

NEWS RELEASE

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Dr Karen O'Donnell To Head Sarum College's Centre for Contemporary Spirituality

Sarum College is pleased to announce the appointment* of Dr Karen O'Donnell as Coordinator of the Centre for Contemporary Spirituality at Sarum College.

Dr O'Donnell is a feminist, ecumenical, practical theologian whose interdisciplinary research interests span theology, spirituality, and pedagogy.

In this role, Dr O'Donnell will oversee Sarum College's thriving MA in Christian Spirituality programme, which attracts a range of students from different faith traditions.

She will also support the development of the Centre's other learning opportunities, including a programme of innovative short courses exploring various aspects of spirituality.

Sarum has a long-established reputation for excellence in the area of Christian Spirituality. Its MA in Christian Spirituality, established in 1999, was the first of its kind and continues to offer a unique programme of studies in this field.

'I am delighted to be joining such a vibrant and exciting learning community,' Dr O'Donnell says. 'I look forward to working with such outstanding colleagues at Sarum College.'

'Sarum College is thrilled to welcome Karen, who will contribute much to our life of learning. She is an experienced teacher, a skilled researcher and writer and has an entrepreneurial spirit,' says The Revd Canon Professor James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College. 'I am looking forward to working and learning alongside her.'

Dr O'Donnell is expected to be in post 1 January 2019.

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*The appointment is subject to safeguarding checks.

Photograph: Dr Karen O'Donnell

Editors' Notes

1. Dr Karen O'Donnell

Karen's 2018 monograph—*Broken Bodies: The Eucharist, Mary and the Body in Trauma Theology* (SCM Press) is on the intersection of body and memory in Christian tradition and focuses on modes of spirituality after traumatic events. Her monograph, *Digital Theology: Constructing Theology for a Digital Age* (Bloomsbury) will be published next year. This monograph aims to present a theology for the digital human that honours the embodied and spiritual traditions of the Christian faith. Karen is also co-editing a volume on feminist trauma theologies which examines feminist experiences of trauma in the light of faith.

An experienced teacher, she has taught a variety of modules for a range of degree courses, drawing upon feminist, constructive pedagogies to shape innovative learning spaces.

Her current role is Research Fellow, CODEC Centre for Digital Theology, Durham University. She works in collaboration with the Common Awards team to research the intersections and relationships between the digital world and theological learning. Her work is focused on the concepts of embodiment and disembodiment in digital engagement and exploring the theology of incarnation in the digital world.

Karen has been particularly interested in practices of spirituality and spiritual formation in digital spaces with a focus on formation for ministry online, asking the question: can and should you train for ordained ministry online?

2. 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.

Welcoming people of all faiths and none, Sarum's educational programmes are organised into seven centres of learning: Centre for Contemporary Spirituality; Centre for Leadership Learning; Centre for Liturgy and Worship; Centre for Theology, Imagination and Culture; Centre for Encountering the Bible, Centre for Human Flourishing; and the Centre for Formation in Ministry.

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

Guest bedroom and meeting rooms also can be hired by the general public when not in use for courses and college events.

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:
Christine Nielsen-Craig, director of development and marketing
Sarum College: 01722 424812 | 07800 866084 | cnc@sarum.ac.uk