

**Anglican-Lutheran Society Conference**  
**16th-20th September 2011**  
**“THE WORD PREACHED – THE WORD READ”**  
**Salisbury, Wiltshire, UK**

**WELCOME TO SARUM COLLEGE AND SALISBURY**  
**The Rev Dr Keith Lamdin (Principal, Sarum College)**

The name Sarum is the old name for Salisbury. Everything new in Salisbury is called ‘Sarum’. It is part of the nostalgia that pervades the area. Two miles away is Old Sarum where the early cathedral stood. The story has it that someone fired an arrow and where it landed the new cathedral was built. There has never been a monastic community associated with the cathedral. The Close, which used to belong to the Dean and Chapter, is now privately owned by very wealthy people indeed. It is a gated community and very exclusive.

Salisbury is ‘well heeled’. Constable’s paintings are well known. George Herbert, an Anglican divine, lived nearby at Bannerton.

Sarum College is housed in the building in The Close that used to be Salisbury Theological College. In the 1970s it was combined with Wells Theological College but closed in the 1990s because of a shortage of ordinands. The building was in a very tatty state. However, the Bishops of Salisbury and Bath and Wells, who technically own the building, decided that it should become a place of theological enquiry. It already had its chapel and library, it would be a place where adults could learn about spirituality, liturgy and worship, and living the faith in the secular community. The strap line they chose was ‘Learning to nourish the human spirit’.

Through its courses the College tries to promote wisdom and courage. Wisdom is thought of as including the capacity to explore issues from every angle, including the intellectual and emotional; openness to challenge; the ability to stay provisional and yet decided (a willingness to live as if what you believe is true without having any proof that it is); and living with the language of metaphor and irony. Courage includes a willingness to focus on the greater good whatever the cost; to acknowledge our own fear; a willingness to act.

There are five clusters of courses. The Arts, illustrated for the conference by the exhibition 'The Word' displayed around the building, and by the building itself which is being remodelled as a place of openness and welcome; Spirituality; Leadership; Worship and Liturgy; Theology, Imagination and Culture. In these areas people can work towards a masters degrees or pursue non-accredited courses. All are part-time and the students are self-financing. Everything that is done in the college is surrounded by Benedictine hospitality. It is enriched by the praying presence of a community of monks living in the former principal's house, who share in the chapel worship and dine in the college.

The College has to be self-supporting so it has to make money. To this end it houses the national headquarters of the Royal School of Church Music, and it hosts the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme which prepares Anglican and Methodists for ordination. It also houses the Babylon School of Arabic, training soldiers on their way to Oman and preparing them for life in Afghan villages. It is also a bed and breakfast business offering the only rooms in Salisbury with direct views of the cathedral. And, of course, it welcomes conferences like ours.

Dr Lamdin wished everyone a very enjoyable stay and a successful conference.