

Ian Macdonald to Join Sarum Centre for Formation in Ministry as Tutor in Mission

Sarum College has appointed Ian Macdonald as Tutor in Mission within its Centre for Formation in Ministry which trains people for authorised lay and ordained ministry for the Church of England.

Macdonald will join the ministry faculty in inspiring students about mission both in the inherited parish setting and through new ecclesial communities and pioneering. His additional expertise in play and humour offers a unique contribution towards the learning for a wider understanding of mission.

A qualified youth worker, Macdonald formerly held a mission-enabling role with the Diocese of Oxford, focusing on ministry with young people.

“Ian is committed to spiritual growth and discipleship development where different generations teach and challenge one another to embrace an open and enquiring approach to life and God, with humour, play and wonder at the centre,” says The Revd Canon Professor James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College.

“He has a passion for mission that involves constantly seeing God at work in the world, in often surprising and unexpected people and places.

This appointment is good news for us all. I look forward to the ways in which Ian will strengthen the team and a new generation of ministers of the gospel.”

“I am delighted to be joining the team at Sarum,” says Macdonald. “The opportunity to bring my experience in theological education and formation and my work in human flourishing through laughter, play, and storytelling feels really exciting, and a good fit for Sarum’s vision of ‘learning to nourish the human spirit.’”

“We’re looking forward to welcoming Ian to the team,” says The Revd Paul Burden, Dean of Ministry. “His thinking, passion for mission and human flourishing, and desire to learn and go deeper will be a real asset, rooted as it is in a wealth of ministry experience. We are excited about working with Ian and learning from him.”

Macdonald will be in post from 6 December 2023.

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Photograph: Ian Macdonald

Editors' Notes

1. Ian Macdonald

Macdonald holds an MA degree in Contemporary Ecclesiology from Kings College London, as well as certificates in theology and preaching, Lego Serious Play Leadership, storytelling, and stand-up comedy, writing and performance.

Active on the comedy circuit, Macdonald also runs Laughter Yoga courses and workshops where storytelling, play, spirituality, and laughter intersect.

2. Sarum College

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

Authorised ministry courses are validated by Common Awards, Durham University, and students can choose full-time, part-time or practice-based study and training. The College's location in Salisbury Cathedral Close means that Sarum's community of learning is infused by a strong sense of prayer, worship and calm nurtured through many centuries.

The learning programme also includes MA and PhD study programmes validated by the University of Winchester; spiritual direction courses; as well as a lively and varied short course programme.

The Centre for Formation in Ministry is usually around 70 students including ordinands (the majority), Reader/LLM candidates, and some independent students. There are flexible undergraduate and postgraduate pathways over two or three years to suit different circumstances.

The College hosts visitors, national and international, who attend conferences or come as tourists. An eclectic and interesting mix of people gather in the building including around meals, often sharing ideas and making new connections.

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:
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