

## The Teaching Team

**David Catchpole** (Programme Leader), Professor Emeritus of Theological Studies in the University of Exeter and Scholar in Residence at Sarum College

**Beth Dodd**, Programme Leader for Postgraduate Common Awards, Sarum College

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**Anne Claar Thomasson-Rosingh**, Programme Leader for Lifelong Learning, Sarum College

## How to Join

The cost per session is **£6** or **£55** for a whole ten-week term. If you would like to assemble a portfolio of essays, the cost per term is just **£70**. It is not necessary to register in advance, just come along to the first meeting. If you would like to sign on beforehand, it would be helpful. Contact **David Catchpole** (01722 424800 or davidcatchpole538@gmail.com) or **Alison Ogden** (01722 424826 or aogden@sarum.ac.uk), and they will be pleased to send you a registration form.

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Cover artwork by Sophie Hacker

## Writing Essays

The first thing to say is that this is possible, and it often gives you the chance to think things through more thoroughly. But in practice most students come in order to share the experience of exploration and reflection without putting anything on paper. Until 2010/11 TQQ was validated by the University of Surrey, and we continue to observe all the quality assurance mechanisms, secured by the ongoing scrutiny of an external moderator. The essay scheme involves the writing of one short and one longer essay for each term. These essays will be marked according to agreed university-determined criteria and procedures, and at the end a 'performance transcript' will be issued. This document can then, if the student so wishes, be taken to a higher educational institution as a proof of achievement and as evidence that may, at that institution's discretion, be taken into account under the Accredited Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) scheme.

## Books

Sarum College Bookshop offers a discount of 10%, or free packing and post, on all purchases of books by those registered or intending to register for Theology Quest and Questions. For this year of study there are some helpful introductory books to mention:

David Ford (1999) *Theology: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: OUP

Alistair E McGrath (2008) *Theology: The Basics*, Oxford: Blackwell

Mark A McIntosh (2008) *Divine teaching: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, Oxford: Blackwell

# Theology Quest and Questions

## 2016-17: Exploring Christian Belief

Autumn 2016

God and Creation

Spring 2017

Christ and Salvation

Summer 2017

Spirit and Church

# Theology Quest and Questions

## The Quest and the Questions

All Christians do theology (in one way or another) but rarely are they given the chance to explore the inner coherence that gives Christian thought its unique character. The aim of this course is to open up the study of Christian theology to those who want to know what they believe, why they believe it, and whether they should keep on believing it.

It begins with an overview of the different ways in which Christians do their theological thinking: with the Bible, in worship and prayer, with theologians, with creeds and with art. Upon this foundation students will explore the content of Christian belief, covering the major topics that have generated dispute and debate, captured the imagination of some of the most creative thinkers, and energised ordinary Christian people in their daily lives.

As well as discovering and exploring the rich heritage of Christian theology the course will shed light on how Christians can use theology to wrestle with important contemporary concerns and live wisely in a challenging world.

## The TQQ Experience

We meet for the first time on Tuesday 27 September at 7pm in Sarum College. Each session lasts for two hours, with a coffee break in the middle and a lecture and discussion on either side. We begin and end promptly as some have long distances to travel.

Those who come are always very varied in their professional and personal experience, as well as any religious commitment they have (or not as the case may be), and that variety is very welcome.

As will be evident, the three terms follow a clear plan session by session, but there is always need for some more free-wheeling discussion time, so we hold two discussion days, one before Christmas (17 December) and another during the Easter period (1 April), when students set the agenda for themselves. The College Library is a very valuable resource for students, and a subscription is free for those who sign up for a full term of TQQ.

"Far from demolishing my faith, I feel more inspired and also think that my faith is on more solid foundations than before."

"It's tremendous value for money, well worth doing, and we are blessed to have it available at Sarum College."

## How We Go About It

The three TQQ terms break down into individual sessions as follows. You are welcome to register for the year, a term, or simply come for specific sessions that particularly interest you.

### Term One: God and Creation

27 September: What Makes Theology Interesting: An Introduction to the Year

4 October: Theology and the Bible: How the Bible Functions as a Theological Resource

11 October: Theology in the Church: Creeds and Heresies

18 October: Theology and Prayer: Worship and Belief

25 October: Theology with Theologians: An Introduction to Some Theological Schemes

1 November: God the Trinity

8 November: God and Creation

15 November: God and Humankind: Made in the Image of God

22 November: God and Humankind: The Fractured Image

29 November: Theology Through Art

### Term Two: Christ and Salvation

10 January: The Human Christ

17 January: The Cosmic Christ

24 January: Christ For Us Today

31 January: The Languages of Salvation: Metaphor and Diversity

7 February: Christ's Death as Victorious and Vicarious: Eastern and Western Church Views of Salvation

14 February: The Sacraments: Celebrating Salvation

21 February: Christ as Liberator: Liberation Theology and Feminism

28 February: Christ and Suffering

7 March: Christ and Many Faiths: A Christian Approach to Other Faiths

14 March: Seeing Salvation: The Vision of Art

### Term Three: Spirit and Church

9 May: The Holy Spirit in the Witness of Scripture

16 May: The Holy Spirit and the Development of Doctrine

23 May: Life in the Spirit: Living in Community

30 May: The Hopeful Community: Living in the Light of the End

6 June: The Church: Metaphors and Models

13 June: One Church, One Faith, One Lord

20 June: Ministries: Inclusion and Identity

27 June: Life in the Spirit: Care for Creation

4 July: Life in the Spirit: Money Matters

11 July: The Church and the Churches: The Message of Christian Architecture

"The course has been very informative and motivating, and I am more than satisfied. It is the best course I've done in years."

"It has been challenging but as a result has been very rewarding and has brought a lot of new insights as well as new approaches."