

# BTh (Hons) in Bible & Theology

Study for your degree by distance learning



## BTh (Hons) in Bible and Theology by Distance Learning

### *about the course*

The need to train men and women for Pentecostal and charismatic ministry has been recognised since the beginning of 20th century when the modern Pentecostal movement began. Worldwide statistics show that at the start of the 21st century the Pentecostal charismatic movements are growing at phenomenal rate all over the world and now comprise the third force within Christianity.

Pentecostalism has from its beginnings stressed the experiential side of Christianity. This partly explains its rapid growth but it also leaves it open to unwarranted and speculative doctrine unless its ministers are trained. Training can and should stress the rational and cognitive aspects of Christianity and provide frameworks and skills necessary for making balanced judgements.

Our objectives of Mattersey Hall include the training of leaders who are employed in various ministries in the church. Graduates of the college serve as pastors, evangelists, educators, missionaries and in other church-related occupations (as well as in many other fields). The objectives of the modules in this programme are designed to help build the student's skills for ministerial and related professions, and the knowledge and skills a graduate is expected to achieve should allow the graduate to serve in various leadership capacities in a local church or ministry organization. This course is aimed at potential church leaders and ministers; especially bivocational church workers seeking to improve their qualifications and those making a career change mid-life.

### *course aims*

The course aims to prepare men and women intellectually and in other ways for all forms of Christian ministry. It seeks to enable graduates to serve the church - Pentecostal, charismatic or evangelical - through pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic and teaching ministries and in other more broadly defined ministries related to pedagogic, humanitarian and academic orientations.

The general objectives are that, by the end of the programme, graduates will be able to demonstrate:

- skills in biblical interpretation;
- a knowledge of church history;
- a grasp of Christian doctrine;
- an understanding of the issues and methods of Christian theology;
- (for those suitably gifted) a working knowledge of the biblical languages;
- skills in the communication of Christian doctrine;
- understanding of Pentecostal history and doctrine;
- understanding of the principles and history of Christian mission;
- an ability to interact critically with a broad spectrum of theological positions;
- competences in areas of possible ministries such as those informed by counselling, leadership and church growth.

### *credit transfer*

If you have studied some of the subjects required for the course at another recognised institution already, you may be able to apply for credit transfer. This is at the discretion of the University and is not guaranteed. It is also only available for modules at Level 4 and Level 5 – you cannot have credit transfer for Level 6 modules. To apply, please request a credit transfer form from the Distance Learning Office at Mattersey Hall. There will be a small charge for this service.

If you have earned a one-year certificate or a two- or three-year diploma from Mattersey Hall itself, then you can transfer straight into the second or third year of the degree, depending upon the number of credits you have already earned, and the credit transfer fee will be waived. Please contact us for information on this.

The course materials for each module comprise essentially a study guide, which may be in one or two volumes. Most of the courses also require access to one or more textbooks (these are listed in the module descriptors at the end of this handbook). Your course fee covers the supervision, grading, your presentation to the university and the handbook, but does not include any textbooks. You should expect to have to pay between £30 and £50 for textbooks for each module.

*course materials*

The course materials will vary in length from approximately 90 pages to well over 300, depending upon the subject. But all our courses, apart from the dissertation, are 20 credit courses, meaning that, theoretically, it should take up to 200 hours for you to complete the module. This divides up as broadly 40 hours to work through the course materials thoroughly and another 160 hours for research and writing for your assessment tasks. In many cases it will not take quite so long, and we think that 5-6 hours a week for 3-4 months is probably a realistic aim if you are studying part time. The (optional) Greek modules, however, may take slightly more. You can register for more than one module at a time, but we suggest two at a time is probably sufficient for most students.

*workload*

Your registration period for each module is six months (except for the two NT Greek modules, where you have nine months). If you have not completed the course after this time you will have to pay a £50.00 per module extension fee to continue. This is to try to encourage you to work to schedule – we know from experience that momentum is a key factor in successful distance learning study, and you will find the course much easier to complete if you keep working consistently.

We expect part time students to complete three modules a year. This means you will finish the degree in six years from start to finish. It is a requirement of your registration with the University that you complete at least two modules a year. If you are registered for full time studies, then you need to complete six modules a year. Please note that because there is no attendance requirement, studying this course full time does not fulfil the requirements for obtaining a student visa or for council tax exemption and we are unable to support such applications.

Here is the full curriculum for the BTh degree:

*curriculum*

#### *LEVEL FOUR*

- DL401 Old Testament Survey
- DL402 New Testament Survey
- DL403 The Synoptic Gospels and Acts
- DL404 Research and Study Skills
- DL405 Introduction to Theology
- DL406 Introduction to Church History

You must take all six courses at this level.

*LEVEL FIVE*

DL501 NT Greek 1

DL502 Galatians and Romans

DL503 Principles of Biblical Interpretation & Preaching

DL504 Gospel of John

DL505 Practical Theology

DL506 Pneumatology

DL507 Missiology

You must take any six of the above seven modules for this level.

*LEVEL SIX*

DL601 NT Greek 2

DL602 Expository Preaching

DL603 Dissertation

DL604 NT Theology

DL605 OT Theology

DL606 Pentecostal Approaches to Divine Healing

At this level, you must take the dissertation module and any four of the other modules. Greek is therefore not a compulsory part of the programme, though many students will want to study it.

*course fees*

Each module presently costs £300, and you will need to complete 18 modules to complete the degree. You pay for each module as you request it so do not need to make a large up-front payment.

The credit transfer fee is presently £20 per 20 credit module. This fee is not applicable to any courses you have studied at Mattersey Hall.

Please note that students who apply for the Mattersey Hall External Certificate in Biblical Studies after 1 January 2007 will have to pay an upgrade fee of £500 if they wish that certificate to count towards their BTh studies.

You can expect all these fees to rise annually, broadly in line with inflation.

*to apply*

To apply, complete the Mattersey Hall Graduate & Distance Learning application form (downloadable from [www.matterseyhall.com/apply\\_distance.htm](http://www.matterseyhall.com/apply_distance.htm)). We require two references, so please ask your referees to complete their sections of the form and return them to you. You would then send the application form along with the references to us along with the £25 application fee.

We accept applications through the year.

*contact us*

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