

Opening Remarks

Warm welcome to you all

This is an important landmark for students and this year it is a significant moment for us as an institution: the first as 'Sarum College' with the merger of the former STETS course, now the Sarum ministry program into an expanded, renewed and strengthened Sarum College. We are stronger together and I believe are uniquely placed to build upon the secure foundations left by others. And I guess I should remind myself at the end of week seven as the new principal of Sarum – together we have a great deal of learning to do as a community committed to the nourishment of the human spirit. These are exciting times for us all.

I want here to acknowledge that is the last year of our Methodist candidates, which has given the course its ecumenical nature over a long period of time not only amongst students but in the Training Ministers and tutors. Times change and as an ordinand I shall always remember the richness that came from training in an ecumenical setting in Cambridge. Diversity and difference should unite us in our common vocation to

serve Christ. I am completely committed to ensuring that Sarum safeguards its ecumenical character.

Acknowledgements of all those who have supported the students in their study and achievements

Sarum study is not for the fainthearted! Marking, celebrating and congratulating each individual student on what they have achieved in study.

Closing remarks

Gratitude and thanks to the teaching staff, and especially to Mairead.