

**PRESS INFORMATION**  
For immediate release

3 February 2015

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## **Sarum College and STETS Merger Heralds New Era of Excellence in Theological Education**

The merger of Sarum College and the former Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme (STETS) became official on 1 February 2015, heralding a new era of excellence in theological education and reflection.

"Our education programmes offer lay and ordained people of all denominations the opportunity to learn together in a community that mirrors the nature of the emerging church where collaboration and welcome are fundamental," says Canon Keith Lamdin, Sarum College Principal. "This provides a rich context for us to respond to the opportunities of an evolving national framework for Anglican training."

New ordination pathways, a new partnership with Salisbury Diocese in ministerial training, and new initiatives for lay ministry in response to the requirements of regional bishops and ecumenical partners are envisaged.

"Through our combined strengths, we will work for constructive theological engagement on the pressing issues facing church and society," says the Revd Dr Anne Claar Thomasson-Rosingh, former Acting Principal of STETS.

The newly merged organisation will continue to be called Sarum College and to run its four postgraduate programmes alongside a wide array of public events and courses held throughout the year. The College continues also to be a centre of Christian hospitality where guest bedrooms and meeting rooms are available for hire by the general public when not in use for courses.

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## Editors' Notes

### 1. Sarum College

Founded in 1995, Sarum College is an ecumenical study, conference and research centre situated in historic grade 1-listed buildings in Salisbury's Cathedral Close.

Sarum's educational programme includes a variety of courses within our specialist areas of Christian Spirituality; Leadership, Consultancy ; Liturgy and Worship; Theology, Imagination and Culture; Training for Christian Ministry and Mission; and, The Arts.

There are four postgraduate programmes validated by the University of Winchester which can lead to a postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma or an MA degree.

Courses delivered by the former Southern Theological Training and Education Scheme (STETS) are validated by Durham University and students can choose full-time, part-time or practice-based study and training. These courses create opportunities for all to learn, to think, to speak and to act with greater theological confidence.

Other events and courses held throughout the year including public lectures, Biblical Study breaks, conferences, art exhibitions and lunchtime concerts. Guest bedroom and meeting rooms can be hired by the general public when not in use for courses.

The Principal of the newly merged Sarum College is Canon Keith Lamdin, who is retiring in 2015. The Sarum College Trustees have started the process to select a new Principal in Autumn 2015.

### 2. The former Southern Theological Training and Education Scheme (STETS)

Founded in 1997, STETS evolved from an initiative to offer part-time training for ordained ministry and was the first ministerial formation programme in Salisbury Diocese to include women. It has provided flexible training for public ministry (ordained and lay) in the church through integrated, content-focussed placements and learning in community.

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### Contact

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