


A photograph of Southlands College, a modern brick building with a curved walkway and greenery. The building is a multi-story structure with a mix of brick and glass panels. A prominent feature is a curved walkway that leads towards the building. The surrounding area is landscaped with green grass, small trees, and shrubs. The sky is clear and blue. The text "Southlands College" is overlaid in large white font at the bottom of the image.

Southlands College

The Methodist College
of the University of Roehampton

The crest of the University of Roehampton is positioned at the top center of the page. It features a shield with a red and white diamond pattern, a blue and white cross, and a central figure. Above the shield is a crown and a sunburst. The shield is flanked by two golden lions. Below the shield is a banner with the motto 'SCIENTIA FIDES AMICITIA'. The background of the page is a photograph of a large, leafless tree in winter, with a building and a snowy path visible in the distance.

Since opening in 1872, Southlands College has provided an environment imbued with Methodist values and focused on the Church's mission of learning, service, discipline and care for the world.

Established as one of the earliest teacher-training colleges for women, Southlands began awarding degrees in a range of subjects at the start of the 20th century. In the 1970s Southlands joined with Digby Stuart College (Catholic), Whitelands College (Anglican) and Froebel College to become the Roehampton Institute of Education and then, in 2004, to form the University of Roehampton.

Since the coming together of the four colleges, the University of Roehampton has sustained a place as one of the most respected teacher-training institutions in the UK. In addition, as part of Roehampton, Southlands forms with its sister colleges a world-class university offering higher education in a range of disciplines from foundation to doctoral level, with world-leading research and high-quality teaching.

Southlands retains its Christian identity in the context of a dynamic and modern collegiate university and as an important contributor to the complex and demanding Higher Education sector of the 21st century. Here we explore how its Methodist values and calling are embodied in the life and work of its people.



"Roehampton is a community with inspiring ideals, inspiring values, and an inspiring commitment to creating positive change in society."

Jean-Noël Ezingard, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Roehampton

Students and staff at Southlands College Gala, December 2018

University of Roehampton

Southlands College is one of four colleges that make up the University of Roehampton. The history of the university as a collaboration between the four colleges reflects an historic Methodist commitment to working across boundaries for the common good, and especially to providing education where it is most needed and for the purpose of improving lives.

The influence of Methodist values, along with those of the Christian foundations of Roehampton's other colleges, plays a crucial part in the life of the university. Each of the churches has an important place in the governance, leadership and management of the university, informing decision making at all levels. The impact of this on the university is seen across its strategic planning for every element of its work - planning that is focused on values and human flourishing.

The Methodist Church also plays an active role in supporting innovative teaching and research at the university, beyond simply influencing its taught programmes and research agenda. The Southlands Methodist Trust is a Methodist charity based at Southlands College which encourages research work across the university specifically focused on questions of crucial importance to the Church and society.

The influence of this values-based approach to education has tangible effects on the life of the university's community, and is particularly evident in its open and inclusive approach.

Three quarters of new university students come from historically under-represented groups and over half of students are the first in their family to attend university. Widening participation to ensure access to high quality education for under-represented groups is a key value of the University of Roehampton, a value that it draws from its Christian grounding.

The Christian foundations of the colleges have also influenced the research and learning which takes place at Roehampton. In the context of popular taught and research degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies, and Ministerial Theology, and working alongside the Digby Stuart Centre for Catholic Studies, the Susanna Wesley Foundation is a Methodist research centre based at Southlands College which explores critical questions about church organisation of importance to the Methodist Church and its ecumenical partners.




'Travel Sunday' welcome event 2018,
the day many students arrive

The university's research profile is both influenced by and helps to support the exploration of Methodist values. Work at the highest levels explores issues of critical importance to Methodism and its engagement with the world. Our academics explore themes ranging from church-focused concerns such as practical ecumenism and new expressions of church, through areas of Christian activity in social action and human rights, and across broader social issues of mental health, ecological sustainability, diversity and social inclusivity. The Southlands Methodist Trust supports a number of such projects every year.

Across all it does, the University of Roehampton continues to reflect the Methodist emphasis on nurturing an ongoing spirit of curiosity and discovery, and a desire to equip each individual person to serve their community. Its research and taught programmes include education, ministerial theology, theology and religious studies, human rights, nursing, psychology and counselling, law, and business, all with curricula and teaching centred on using learning for the betterment of society.

This focus on improving the world does not imply any sacrifice of academic quality and rigour. At Roehampton there is a shared commitment to the vital importance of high quality education for a flourishing society. The university ranks as the most research-intensive modern university in the UK, and includes academic departments which rank above any other in the country (Dance) or in the London region (Education) for research quality (REF 2014).



At Roehampton, we change lives by helping our students to develop the confidence, knowledge and adaptability they need for a successful graduate career and fulfilling life.

University of Roehampton Strategic Plan 2019-2022

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The Methodist Church - *Our Calling*

Southlands College, with the resident Egyptian geese

Southlands College - Our Methodist Calling

The Methodist Church has developed a distinctive culture as a discipleship movement with a mission focus. In 2018 the Church renewed its affirmation of the *Our Calling* document, which calls for Methodists to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out their discipleship in worship and mission. They do this in four ways: through learning and caring, through service, through evangelism, and through worship.

Learning, caring and service are central to the life of Southlands College. The love of God is reflected in the holistic education and hospitable support of each individual student, and through instilling a sense of generous, community-minded service that seeks to challenge injustice and serve the common good.

The following five points outline the values of Southlands College and the ways this calling is demonstrated.



1

A commitment to education and lifelong learning

Southlands is a lived embodiment of Methodism's emphasis on education as a fundamental element of Christian mission. As a part of the University of Roehampton, Southlands College enables students to access world-class learning and resources in a supportive community. Reflecting the use of 'the light of reason' emphasized by the Methodist 'quadrilateral', as well as the University of Roehampton's attention to the value of learning, Southlands encourages a high level of critical thinking and an awareness of the diversity of thinking in society.

Southlands brings the University of Roehampton into partnership both with other denominational education providers and also with Methodists in educational contexts across the Connexion and overseas. Southlands forms part of IAMSCU (International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities), MTSE (Methodist-related Theological Schools in Europe) MAST (Methodist Academies and Schools Trust) and the Methodist Schools Committee. Through these relationships it works at the forefront of critical thinking and planning regarding education with a Methodist ethos, both at a national and international level.

"It is our duty to contemplate what [God] has wrought, and to understand as much of it as we are able."

John Wesley



IAMSCU gathering in the US in 2019



2

A warm and natural interest in every individual, expressed in generous mutual relationships

Southlands College nurtures a genuine, generous care for its members reflecting the Methodist call to care for others. The Methodist focus on the importance and value of meaningful communities, especially in a learning context, has influenced a range of services and resources across the university, not least the extremely robust pastoral provision on campus.

One aspect of that provision is the multi-faith Chaplaincy, which has a large staff team that includes two full-time Methodist Chaplains. As a team, the Chaplains organise events, services, and opportunities for students and staff to connect and be supported as part of a community characterised by care and by love.

Southlands has a long tradition of coming together as a college over food for good conversation and to celebrate the work and success of its members. Galas and other special events reflect the way Southlands balances professionalism and high academic standards with a happy social life and a good sense of humour, focused on radiating esteem of others. Honouring achievement through awards and performances is accompanied by encouragement to participate and enjoy having fun.



Chaplains and College Wardens getting ready to greet new students with the Southlands College mascot



A dinner for international students

When people are in particular need, the Methodist call to care is of particular importance. The pressures on students in the modern age are increasingly strong and the complexities of their lives often overwhelming. Wherever it can, Southlands aims to live out its Methodist calling through providing a safe and caring environment focused on wellbeing and positive mental and physical health, and by offering practical support to those in the greatest need.

Southlands is committed to developing responsible leaders. Each year 'flat reps' are trained to be a point of contact for students and support each other in community living on campus. College Officers are appointed to support the work of the college and to ensure its activities are developed and delivered by and for the whole community.

Once a member of Southlands, always a member of Southlands. Our community is one of complete inclusivity, which extends to our former students. We have a strong alumni network, helping former students to stay connected with the Southlands community and encouraging the support of our past students in the development of our current students as they prepare to enter the working world.

"To pursue after knowledge only for its own sake, is a vain and unprofitable curiosity...We must know, that we may love."

Susanna Wesley



Southlands College Flat Reps, 2019-20



One of Southlands College's most senior alumni, Freda Smith, with Shaalin Patel, Student President 2017-19, at an Alumni Day, 2018

3

Respect for authority, with a suspicion of "hierarchy" and an emphasis on relationships

Southlands College has a firm commitment to integrity, truth telling and the highest professional standards. Within its structure and professionalism sits a plain-speaking, approachable attitude to college life and community. Students and staff attend events organised by the college together, and such events are shaped to reflect the care the college takes to enact a desire for quality that stems from real relationships.

Extending from this value, the University of Roehampton considers its purpose to be to engage in 'the pursuit of truth through freedom of thought and expression; and [to promote] diversity, equality and tolerance' (*The Story of Roehampton University*).

Because of this commitment, students at Southlands and across Roehampton are seen as partners in their education. Students are given a voice in all decision-making forums and are encouraged to stand as representatives of the student body within the college and their academic departments to make sure the curriculum and its delivery are the best they can be.

"Education is not ultimately about training people to be clever or successful, but about discovering what it is to be the full human beings God intended us to be."

'The Essence of Education', Methodist Conference report

4

Practical community service and concern for justice, especially for those whose voice is least likely to be heard

At the heart of Southlands College is the Methodist commitment to generous service. The college encourages a healthy, disciplined work ethic that considers how best to serve others in the college community and the communities on the university's doorstep.

Southlands College lives out the Methodist calling to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice through words and action. The college joins and equips its students in searching for ways of exercising responsibility towards the world's most disadvantaged people, nurturing a Wesleyan ethos of living by needs, not by wants. A particular focus of this value is the Southlands Venture initiative, which assists students in carrying out community-based projects.

Even the design of the Southlands College building incorporates elements that reflect an outward-looking emphasis on service: the central quadrangle is open at its corners to convey this sense of openness. In all these ways and more, Southlands College enacts the Methodist calling to service.

"It is our divine responsibility...to confront injustice; that is our call."

Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice President of the Methodist Conference, 2018-19

*"Inspire them early with a...
dread of the love of money,
and a conviction that riches
cannot bring happiness."*

John Wesley

Photo by Ismar Uzeirovic, Technical Tutor in Photography at the University of Roehampton and Southlands Methodist Trust research grant recipient, who travelled to Dhaka, Bangladesh, to document the effects of climate change.

*Though we cannot think alike,
may we not love alike?
May we not be of one heart,
though we are not of
one opinion?
Without all doubt, we may."*

John Wesley

University Choir singing at the joint Southlands College and Digby Stuart College carol service, 2018

5

A spirituality that integrates faith and everyday life, and is committed to open-hearted work with other denominations and faiths

The Southlands College community, and the University of Roehampton as a whole, is a place where spirituality can be explored. Southlands supports a vibrant Chaplaincy programme of activities that serves the faiths of its students and supports them in what can be a challenging but exciting time of discovery. Southlands Chaplaincy offers acts of worship that are uncluttered, heartfelt, accessible and inclusive.

With a strong emphasis on creativity and the arts, in particular music, students are given opportunities to express themselves creatively and spiritually. Music making, so central to Methodist identity, enables individuals to develop their talents and confidence, and provides a structured way for them to relate to each other.

These emphases influence the University of Roehampton's wider purpose, 'challenging and supporting students in their intellectual and spiritual growth', and 'emphasizing the value of the arts for nurturing the human spirit' (*The Story of Roehampton University*).

"Prayer is a revolutionary act because it is a declaration that we believe change is possible...it is an act of empathy."

Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Conference, 2018-19



Southlands College celebrating Holi, 2019



Music plays a major role at Southlands College

Southlands College recognises that it shares its values with people of other Christian traditions and other faiths, as well as those of no explicit faith, though they take a characteristic form in Methodist culture. We look to explore these shared approaches and viewpoints as opportunities for engagement with those of different beliefs.

This commitment is lived out in many ways at Southlands. Barat House is an intentional Methodist and Roman Catholic Christian student community house on the university campus overseen by the Digby Stuart College and Southlands College Chaplains. The story of the Southlands College buildings is also one of ecumenical partnership and collaboration between the two colleges. This collaborative ethos continues in ecumenical research projects and multi-faith events organised by the Chaplaincy.

"I have really thrived from the community's sense of purpose and spiritual engagement...as an individual I felt much more reflective, happy and mindful."

Resident of Barat House, 2018-19



Pilgrimage to Rome in 2019, including residents of Barat House and University of Roehampton's multi-faith Chaplaincy, in addition to the Heads of Digby Stuart and Southlands Colleges. Photo taken at the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome.



Southlands Methodist Trust



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