

## Frequently asked questions

**Q: What does WEMTC stand for?**

The West of England Ministerial Training Course

**Q: I was never very successful at school and have done no study since, could I join WEMTC?**

Yes. WEMTC has no formal entrance requirements. Classes are taught to University level standard, however what matters is not qualifications but motivation. We often find that students without a formal education background do very well because they are interested in the subjects. Study skills courses to help you will be available on request.

**Q: How long does training take?**

Training for a recognised Anglican Ministry (e.g. ordination, reader ministry) usually takes three years at the discretion of the sponsoring Church. Independent students may come for just one module (5 or 10 weeks) or for the Certificate, which takes just under three years.

**Q: I have done previous theological training, will it be recognised?**

Most likely yes, depending on your training. Reader training, Local Preacher training and theological degrees may all be taken into account using *Accreditation of Prior Learning* (APL) if it is clear that our modules have been covered to an equivalent standard. However in some cases a refresher course may be advisable as the discipline of theology has moved substantially in the last ten years. In all cases WEMTC makes a decision after discussion and consultation with you and the University of Gloucestershire.

**Q: When does the Course start?**

Most start with the Academic Year in September. It is strongly recommended that independent students begin with *Doing Theology* in September, especially if they have done no previous theological study.

**Q: Are there exams?**

No. WEMTC modules are assessed via written assignments, presentations, and individual/group projects. There are 2 assignments a term. Only New Testament Greek (which is optional) has tests that make up 80% of the mark.

**Q: Is this just an Academic Course?**

No. The amount of academic work depends on the Track being followed. The Certificate Course for independent students is primarily an academic course, involving classes, reading and assignments. However there is considerable practical slant to both the teaching and the assignments. For ministerial students (Readers and ordinands) the remainder of the training is practically based and the final award is a Diploma or Certificate in which ministerial skills and personal formation play an equal part alongside knowledge.

**Q: How does a Ministry Course compare to a Theological College?**

Residential colleges and regional courses are both recognised for training for ministry. In 3 years of part-time training, WEMTC students reach exactly the same standard that most residential ordinands reach in their 2 years. The Courses and Colleges offer different strengths. We recommend that all ordinands weigh up what suits their training needs best. Regional Courses enable students to remain in their employment and keep existing family links intact before moving to start a curacy. For many married ordinands a course like WEMTC provides more residential experience than a college does!

**Q: Does WEMTC have a particular 'churchmanship'?**

Many Theological Colleges fit broadly within a particular tradition of the Church (evangelical, liberal, Anglo-Catholic etc.). The Regional Courses, however, take students from all traditions and often across denominations. We have discovered that, through the broad experience of WEMTC students come to understand and love their own tradition while being able to appreciate and learn from others.

WEMTC is a regional Christian training course with centres in Cheltenham and Ludlow training men and women for ordained and lay ministry for the Church of England and other independent students of any denomination to:

- Lead in mission
- Develop pastoral skills
- Interpret the world, the tradition and the scriptures.
- Grow in faith

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**WEMTC**  
training for ministry in the west of england



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WEST OF ENGLAND MINISTERIAL TRAINING COURSE



## WEMTC

a brief summary



WEMTC courses are validated by the Church of England and by the University of Gloucestershire. The Courses offer a three year part-time training in theology and ministry with most students working to complete a Certificate or Diploma of Higher Education in Christian Theology and Ministry. We are at present developing our provision so as to enable some students to proceed to a degree, either as part of the training or post-ordination.

Teaching is delivered by a combination of face-to-face teaching on a week night during term time, residential weekends (ordinands do six per year) where more ministry related themes dominate, Saturday workshops for specific skills and an eight day long residential ( for ordination students ) each year.

Theological and ministerial training takes place through a variety of tracks which respond to the different circumstances of ministerial candidates. Ordinands have a more demanding schedule than Reader students, with more residential weekends. Many students come to us with significant existing training and experience.

We hope to expand our provision of part-time courses suitable for individuals and other local needs, building where possible on our existing provision and using resources available to us locally.

A Certificate in Pastoral Care course is to be launched in 2007 in Hereford diocese.

## Centres

where we teach

The **Bishop Mascall Centre** in Ludlow provides meeting rooms, a library a kitchen and dining area. There is ample space for car-parking and good accessibility for people with disabilities. The Ludlow Centre, whilst a long distance from other large centres of population, is central to the diocese of Hereford and essential to their delivery of teaching. This Centre also houses the Hereford Education Team, Local Ministry and the Principal of the Hereford OLM Scheme. We teach here on Wednesdays.

The Cheltenham Centre is on the **Francis Close Hall Campus** of the University of Gloucestershire and includes staff offices, the library ( integrated into the University library) a refectory and the teaching rooms. There is limited parking during the day with more in the evenings. There is good disabled access to the library and teaching rooms. Up to 60 students and staff are gathered here on Thursday evenings.

Both centres start with a student led act of worship at 7 pm and then teach from 7.30 pm - 10.00 pm with a coffee break in the middle.

## Independent Students

developing their faith

The CertHE can be taken by independent students who wish to extend and strengthen their faith and understanding. This track does not include the particularly ministerial elements and will take eight terms to complete.

Individual modules can be taken or the whole Certificate.

Fees are payable for independent students.



## Readers

learning and experience

Readers are called to a ministry of teaching and pastoral care in the church as well as being a witness to Christ in the world. The course, which is based on our Certificate in Higher Education in Christian Theology and Ministry seeks to train and enable Readers in training to fulfil that calling.

Most teaching is done alongside the ordinands and independent students and discussions can be lively and stretching. Practical placements, Saturday workshops and two or three residentials contribute to the formational and competence training. The course generally lasts three years before licensing.



## Ordinands

training as deacons & priests

At WEMTC we believe that the church needs ministers who:

- ❖ are willing to exercise leadership and take risks in order to share in God's mission;
- ❖ have a story to share of God's work in their own lives and a deepening, maturing faith;
- ❖ pray and help others to pray, being competent, flexible and committed leaders of worship;
- ❖ are rooted in the local church but able to represent the wider Church;
- ❖ are aware of God's work in the world and willing to express their faith in secular as well as church situations;
- ❖ are able to help other Christians access their heritage from scripture and tradition so that it is a living faith in the present;
- ❖ are open to others: collaborative in their working, sensitive in their listening, generous in their appreciation of others' gifts and aware of their own limitations;
- ❖ combine ministerial skills with ministerial character and have developed a competence that embraces both act and being.

Our course is designed to train and equip women and men to fulfil the above in God's service.

The ordination course is only open to candidates sponsored by their denomination and generally lasts three years. It comprises evening taught sessions of three terms of ten weeks each with six weekend residentials and an eight day long residential school each year. There are also a number of Saturday workshops based on specific skills.

At the end of the course most students are awarded a DipHE in Christian Theology & Ministry from the University of Gloucestershire. Opportunities are available for certain students to progress to a degree.

## Staff

who's who

From September 2007 there will be two full-time and one part-time core staff members. The Principal, the Revd Dr Mike Parsons is Course Tutor of the Cheltenham Centre. The Director of Pastoral Studies, the Revd Robert Daborn, is Course Tutor of the Ludlow Centre. In addition the Revd Helen Burn is a half-time tutor, based at the Cheltenham Centre, with a particular remit for Reader training.

Three part-time support staff work from the office in Cheltenham and teaching tutors are employed at each of the Centres.

