

## Programme specification

### Certificate of Higher Education Christian Theology and Practice

**Foundation Degree Christian Theology and Practice** (the part-time version of the programme is suspended from 2017/18 entry)

### Graduate Diploma Christian Theology and Practice

### BA (Hons) Christian Theology and Practice (level 6 progression route)

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>School:</i>                     | Humanities, Religion and Philosophy  |
| <i>Entry from:</i>                 | September 2016   |
| <i>Awarding Institution:</i>       | York St John University  |
| <i>Teaching Institution:</i>       | York St John University  |
| <i>Delivery Location:</i>          | York St John University  |
| <i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>  | Not applicable   |
| <i>Exit Awards:</i>                | University Certificate Christian Theology and Practice<br>University Diploma Christian Theology and Practice<br>Graduate Certificate Christian Theology and Practice |
| <i>UCAS Code / GTTR / Other:</i>   | Not applicable   |
| <i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i> | Not applicable   |
| <i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>     | Theology and Religious Studies   |
| <i>Mode/s of Study:</i>            | Full-time BA for three years<br>Part-time FD for four years, BA for two further years  |
| <i>Language of Study:</i>          | English  |

#### Introduction and Special Features

The Foundation Degree and BA Christian Theology and Practice at York St John University aims to equip you for Christian discipleship and ministry in today's world. You will bring the resources of academic theology into conversation with the needs of contemporary Christian discipleship and ministerial practice. You will develop an informed understanding of Christian faith and practice that is willing to engage with hard questions in living, applying and sharing the Gospel today.

Throughout your studies you will be actively involved in a local church context where you will undertake practical fieldwork tasks to resource your theological reflection. You will also have the opportunity to experience at least one church, ministry or mission context different from your usual one, and to reflect on a church-based community project. Teaching will be delivered by practitioner theologians sensitive to the church environment who have a personal investment in the vitality of Christian faith and practice in critical times.

Some distinctive emphases arising from the focus on contemporary Christianity and the integration of theology with practice are:

- Biblical literacy. You will develop a good knowledge of the Bible and the skills to handle it responsibly and apply it to contemporary questions. Biblical Studies run through the different module subject areas as well as the designated 'Bible' modules.
- Practical Christian character and lifestyle. You will address traditional subject areas such as spirituality and ethics in relation to the core question of what it means to live as a Christian in today's social and cultural climate.
- Pastoral ministry and church leadership. Areas you will explore include the identification and use of spiritual gifts; engagement with pastoral and personal issues; social outreach and mission projects; relating to secular institutions.

- Contemporary Christian apologetics. You will engage in sociological and cultural exploration of 'postmodernity', in order to develop a contextual theology that engages in dialogue with the secular world, and articulates a distinctive Christian voice for today.
- Focus on church renewal. You will set current innovations in church life in a historical context of renewal and revival movements and radical new forms of church beyond the mainstream, and apply the lessons of history to the challenges of ongoing development.

### Admissions Criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate/postgraduate](#) study.

#### ***Certificate of Higher Education and Foundation Degree Christian Theology and Practice***

If you have no formal qualifications, you can achieve admission through enrolment on the first level 4 module of the programme. Upon successful completion of the module you can enrol for the full programme transferring the 20 credits.

You may be able to gain direct entry to level 5 through Accreditation of Prior Learning if you have:

- Completion of 120 credits of a level 4, Certificate of Higher Education programme (with a pass in a minimum of 100 credits) where the nature of the academic experience is deemed by the University to be equivalent to that of level 4 of the Foundation Degree;

and

- Identification within the Certificate of Higher Education programme of where and how the work-based learning elements within the Foundation Degree at level 4 have been satisfied.

Where the Certificate of HE programme has no demonstrable work-based learning element, you will be asked to take one level 4 work-based learning module as an access module.

If your first language is not English, you will need to take an IELTS test or have an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

#### ***BA (Hons) Christian Theology and Practice***

As a level 6 progression route from a Foundation Degree, this programme will have specific entry requirements:

- Successful completion of the Foundation Degree Christian Theology and Practice;
- or
- Successful completion of a cognate programme where the nature of the academic experience is deemed by the University to be equivalent to that of level 4 and level 5 of the Foundation Degree;

and

- Identification within the aforementioned programme of where and how the work-based learning elements articulated within the Foundation Degree have been satisfied;

Where the programme has no demonstrable work-based learning element, the applicant will be asked to take one level 5 work-based learning module as an access module.

You may be able to gain direct entry to level 6 if you have completed 240 credits (with a pass in a minimum of 100 credits at level 4 and level 5) as part of a higher education validated ministerial training programme.

### ***Graduate Diploma Christian Theology and Practice***

Direct access to level 6 is also possible through the Graduate Diploma for applicants who are unable to meet the entry requirements for the BA (Hons) but have either a degree in another subject or an appropriate professional qualification and either lay or ordained ministerial experience.

### ***Statement on work-based learning in relation to entry***

A Foundation Degree requires that you have opportunities for work-based learning within a relevant setting. In the case of the Foundation Degree Christian Theology and Practice, the work-based context is defined as the local church or church agency in which you are actively involved. All modules include either 20 or 40 hours of contextual fieldwork and work-based learning, and therefore you will need to be able to establish a regular base for this, which will be either your usual church context or a ministerial context beyond the local church, such as a community project. Although it is not a condition of entry that you have your work-based context for the purposes of the programme already established, if you do not you will need to have a suitable context arranged for you in consultation with the Head of Programme prior to commencing your studies. Where the programme is delivered under franchise through a formal partnership, for example with a training institution, the work-based context will be arranged by the partner.

### **Programme Aims**

The aims of the programme are set out in a way that highlights the integration of theology and practice. You will develop knowledge and skills of three kinds:

- Foundational knowledge for the subject area of Christian Theology;
- Contextualized practical knowledge and skills enabling theological reflection on Christian practice;
- Generic skills that you will be able to apply in other areas of your life.

### ***Subject-specific foundational knowledge***

The programme aims:

1. to provide a foundational understanding of Christian Theology and Practice with particular reference to the contemporary context;
2. to explore the biblical and doctrinal foundations of Christian Theology and Practice with specific reference to students' chosen traditions and/or denominations;
3. to promote academic engagement with the challenges and opportunities created for Christian Theology and Practice by contemporary social and cultural change;
4. to enable academic and practical engagement with a range of contemporary expressions of Christian Theology and Practice within emerging patterns of church life.

### ***Subject-specific practical contextualized knowledge and skills***

The programme aims:

5. to facilitate theological reflection on Christian Theology and Practice within both formal and informal ministerial roles, through dialogue and observation;
6. to enable students to acquire a theoretical and practical understanding of Christian Theology in mission and ministry contexts through fieldwork and work-based learning;
7. to foster the development of skills for engaging in and reflecting on Christian mission, ministry and leadership through fieldwork and work-based learning;
8. to enhance the development of practical and personal Christian living within and beyond the Church community.

### ***Generic and transferable skills***

The programme aims:

9. to enable students to acquire competence in oral and written communication with appropriate use of academic conventions and employment of a range of media;
10. to develop students' skills for independent learning and basic research competence;
11. to provide opportunities to engage in open, rational and disciplined study with respect and tolerance for people in their diverse traditions and practices;
12. to facilitate students' exploration of personal and vocational pathways within a caring and supportive environment.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

The lists below set out the learning outcomes you are expected to achieve at each academic level of the programme. The outcomes follow the same pattern as the aims in the preceding section: subject-specific foundational knowledge, subject-specific practical contextualized knowledge and skills, and generic skills. These overall programme outcomes feed into the individual learning outcomes for each module, in which they are expressed in a more specific way appropriate to the module topics. There are three outcomes of each type, and the basic content of these recurs as you move through the academic levels, so that your learning deepens as you revisit the principal subject areas at each level.

### **Level 4 / FHEQ L4: Certificate HE**

Upon successful completion of level 4 you will be able to:

#### *Subject-specific foundational knowledge*

- 1.1 outline key foundational concepts within the area of Christian Theology and Practice;
- 1.2 identify sources and methodologies used in the study of Christian Theology;
- 1.3 comment on factors influencing the place of faith within contemporary culture and their implications for Christian communication;

*Subject-specific practical contextualized knowledge and skills*

- 1.4 identify and explain theological and practical approaches to Christian mission and ministry;
- 1.5 describe models of the Christian church in historical, contemporary and emerging contexts;
- 1.6 explore the relationships between Christian Theology and Practice through work-based learning;

*Generic and transferable skills*

- 1.7 demonstrate basic skills of gathering and organizing information;
- 1.8 demonstrate skills in written and oral communication, utilising, where appropriate, standard academic conventions;
- 1.9 demonstrate the utilisation of elementary research skills in work-based learning contexts.

**Level 5 / FHEQ L5: Foundation Degree**

Upon successful completion of level 5 you will be able to:

*Subject-specific foundational knowledge*

- 2.1 analyse and evaluate a variety of concepts from within Christian Theology and Practice;
- 2.2 apply a range of theological models and approaches to contemporary Christian practice;
- 2.3 analyse and evaluate a range of approaches to the communication of Christian faith in contemporary social and cultural conditions;

*Subject-specific practical contextualized knowledge and skills*

- 2.4 apply theological reflection methodologies to specific mission and ministry contexts;
- 2.5 critically assess contrasting expressions of Christian church, worship and leadership;
- 2.6 reflect on field work / work-based learning in the field of Christian practice to identify and analyse academic, ministerial and personal developments;

*Generic and transferable skills*

- 2.7 demonstrate skills of analysis and evaluation of information and ideas;
- 2.8 communicate effectively in writing and through oral discussion and presentation using a range of communication techniques and conventions;
- 2.9 demonstrate the use of a range of research skills in work-based learning contexts.

**Level 6 / FHEQ L6: Honours Degree in Theology and Ministry / Graduate Diploma**

Upon successful completion of level 6 a student will be able to:

### *Subject-specific foundational knowledge*

- 3.1 critically analyse a range of theological concepts in relation to the practice of Christian faith in church, ministry and leadership
- 3.2 identify, utilise and apply research methodologies and skills in the field of Christian Theology and Practice;
- 3.3 articulate strategies for the communication of Christian faith in response to significant intellectual and cultural challenges;

### *Subject-specific practical contextualized knowledge and skills*

- 3.4 engage with a wide range of academic literature and research to develop critical analysis and evaluation of contextual Christian practice;
- 3.5 demonstrate critical awareness of issues for Christian leadership in diverse social and religious environments;
- 3.6 critically apply theoretical knowledge of areas within Christian mission and ministry in work-based contexts;

### *Generic and transferable skills*

- 3.7 proficiently access, organise, evaluate and critique information and ideas acquired independently from a range of sources;
- 3.8 demonstrate effective communication skills using information technologies in both the capture of appropriate resources for the subject and the presentation of work;
- 3.9 plan and carry out independent research using a range of research strategies and primary and secondary sources.

## Programme Structure

The programme is structured around six key themes that are progressively explored through the academic levels. These are:

- Biblical Studies
- Theology (methods, doctrines and practical contexts)
- Pastoral Care and Ethics
- Gospel and Society
- Spirituality and Worship
- Church Life and Mission

At level 4, the first two modules *Studying the Bible* and *Studying Theology in Context* are designed as an introduction to study at higher education level and you must pass these in order to be able to attain your award. At levels 1 and 2, the extended work-based learning modules *Church, Spirit and Christian Community* and *Developing Theologically Reflective Practice* must also be passed in order to be able to gain the award. The level 4 extended work-based learning will normally relate to your regular church context, and the level 5 one will be in a different and contrasting environment. All other modules will also carry an element of contextual fieldwork that will be drawn upon in at least one piece of assessed work.

You may take one module at each level from our associated Chaplaincy programme as an optional alternative to one of the standard modules marked \* below.

## Modules for the Programme

| Code   | Level | Term  | Title   | Credits | Status of Module | Work-based learning hours |
|--------|-------|-------|---|---------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1TP001 | 4     | 1     | Studying the Bible  | 20      | CA               | 20                        |
| 1TP002 | 4     | 1     | Studying Theology in Context  | 20      | CA               | 20                        |
| 1TP003 | 4     | 2, 3  | Discipleship, Vocation and Spirituality                                     | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 1TP004 | 4     | 2, 3  | Church, Spirit and Christian Community (extended work-based learning)       | 20      | CA               | 40                        |
| 1TP005 | 4     | 2, 3  | The History, Theology and Practice of Chaplaincy                            | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 1TP006 | 4     | 2, 3  | Understanding Chaplaincy Contexts (extended work-based learning)            | 20      | O                | 40                        |
| 1TP007 | 4     | 2, 3  | The Gospel in Contemporary Society  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 1TP008 | 4     | 2, 3  | Introduction to Pastoral Care   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 1TP011 | 4     | 2, 3  | Cultural Communications: Process and Practice*                              | 20      | O                | 50                        |
| 2TP001 | 5     | 1     | Using the Bible in Ministry   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP002 | 5     | 1     | Developing Theologically Reflective Practice (extended work-based learning) | 20      | CA               | 40                        |
| 2TP003 | 5     | 2, 3  | Pastoral Leadership   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP004 | 5     | 2, 3  | The Church in the Local Context   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP005 | 5     | 2, 3  | Worship and Preaching   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP006 | 5     | 2, 3  | Global and Local Mission  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP007 | 5     | 2, 3  | Chaplaincy and Mission  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP008 | 5     | 2, 3  | Multi-faith Chaplaincy  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 2TP009 | 5     | 1,2,3 | Independent Study   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP001 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Contemporary Biblical Interpretation  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP002 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Emerging Churches in Cultural Context                                       | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP003 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Chaplaincy and Public Theology  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP004 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Currents in Contemporary Christian Theology                                 | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP005 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Christian Engagement with Ethical issues                                    | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP006 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Critical Challenges for Christian Ministry                                  | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP007 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Spirituality in Postmodernity   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP008 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Spirituality and Values in Chaplaincy                                       | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP009 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Independent Study   | 20      | O                | 20                        |
| 3TP010 | 6     | 1,2,3 | Dissertation  | 40      | O                | 20                        |

**CA:** Compulsory for award; **O:** optional.

\*This module will be delivered under franchise through a Partnership arrangement with Global Horizons (Trinity School of Ministry) and will not be taught at York St John as part of the standard programme delivery.

### Teaching, Learning and Assessment

#### Teaching and learning

The Christian Theology and Practice tutors aim to provide you with a secure and supportive environment in which you can achieve your potential, both intellectually and personally. We will aim to get to know you, and you will work with a range of module tutors who are experts in their field. The Head of Programme will have oversight of your journey through the programme and you will be allocated a designated personal academic tutor who will guide and support you through your degree programme. We will help you to build on your existing strengths, and find ways to help you to become confident in developing both academic and vocational skills.

You will typically spend a total of 24 hours for each module in teaching and learning sessions with your tutors. At level 4, this contact time will give you an overview of the subject and provide you with a range of approaches to studying the subject in more depth. You will also be encouraged to reflect on your own approach to learning and the challenges your learning presents. At level 5, you will further develop your analytical skills, and learn how to reflect both on your own learning and engage with people of different faith perspectives with fairness and respect. You will have the opportunity to engage in and reflect upon an extended work-based learning activity of your choice. At level 6, the emphasis will be on enhancing your skills in critical engagement with a wide range of academic resources and practical contexts. You will have the option of undertaking an independent study on a subject of your choice.

The tutors will use a variety of learning and teaching methods in their sessions which are tailored both towards the subject and different approaches to learning (for example, lectures, seminars, group activities, visiting speakers, media, visits to relevant places of interest.) You will be given opportunities to participate actively in the teaching sessions and to develop your confidence through learning activities such as group discussion and presentations. This will enable you to develop both independence and collaborative skills as you learn both with and from your peers. Your tutor will guide you in preparing for these activities.

You will also engage in independent study outside of the contact hours. This will include guided reading, research tasks, engaging with electronic resources, preparation for teaching sessions and work on assignments.

### **Assessment**

You will encounter a range of ways of assessing your learning throughout the programme. These are designed to help you to enhance existing skills and build confidence in developing new ones. During the taught sessions there will be formative assessments (developmental tasks for which you receive feedback but not a mark) in the form of individual and group activities, and tutorial time to help you with your written assignments. Summative assessments for which your work will be marked and receive a grade will include essays, oral presentations, reflective writing, case studies and portfolios. You will develop written, oral and visual communication skills, which you will be able to build on in the future. Assessments for each module are spread throughout the academic year. Tutors will build in opportunities for you to work on drafts and receive feedback before you submit your final piece of work for assessment. There are no written examinations on the programme.

### **Progression and Graduation Requirements**

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any specific modules that must be passed for you to gain the award are indicated in the full list of modules in the Programme Structure section above.

### **Internal and External Reference Points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)

- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
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### **Further Information**

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)

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*Date written / revised:* 17/03/15, July 2017  
first delivery in 2015