



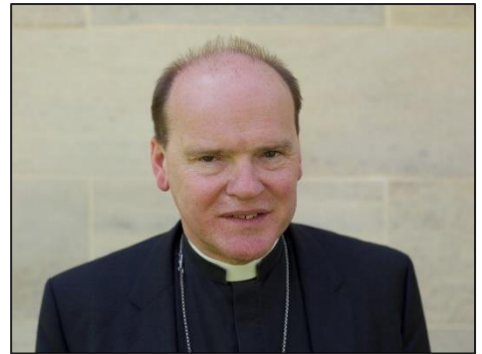
CUDDESDON
Gloucester & Hereford



**FOUNDATIONS
IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY & MISSION**

RIPON COLLEGE CUDDESDON

A Warm Welcome



Thank you for applying to join Cuddesdon Gloucester and Hereford.

CGH is part of the Cuddesdon family of courses operating from bases at Cuddesdon (near Oxford) and Portsmouth, as well as our own Gloucester and Ludlow centres. On all our pathways, and also with our partners in the Church Mission Society, we train men and women for a range of ministries in the Church of England and Anglican Communion – to work as Priests, Deacons, Readers, Pioneers, and for a range of licensed, accredited and informal lay ministries throughout our partner dioceses.

Through a wide range of flexible programmes, we have courses to suit students at different stages of life, various personal circumstances and all kinds of academic abilities. Our strength comes from our commitment to the diversity of the church, and to the range of communities we are called to serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Humphrey Southern'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern

Principal, Ripon College Cuddesdon

THE FOUNDATIONS COURSE:

Supporting and equipping Christian disciples to become more effective signs and agents of God's kingdom in the world.

Before you apply: we welcome potential students to drop in as guests and get a taste of what we do, or to come for a 'trial module' and see how study will fit into their existing lives. Come and join us for a study evening: we meet during term-time on Thursdays in Gloucester, at Discover DeCrypt on Southgate. Phone or email **Nigel Hughes, our Administrator**, to find out details and to let us know you're coming – [01452 874969](tel:01452874969), gloucesterhereford@rcc.ac.uk

The application process:

You'll find an application form on the Gloucester Diocese website, or we can email it to you by contacting Pauline Godfrey. The application is in Word format and can be completed online, once completed please email it to Pauline. Please include a digital photo of yourself.

Please note that if you have not been recommended to join this course by the vocations team we may invite you to speak with your parish priest before you apply and may require them to confirm their support via email.

Revd Canon Pauline Godfrey
pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835548
No 4 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LR

The Shape of the Course

Thursday evening study sessions, introducing:

- Theological Reflection - 5 weeks
An introduction to the practice of theological reflection, which underpins our approach to learning for discipleship and ministry
- Biblical Studies - 10 weeks
A broad introduction to the variety of texts in the Bible and ways to read them wisely, covering both Old and New Testaments
- Preaching (or independent study, as appropriate) – 5 weeks
Foundations for preachers, or for those who want to listen to sermons in a more informed way!
- Ministry and Mission in Context – 5 weeks
What is the Church for? What place do different ministries have in the life of the Church as the Body of Christ? How do we reach our communities effectively in Mission?
- Prayer and Spirituality – 5 weeks
An introduction to a range of spiritual practices from across Christian tradition

Worship and Prayer

- Whenever we meet together
 - Usually led by students

Data Protection Notice. CGH keeps details of student records in a computer database and will exchange relevant information with a student's sponsoring diocese or other church authorities.



'FOUNDATIONS' STUDY AT CGH

CGH's core purpose is to train men and women for ordained and lay ministry in the Church of England, and our courses are constructed to fit the requirements of our partner Dioceses. That said, we believe that all baptized Christian adults are called to be 'ministers' - that is, to serve the Kingdom of God, whether or not this leads to a formally licensed ministry.

As a Foundations student, you have a choice between

- Attending study sessions and participating in all study activities (including preparatory work); at the end of the year we will write to you and to your parish confirming your completion of the Foundations course.
- Attending study sessions as above, and also offering work for formal assessment and feedback. At the end of the year, if your work is at the level that would pass in a Y1 university degree course, we will award you a Foundations Certificate.
- In addition, there is also the possibility of registering with Durham University for their Foundation Award. This doesn't add anything else to the content of our course: it just adds a requirement to submit your work for assessment in accordance with university protocols (we'll guide you through them), and the opportunity for a certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission from a prestigious university! (*But please see the note about costs, below.*)

If you're not sure which option to choose, there's no reason why you can't have a go at submitting work for assessment, but 'drop down' to simply attending if you find that you don't have the time needed to do the additional reading and writing. If in doubt, have a go! Our staff will be glad to guide you in choosing the best course of study for you.

Costs of Study:

We very much hope that those undertaking the Foundations Course will be doing so as part of their commitment to a worshipping community and will be sharing – in a wide range of different ways – in the ministry of that community.

For those undertaking the course on the recommendation of the vocations team or their parish priest, generous financial support is available from the Diocese of Gloucester's Department of Mission and Ministry: in this case, the cost of the course to you is £65 per term.

Without support from a parish, the 'full cost' version of the Foundations course is available to students at a termly rate of £275, our standard charge for an independent student.

If you would like to register for the Durham University Foundation Award, there is an additional cost to cover university registration and academic administration – currently £275 for the year. If you are considering joining us, we ask you to tell us on the application form what level of involvement you foresee. (Though that doesn't mean you can't change your mind later!) Please bear in mind that places are limited, and we reserve the right to decline applications if we feel we couldn't meet your study needs.

The CGH community includes people with a rich diversity of previous experiences of church, work, and discipleship, who form a strong network of mutual support and encouragement.



PREPARING FOR CGH STUDY

Our courses are rigorously monitored for academic quality, and modules have to be taught to a prescribed level (Level 4 – that is, the same standard as the first year of a university degree course). While our tutors strive to make learning at this level accessible to everyone regardless of their background in formal study, it is designed to be academically stretching and will not suit everyone.

For those who wish to submit work for assessment, there is a significant commitment in terms of independent study to support each module. Obviously, if you are not submitting assessed work, you don't need to meet this expectation! However, do be mindful that what you will encounter in class sessions is only part of the intended learning of the course, and that the complete learning experience includes more than class sessions alone.

Academic achievement, however, is not the most important thing! Your formational growth as a follower of Christ is our core concern, and therefore ***we expect that you will commit yourself to:***

- Sharing the tasks of study with other learners
- Sharing in worship with your study group
- Supporting your fellow-students in prayer
- Developing your personal spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study
- Developing and sustaining a relationship of accountability with your parish/supervising incumbent
- Full attendance at CGH study evenings
- Letting staff know in advance if you are unable to attend any study sessions, and seeking how you might make up for what is missed

In return, ***our commitment to you*** is to provide:

- Prayerful support for your personal wellbeing and ministerial formation as you journey with us
- A core tutor in Gloucester who has primary oversight of your training, and who is available to answer any concerns you may have
- Prompt and regular feedback on your work, and careful attention to your feedback on ours
- Opportunities to develop relevant ministerial skills within a community of friends

When you join CGH, you'll join a community of disciples and ministers in formation. We believe that God's calling on us as individuals is always to be in relationship with others; as we are called to enter ever more fully into our calling as members of the Body of Christ, we find ourselves belonging to one another in deeper ways. That involves each of us in serving one another, offering our personal gifts and experiences to build up one another in Christ.

Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, with different stories of formal education, professional and personal life, ministry and life experience. Everyone at some point will feel some anxiety about the areas where we feel comparatively 'weak', but these are sometimes precisely the areas where God calls us to grow. All are welcome, because all are loved and called by God. We hope that you will have the confidence to turn your inexperience and your questions into gifts among friends-in-learning: we take Jesus' example of asking questions very seriously, and highly value enquiry and mutual wisdom-sharing.

Our Values -

As members of the Cuddesdon family, we are a community of learning, passionate for the Kingdom and open to the world.

We celebrate:

- **Community** – trust, joy, participation, generosity
- **Hospitality** – receiving the stranger, the world and keeping boundaries open
- **Wisdom** – learning, personal growth, holiness, truth, theological reflection and study
- **Integrity** – of faith, life and ministry
- **Diversity** – embracing all the riches of the Christian tradition, embracing difference and practising reconciliation

For some people, joining the Foundations course may be part of a wider vocational journey, which involves exploring a call to ordained or licensed ministry in the Church of England. **If you are beginning to sense a call to such a ministry, please contact the Revd Canon Pauline Godfrey, Head of Discipleship and Vocations, on 01452 835548, or email her on pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk.**

“The Foundation Course was recommended to me by a member of my Church congregation. I had no idea what to expect, but have been blown away by just how excited I have become about going deeper into the Bible and learning about life in biblical times – joining the dots is truly inspirational, and I am now seriously considering my ‘next steps’ in future ministry.”

Louise Thomas, Foundation Student 2018-19

“Joining CGH has been a revelation! I can't wait for Thursday evening; when I can learn, meet like-minded folk and experience different styles of worship. I thoroughly recommend it!”

Kim Trinder, Foundation Student 2018-19

“The foundation course has been a brilliant starter-for-10 to build a deeper understanding of scripture and ministry. It has been a great appetiser for my theological hunger and I hope to go on and learn more.”

Tamsyn Jenkins, Lay Pioneer Minister, Foundation Student 2018-19

AND FINALLY,

Don't forget that you are welcome to drop in and see us on a study evening during term – just contact Nigel Hughes to arrange that.

You'll find information about all the members of the Cuddesdon family on our website www.rcc.ac.uk

We look forward to meeting and working with you!



Roger Latham
CGH Director



Nigel Hughes
Administrator



Jacky Sewell
Tutor