



Regent's Park College is a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford

## BTh Suite of Courses

with the Department for Continuing Education





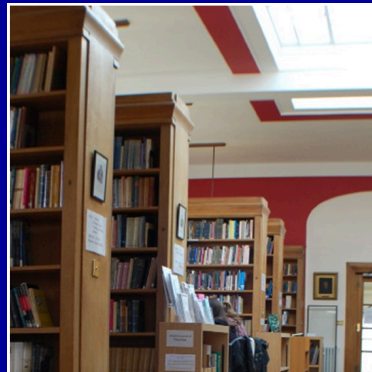
## Introduction

This brochure describes a suite of courses which are taught at Regent's Park College in conjunction with the Department for Continuing Education. The suite comprises awards for a Certificate in Theological Studies (level 4), a Diploma in Theological Studies (level 5) and the Degree of Bachelor of Theology (level 6) built around a common syllabus.

The Certificate offers an introduction to the study of theology and some of its different aspects, such as Biblical studies, history, systematic theology and practical theology, and the Diploma and Degree courses build on this foundation with greater depth of learning. All the awards can be studied on a full-time or part-time basis.

The courses are an excellent way to study theology and have been designed with a particular concern for those who wish to do so from a vocational or professional perspective, and so make connections between theology and a wide variety of professional and pastoral practice. Many of those studying for these awards at Regent's will be preparing for ministry, mainly for Baptist churches, but the courses are certainly not restricted to those seeking ordination. There are various different pathways through the course and connections can be made with interests at work as well as church life.

Tutors at Regent's have expertise in the different areas of the course, but we also have a particular interest in the areas of practical theology and learning by reflecting on practice and experience. The BTh suite is also taught by other colleges in Oxford who have a particular stress on studying theology in a vocational way and there is creative collaboration between these different colleges.



## Application

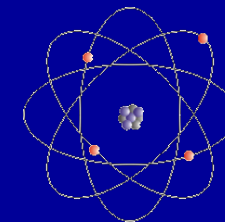
Unlike most other Oxford qualifications application to these courses is directly through the College, rather than through the University's central admission procedures.

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and to discuss the course  
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# Bachelor of Theology

The course involves a further two years of full-time or four years of part-time study and leads to an award at Level 6. The course is designed to build on the broad introduction to theology, allow students to explore the issues at a greater depth, to specialise in particular areas and to prepare, if appropriate, for further study. In addition to the papers for the CTS, students must study twelve papers at level 6. Each paper gives a notional 20 credits and students must gain overall the equivalent of 360 credits to be awarded the Degree.

In order to develop some breadth in the range of disciplines and methods in studying theology all students must take at least:

- one Biblical paper (B paper)
- one history/doctrine paper (C paper)
- one practical theology/religious studies paper (D paper)
- one piece of individual research (E paper)

The remaining seven or eight papers may be chosen from any sections or A11 or A12 from Part 1 unless these were offered for the CTS.

## Section E: Independent Study

### E1 Dissertation

is an opportunity to write a sustained piece under an agreed title. (This counts for 2 papers).

### E2 Project

is an opportunity to put together a project on a theme and under an agreed title. (This counts for 2 papers).

## Oxford University

### Department for Continuing Education

The Department of Continuing Education is that part of the University concerned with life-long learning and in particular offering the possibility of part-time study to a wide range of people. It offers a great variety of courses at many levels in different subjects. Regent's has had a partnership with OUDCE for over 30 years, although this particular suite of course has only come under the responsibility of the Department since 2014. These undergraduate courses are all awards of Oxford University, administered through the Department of Continuing Education. The teaching will be delivered by Regent's Park College in conjunction with other colleges who are involved in the courses, and administered by the Department.

'It would be fair to say my academic record and skills are not at the level of your average Oxford applicant, and because of this I was extremely apprehensive. My apprehension was unfounded, at every step in both the application and during my course of study, I have been encouraged and supported by all the teaching staff and also my fellow students. Far from wearing the dunce hat in the corner I have been enabled to play a full role in seminars, tutorials and have even found my feet in the written work.'

Sam Dunn, former DTS student

## Teaching

All the courses are taught through a mixture of tutorials, seminars and lectures, although the balance between these three methods of teaching will vary, with more tutorials and more expectation of independent study in the Degree programme. Some of the seminars will be at Regent's with others of the college cohort; some of the seminars and lectures will be shared with all those who are on the course at Regent's and in other colleges.



- A tutorial (a traditional Oxford method of teaching) involves one or two students meeting with a tutor with an essay they have written on a set subject. The tutorial will both discuss the essay or essays and develop thinking in the subject area.
- A seminar or class is a small group working with a tutor in an interactive way to teach and discuss a particular subject.
- A lecture is a presentation by a tutor to a larger group

## Assessment

One of the strengths of the course is that it offers a variety of assessment methods. The University describes the different subjects or modules you study as 'papers' and the pieces of work in each paper that count to your final mark as summative assessment. Different papers will have different options for summative assessment, based on what is most appropriate for that subject. You will be working on summative pieces all the way through your course and there will be three points each year when you can submit work to be marked as part of this continual assessment.

### D7 World Religions

offers the opportunity to study in detail one or more of the following religions in both historical development and contemporary practice: (a) Islam; (b) Judaism; (c) Hinduism; (d) Buddhism.

### D8 Philosophical Theology

offers the opportunity to gain a more detailed understanding of issues in philosophical theology within the Western tradition, or a detailed knowledge of aspects of philosophical thought beyond the Western tradition.

### D9 Issues in Christian Faith and Science

explores some of the historical and contemporary positions concerning the relationship of science to Christian faith, and explores the dialogue between Science and Christian faith in areas such as cosmology, modern biology and genetics, ecology and bioethics.

### D10 Christian Faith and Psychology

explores some of the contributions that psychological theory to pastoral theology and pastoral or professional practice.

'I'll have just completed the first year of the BTh. I study with Regents on a part-time basis, because of fulfilling a senior leadership role in public services and also being a mum. This and the individual investment in students with diverse and rich life experiences, helps me balance my commitments, which means I have the opportunity to plan study-time in advance and ultimately to pace myself and really enjoy it. I am passionate about Theology and about influencing the faith sector to become more inclusive and reflective of diversity.'

BTh student

## **D2 Issues in Mission**

offers the opportunity to explore in some detail one or more of the following: (a) church planting and fresh expressions; (b) issues in interfaith-dialogue; (c) environmental theology and creation care; (d) global mission; (e) chaplaincy; (f) apologetics and evangelism (g) mission in context.

## **D3 Issues in Christian Worship**

offers a more detailed exploration of Christian worship in both its historical form and contemporary practice with the opportunity to study issues such as the sacraments, liturgy, music, prayer and the Christian year.

## **D4 Issues in Christian Ministry**

offers detailed study in one or more of the following (a) psychology for ministry; (b) preaching and homiletics; (c) education and the learning church; (d) working with children and young people; (e) conflict transformation; (f) death, dying and bereavement; (g) sexuality and relationships.

## **D5 Issues in Christian Spirituality**

offers the opportunity for a more detailed exploration of the development of Christian spirituality, and one particular spiritual tradition, including considering issues such as personal spiritual development and the relationship between spirituality and ministry.

## **D6 The Person and Role of an Ordained Minister**

offers the opportunity to gain a thorough knowledge of the theological development and contemporary practice of ministry/ priesthood and ordination, with a focus on one denomination, and to explore relevant issues such as leadership, ministerial development and pastoral care.

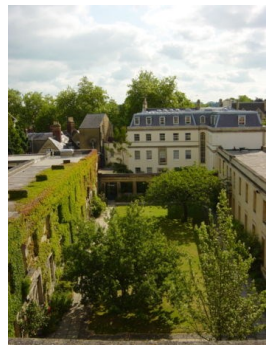
The advantage of this is that you receive ongoing feedback on your work which helps as you prepare future pieces to submit.

Possibilities for summative assessment include essays, projects, case studies and portfolios which you write and put together, with guidance from your tutors, and submit for marking. At Certificate and Diploma levels the Biblical Language papers require the summative assessment to be a 3-hour written exams. These papers are optional and you can complete the Certificate and Diploma without taking exams. Some papers at Degree level will include the option of a 3-hour exam and it is compulsory to be assessed in at least two of the subjects in this way. This is one of the factors that distinguishes the Degree from the other awards. At Degree level you also take an independent study option, such as a dissertation or an extended project.



## **Progression**

It is possible to apply to the Certificate in Theological Studies or, depending on your previous qualifications, to apply directly to the BTh. If you apply to the CTS then it is possible to apply to progress either to the DTS or to the BTh and continue your studies.



## Admissions

Candidates applying for the CTS will normally be expected to have five GCSE passes at grades A-C, one of which must be in English Language, and two passes at Advanced Level or equivalent. Some exemptions from these requirements for mature student candidates may be possible. Candidates applying straight for the BTh will be expected to have a good previous degree in a different subject or three good passes at A level.

Applicants who do not have English as a first language are required to take an International English Language Teaching System Test (IELTS) or equivalent and to gain a score of at least 7.0.

## Support

The college and the Department are able to offer support in a variety of ways. Students have access to the college library as well as other University libraries. The college uses the University's virtual learning environment, Canvas, to make resources available and to receive feedback on courses. Much of the course will be taught in small groups enabling significant interaction with and support from tutors.

## Completing the Course

Those completing the Certificate or Diploma may be awarded either a pass or a distinction. There is an annual awards evening for the



Department of Continuing Education, in the Sheldonian Theatre, when awards are presented. Those completing the Degree will be awarded a class (1, 2:1, 2:2, 3) and be invited to attend one of the Universities Degree ceremonies, also in the Sheldonian Theatre.

## C2 Issues in Christian Doctrine

offers the opportunity to explore the doctrines of the Christian church in greater depth, together with a specific focus on some key modern theologians and some major contemporary approaches to Christian doctrine.

### C3 Ecclesiology

offers the opportunity to explore the theology of the church, looking both at historical understandings and contemporary practice, including ecumenical issues, the relationship between an understanding of the church and ministry, and the sacraments.

### C4 Theologies of Salvation

offers the opportunity to consider the variety of theological approaches to the doctrine of salvation both in the Christian theological tradition, and in contemporary thought, including contemporary expressions of the doctrine of salvation in a variety of texts and media.

### C5 A Special Theologian

offers the opportunity to explore in some detail the work of one particular significant theologian, from the Christian tradition or from the tradition of another faith.



## Section D: Practical Theology and Religious Studies

### D1 Christian Ethics

offers the opportunity to explore the history and foundations of Christian ethical thought and to develop the ability to reflect critically on the application of ethical principles to contemporary, moral, social and pastoral issues.



## Section B: Biblical Studies

### B1 Further Studies in the Old Testament

will develop further the knowledge of and approach to the study of the Old Testament and will focus on the study of specific texts.

### B2 Further Studies in the New Testament

will develop further the knowledge of and approach to the study of the New Testament and will focus on the study of specific texts.

### B3 Biblical Interpretation

explores interpretative issues in the Old and New Testaments, and the history of Biblical interpretation and current trends and influences.

### B4 An Old Testament Book

offers the opportunity to explore in detail one Old Testament book.

### B5 A New Testament Book

offers the opportunity to explore in detail one New Testament book.

### B6 Advanced Old Testament Hebrew

offers the opportunity to explore the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew at a greater depth, with a focus on specific set texts.

### B7 Advanced New Testament Greek

offers the opportunity to explore the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Greek at a greater depth, with a focus on specific set texts.

## Section C: History and Doctrine

### C1 Issues in Church History

offers the opportunity to study in some depth one or more of the following periods of Church history: (a) 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries; (b) 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Centuries; (c) 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries; (d) 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries; (e) 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries; (f) 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

## The Certificate in Theological Studies

The course normally involves one year of full-time or two years of part-time study and leads to an award at Level 4. The course is designed to offer a broad introduction to theology and students must study six papers. Each paper gives a notional 20 credits, and students must gain the equivalent of 120 credits to be awarded the Certificate. The Certificate also functions as Part 1 for the Diploma or the Degree. In order to have an introduction to the range of disciplines and methods in studying theology all students must take at least:

- papers A1, A2, A3 and A4.
- at least one of papers A5 to A8.

The remaining paper may be chosen from any of the other papers.

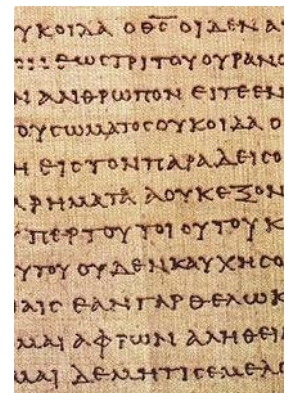


### A1 Introduction to the Old Testament

looks at a general knowledge of the content and background of the Old Testament and also gives the opportunity to study in some detail specific texts, one from the law and one from the prophets.

### A2 Introduction to the New Testament

looks at a general knowledge of the content and background of the New Testament and also gives the opportunity to study in some detail specific texts, one from a synoptic Gospel and one from elsewhere in the New Testament.



### **A3 The History of the Church**

offers a general introduction of the history of the church and a more detailed understanding of one of the following (a) the Patristic foundations; (b) the Reformation; (c) the development of Dissent.

### **A4 Introduction to Christian Doctrine**

offers a general introduction to Christian doctrine with a particular focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ, explored both by looking at significant documents from the past, such as creeds, but also contemporary expressions of doctrine in prayers, literature and film.

### **A5 Christianity and the Contemporary World**

offers a general understanding of modern western culture, including its multi-faith aspect. It then explores the nature of mission and offers tools to reflect critically on the church's engagement with contemporary culture and to dialogue with other faiths.

### **A6 Introduction to Ministry and Worship**

offers an introduction to the whole nature of ministry including the tools to develop theological reflection on your experience and practice, and also a specific focus on the worship and preaching. Alongside this it offers the opportunity to explore how this is rooted in spirituality and personal spiritual development.

### **A7 Introduction to Christian Faith and Philosophy**

explores the relationship and influence between philosophy, especially the Western philosophical tradition, and Christian faith including the major questions addressed by philosophers of religion.

### **A8 Introduction to Christian Faith and Science**

offers an introduction to some of the historical and contemporary positions concerning the relationship of science to Christian faith, and explores the dialogue between Science and Christian faith in areas such

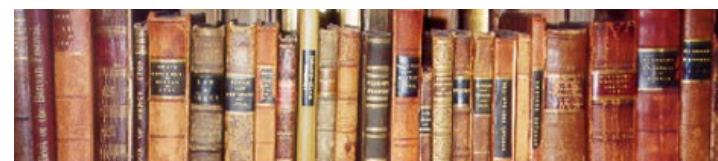
as cosmology, modern biology and genetics, ecology and bioethics.

### **A9 Elementary Biblical Hebrew**

offers an introduction to the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of biblical Hebrew, together with the exploration of some short set texts.

### **A10 Elementary Biblical Greek**

offers an introduction to the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of New Testament Greek together with the exploration of some short set texts.



## **The Diploma in Theological Studies**

The course involves a further one year of full-time or two years of part-time study and leads to an award at Level 5. The course is designed to build on the broad introduction to theology so students can explore the issues at a greater depth. In addition to the CTS, students must study six papers at level 5. Each paper gives a notional 20 credits, and students must gain overall the equivalent of 240 credits to be awarded the Diploma.

In order to develop some breadth in the range of disciplines and methods in studying theology all students must take at least:

- one Biblical paper (B Paper)
- one history/doctrine paper (C Paper)
- one practical theology/religious studies paper (D Paper)

The remaining three papers may be chosen from sections B, C or D or A11 or A12 from Part 1 unless these were offered for the CTS.