or £35 for half-day online courses) are available until 60 days prior to the course.

Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount.



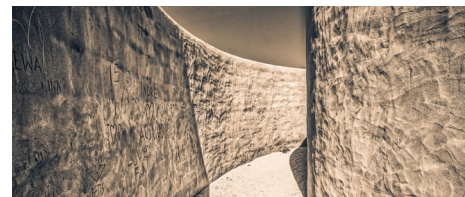
Bursaries

Sarum College offers a limited number of bursaries for those who would be unable to study without financial support.

Visit the Sarum College Bursaries webpage to learn more.



In-depth Learning Programmes



Exploring Theology Spring Term Exploring the Bible

From 13 January
Tuesdays online
7pm to 9pm

A 10-week term of weekly online sessions on the New Testament, to read and encounter the Scriptures faithfully and fruitfully in daily life.

Taught by a team of leading New Testament experts. Hosted by Anna Bishop, Programme Leader.



Sarum Course in Spiritual Direction

This programme aims to equip those who are called to the ministry of Spiritual Direction to confidently and competently accompany others.

The course is delivered in several formats: residential, online, and mixed mode, to accommodate access requirements and learning preferences.

The next three cohorts begin in January 2026 (mixed mode), April 2026 (online), and September 2027 (residential). All courses include taught sessions with expert tutors, small group work, practice in Spiritual Direction, reflective activities and feedback. For application details please see the website.

Dr Pollyanna Magne, Director of Spiritual Direction at Sarum College trained as a Spiritual Director at a Carmelite Priory in Aylesford, Kent, where she then joined the tutor team. Polly is a Spiritual Director, retreat leader and academic.

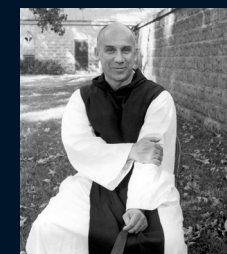
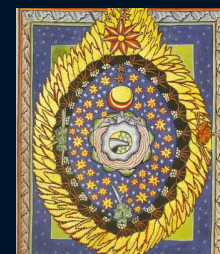
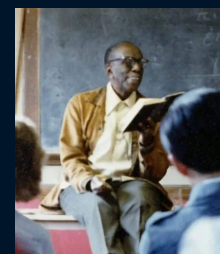


Postgraduate Programmes in Christian Spirituality

Both rigorously academic and applicable to students' personal faith life and journey, Sarum College offers field-leading postgraduate study in Christian Spirituality.

“ In my opinion it remains the very best MA in Christian Spirituality in the UK.

Dr Ash Cocksworth (Reader in Theology and Practice, University of Roehampton)



Course Structure and Delivery

Our students come from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds, which fosters excellent discussion. There is no requirement to have formally studied theology prior to the course. Our flexible approach offers the benefits of in-person teaching and is designed to fit around busy lives.

Students learn in modules taught by world-leading experts. Modules are arranged around four-day teaching intensives in person at Sarum College in the beautiful Cathedral Close in Salisbury. These in-person modules are supplemented by seminars and tutorials online.

Programme Content

Our modules can be roughly divided into three major themes:

1

The study of the history and development of Christian spiritual and mystical texts, movements and figures;

2

Questioning how Christian spirituality engages with and speaks into a range of contemporary issues such as embodied spirituality or gender and sexuality;

3

Examining how Christian spirituality interacts with a range of forms of culture, the arts, and the theological imagination.

Support and Excellence

We recognise that many students have not recently been in formal education, and we offer a wide range of support in terms of study and writing. By the end of the course of study many students are producing publishable work which has appeared in journals and books, as well as being used to lead retreats and other events.

Bursaries

We are committed to ensuring that finances should not be an obstacle to studying with us. See the range of bursaries available at the Sarum College Bursaries webpage or email Clair James at cjames@sarum.ac.uk.

Student Experience

“

‘It’s great to be able to do a lot of reading on a topic that interests me and then have the structure and essays to direct and harness that reading and learning ... It gives a focus to my learning energy ... and the feedback I get helps guide the work.

James (current student)

“

We have breakfast together then participate in the class discussions which carry on during lunch and coffee breaks ... Being at Sarum is everything I would have wanted and more – I really can’t fault anything. It’s such a joy.

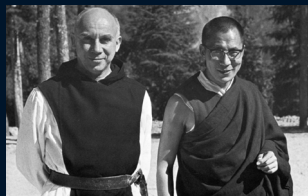
Sally (current student)

Postgraduate Courses

Come and experience a module from the postgraduate programme in Christian Spirituality, taught by a range of leading experts. All courses are hosted on site at Sarum College and run from Monday lunchtime until early afternoon on Thursday.

Please email Clair James at cjames@sarum.ac.uk to book.

Each course is bookable from £520.



Modern and Postmodern Perspectives on Christian Spirituality

9 to 12 February 2026

Explore developments in Christian spirituality, and how we study it, from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Speakers include Michael Hahn, Jayme Reaves, Pollyanna Magne, Carlton Turner, James Roberts, and King-Ho Leung.



Themes in Medieval Christian Spirituality

20 to 23 April 2026

Learn about the riches of the medieval Christian spiritual tradition, including spiritual practices, the use of the Bible, and the role of women.

Speakers include Michael Hahn, Rebecca Field, Anne Dutton and Amanda Langley.



Texts and the Christian Tradition

18 to 21 May 2026

Examine the Song of Songs in its context in the Hebrew Bible, its complex history of reception, and how it is used in a variety of contexts today.

Speakers include Michael Hahn, Jayme Reaves, Elizabeth Dodd, Deborah Kahn-Harris, Danilo Verde, Miri Rubin, Lyndon Webb, and Rachel Mann.



Postgraduate Study in Theology, Mission and Ministry

Our postgraduate programmes foster a community of learning rooted in rigorous engagement with scripture and tradition, equipped for ministry and mission in the church of tomorrow, and responding with creativity and imagination to the blessings and challenges of a diverse and changing world.

Our learning is integrated, contextual and community-focussed, empowering you to develop in your spiritual, vocational or ministerial journey. We learn together as a community, valuing each other and learning from our differences.

Course Structure and Delivery

- Blended learning: online, in-college and in your local context
- Weekly online seminars
- Onsite teaching Saturdays
- Extensive online resources
- Flexibility to suit your context



Programme Content & Skills Development

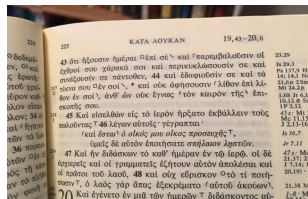
- Reflective Practice
- Research
- Leadership
- Mission
- Preaching
- Contemporary ministry
- Lifelong Learning
- Self-reflection

Interested?

Contact Jacquie Gallon (jgallon@sarum.ac.uk) for more details.

For information on grants and bursaries, see www.sarum.ac.uk/sarum-college-bursaries

January to April Onsite Short Courses



Biblical Greek Reading Week 2025

12 to 15 January
From £415 onsite

In-depth reading of Luke's Gospel for those who know most of the basics of Biblical Greek and would like more practice.

Stuart Macwilliam is a New Testament Greek language specialist.



The Art of Becoming: Lifelong Vocational Discernment

28 January
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

A day using the Gospels and art appreciation and creation to reflect on God's call at this moment of your life.

David Hollingsworth is a Developing Disciple, a (sort-of) retired Methodist Minister and a respected Artist.

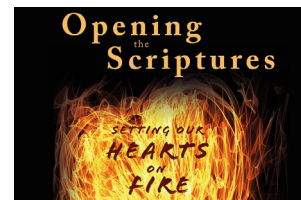


Sarum Study Day - January

29 January
10am to 4pm
£40 onsite

A day for your own project; includes quiet space, lunch and refreshments.

Sarum College faculty members.



Opening the Scriptures for Lent: Setting Our Hearts on Fire

2 February
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

Exploring heart-kindling Biblical themes which wrestle with the relationship of God and humanity.

Clare Amos enjoys teaching Biblical studies and interreligious concerns in a variety of contexts.



Faith in Action: Living out the Gospel of Justice

5 February
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

Explore how we seek justice today, through conversation, reflection and practical action.

Rachel Lampard is Director for Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church in Britain.



Reading Scripture Together: Covenant

17 February
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

We will explore the concept of covenant in both Jewish and Christian theology and why it matters.

Jayne Reaves is Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Theology at Sarum College. Shoshana Boyd-Gelfand is Director of Leadership and Learning for The Pears Foundation and a Visiting Scholar at Sarum College.



Through this course I learned that there are so many resources to suit special occasions in the church. The guidance was helpful and left me full of ideas.



I really found the whole experience of the journaling course one of gentle joy - and helped me to begin to open up to myself and God around some of the things I've kept buried.



Can Preaching Learn from Stand-Up Comedy?

26 February
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

A playful day of theory and practice exploring how skills and approaches from Stand-Up Comedy might challenge and help Preaching.

Ian Macdonald is Mission Tutor at Sarum College, and a self-confessed comedy geek as well as having been active on the Comedy Circuit for a decade.



Worshipping through Holy Week and Easter

27 February
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

An opportunity to revisit the liturgical shape of Holy Week and Easter, and explore its opportunities.

Tom Clammer OC is a freelance liturgist and theological educator.



Dag Hammarskjöld

2 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

Explore the life and works of the former UN Secretary General, a scholar of medieval mysticism whose own writing was called mystical.

Roger Lipsey is a religious philosophy scholar.

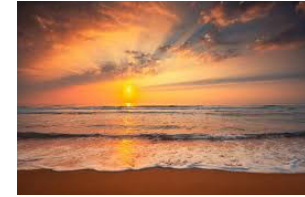


Divine Ordinarity: A Poetry-Writing Retreat

10 to 11 March
Tuesday to Wednesday
From £160 onsite

A retreat to help participants explore and develop their poetry writing skills as a form of reflection.

Manon Ceridwen James is a poet and contextual theologian, and is Dean of Bangor Cathedral.



Dreams: A Path to Wholeness

12 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

An engaging and reflective day exploring the language, meaning and purpose of dreams.

Lisa Cornwell is a priest, theological educator, spiritual director and author of *Dreams: The Path to Wholeness*.



The Wisdom of Julian of Norwich for today

14 to 15 March
6pm Saturday to 6pm Sunday
From £160 onsite

Take in the compassionate wisdom of Julian and her unique insights into God.

Gillian Ahlgren is a specialist in the Christian mystical tradition with 35 years' teaching experience.

Hire a meeting room

Grade I listed buildings, onsite catering facilities and high-spec tech make Sarum College a special venue for meetings and occasions.



College enews

Scan here to join our mailing list to receive a once monthly email with College news and highlights of forthcoming course listings.





Sing a New Song: Illuminated Psalters and Books of Hours

16 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

An extensively illustrated exploration of medieval illuminated Psalters and Books of Hours.

Freddie Law Turner is an art historian specialising in medieval manuscripts and tapestries.



Spiritual Landscapes

24 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

This short course will examine the spirituality of walking, our deep connections with place and the practice of writing to deepen personal and poetic engagement with the natural world.

Richard Skinner is a widely published poet and a highly experienced creative writing tutor.



Creative Writing in the Ecological Crisis

25 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

A guided workshop to creatively process eco-anxiety with poetry, Julian of Norwich and trauma theology.

Liz MacWhirter is an acclaimed Carnegie-nominated novelist, poet, speaker and theologian.

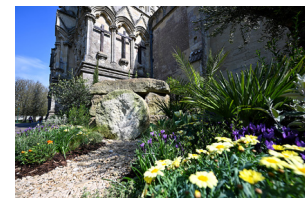


Jesus and the Pharisees

26 March
10am to 4pm
£70 onsite

Who were the Pharisees? What was Jesus' relationship with them? How do we preach about them?

Ann Conway-Jones combines academic Biblical expertise with experience of Jewish-Christian dialogue.



Praying the Psalms of the Passion

30 March
10am to 1pm
£40 onsite

Quiet Time in Holy Week: Rediscover the Psalms that Jesus prayed in the last hours of his earthly life.

Nicholas Papadopoulos has been Dean of Salisbury since September 2018.



This course gave me insight into what lies below the surface of scripture. My new awareness of the themes and connections within is powerful and shifts perceptions I have held for a lifetime!



Library access

The Sarum College Library has more than 50,000 books on theology, Bible studies, mission, church history and more, as well as study, writing and research space. There is free high-speed wifi throughout the buildings. Some courses include library membership.



English Mystics Series

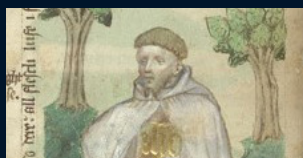
Monday evenings 7:30pm to 9pm (UK time), online, £20 per session/£85 series



Margery Kempe with Hetta Howes

26 January

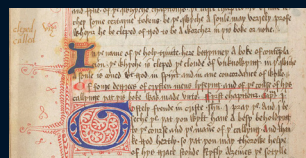
The “marmite” mystic of medieval England, Margery Kempe crafted the story of her own spiritual life and visions.



Richard Rolle with Tim Glover

23 February

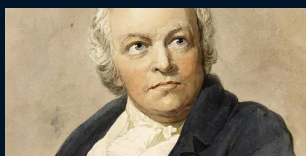
Richard Rolle was a reclusive eccentric and a mystic, who lived as a hermit in fourteenth-century Yorkshire and died in relative obscurity. Why did he later enjoy enormous medieval popularity?



The Cloud of Unknowing with Becky Field

30 March

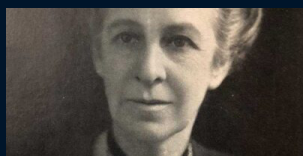
Written as an instruction manual for contemplation, the fourteenth-century *The Cloud of Unknowing* guides a disciple through the author’s ‘apophatic’ practice that the anonymous writer terms ‘unknowing’.



William Blake with Mark Vernon

27 April

What emerges when Eternity’s sunrise dawns in our minds? In this illustrated talk, Mark Vernon will explore Blake’s precise analysis of modern ills, as well as his initiatory mythology, to foster the awakening Blake yearned to stir.



Evelyn Underhill with Jane Shaw

25 May

Evelyn Underhill was a major contributor to the retrieval of mysticism in the 20th Century Anglophone world and beyond, including some of those mystics this series is covering. This session will introduce the life and writing of Underhill.

In collaboration with
CHURCH TIMES

January to April Online Short Courses



Rediscovering a Rule of Life Today (Part 1)

21 January, 11 February,
18 March, 15 April
12 to 1pm
£40 for all 4 sessions online
Tom Clammer



Doing Theological Reflection Together

3 March
10am to 1pm
£40 online
James Woodward



Soul Play: The Spirituality of Laughter

19 March
1pm to 4pm
£40 online
Ian Macdonald



Talking Books: The Bishop & the Baptised

12 February
7:30pm to 9pm
£20 online
Justin Pottinger



Walking with Young Pilgrims

17 March
10am to 1pm
£40 online
Karen Gorham & colleagues



Teresa of Avila's Interior Castle: Journeying towards Eastertide

24, 31 March, 7, 14, 21 April
7:30pm to 9pm
£85 for all 5 sessions online
Gillian Ahlgren



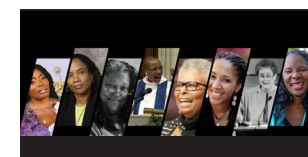
Doing Theological Reflection Together

18 February
7:30pm to 9pm
£20 online
James Woodward



Theology Catch-Up: The Atonement

17 March
12pm to 2pm
£25 online
Beth Dodd



Womanist Theology: An Introduction

27 March
1pm to 4pm
£40 online
Valentina Alexander

“

A truly wonderful day. Outstanding level of teaching, a glorious setting, lovely teachers and attendees. Extremely well looked after. Cannot recommend Sarum College highly enough.

”



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Cover Artwork

Reading between the Lines by David Hollingsworth

“Understanding discipleship by reading between the lines of divine inspiration.”

For Christians this period of the year marks Lent, Holy Week and Easter. David's striking painting has been chosen to reflect Christ's Passion.



Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EE
sarum.ac.uk | courses@sarum.ac.uk | 01722 424800

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