



The Congregational
Institute for
Practical Theology
Alumni

Newsletter Issue #3

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the CIPT Alumni Newsletter. We are sorry that we haven't been in touch with you for a while but lots of exciting things have been happening in our department which we will be telling you all about in the newsletter.

As we come towards the end of 2025, it is a great opportunity to reflect on all the God has been doing in and through us and ask for his guidance as we journey into the new year.

We would like to wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas and a peaceful and hopeful 2026

Catherine and Maddy

ALUMNI SPRING EVENT

We are excited to let you know that we will be holding our Alumni spring event (including the AGM) on Wednesday 11 March in Nottingham. We will be spending some time at the CF centre, from 10.30am for coffee and then our AGM will begin at 11am. We will provide lunch as the fellowship continues. In the afternoon we will be taking a trip to explore one of the hidden gems of Nottingham. Further details will follow in the early New Year but we would ask you to save the date in your diary and look out for booking details then.

CONTACT DETAILS

So that we are able to keep in touch with you, can you please ensure that your contact details (including your email) are up to date. If there have been any changes please contact Maddy on Madeleine.Varley@congregational.org.uk so we can update our records.

THE YEAR IN FOCUS

What a busy time 2025 has been! We have been incredibly blessed by all that has taken place and give thanks to God for all that has happened.

On the FD Course, we have seen 2 students come to the end of their studies with us. They have decided to wait for their graduation ceremony until next year, where they will join this year's graduates in celebrating their achievements.



We currently have 27 students, as we had an intake of 10 this September. This means there are currently 9 students in Level 5 (2 at 5.2 and 7 at 5.1) and 18 students in Level 4 (8 at 4.2 and 10 at 4.1). We may need a bigger building to house all those who want to join us!

Wishing you a
very happy
Christmas!



Don't forget to send us
your news, events, stories and photos
for the next newsletter:

Contact

catherine.booton@congregational.org.uk or
madeleine.varley@congregational.org.uk

This year Level 4 students are studying a new Module A The communities that shaped the Bible, Module B The history of Christian Life and Thought, optional modules on preaching and spirituality and Christian Ethics or a Placement module, depending on their year group. The Level 5 students are working on Module J Congregational History and Principles, Module I Theological Dialogues, Module Y Contextual Mission and Module O6 an exploration of the Psalms. As you can see they are very busy, reading, researching, doing and writing assignments. I am sure they would appreciate your prayers.

Other projects we have been involved in include the continued promotion of the Being Congregational course, which has now been run in a number of churches around the nations, and rather excitedly, has also gone global – with the Congregational Church in Maraland, India asking for it to be sent so they can brush up on their Congregational understanding! We have relaunched the GIFT programme, giving it an updated and more practical focus. We have a number of individual students, and church groups, working through it at the moment. We have had some involvement in the CWM sponsored resource “All for Jesus, Jesus for all”.

Finally we have also been very much involved in encouraging the CF Youth Ambassador in his wish to write a Bible study resource aimed at the young people in our churches, and others who are new to faith. This is currently being piloted and we hope it will “go to print” early in the new year.



Please do pray for all of these projects, that churches will be inspired to look at how they serve and reach out to undertake some learning in the places God has put them.

INVOLVEMENT OF ALUMNI IN THE WIDER CF AND BEYOND

We are delighted that a number of our past students have been involved in CF and other projects. Keziah Taylor, who graduated 2 years ago, has been on a CWM experience in India; the new president elect, Rob Hunter, is a CIPT Alumni, and I have had the privilege of sitting round the table at a variety of committees and council meetings this year with past students from a variety of our courses.

A number of students were Accredited to the Roll of Ministries at the May Assembly in Nottingham and it was lovely to see them at that event.

PLANS FOR 2026

We will be holding a Ministers' Retreat at Highgate House in Northamptonshire in September 2026. Full details will be coming soon, but please do get this in your diaries and come along and join us.



See more at www.congregational.org.uk/alumni-association