



The Congregational
Institute for
Practical Theology

Mini-Prospectus 2019-20



There is always more with God...

Message from the Director of Studies

Welcome

We are a fellowship of learners who share what we know and learn from one another. Our tutors are all richly experienced and highly qualified, and we have put together a course that we believe will enable you to go deeper into God's Word, getting more out of it, deeper into our Christian faith, becoming more challenged and more confident, deeper into your own relationship with God, discerning more about what he has for you.

Some people take the course and join our fellowship because they sense that God is calling them into one of the ministries of the Congregational Federation (CF). Others are already serving in ministry in the CF, and this course enables them to become accredited in that role. Some join our fellowship because they want to explore aspects of their life and faith more fully, and so they choose to take just one or two modules.

Though most of us are from churches in the CF, some join us from other denominations. We are also committed to supporting those with any special needs, and the course is not limited to those with a high number of A-Levels or other qualifications.

Our backgrounds and personalities are really very varied. The diversity in our fellowship is part of our strength, under God, and we thank him for it. I pray that you will take time to consider, prayerfully, whether taking our course, or some parts of it, could help you to discover more ... whatever that means for you.

You are very welcome!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter Riggans', written over a light blue background.

Walter Riggans



Here at the Congregational Institute for Practical Theology (CIPT), we realise that ...

there is always more with God.

There is more to discover about him and how he relates to us; there is more to discover about how he wants us to worship and serve him.

Introduction

Studying with us prepares us for the next step in our journey of faith and growth as a person – whatever that step is. You don't need to be any particular age, and you don't need to have a clutch of A-Levels or other qualifications. What you need is to want more from your journey with God.

At CIPT we have learned that we are changed by what we learn about God, ourselves and our neighbours.

You don't even need to take the whole course. It is perfectly possible to take just one or two modules from our course, and some people are doing just that. You could do this if you would like to go further with some basic study that you did in the past, like an Alpha Course. Or you could do this if you would like more confidence in your service in the church as a deacon, or youth worker, or whatever.

If you choose to take certain modules, rather than the whole course, you would still come to at least one residential weekend. All our modules are taught at these weekends, and so you would be fully part of the fellowship and worship of the whole company of students and tutors.

We are not elite.

We have a wonderful cohort of students, many of whom will tell you that they could never have dreamed that one day they would be taking a course like this.

“

Each year there's a different mix of people on the course and there is always something new that emerges from the discussions we have as we are exploring the subject together.”

Richard Cleaves
Course Tutor



Why come to CIPT?



“

The joy of learning has been so immense that I have found work and routine of life quite an interruption to my reading and studying! I am eager to hear where God leads next. ”

Elisabeth Sweeny
Module Student

Our course could be for you if ...

you would like to focus on a particular area of service in your local church (e.g. youth ministry, preaching, leading worship, mission, administration)

or if you would like to test a possible call from God to one of the seven ministries recognised by the CF.

The course:

- ✕ has a focus on God's love in action
- ✕ is rooted in Scripture
- ✕ will help to deepen your faith
- ✕ is closely linked to the life of the church
- ✕ explores our Christian and Congregational heritage
- ✕ is built around four residential weekends of learning, fellowship and worship together
- ✕ will equip and prepare you for a life of witness and service

Foundation Degree in Practical Theology

This is a part-time, blended learning course that takes four years to complete. You live at home, stay with your church and keep your job, if you are employed. Our studies are blended in with our service to our church and our daily lives.

Here are some of the subjects that we study together:

Core Modules	Optional Modules
The Bible: Jesus and the People of God	Christian Discipleship
History of Christian Life and Thought	Christian Spirituality
Practical Theology in Contemporary Contexts	Local Mission and Community Development
The Bible: Law and Letters	Global Mission and World Development
Exploring Christian Service	World Religions
Congregational History and Principles	Christian Ethics
Theological Dialogues	Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation
Beyond the Church	

This course is validated by
York St John University



BA (Hons) in Practical Theology



“

I feel much more confident in my preaching and leadership in my church. It has increased my appetite to learn.”

Mark Taylor
BA (Hons) Student

This is also a part-time, blended learning course that takes two further years to complete. You live at home, stay with your church and keep your job, if you are employed. Our studies are designed to enhance our service to our church and our daily lives.

Here are some of the subjects that we study together:

Core Modules	Optional Modules
Hidden and Revealed: Biblical and Extra-biblical Texts of Dissent	Worship Shaping Mission Shaping Worship
The Spirit of Dissent	The Word and the Words
Contexts of Dissent	The Learning Church
Long Project	Faith Shaping Politics Shaping Faith
	Living Congregationally

This course is validated by
York St John University



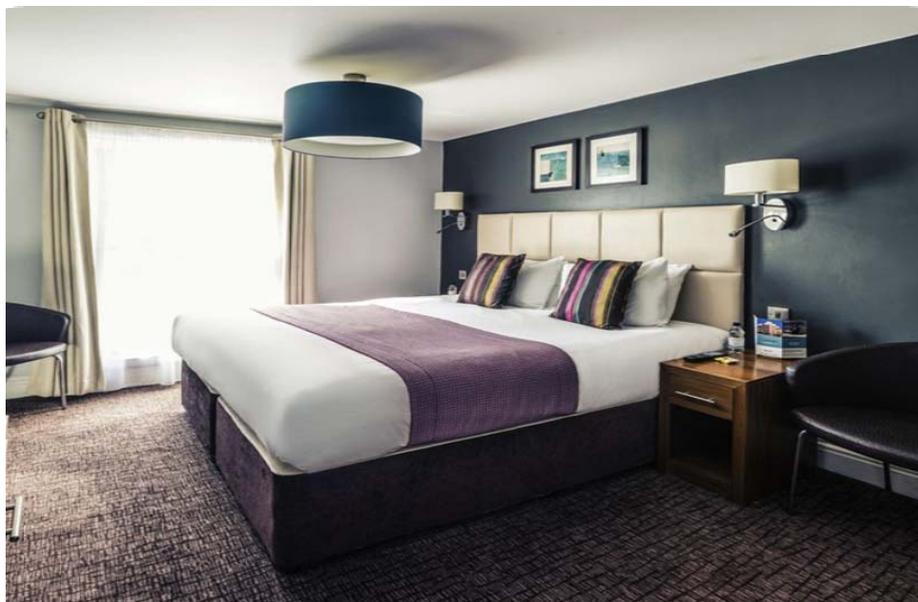
Residential Weekends in Nottingham



Four times a year, in September, January, April and June, we gather for residential weekends. These are the times when we have our class sessions, personal tutorials and major library opportunities. Tutors and students eat, chat and relax together throughout the weekends. This weekend experience is one of the highlights of the course.

Where will I stay?

The CIPT facilities are part of the Congregational Federation's offices in the very centre of Nottingham. We are surrounded by shops, cafes, and cultural sites. We all stay at the nearby Mercure Hotel, and lunches and refreshments are served in the CIPT facilities themselves.



Applying for the Foundation Degree

To apply for the FD in Practical Theology, please submit the online application form on the Congregational Federation website: www.congregational.org.uk/FDapplication

CF students seeking exemption from tuition fees, should also submit the Congregational Federation Church Endorsement Form. The deadline for applications is **31 May** in each year. You will also need to send an application for funding from The Lady Hewley Trust, for which details will be provided at the time.

Applying for the BA (Hons) Degree

Applicants should submit the online application form on the Congregational Federation Website: www.congregational.org.uk/BAapplication

CF students seeking partial exemption from tuition fees need to submit a Congregational Federation Endorsement Form by **31 May** in each year. The form is downloadable from the above website.

Applying for other options

Choosing Individual Modules

For those who want to learn more, and perhaps become more involved in God's work, there is the option of taking individual modules, as and when this suits you.

Get in touch with us, and we will happily discuss **anything** that would be helpful for you.

Congregational Federation

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training@congregational.org.uk

www.congregational.org.uk/enable

Where are they now?

Those who have done our course are involved in a wide variety of work and ministry.



Joy Langford - Minister and local chaplain

"Most importantly, I discovered my role was a calling not a personal wish! Not bad for a few years ... the journey continues. "

Yvonne Campbell - General Secretary

'When I finished the course I felt very frustrated as all my peers had been called to churches and ordained but God hadn't called me and I spent a lot of time wondering about what the course had meant for me and what God wanted for me.

Of course 4 years later I was appointed General Secretary. It's all in God's timing. I made lifelong friends on the course and became part of the national Congregational family.'



Elaine Kinchin—Retired Minister and GIFT Tutor

'I had studied with the course for three years.

I was a tutor for the local Foundation (now GIFT) course for two years. I was called to Hope Congregational Church, Oldham in 2003 and served for exactly ten years, retiring in July 2013 due to ill-health. I now lead occasional services in my home church (Witney CC) and a local URC.'



Peter Butler - Preacher

'I have been a preacher for several years and was on what was then the Integrated Course. What I liked about the course was that even non-academic people such as I were able to improve their theological knowledge and indeed spirituality to the extent that after each level I completed I became a better preacher able to serve those churches without a full time minister.'

The seven *accredited* Ministries are:

∞ Minister

∞ Tutor

∞ Preacher

∞ Pioneer Minister

∞ Chaplain

∞ Spiritual Enabler

∞ Mission Enabler

But you can study to support *any* role,
or simply for pleasure!

Safeguarding matters to us

Because we have a number of placement and work-based modules on the course, all students taking the Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) courses require an enhanced Disclosure and Barring (DBS/CRBS) certificate. This is because it is possible, and likely for many students, that you will be working with children and /or vulnerable adults.

We use national organisations which have been vetted by the Government to carry out the necessary checks. The certificate for those residing in England and Wales is obtained through DDC ([Due Diligence Checking Ltd](#)). An equivalent certificate for those residing in Scotland is obtained through PVG ([Protecting Vulnerable Groups](#)). If you have any queries about this, please get in touch with us using the contact details below.

Get the full prospectus

If what you have read so far has encouraged you to consider applying for a course, or for taking a module or two, or if it has prompted you to look for more information, then why not download our full Prospectus?



The full Prospectus is available at:
<https://www.congregational.org.uk/prospectus-and-application-forms>

If you prefer a copy to be sent to you by post, contact us with your postal address.

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