

Southlands College
Report to the
Methodist Church 2021/22





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Vice-Chancellor's Welcome



At the University of Roehampton we change lives by helping our students develop the confidence, knowledge, and adaptability they need for a successful graduate career and fulfilling life. Our mission is to provide a supportive and inclusive community of learning where all students, regardless of their background, can realise their ambitions. We also produce research and knowledge that enriches society and improves lives.

The last academic year saw the University deliver this mission across education, research and in the partnerships we have established with organisations across London and beyond. We have continued our work to ensure the portfolio of academic programmes Roehampton offers provides an excellent platform for our students to succeed, reflecting the foundation principles of our four colleges. And we have made significant progress in our strategic aim of diversifying our course portfolio, our student cohorts, and building our longer-term sustainability.

We have introduced innovations to support our students to learn, from new industry-standard facilities in our Business School and our Law School, to ambitious projects to support care leavers transitioning from school to university. The impact of this work is reflected in the rise in student satisfaction at all levels of study. Roehampton is now ranked in the top ten universities for postgraduate student satisfaction in the UK. The University also saw rises in the satisfaction of our undergraduate students in the National Student Survey, and we are now in the top 50 nationally for overall satisfaction.

We have firmly established ourselves as one of the leading modern universities for the quality and impact of our research. Roehampton had an outstanding result in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF). The University is now ranked as the joint-best modern university for research in the UK, and the best modern university in London, with 77% of research submitted classed as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent', highlighting the quality of activities across all our schools. Our research has had a positive impact on organisations around us, and society more widely. Roehampton researchers engage with the creative and cultural industries, businesses, local and national government, the NHS, schools and the charity sector, as well as addressing global issues from climate change, to the war in Ukraine.

Importantly, the University has also taken major steps to improve our longer term sustainability. This includes making progress on our strategic aim to diversify the types of courses the University runs, alongside wider measures to improve our overall sustainability. These developments provide us with a strong platform to take advantage of the opportunities ahead and respond to wider changes in the Education sector and graduate employment.

We welcome our new Chancellor, Baroness Sandip Verma, and Pro Chancellor, Her Excellency Nomatamba Tambo to the Roehampton community. They join us at an exciting time in our history, as we further develop our reputation in the UK and overseas.

I would like to thank colleagues across the University, and our students, for their dedication and commitment to one another and for ensuring Roehampton continues to deliver on its mission of changing the lives of our students and improving communities around us.

J.N. Ezingard

Jean-Noël

Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard
Vice-Chancellor





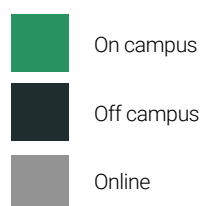


University Report

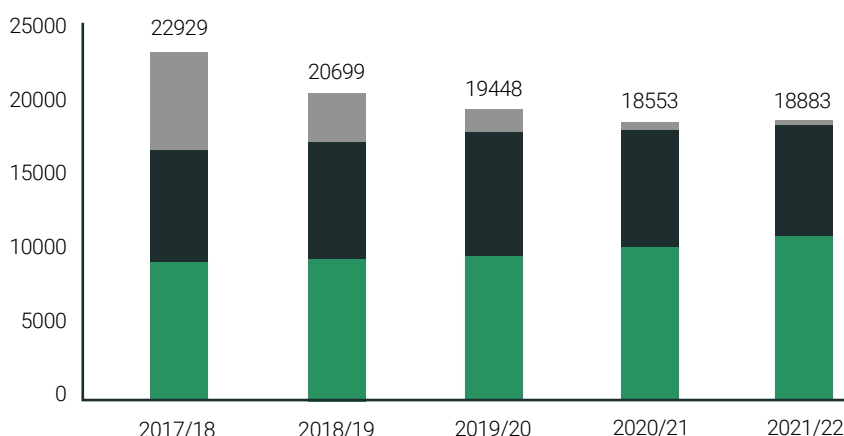
University Report

Student population

In 2021/22, the University of Roehampton had a total of 18,883 registered or validated students (full person equivalent). Of these, 11,921 were on-campus students (63.1%), 6,762 off-campus students (35.8%) and 200 online students (1.1%).



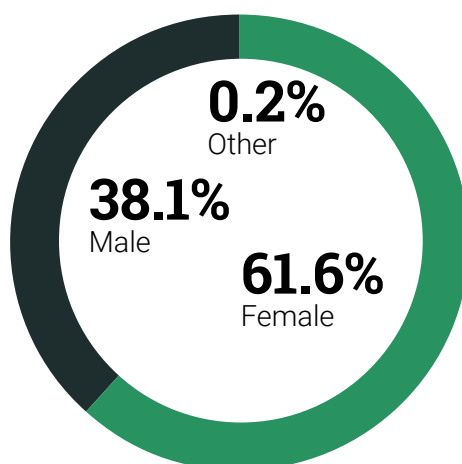
Student enrolments



Roehampton student enrolments (FPE) by location of study between 2017/18 and 2021/22. This data includes on campus students who are in the categories of: Undergraduate, Undergraduate with Foundation Year, Postgraduate Taught, PGCE, Postgraduate Research, exchange/ study abroad students as well as students taught by Pathway campus and at Croydon University Centre. Off campus students include those on distance learning, School Direct, franchise and validated (incl. School Direct and Apprenticeship) programmes. The online student population numbers reflect the teach out of our partnership with Laureate Online Education. The data also includes all students who were registered or have left within the academic year.

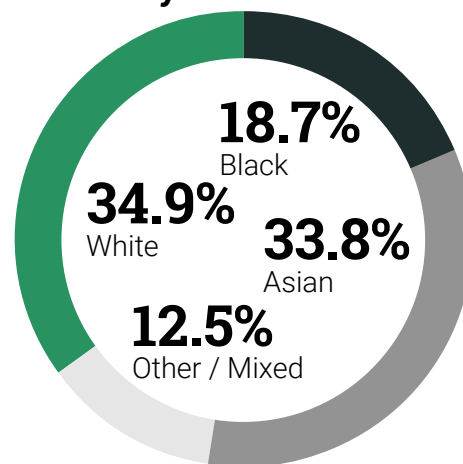
On-campus students 2021/22

Gender



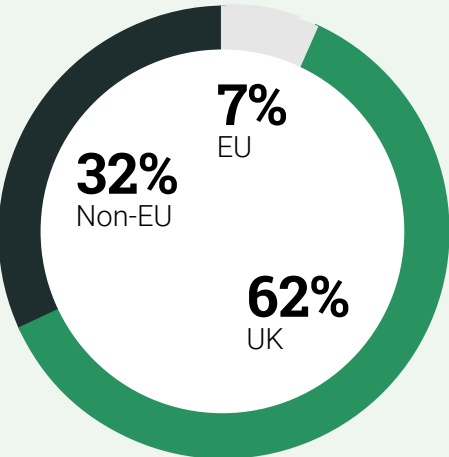
Gender of on-campus students in 2021/22

Ethnicity



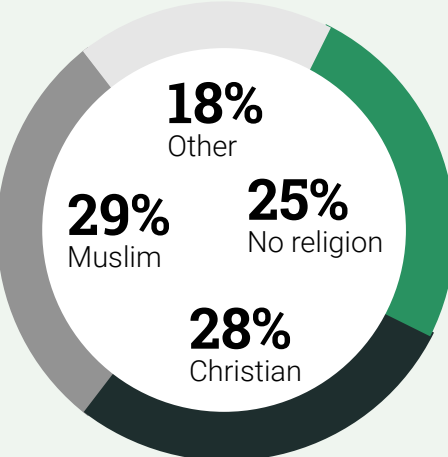
Ethnicity of on-campus students in 2021/22

Domicile



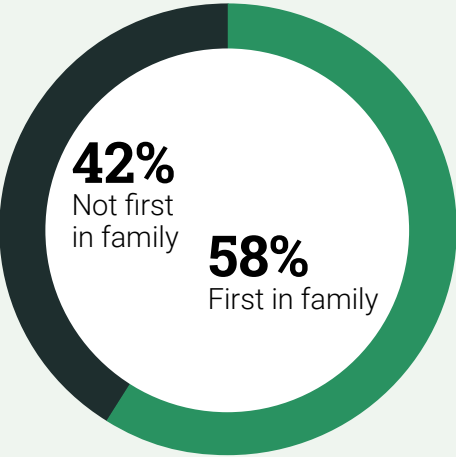
Domicile of on-campus students in 2021/22

Religion



Religion of on-campus students in 2021/22

First in family



First in family of on-campus Undergraduate students in 2021/22

Domicile and Gender are out of 11,510 FPE students. For the other categories, this is out of known values. For first in family, this data is related to Undergraduate, UK Students only.



Student Experience

The University has made significant improvements to the wider support and experience it provides for students. Alongside extensive work to embed work placement opportunities across the University's academic portfolio, enhancements have been made to support students to improve their employability. The University launched 'career registration' to provide tailored careers and work experience support.



The scheme enables the University to track students' career skills from the moment they join Roehampton and then provide support to match that individual journey, connecting them with development opportunities available through student services.

Over the past year, the placements team at the university helped over 2,400 students find a work placement. The careers team delivered support sessions to over 3,000 students. An enhanced programme of career activities in the summer term was also introduced, including personalised career sessions and a new digital skills course.

To ensure students receive timely academic, wellbeing and financial support, the University has launched Nest, a one-stop hub for student enquiries and support. Nest brings together all internal enquiries and student facing services into three physical spaces across campus and was coupled with the launch of a new online student hub.

Internal pro-active communication with students was enhanced this year to improve their awareness of support. Campaigns to raise awareness of Roehampton's online

academic support tool Studiosity contributed towards the increase of 163% of its expected usage in 2021-22. Pro-active call campaigns also continued to identify where enhanced support is needed and directly connect students with relevant internal or external services.

The University also built on the extensive support already available to students commuting to campus, and to improve connectivity for those living on site. At the same time, we encouraged students and staff to make healthy and environmentally-friendly transport choices. This included extending the free Roehampton shuttle bus service to Wimbledon, linking the campus more directly with wider TfL services. A partnership with Limebike was also launched, providing e-bikes on campus. College kitchens have been redesigned, increasing the availability of lockers, refrigerators, microwaves and other facilities. And work has continued to ensure that academic timetables provide flexibility to support students who commute and have personal and professional commitments beyond their academic studies.

Student satisfaction has risen this year at all levels of study and for taught and research students. Satisfaction in the 2022 National Student Survey (NSS) rose nearly 5% on 2021, ahead of the sector average and placing the University in the in the top three of London post-'92 universities and top-50 nationally. Roehampton is ranked in the top ten universities in the country in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2022 and in the top quarter of institutions nationally in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2022.







Staff Experience

The University aims to provide an inclusive, supportive and collaborative community for all colleagues, and to ensure that its workforce reflects the communities it serves.

Over the 2021/22 academic year, we continued to provide learning and development opportunities for staff. These included teaching, research, leadership, wellbeing and professional related activities.

To support wellbeing, the “ask for help” message for staff, first tried out during the first lock-down, became permanent, and we continued to explore and assess how we could further enhance our wellbeing support for our staff community. As part of our work in this area, we conducted a pulse survey of staff wellbeing for the first time to assess the well-being of our staff community at a given time. We also initiated a review of support for staff that experience stress related to work or personal circumstances, or a mix of both.

Throughout 2021/22, we continued to advance our work on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) with notable work in developing a new EDI strategy for Roehampton. We continued to roll-out our race awareness programme facilitated by an external partner, and piloted “anonymous” applications for jobs in areas of professional services. Roehampton is also proud to remain in the top 100 employers in the Stonewall index.

Student education

The University of Roehampton is committed to providing an excellent education for students of all backgrounds and nationalities, in a supportive environment that encourages them to develop their knowledge, confidence and resilience.

In 2021/22, Roehampton took on a wide range of initiatives to further improve the learning and teaching support that students need to succeed. Last year saw a wide range of career-focused courses launched in the humanities, social sciences, digital arts and computing, business, health and education. Courses include undergraduate degrees in Cyber Security, Children's Nursing, Digital Design, Liberal Arts, Politics and Economics. Postgraduate degrees developed include International Relations, Sustainable Economics, Banking and Cultural Heritage.

All academic programmes at the University now offer work placements, ensuring Roehampton students can gain important work experience opportunities, build their professional networks and develop their CVs. To expand opportunities for new groups of students to join the University, further courses were launched with a January entry point, and a new April entry route was introduced.


To further support student success, the University has developed new methods to help students at all levels of study. This includes the expansion of our RoeBuddies peer mentoring scheme, in which students mentor one another. There are now specific pathways for mature, international and care-experienced students to gain peer support.

The University has also launched a sophisticated student learner analytics platform, which identifies early interventions that can support students to improve their performance. This has been coupled with the introduction of study coaches, including specific coaches to support our growing community of international students. Student Race Equality Champions continue to work across all academic Schools on access and participation awareness and diversifying our curriculum. Our attainment gap between white and UKME students has continued to reduce.

The last academic year saw significant improvements made to learning and teaching facilities, including the launch of a new Business Laboratory and Bloomberg Trading Room. This has enabled business students to gain vital experience of using industry-standard technology and to collaborate in new ways. Healthcare facilities have been significantly enhanced by the creation of the new externally-funded Mary Seacole Health Innovation Centre. This provides the infrastructure to support the growing numbers of students on Roehampton healthcare programmes, and allows the University to expand its portfolio into other areas of allied health.





A photograph of a man and a woman in a classroom or meeting setting. The man, in the foreground, is smiling and looking towards the right. He has dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue sweater over a checkered shirt. The woman, partially visible on the left, is also smiling and looking in the same direction. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or presentation. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The University is increasingly leading the way as a major civic institution in London

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Research and Knowledge Exchange at Roehampton addresses the most pressing issues facing societies, governments, businesses and communities around the globe. Our researchers are engaged in world-leading cross-disciplinary research, knowledge exchange and professional practice.

Our work helps solve complex problems facing society, including health and wellbeing, social justice, faith and society, economic sustainability and environmental conservation, and in the creative and cultural sectors.

Roehampton academics continue to develop impact and to carry out knowledge exchange activity, engaging a wide range of partners, beneficiaries, and audiences.

The University performed exceptionally strongly in the Research Excellence Framework 2021, the main national audit of research quality. Roehampton was confirmed as the joint-best modern university for research in the country, at the same time as increasing the number of academic colleagues submitted to the exercise. Overall, 77% of Roehampton research was rated world leading or internationally excellent, an increase of 11% since the last REF exercise in 2014. The University's overall ranking for research quality also improved, increasing nine places

to 51st out of 129 institutions, and 38th in the UK for the impact of research submitted on the economy, society and culture.

The University is increasingly becoming a leading role as a major civic institution in London. For example, in 2021/22, Roehampton continues to play a major role in the BIG (Business, Innovation and Growth) South London initiative, bringing together universities, businesses and local government to improve the economy and society across the South London boroughs. Alongside two other institutions, Roehampton won a grant to lead the BIG South London Innovation networks. The South London Health network, led by Roehampton, unites experts, practitioners and researchers from across the health sector in South London to bring the sector together to share common challenges, opportunities and best practices.

Postgraduate Research (PGR) students are crucial to the long-term success of research at the University and to the

strength and vibrancy of our research culture and environment. Roehampton performed strongly in the 2022 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), with improvements in eight of the eleven themes. Across all participating institutions, Roehampton was ranked in the top quartile for overall satisfaction with a score of 82.6%, meeting our target of being in the top quartile of UK institutions for this theme. Roehampton is now ranked 11th in the country for the satisfaction research students have with the resources available to them.

The University continues to perform well in attracting postgraduate research funding and researchers to the University. 2021/22 was the University's most successful year in the SeNSS ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership PhD studentship competition to date, with two studentships awarded. In the TECHNE competition, the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership to which the University belongs, seven studentships were awarded to Roehampton candidates.

Research impact and income

Roehampton research continued to positively impact the work of organisations at national and international levels in 2021/22. Some key highlights include:

- In the School of Psychology, Professor Mick Cooper co-hosted a large international 'Emergency Summit' focusing on what counsellors and psychotherapists can do to contribute to social change and social justice. Speakers came from all over the world, including Ukraine, with many of the leading figures in the international community. The event raised funds for the UN Crisis Relief appeal to support the people of Ukraine.
 - In the Faculty of Business and Law, Dr Mayra Ruiz Castro provided insights into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on working couples from a study funded by UKRI's Strategic Priorities Fund programme. This project forms part of a larger body of work concerned with equality in the workplace.
 - In the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Clare McManus continues to deliver public engagement and impact activities that focus on diversity in performance. Recent public engagement activities include a practice-as-research theatre lab at Shakespeare's Globe with over 350 participants.
 - In the Faculty of Business and Law, Dr Daniel Aguirre contributed to United Nations Development Programme work, together with experts and practitioners from different backgrounds, including representatives of academia, civil society, government, private sector, financial institutions and the UN. The programme is developing a heightened due diligence toolkit for businesses operating in conflict-affected areas.
 - In the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr Dustin Frazier Wood curated and created the 'Wandsworth Diversity Past & Present' exhibition. This exhibition features works of art, textiles, photographs and domestic items related to Wandsworth's diverse heritage from the 19th century to the present day. The exhibition is staged by Roehampton students and staff working with the Wandsworth Borough Collection. The prelaunch event of the exhibition was attended by local council and representatives from local history and heritage groups.
 - In the Faculty of Business and Law, Professor Francis Davis has contributed to a wide range of events on business, faith-based social action, and innovation. Professor Davis is involved in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Holy Land, and his other contributions include chairing a session at the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief.
 - In the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Professor Bryony Hoskins continues important work on political literacy. She contributed to a variety of events at UNICEF consultation meetings with education ministries from Palestine, Egypt and Tunisia, designed to encourage education ministries to conduct the life skills measurement instrument funded by UNICEF and co-authored by Professor Hoskins. Professor Hoskins is also an Academic Advisor in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Political Literacy.
- The last year also saw the University's most successful year in grant capture to date. Grant capture in 2021/22 stands at £3,093,552, a 72% increase from 2020/21. This represents significant progress in our aim to increase research and knowledge exchange income to £4.5 million by 2025, having surpassed our KPI for 2021/22 by 13%. The University saw significant awards from major funding bodies and programmes, such as the ESRC, and through collaboration in an application to Horizon Europe funding. Successful grants include:
- In the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Michał Garapich's £672,000 ESRC funded project will analyse the growth of popularity of far-right ideologies and groups among Polish immigrants in Britain. It hopes to offer an empirically grounded perspective on new trends in radicalisation in Britain. In the School of Arts and Digital Design, Dr Eva Eppler was awarded £217,857 as part of the Horizon Europe funded project, RISE UP, which aims to revitalise languages and safeguard cultural diversity by exploring policies for endangered languages. The project will create a set of tools to support communities and will connect stakeholders and young people to relevant groups.
 - In the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Clare Watkins was awarded two grants totalling £107,000 to investigate faith learning of those in marginalised communities and groups.
 - In the School of Arts and Digital Design, Dr Glenn Odom's Oasis project was awarded £40,000 by the Designing London's Recovery programme to deliver and design community hubs in local area. By teaming up with the local council's regeneration team, Fabric Space Architecture and several local artists, Glenn has been designing areas where people can meet, create, cultivate and play.



Outreach and Widening Participation

At the heart of the mission of Roehampton and our four Colleges is widening access to higher education. The University partners with schools, further education providers, and other organisations to undertake activities that raise aspirations among under-represented groups, and help bridge the gap between school, colleges and university.

In 2021/22, key projects included the following:

- Through its work with outreach organisation AimHigher London and UniConnect, the University supports the enhanced provision of impartial information, advice and guidance across London in partnership with other universities, to support those from underrepresented groups to progress into Higher Education. AimHigher London recognised the work of Roehampton's Outreach team with a Commitment Award for senior recruitment officer, Bev Pullen, for her outstanding work in the field.
 - Following a successful £200,000 grant win from the Office for Students, the University launched CLASS (Care Leavers Access, Support and Success) to care leavers starting at the University. The programme provides guidance on university life, mental health, academic success, and life after university for new students who have been under the care of a local authority, helping them transition from school or college and thrive at university.
 - The Horizons Project continued in partnership with Putney High School, which supports students from Wandsworth primary schools, from Year 5 until the end of Year 6, providing them with on-campus subject taster sessions.
- The program is structured to encourage young local students from backgrounds with lower progression rates to higher education to see it as a realistic option for their future.
- The virtual and in-person delivery of Information, Advice and Guidance workshops for Schools and Colleges. These included advice on How to Apply to University, Personal Statements, Student Finance and Budgeting, Study Abroad and Careers. The University has delivered 224 school and college visits so far in 2021/22, an increase of 4% on the previous year.
 - Roehampton's Mature Students Programme was enhanced, offering monthly webinars on application preparation, academic study skills and wellbeing for mature prospective students.
 - A Workshop in a Box project was introduced in 2021 to provide school and college partners with online resources for them to use in widening participation activities.
 - Roehampton Life Days were re-introduced, allowing prospective students from a variety of ages and backgrounds to experience student life on campus, explore facilities and encourage them to take the necessary steps into higher education.









Southlands College Report

Southlands College Annual Review 2021/22

Southlands College celebrated its landmark 150th anniversary year with a renewed focus on its commitment to building a learning community grounded in strong values and a commitment to the success of its students. In its many activities, the college has worked to embody the vision set out in the Methodist Church's mission statement *Our Calling*, which places learning and service at the heart of Christian mission in the world.

As a place of higher education, Southlands considers learning and service to be inseparable as it works to improve the lives of all people touched by the college's activities. Ambitious plans launched during its anniversary year seek to secure a long-term future for that vision, renewed and reimagined for the next generation of students, as this report explains.

Southlands College is committed to ensuring that students' experience with us is formational as well as educational. We aim both to enrich the staff and student experience and to model a community in which we can live well together. This calls us to engage one another in the task of nurturing thoughtful, responsible, and compassionate people; shaping leaders who will change society for the better, bringing that society more closely in line with God's purposes for it.

Our academic outputs, our strategic partnerships, our co-curricular programme and our growing support for student leadership all emerge from this commitment. They are moulded also to further the university's strategic goals expressed in its Enabling Strategies and its core mission in supporting students to achieve good

degrees and take up meaningful careers. As we move with these purposes in mind, we aim also to inspire and influence the wider work and educational profile of the university with the college's vision in ways which will enhance the university and enable it to hold a unique place within the Higher Education sector.

Our Focus and Our Reach

The work of the colleges at Roehampton continues to evolve as the institution expands and the Higher Education sector changes. Responding to this, and in an effort to ensure its programme of work is coherent, proactive and purposeful, Southlands College has identified the focus of its activity around five broad areas:

- Offering welcome, hospitality and belonging
- Engaging our community in critical issues facing society
- Encouraging the exploration of identity
- Celebrating achievement
- Influencing whole-university identity and activity

Work across these areas maps firmly on to the Enabling Strategies established at the university:

- Our student-facing work in the college focuses predominantly on university goals around Student Education, contributing to the enrichment of our educational communities, the advancement of our institutional inclusivity, and the development of our buildings as flexible and engaging learning spaces.
- Our work with and alongside our academic schools and through the Susanna Wesley Foundation strongly supports the university's goals around Research and Knowledge Exchange. We aim to encourage and to nurture research and learning in line with the college's values and those of our Methodist networks, attracting significant external investment to the university's research and knowledge exchange activities, supporting new generations of researchers through the university's departments, and encouraging research which focuses on ensuring practical change in the Church and wider society.

- A number of our projects directly address the university's Sustainability goals, focusing both research and college community activity on exploring environmental and social responsibility, seeking to establish and nurture partnerships with external bodies who share our values, and promoting both the wellbeing of our staff and the development of structures which support the promotion of diversity initiatives.

Leaders within the college – staff and students – are asked to reflect on their work using these categories, to scrutinise how their efforts can best be directed towards achieving our common goals within the life of the university, with particular mind to the Enabling Strategies. Each category area has the potential to be far-reaching and diverse in terms of the specific events, programmes and interventions which sit within it. They address matters ranging from the physical spaces of the college through the development of new institutional partnerships, changes to the curriculum, and recruitment activity. This framework for our activity has allowed us to conceptualise the college's contributions more tangibly and to reflect on how we can do more to achieve our goals while sustaining the quality of our work.

Our Ways of Working

In all that we do at Southlands, we seek to ensure everyone is made to feel welcome and fully part of the community; that all people are given equal access to opportunities for training, growth, development and formation. In our practical activities and in our learning and research we continue to imagine what a person and a community that flourish might look like, in the fullest sense of that word, and to work in ways which will enable that flourishing to be realised in practice.

Emerging from the pandemic, during 2021–22 Southlands offered a college experience as rich and meaningful as possible when so many of our students were coming to campus after a long break from in-person teaching. A great deal of

time, effort and creativity on the part of staff and student leaders made possible the transition back to in-person college life, developing and enhancing the student experience through both new and traditional teaching and engagement methods. The report which follows speaks of this time of transition, but also celebrates the many successes of our revitalised activity. Despite the pandemic restrictions at the start of the year, the college ran, delivered or supported 111 events across the three terms, with a total attendance of 6,426 – engagements in addition to the countless individual and informal interactions each member of the college team increasingly had in the course of their daily work.

During 2021–22, we had a chance fully to embed our approach to student leadership and student co-creation of college programmes of work. A cohort of six College Community Leaders (CCLs) was appointed – a group of students recruited to devise and lead activities across the college, encouraging new initiatives and enhancing peer-to-peer information sharing and community building. Our CCLs worked alongside our college Flat Reps (who offer residential support and community building) and our student President and Deputy President. The President and Deputy are elected from amongst the college population to act as representatives of the student voice and leaders in generating college activity.

Our Academic Collaborations

Southlands works with every academic school and department across the university to deliver our core mission within the wider institution. We do, however, have a special relationship with the academic schools and the teams of academic staff which are based in our college or affiliated to Southlands for their membership. 2021–22 consolidated our relationships with the Faculty of Business and Law, the Applied Music Research Centre, and the university library.

Aiming in particular to enhance the university's work to support student continuation and successful graduate outcomes, and using the Enabling Strategies as a guide for achieving those goals, the work of the college as it relates to Student Education during 2021–22 became increasingly collaborative with our 'in-house' departments. A larger focus on enhancing student learning in ways which relate directly to course content and which speak of our college's mission and values was achieved, with great success. This was enhanced by the appointment of a new staff member, our Deputy Head of College, whose role seeks to tie the college's communities more closely together, deepen links with the wider university, and help to disseminate the work of Southlands to Methodist and other faith communities. Funding for this post was generously provided by the Southlands Methodist Trust, alert to the role it can play in nurturing an educational community characterised by Methodist commitments and values.

The whole of the college worked particularly hard to welcome church, educational and civic leaders, alumni and former staff, college Fellows and a range of others associated with Southlands, to its programme of 150th anniversary celebrations. This included a week-long programme of celebrations, award-giving, an academic conference, alumni reunion, overseas visitor programme, and the creation of displays, videos and exhibitions celebrating the rich mix of Southlands' life.

This Report

The following pages give a flavour of the broad reach of the work of Southlands College during 2021–22. Our hope is to illustrate the significance of the college's role within the wider life of the university and as part of the Methodist Education family. With particular reference to the activities which fulfil the university's obligations under the governance arrangements with the Methodist Church, the report brings together summary descriptions of areas of activity with case studies of more focused pieces of work. These illustrate more fully the purpose, impact and value of our work.



College Team

The Southlands College team is made up of staff of the university (full and part time), staff funded generously by the Southlands Methodist Trust and recruited to work for the college on permanent and temporary bases, a stationed Methodist minister, volunteers, student leaders and student elected officers. The team works with and alongside the academic and professional services departments of the university, both those based at Southlands and those across all our university colleges.



The College team for the 2021–22 academic year included:

- Jackie Brown, Secretary of the Southlands Methodist Trust (from June 2022)
- Shai Danmole, Senior College Warden
- Yvonne Douglas, Accommodation Officer
- Jo Eskdale, Student Wellbeing Officer
- Shanon Ferguson, Associate Chaplain
- Beatrice Gordon, Associate Chaplain
- Peter Greenfield, Chaplaincy Community Worker
- Harriet Hinton, Secretary of the Southlands Methodist Trust (until June 2022)
- Sabiha Iqbal, Muslim Chaplain
- Gilly King, Archives Historian
- Ermal Kirby, Research Officer
- Kate Ludwig, Cleaning Manager
- Sam McBratney, Research and Partnerships Officer
- Nick Mayhew-Smith, Deputy Head of College
- Sue Miller, Director of the Susanna Wesley Foundation
- Nicola Morrison, College Chaplain and Methodist Chaplain to the University
- Olivia Ogunbunmi, Senior Colleges Warden
- Sholake Olowu, Student Elected President
- Emma Pavey, Research and Communications Officer
- Liz Pickett, Officer Manager
- Gulliver Ralston, Director of Music
- Lewis Redfern, College Engagement and Activities Officer
- Gayathri Santhosh, College Warden
- Sabeeh Shah, Receptionist
- Lia Shimada, Senior Research Officer and Associate Chaplain
- Christopher Stephens, Head of Southlands College
- Matthew Sterritt, Student Elected Deputy President
- Colin Symington-Bailey, Student Wellbeing Officer

The team was supported by a group of volunteer student Flat Reps, part time student College Community Leaders, and a number of project leads.

Stuart Brenner, our Archives Historian very sadly passed away in January 2022. Stuart had worked at Southlands/Roehampton in various archival and library roles for nearly forty years. He will be sorely missed. During our 150th anniversary events, the college archive was renamed the Brenner Room. After an interim period, Gilly King was appointed by the SMT as Archives Historian for the remainder of this reporting year.





Community Events and Activities

Southlands College organises and encourages a range of activities to engage students and staff throughout the academic year. The college team delivers these events successfully by collaborating with student leaders and student participants, academic schools, our sister colleges, the chaplaincy team, and other departments within the institution to build activities that engage our community by being inclusive, relevant, interesting and encouraging our community to broaden their knowledge.

Examples of the events we ran during the year 2021–22 can be seen below, along with our strategies for community engagement and event conceptualisation.

Welcoming New Students

During the year, Southlands College continued to work with our academic schools to welcome resident, commuter, international and home students arriving at the college in September 2021, January 2022 and April 2022. The Faculty of Business and Law saw a significant increase in students during 2021 and particularly in April 2022. This influx of students has greatly increased our international community, placing further significance on our work to create an inclusive, hospitable, and informative welcome.

The college ran a number of in-person, hybrid and online welcome activities in order for students that had not arrived on campus to take part in the induction. This was delivered in tandem with resources such as the College Guide (in print and online) and a new College Welcome video.



Southlands College welcome events were conducted with the support of student leaders and the business and law student societies. There was a focus on in-person events to help students feel at home after the pandemic: 38 welcome events were delivered with five of those being online with a total attendance of 2,598 staff and students.

Student Spaces

Student spaces are vital to developing a sense of belonging, and help support the university's enabling strategies, which aim to provide flexible and engaging learning spaces. The college developed three key spaces over the year: The Reef, College Community Hub and a new Reception Area. The Reef – our primary student social space – had a new HD Ready Screen installed, as well as new furniture. The College

Community Hub – a space for students to gather, find information, and to meet with the college staff team – was redesigned to make the space more engaging for students. The Reception Area was redeveloped and expanded – opened up to provide a better welcome for people entering the building, with study and social spaces to allow students to connect. Improvements of these spaces are part of a wider plan to develop Queen's Building and provide spaces for the students to meet, collaborate and grow their social capital.

Student Activities through the Year

The college runs an eclectic mix of events over the year to provide our diverse student population with a chance to engage with issues facing society, encourage exploration of identity and vocation, to celebrate achievement, enhance their sense of belonging and to offer welcome and hospitality from the college and university.

The college ran, delivered or supported 111 events in 2021-22, with a total attendance of 6,426. Some 23 of these events were organised and led by student leaders (College Community Leaders, Flat Reps and College Elected Officers), while 44 others were supported by them. The college team has made efforts to work closely with other departments (Chaplaincy, sister colleges, Roehampton Student Union, societies, university departments and external organisations), and 51 of the above events were such collaborations. This allowed our students to access knowledge and make connections with different student and academic communities.

After a highly beneficial year of supporting and co-creating with the Roehampton Business School in 2020-21, the addition of Roehampton Law School to create the Faculty of Business and Law provided

new opportunities to build on our work with both students and staff, to enhance the experience for all students. Learning opportunities included knowledge exchange; deepening understanding; considering values and ethics in relation to each academic discipline and career ambitions; and discussing a range of contemporary issues. A particular area of focus has been employability, and the college supported the faculty to run employability events, including a successful Careers Week, while forging stronger connections with the Careers Advisers within the department. With the continued expansion of the Faculty, further opportunities to collaborate and support the increased number of international students with the student journey will be explored in 2022-23.

The college puts students at the centre of everything we do, and our aim for 2021-22 was to develop the quality, engagement, and volume of our student activities. Our strategy for achieving this was by working with student leaders and societies, providing them with the support and advice needed to run events and projects that meet the needs and expectations of students. The university's Student Education strategy aims to develop student engagement. Our event feedback survey shows that our events help students feel more connected to the university, with 76.5% of our students indicating our events provide them with a

sense of belonging and 82.4% stating that they feel more comfortable socialising with members of the Roehampton community after attending.

The college also needs to anticipate future trends, to offer visionary work and open up new ideas and experiences for our students. To this end the college has taken a lead in developing a new partnership with the London Wetland Centre, which is just over a mile from the university, encouraging a group of 15 Southlands students to visit and create social media content about the nature reserve. College-led events also introduced more environmentally conscious catering arrangements, including more vegetarian and vegan options.

The university aims to create an inclusive and engaged learning community through a collaborative approach to event planning and promotion. All our events are organised in line with our college values, aiming to be as inclusive as possible, and the college team endeavours to make adjustments to timetabling, concepts and communications to reflect a wide range of cultural, personal and religious expectations. Almost all of our events are free and also open to students and staff of all colleges, allowing an equal and socially relaxed mingling of participants from different backgrounds, experiences and disciplines. All of this adds up to a much richer learning community.



Highlights from our College Events Programme

Community-Building Events

- Regular College Teas have been a great success by giving students an opportunity to connect with academics, the college team and their peers. This has also helped the college team signpost students towards vital university support and initiatives. These events are highly culturally inclusive, and have had an average attendance of 85 staff and students.
- The College Cup, in which we compete against our three sister colleges in various types of competition. We expanded the event programme to include more inclusive activities such as Esports, a T-Shirt Design Competition and a Bake Off.
- A Celebration Diner and Awards in April 2022, in which we celebrated the achievements of the community, gathering to reflect on the successes of the year so far and to mark our 150th anniversary with the college community.
- A Table Tennis Tournament was held in the Reef, which was open to all students and staff.
- A Valentines Meet Up was led by our CCLS, which aimed to bring students together and make friends.
- A drugs awareness workshop was led by We Are Wandsworth
- Six movie nights were held across the year, which provided a space for students to gather and socialise in the evening
- A Cricket Tournament and South Asian Food Night, led by CCLs and the Student Engagement Team, allowed students

to combine their sporting culture and prowess with an inclusive offering of food, drawing in all students and ensuring the competition took place in a friendly and universally appealing atmosphere.

- Social networking gatherings for our various Faculty of Business and Law cohorts were hosted, with key university staff participating

Encouraging the Student Voice

Part of our programme intentionally provided opportunities for our students to voice questions and concerns, encouraging them to offer suggestions to their college officers or the wider college team. These included:

- Online and in person drop-in sessions for new students through the induction periods. This helped to introduce students to the university and the collegiate system.



- Direct outreach at various times of the year led by CCLs, who walked around the college campus, chatting to students and telling them about the college, our support and activities.
- The College Teas, mentioned above, were a welcoming and sympathetic opportunity for students to raise concerns to the College Team, particularly during periods of high stress and anxiety.

Student Education Activities

Some key activities and achievements that enhanced the learning experience of our students included:

- Helping to organise two full days of Employability Week events – these events aimed to help students build their networking skills and gain real-life experience from companies, recent graduates and different organisations. The CCLs helped students feel more confident interacting with the organisations and attendees present.
- Running a streaming event to enable students to watch the Law Society's mooted competition, which was followed by a social event to celebrate the achievements of these students.
- Chaplaincy events over the year focused on religious observances and celebratory festivals. This year, particular attention was given to enable those attending gatherings a chance to learn more about the faiths and beliefs that informed those events. Some examples include: a presentation was delivered for Hannukah; talks were delivered for what and why Eid is celebrated; and during Iftaris (breaking of the fast) during Ramadan a short introduction was given to enhance understanding and create an opportunity for dialogue between individuals.
- A series of events called 'Creative Chaplaincy' opened up opportunities for students to learn a new skill or share their own, whether that was making wreaths and baking pizza (from scratch) or having a go at Arabic calligraphy and henna art on various hands. The activities were curated to be educational, accessible, and at heart they were opportunities for skill-based knowledge exchange and sustainability.
- Rethinking the Business Ethics Forum, which will enable students to discuss ethical issues, helping students widen their horizons and thinking in the context of a more social learning environment, and in so doing to feel a sense of belonging in the Faculty of Business and Law.



- Continuing a vlog called Careers, Values and Vocations: Women's Stories, which celebrated achievements of women associated with Southlands and encouraged students to consider their values and how they might be used to influence career choices.
- Creating spaces to study and learn in all Prayer Rooms. Each Prayer room (set in the Islamic tradition) now houses a desk and chairs located close to a power outlet and with stationery, so students and staff can sit, read, reflect and study in a designated quiet space, a facility particularly useful between prayer times.

Enhancing our Team

During 2021–22, a grant from the Southlands Methodist trust enabled us to create the new role of Deputy Head of College at Southlands – a student-facing role that helped to ensure the development and implementation of university and college strategy in ways that are responsive to the needs of the community.

The role was one of many adjustments that placed greater importance on student leadership in the planning and delivery of events, with an enhanced college team working to listen to student views and find new ways of capturing the energy and enthusiasm of our ever-changing community. The introduction of a cricket

team was one such successful response to the interest of students in the Faculty of Business and Law.

At the end of the year, a decision was made to appoint an additional member of staff as College Engagement and Activities Officer. This role will be particularly focused on creating culturally engaging and sensitive events to cater to the large and growing community of international students at Southlands.

A focus on creating very broadly appealing offerings such as food, community teas, sports, film, music and Esports will help the college act as a gateway for students to enter more fully into college and university life. Further work on developing connections to the London Wetland Centre and offering more Urban Rambling opportunities will continue the student journey outwards to the wider resources of the surrounding city.

Celebrating 150 Years

We celebrated our 150th Anniversary by running a wide range of events, including a number focused on our college community. Our student leaders helped to ensure these events ran smoothly and we able to provide a link between the college's history and values and our community today. More details about our 150th anniversary events are found later in this report.

Community Music

Music is central to the Methodist mission and at Southlands it plays an important role building up a sense of belonging. By joining us together from our different backgrounds, it encourages mutual respect between members of the College community, provides space for students and staff to explore their own spiritual needs and religious identity, and gives opportunities to develop human, social and organisational skills.

At Roehampton, music continues to play a role in building a community in which everyone feels that they matter. Sessions of African drumming saw 75 students play djembe, dunduns, and Bakisimba; classes on music and mindfulness equipped groups of 5-10 students with simple techniques to support their mental health; 'music and networking' coffees brought like-minded students together to make friendships; bagpipes and a student trumpeter marked our Service of Remembrance; a Diwali tea was accompanied by a student performance; our Community Choir met each week in The Well (our Southlands chaplaincy space); at the Celebration Dinner all those who attended sang 'The Southlands Song'.

After the disappointments of the Covid era, this year celebrated a number of successful projects. Singers at Roehampton took on a big challenge and joined with choirs from the Cathedrals Group to perform Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine* in Canterbury Cathedral. Over many weeks, a group of commuting and residential students met in The Well to learn their parts. Then, at the end of February, Russia invaded Ukraine and as the significance of this tragedy unfolded the

organisers thought it would be appropriate to honour the Ukrainian people in the performance. We added to our Latin learning some Ukrainian homework so that we could join with 150 other students to sing Lysenko's Prayer for Ukraine. The concert opened with the musicians gathered beneath the stained glass in front of the great West End doors of the cathedral, singing, "Bozhe velekyi, yedynyi/ Nam Ukrainu khrame".

A student wrote afterwards to say:

"One of the things that was so wonderful about the experience: travelling with others with whom you might not normally be the most familiar allows for hotel-room chats about philosophy and the like, deepening existing friendships and fostering the inception of new ones. The same can be said of being in the choir itself; choir – and really anything artistically related – demands collaboration. With direct collaboration there comes the necessity for people to interact with one another, listen to one another, and trust one another. Thus, I say in good faith that choir played a vital role in my integration into the Roehampton community. And what a lovely community it is."

In November, we staged the first of our programmes of music theatre. Working with Jonathan Wilson from the Drama Department, we put together a programme mixing more contemporary songs from *Wicked*, *Smash*, and *Jamie* with numbers from the 1963 musical *Half a six pence*. Although the first performance was delayed by the last legs of Covid, 90 staff and students filled the Jubilee Theatre for the second.

Then, as November closed, the music theatre world was rocked by the death of Stephen Sondheim at the age of 91. Credited for revitalising the American musical, his songs and shows have been the sound track to many of our lives, and so students thought it appropriate to begin work on a tribute concert. Led by a postgraduate student with a deep passion for his music, we constructed a programme that not only displayed the breadth of his ingenuity but also put a spotlight on his role as mentor to other writers. Opening with an ensemble piece from Sweeney Todd, we interspersed music by Jason Robert Brown (*The Last 5 Years*, *The Bridges of Madison County*), Lin-Manuel Miranda (*In the Heights*), and Jonathan Larson (*Tick, Tick...BOOM!*) with some of his

classic songs. In the days after his death, fans and stars gathered in Times Square New York to sing 'Sunday' from *Sunday in the Park with George*, which we thought would be appropriate to close the show. Lunchtime and evening performances in the Chapman Hall brought in diverse audiences, with some coming to both performances.

For our annual University Carol Service in Digby Stuart Chapel in December, we performed an arrangement of the traditional Catalan carol '*El cant dels ocells*' for solo cello (one of our music scholars) and choir, which segued into an arrangement of Peter Warlock's *Bethlehem Down*. John Rutter's *Christmas Lullaby* and Richard Allain's evocative *Balulalow* interspersed congregational carols and readings charting the journey from Advent to Christmas.

In April we hosted Idris Ersan Kucuk, a post-doctoral fellow from the State Music Conservatoire in Izmir for a lecture recital, attended by staff and students, of music and dance from Turkey. He demonstrated the different styles of performance from the towns running along the south side of the Black Sea, across the water from Ukraine.

This year celebrated the 150th anniversary of Southlands. Our musicians performed at the Celebration Gala Dinner at Grove House, and then at the service in Digby Stuart. At the lunch which followed, alumni enjoyed vocal fireworks with a student singing 'Vieni t'affretta' from Verdi's *Macbeth* and 'Iris hence away' from Handel's *Semele*.

Southlands was delighted to give the Charles Wesley Award for contributions to community music to George Murrell, one of our music scholars, for his activities within the college, his involvement in the new link with The Wetland Centre in Barnes, and for his work as a music therapist in local care homes.



Student Leadership

Flat Reps

Flat Reps are students who live in college accommodation and support fellow students living alongside them. Flat Reps were a vital part of the community during 2021–22, helping run a variety of induction events, providing welcome, signposting students to important services, and most importantly helping to develop community among our residents. They continue the legacy of college mothers and daughters, which existed for much of our 150-year history. Our Flat Reps helped our resident students through some particularly challenging times during the winter months, providing vital signposting to university wellbeing services.

College Community Leaders (CCLs)

The College Community Leaders project at Southlands in 2021–22 proved to be a transformative innovation during its first year after the pandemic, giving rise to numerous student-led events and initiatives.

A team of students was recruited to offer leadership and support across the college, including international and UK students. All the CCLs were undergraduates, with some falling into the mature student category. The team was balanced in terms of gender, with a BAME representation, reflecting the college community; half the team of six CCLs were international students, and four were students of colour.

The CCL project was shaped to meet a number of key aims of the university's Student Education strategy, especially by creating work experience opportunities to develop access to networks that facilitate professional graduate opportunities. The CCL programme also helped to ensure that Southlands activities were designed to support the recruitment and retention of international students and students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

The CCLs completed an extensive training programme as part of their onboarding, and took part in various courses throughout the year, such as Mental Health First Aid and Sport Activator courses. This training aimed to

provide a base of knowledge and awareness, supplemented by ongoing training and mentoring throughout the year, all of which ensured the CCLs could deliver excellent, engaging and beneficial events, while also developing their own hard and soft skills.

the next academic year, 2021–2022.

CCL Contributions

The College Community Leaders led or delivered more than one-fifth of our college events and helped to support more than half our events in total. Their involvements were intentionally mapped against the key Southlands College objectives for contributions into the university, some examples of which are:

Offering welcome, hospitality and belonging: supporting College welcome events during induction, running pop-up sports events for students, organising meet ups for students, leading outreach activities across the college, and independently running a range of weekend and evening social events for students.

Engaging our community in critical issues facing society: running a variety of events and engaging the community in Black History Month, helping to produce a video to celebrate International Women's Day.

Encouraging the exploration of identity: organising a South Asian Food Night, competing in the College Cup, delivering a video and event to celebrate National Mother Language Day.

Celebrating achievement: The CCLs helped to lead a successful revival of the college's Celebration Dinner in March 2022, recognising the contribution of both students and staff to the life of the college and the wider university, with over 100 students and staff attending.

Influencing and enhancing university-wide identity and activity: using the college social media page to build connections with other colleges, maintaining a wide social media presence; engaging the community in their work, collaborating to enhance the work of the Business and Law student societies and wider areas of university life, including Esports, Growhampton, Chaplaincy, Sports and Active Communities.

CCLs and the Student Body

The CCL programme has continued to demonstrate the ability of students to listen to all parts of our community, and lead or deliver events and initiatives for the student body at the university. They have also been taught and equipped to evaluate and develop their work to ensure it delivers for the student population. The CCL project encouraged its participants to embed themselves within the community by connecting to different groups at Southlands along with the academic societies based at the college. They also worked with various departments throughout the year – Chaplaincy, the Student Engagement Team, Sports and Active Communities, and the Faculty of Business and Law – which enabled them to gain knowledge in different areas and pass that on to students. This social capital helped the college achieve its aims, create inclusive communities and promote its values.

Student Leadership and Chaplaincy

The college's Student Leadership Project faced some challenges being embedded into a cross-university initiative, with competing student leadership roles. However, with the advantage of having a pilot year and building on the foundations set then, Southlands College continued into the new academic year with new and emerging Southlands College Community Leaders.

Through Muslim Chaplaincy, significant work was carried out in collaboration with students leading societies and delivering events in collaboration with the Chaplain. The Islamic Society (ISOC) led and delivered over 40 Friday Jumu'ah Prayers with an average of 58 people attending – meaning over 2,320 engagement opportunities were created through worship. The ISOC sisters also helped deliver International Women's Day activities, including a Hijab and Sports exhibition for the theme #BreakTheBias. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association Society (AMSA) co-created a video for International Women's Day that was televised internationally. The Muslim Student Officer in the Roehampton Students' Union helped deliver Iftaris during Ramadan and creating engaging prayers and reflections on social media for a variety of religious observances.



Chaplaincy

Southlands is home to three full-time members of the university chaplaincy team. The College Chaplain, Muslim Chaplain and Chaplaincy Community Worker serve the Southlands College community and encourage a supportive environment where individuals can flourish. They also work collaboratively as part of a wider multi-faith team across the university, including several Associate Chaplains, who also relate closely into the college team. In 2021-22 our chaplains sought ways of being a supportive and active presence within the college and wider community as we emerged from lockdown.



Chaplaincy: Rooted in distinctive ethos and enduring values

The university's Enabling Strategies recognise the significance of enduring values derived from the heritage of its colleges and their providing bodies. It also acknowledges that this distinctive ethos is vital to the ongoing development of the university. At Southlands our chaplains prioritise work which speaks of the values and ethos formed from the college's Methodist heritage, and work which lives those values out in practice.

Over the past year this has included:

- Caring for others and nurturing a sense of mutual value through the provision of pastoral and bereavement support to students and staff.

Many within our college community experienced long periods of isolation through the pandemic and lockdown, alongside which some experienced significant losses. Through the Chaplaincy Listening Service and their professional practice of pastoral care, Chaplaincy staff have offered both intentional presence and prioritised time for pastoral conversations and bereavement support throughout this period of transition.

- Enhancing our sense of community and belonging through thoughtful and reflective responses to our college context.

Examples of this include: exploring the impact of the cost of living crisis on students; sharing in the development of strategies to raise drug awareness within our community; developing the Southlands College Community Hub as a social space within our main academic building that increases opportunities for gathering and hospitality, especially important to our commuting cohort; designing studying spaces within Prayer rooms; celebrating the life of the college and in particular contributing to the programme of events

to celebrate our 150th anniversary both on campus and within the wider Methodist Connexion; and planning appropriate memorials to mark the lives of those in our community who have died.

- EFostering care for ourselves and our neighbours by modelling and promoting living well in the world.

This has been achieved in a number of ways including: the holding of discussion groups (Living Well and The Coexist Café) that explore such themes as everyday self-care, social responsibility, managing conflict, responsible consumerism, and living sustainably as students; sharing the

development of the university's partnership with the London Wetland Centre and promoting awareness of environmental justice issues within the college community; celebrating Fairtrade within our spaces and choices; introducing the Community Fridge and Shelf within the Southlands social space; supporting a tree conservation activity to 'Save the Hamamelis'; and contributing to the development of a university 'homelessness awareness' campaign.

Chaplaincy: Supporting Faith and spirituality

Methodism identifies worship as one of its four core priorities. Our college chaplaincy staff work within the wider multi-faith chaplaincy to ensure that appropriate opportunities for inclusive and accessible worship are offered to our community. In doing this, they contribute distinctively to the university's Enabling Strategies' commitment to nurture a rich diversity of communities that are welcoming and accommodating to students across the university. Over the past year this has been illustrated in several ways:

- Offering welcome and hospitality, as well as resources for engaging with faith, through the provision of physical space.

Within Southlands this is accomplished through the allocation and care of specific places. These are The Well – Southlands Chapel in the Methodist tradition, and the Brothers' and Sisters' Prayer Rooms in the Muslim Tradition. These are all offered as welcoming spaces providing hospitality and a peaceful, reflective environment for all. While celebrating specific traditions, these spaces are cared for in ways that welcome people of all faiths and none, and promote issues of shared concern such as racial justice, equality, and sustainability.

- Working within the wider Chaplaincy Team to promote and model peaceful co-existence through a wide range of multi-faith activity.

Over the past year this work has included marking specific events and festivals such as the International Day of Prayer for Peace, Interfaith Week, Iftari Together and International Women's Day. In addition, larger scale multi-faith events have been organised on behalf of the university for Remembrance Day and Holocaust Memorial Day.

We also encourage celebration and support the deepening of our community's understanding about issues relating to faith and its practice. To enhance this work we have included, alongside our salutations, general information about specific religious festivals as part of our chaplaincy social media strategy, and delivered training on 'Ramadan Info for Staff' to help build improve



understanding of our Muslim students' experience through the holy month of fasting.

- Encouraging members of our community to explore their own spiritual needs and religious identity.

A diverse calendar of faith festivals and celebrations is marked through our social media work and through the hospitality of the Chaplaincy's weekly Community Lunch, including Diwali, Christmas, Hannukah and Eid. Members of the Southlands Chaplaincy staff also contribute to events in their respective faith traditions. This includes the university's Carol Service, Christmas Day worship, Lent and Easter activities, Iftaris Together, and Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha celebrations.

In terms of regular opportunities for worship and formation in faith, this past year has included: a series of 'Preparing for Ramadan as a Student' talks; weekly Jumm'uah prayers (with an average of 60 brothers and sisters attending); weekly Christian Community Sunday Supper fellowship; monthly ecumenical worship; and connecting students with a wider Jewish student network.

Chaplaincy: Promoting an active and inclusive community through our events and activities

The university shares the Methodist Church's concern to build inclusive communities and celebrate diversity. The college's chaplaincy representatives have contributed to this work in a number of ways, creating inclusive spaces in which friendships can be formed and diversity celebrated.

Examples of this include:

- The 'Creative Chaplaincy' programme. This offers opportunities for people to meet over a shared activities that celebrate values such as sustainability and inclusive community. Sessions included mug painting, creating a bag-for-life, pizza making, sustainable Christmas decorations, 'Henna Art', running URban Rambling opportunities to get to know the city.
- Under the banner 'URTrips' there were also visits to the British Museum, the Royal Parks, and the London Wetland Centre. Further opportunities to gather were provided by The Coexist Café and Living Well discussion groups.
- The Reef Reads initiative, which promoted Southlands' values through non-academic book recommendations; and the Chaplaincy Team's commitment to generous hospitality, which was demonstrated through our weekly Community Lunch activities and charity coffee mornings.
- Celebrating diversity and raising awareness through collaborating with other university departments, networks, student societies and campaigns.

Across the university this has involved collaborating with Esports to run a series of social FIFA football game events for students, contributing to celebrations for Black History Month, International Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, Homelessness Awareness Week; LGBT+ History Month; Pride Month; Fairtrade Fortnight; and the RSU 'Move and Give' festival. Notably, International

Women's Day was also marked with an event collaborating with RSU societies and officers as well as the Sports & Active Communities department. Following this year's IWD theme 'Break the Bias', an event was curated to examine how barriers to sport could be reduced for Muslims. The event included an opportunity for people to try on various styles of hijab including sports hijabs. Regular wearers were invited to reflect on their feelings of identity, first time wearers were also invited to share their experience. A small but meaningful exhibition was curated, and feedback has been positive from those who have visited it.

"I got everything I had hoped for: getting to know the city better, meeting new people and building community. For anyone landing in a new space it is very important to feel welcome. And that can only be achieved with a few social bonds. Enjoyed: the lunch where we speak about life; Didn't like: It was a short time;"

(Feedback from a new international staff member who joined URban Rambling to explore London)

"Thank you for helping me when I was having trouble conversing with anyone. I had an enjoyable lunch time. Thank you so much."

(Feedback from an international student attending a Community Welcome Lunch)

"I just wanted to say thank you for Iftari. First of all, thank you for organising it, and thank you for the delicious food that reminded me of home"

(Feedback from a Muslim international student attending Iftari Together during Ramadan).



Sustainable Catering at Southlands

Southlands continued its pledge to be a "Default-veg" college during 2021–22, meaning that all events with catering organised by the college were vegetarian, and often vegan. This programme has been promoted by the Christian charity Creature Kind and similar initiatives to encourage plant-based eating as a norm. Where people were asked to contribute to the cost of food at an event, they were asked to opt out of vegetarian food, rather than to opt in, challenging the assumption that eating a plant-based diet is a niche idea.

As well as reflecting on the environmental benefits of such a policy, Southlands continued to pursue this path in light of John Wesley's own advocacy of a vegetarian diet, a point that was highlighted during the Susanna Wesley Foundation conference in June 2022.

Supporting Recruitment

The college worked with other university departments to support the university's recruitment efforts throughout the year. Staff and students from Southlands were present at all of the university open days, which

returned to in-person attendance following the end of Covid-19 lockdowns. This provided the chance for applicants and their families to learn about the college and ask questions about college life, chaplaincy and wellbeing support, and other college facilities. Staff and student leaders also offered sessions at 'Offer Holder Days', encouraging students to learn more about the provision of support and activities on campus and to consider converting offers into acceptances.

Enhancing Student Safety

Southlands appointed a second Senior College Warden at the end of the previous academic year, ensuring they were in post for the whole of 2021–22. Both of the Senior College Wardens have been active members of the college team at Southlands, attending meetings and contributing to the overall management and ethos of the community. They also work collaboratively across all the university's colleges, with responsibility for promoting a positive community, ensuring the student body is encouraged to live and work safely and to follow the agreed Code of Conduct.

The expansion of the SCW team helped Southlands develop its support for students during a period that presented a number of challenges, providing an opportunity for the team to work in a more proactive way, addressing key issues of concern in the community with a more systemic and holistic approach. It also provided new capacity to review policies and processes around student behaviours and campus safety, particularly important during the transition back to in-person teaching and attendance.

The college continues to develop peer-to-peer support for students wherever possible, which enhances student leadership and expands the ways in which key messages can be conveyed to the community. The SCWs manage a team of College Wardens: students who live on campus and provide immediate pastoral and wellbeing support on campus out of standard office hours. This system ensures a robust provision of pastoral and wellbeing care for our student body at all times of day and night. It provides us with the ability to ensure that important messages about safety and living well together can be embedded into all the activities of the college. Wardens also play a strong role in supporting college activities, becoming part of the community they serve in a meaningful way.

The college continues to develop peer-to-peer support for students wherever possible, which enhances student leadership and expands the ways in which key messages can be conveyed to the community.



Southlands Venture

Southlands Venture is a programme that builds on the college's commitment to enable students to live as responsible citizens, encouraging our community members to explore how they can best use their interests and skills to make the world a better place.

Asking individuals to look beyond themselves in response to wider social issues, Venture projects can take the form of campaigning, volunteering, outreach, or charitable work, either within or beyond the university community. Venture projects always focus on issues of social concern and demonstrate positive interaction with the world in which we live. Students are encouraged to bring their own ideas to life or work on a project that emerges from the wider student community.

Southlands Venture enables these student initiatives to flourish by offering grants and mentoring. Coordinated by members of the college staff team, Venture is financed by the Southlands Methodist Trust and reflects a number of the Methodist Church's core values as lived out at the college: a concern for social justice and fairness; enabling the development of human, social and organisational skills; and making a contribution to the wider community. These values are also embodied in the University of Roehampton's Enabling Strategies, and the skills encouraged by Southlands Venture map closely onto those that enable our graduates to become successful leaders in their future careers.

In the context of the pandemic, and in particular the lingering impact of lockdown and experiences of digital fatigue, it was important for the Venture team to support a move back towards normal and in-person engagements during 2021-22. Further refinements were also made to the process of project selection.

Three projects have been run this year by students:

- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Awareness Campaign: a collaborative project with the university's student union Business Society where T-shirts promoting environmental protection, sustainability and greater knowledge about them were produced for students to wear.
- Homelessness Awareness Week – Poet in Residence: both staff and students were involved in an innovative university project, the first of its kind, promoting awareness of homelessness. The street poet Justin (who uses the online tag Surfing Sofas) was funded by Southlands Venture to engage students through his creativity, verse and engaging persona during the week. The overall event consisted of a number of activities for students and staff alike: a community lunch and a bop raising money for partner charities for homelessness, a seminar on the pedagogy of homelessness, a poetry and performance arts evening, an overnight sleepout, a panel conversation on the faith community's response to

homelessness, poetry reading, and a karaoke fundraising session. A separate part of the week's activities was sponsored by the Southlands Methodist Trust (see page xx).

- RISE 365 Games Night: an event that has helped to build community following the pandemic and lockdown involving cooperation from several parties. The games that were played were very creative and original, (having some interesting names, for example: 'Cluck-Cluck-Chicken', 'Woah, Woah, Woah' and 'A Lie Him Ah Tell'), and also helped to create a sense of fun among the students and wider community involved.

Links and cooperation with the Faculty of Business and Law continue to strengthen. This includes a new selection process for Venture projects, which will encourage students to think more deeply about their project from both business and charitable perspectives. The aim is that students will be more able to formulate clearly how their projects have an impact on the world beyond the university and demonstrate greater innovation, and to reflect on and evaluate their projects.



College Archives

The Southlands Methodist Trust employed a new Archives Historian during the course of the year, with revised aims for the role of the archive. A new accessions policy has been introduced in the college archive to ensure it remains up to date, relevant and accessible for the future. There will be more emphasis on the digital archive and collection of Oral Histories.

The existing archive is being reviewed and material that is not relevant or held multiple times is being disposed of. Several items have been sent to archives where there is provenance. For example, a Victorian embroidery sampler by a Homerton College student has been returned to Homerton College.

There is also closer cooperation with the University of Roehampton's archivists with an aim to curate exhibitions highlighting the work and achievements of the four colleges. A new working relationship with the Westminster College Archives has been developed. The Colleges' shared histories leads to both archives benefitting from this collaboration.

In January 2022 Lord Leslie Griffiths' archive, which had been in storage in Upper Heyford, was delivered to the Southlands College archive. This significant collection was installed to form part of the College's 150th Anniversary events in 2022. At Lord Griffiths' request the recordings of his numerous contributions on Radio 4's Thought for the Day, were digitised. These recordings are now stored in the college's expanding digital archive. A digital copy of the recordings was sent to Lord Griffiths on his 80th birthday.

To celebrate the College's 150th Anniversary, a digital exhibition titled '150 years in 150 images' was curated from the archive's extensive image collection. This was displayed at all the anniversary events and continues to be available on college media platforms. To accompany the digital exhibition 25 large format images, forming a timeline, are on long-term display in the Queen's Building.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the archives are now open to researchers.

Research and Knowledge Exchange

Southlands College, along with its sister colleges at Roehampton, provides the physical spaces for the academic work of the university to take place – our colleges are the building blocks which provide the context for that work.

In addition to providing a site and facilities, the contributions of Southlands to the advanced academic activities of the university extend into more direct investment and resourcing. The college, primarily in partnership with the Southlands Methodist Trust, participates in and helps to shape RKE activities across Roehampton's departments, especially focusing on work which most closely aligns with the priorities of the Methodist Church in Britain.

During 2021–22 the university implemented an enhanced structure for its RKE centres in order to focus its work on key themes. Many of these overlap with areas of interest in the mission of the Methodist Church and work continues to be done to consider how there can be a greater alignment of interests and activity between the two. We continue to ensure that RKE activities at Southlands and through the Southlands Methodist Trust are both informed by and also inform the RKE work of the wider research environment at Roehampton.

Project Sponsorship

In the reporting year, the Southlands Methodist Trust continued to fund RKE at Roehampton in areas which meet the charitable objectives of the Trust and which have benefit to the public more broadly. Each year the Head of Southlands College works with the trustees of the SMT to manage and administer a grants-awarding scheme for RKE work in the university that supports both the research profile of the university and the charitable purposes of the Trust. In 2021–22 a number of projects took place across Roehampton's departments, and a further series of grants were awarded for the following academic year.



Projects commenced during 2021–22:

1. Bridging the ethnic minority gap between educational development and doctoral supervision: Social justice and inclusivity

This study aims to produce a Doctoral Supervisor Resource Pack to support the educational development of supervisors in promoting networking skills and relational working for ethnic minority doctoral students. This pack will address aspects of culture, environment and vocational aspiration with a focus on student values and their alignment with those of their doctoral programmes.

2. Reading4Normal Book Club

The Reading4Normal Book Club is an online reading-group scheme that aims to bring together young readers to discuss young

adult novels. The project facilitated a nine-month Reading4Normal Book Club at six schools (two in the Wandsworth area linked to four across the UK), including an author event. It also supported the creation of a website and social media programme.

3. Understanding emotional journeys: the emotional impact of commuting and campus-based learning during the era of Covid-19

This research engages with the emotional challenges faced by Roehampton students on their 'commute', whether onto campus or accessing e-learning remotely. Visual methods provide a novel approach to conceptualising the emotional experience of these students through personal photographs and drawings related to their 'commute'. This aims to improve their emotional literacy and

develop key employability skills like problem-solving, communication, creativity and self-management.

4. Public Engagement: Diverse Shakespeare at Shakespeare's Globe

This public engagement project will call on the research findings of the Engendering the Stage project team (based in the School of Humanities), to train key members of staff at Shakespeare's Globe in new research into diversity in the Shakespearean period.

5. Productivity and food safety improvements for women in community mechanised palm oil processing: The Case of Ejisu Juaben Municipality, Ashanti Region, Ghana

The overarching aim of this study is to evaluate the technological needs of women and specifically explore the technological, gender and food safety issues. To achieve the research aim, the lead investigator worked with the country director of Self-Help International, Ghana and the Ashanti Regional Engineer for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to gain access to the research subjects and key stakeholders.

6. Growth Outlook for Family Businesses under Uncertainty: An Exploratory Study of the Local Business Community in South West London

Under the backdrop of such an uncertainty-driven external environment, following the double-edged uncertainty of Brexit and the pandemic, this research project aims to understand the resilience of (small) family businesses in South West London and investigate the complex interaction of these businesses with their external environments.

7. The Potato Teeth Project: A comparison of classroom and garden-based educational interventions for oral hygiene in primary school pupils

The project investigated the relative benefits of two similar, garden-themed intervention work packages for improving the oral health of primary school pupils. Both programmes will involve the same one-hour regimen of activities, facilitated by students from the University of Roehampton, in conjunction with the Growhampton Students' Union project.

Projects approved during the year for completion in 2022–23:

1. Exploring barriers to African parental involvement in the UK education system

Parental involvement has a significant effect on pupil achievement throughout the years of schooling. Cultural differences can impact on parental involvement (due to cultural-specific attitudes towards professionals, language barriers, lack of knowledge of the education system, differing goals and agendas between families and schools). Critiques of parental involvement practices have also focused on their culturally specific nature which hinders participation for socially vulnerable groups such as immigrants and minorities. The project aims to identify barriers to parental involvement for African parents and further explore ways to promote inclusion in education spaces for parents and for their children.

2. Fostering theory of mind through early story writing – an interventional study in Year 2

This study proposes to assess if regular story writing in Year 2 supports children's Theory of Mind (ToM) while having a beneficial impact on reading comprehension. The study aims to explore a gap in research in relation to the potential role of early text composition skills in supporting children's ToM.

3. Transition to the labour market for young people with special educational needs and disability: aspirations, experiences and future directions

The purpose of this pilot study is to produce first data concerning the aspirations and experiences of young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) of their transition to the labour market under the *SEND Code of Practice* (2015) for England and the newly introduced National Disability Strategy. The study aims to a) explore young people's experiences, aspirations, and expected/current transition pathways to employment; b) identify current practices, barriers and facilitators in the pathway to employment; c) identify the roles of practitioners and professionals involved in the transition process.

4. AVaTAR: Archive of Victorian Translations from Asia and their Readership

This project will create a public resource that will bring AVaTAR to everyone, opening up to users the remarkable diversity of intercultural encounters sustained by the reading habits of adventurous Victorians. A website will be produced that will host a descriptive and photographic catalogue, while simultaneously engaging local audiences at Roehampton through an exhibition in the university library, to be launched with a public books workshop.

The research is beginning to uncover some interesting themes; among them, the strong emotional responses creeds produce, the nature and importance of the interplay between the communal setting and individual engagement, and the significance of what might be deemed 'alternatives' for non-creed-saying Christians, such as baptism, testimony, and the Lord's prayer.

5. My Extinction

What does it take for us to actually act on the climate crisis – especially if you're the kind of person who knows all the problems, yet still does nothing? This documentary feature film will find new ways to confront the great dilemma of our times from a more relatable and human perspective, looking at the ways in which we turn aside from overwhelming or difficult feelings, and how we might counter that understandable tendency in ourselves.

6. Shakespeare's "Black" Sonnets

The figure of the 'Dark Lady' in Shakespeare's Sonnets (1609) has long been a cause of discomfort and anxiety for white readers and scholars, and has often seemed to inhibit engagement with the Sonnets by readers of colour. Following recent discussions about Shakespeare through the lens of Critical Race studies and Critical White studies, it is time for a reconsideration of the 'blackness' of Shakespeare's Sonnets, examining the real-life Black woman who might have inspired this figure, but also analysing the racial tropes which construct blackness and whiteness in the Sonnets, and their part in the historical construction of racism or racecraft later in the 17th century. The project will focus on the creation of a digital and print learning resource pack exploring these questions, to be used in schools.

7. The Laws and Customs of Colonial War – Author workshop

To address the perceived failure of contemporary scholarship to 'think through' 'constitutive relations between the defining moments of the laws of war and the emergence of colonization...', scholars interested in the history of the laws of war will be invited to attend an author workshop with a view to producing an edited volume on the laws of colonial war.

8. The Instrumental Role of Financial Literacy of Young Adults in South West London in improving Social Mobility and Community Wellbeing

This project focuses on the local South West London community with diverse socio-economic backgrounds, aiming to understand better the financial knowledge gaps of local underprivileged groups. It will provide recommendations for educators and charities and expand the body of academic knowledge about the ways to support financial literacy to build a thriving community.

9. Post-harvest losses reduction in the downstream marine fisheries for women fish traders: The Case of Majengo in Mombasa County, Coast Region-Kenya

The aim of this study is to understand the constraints in the downstream marine fisheries sector and post-harvest challenges faced by women fish traders and to train them in the required fish handling and value-addition processing techniques to prevent post-harvest losses. A majority of women fish traders live in informal establishments where they continue to experience high poverty levels and lack access to technical value addition training required to accrue maximum benefits from fish handling and processing activities.

'Faith Long-Lived' is a practical theological project investigating the experience of saying creeds in the context of Christian worship among older Christians in some of the churches in Roehampton.

The primary interest is in exploring the experiences and feelings individuals have, and have had, when saying creeds, and how these experiences have shaped their life and faith (or not) over the course of several decades of church involvement. The focus specifically on older Christians captures and celebrates the particular gifts and wisdom of a group not often foregrounded in practical research, while participation in the project is giving people a valuable opportunity to reflect on their lived experience.

The research is beginning to uncover some interesting themes; among them, the strong emotional responses creeds produce, the nature and importance of the interplay between the communal setting and individual engagement, and the significance of what might be deemed 'alternatives' for non-creed-saying Christians, such as baptism, testimony, and the Lord's prayer.

Alongside the research, one of the University's research groups in theology has run a series of seminars on the creeds led by notable theologians, opening up some fascinating insights which are informing the research.

Large, Collaborative Projects

Academics at Roehampton, the staff at Southlands College, and the Trustees of SMT worked together to shape a larger research project to start during 2021-22 and continuing over the following academic year, with involvement from the Trustees and ongoing support from staff in the Susanna Wesley Foundation.



The Susanna Wesley Foundation

The Susanna Wesley foundation (SWF) is a community of scholars and practitioners based at Southlands College, supported directly by both the Southlands Methodist Trust and the University of Roehampton. The Foundation's purpose is to facilitate research and enquiry that influence practice and generate learning of benefit to the wider community.

Values and Approach

The Susanna Wesley Foundation's work is founded on collaboration, inclusion, generative conversation and a marriage between theory and practice. Systemic thinking informs our approach, and we advocate for participatory methods, and favour interdisciplinarity. During 2021-22 the quest to contribute to the building of flourishing communities continued, with work around equipping those in churches and faith communities a key strand. The year saw practitioners coming together with academics in different disciplines, and from the University of Roehampton and elsewhere, to exchange understandings and share practice.

Our community and partnerships

The Susanna Wesley Foundation community includes a small core of employees, largely employed part-time, and a larger group of Research Associates and Honorary Fellows, along with Roehampton academics from a range of disciplines and those whom the Foundation is sponsoring through doctoral programmes at the University. We also value the support and interest of those who subscribe to our newsletter, who participate in our events, and who contribute to our podcasts and seminars.

During the past year the PhD student who was first to receive sponsorship from the Foundation successfully defended his doctoral thesis. It is an exploration of the ecclesiological and organisational rationales of the Renewal and Reform project (the principal response of the national church to declining numbers and influences) and at the same time an investigation into whether there is a role that management concepts can legitimately and usefully play in the life of the Church. This work epitomises one of the early ambitions for the Foundation – that it should provide opportunities for research and reflection around the range of organisational and management issues facing churches and faith communities, drawing on different disciplines alongside a theological perspective.

Other students in receipt of funding for their doctoral studies at the University of Roehampton and who contribute to our community are researching the following:

- Disability theology and embodied ways to know God
- Using theological action research to explore new contextual churches as potential catalysts for change in theology and practice
- The work of lay employees within British Methodism and its relationship to vocation and calling

- Story-telling and culture change in local Methodist Churches
- Non-binary gender, the Bible and Christian practice

Two of these students are undertaking a research-based PhD, while the rest are studying for a professional doctorate in theology, the DTh, all based at Roehampton University. This year the Foundation has set up a Scholarship to encourage applications for the DTh programme, particularly from those who are under-represented in postgraduate study, and for pursuing named areas of study which are relevant to our wider work. Throughout the year we have also accompanied the London HIV chaplain in his reflective practice with a view to doctoral studies in the future.

Our involvement in academic communities, within and outside Roehampton, continues. We have contributed funding to the series of 2021/22 seminars given by Roehampton's Research Group in Theology, Religion and Practice. Further, we have added to the bursaries which we offer to students from under-represented groups to enable them to participate in the annual conferences of various academic theology communities, such as the British and Irish Association for Practical Theology (BIAPT) and the Society for the Study of Theology (SST).

The year also saw a new partnership for the Foundation - with Theos, an organisation which stimulates debate about the place of religion in society. We are working with Theos on a research project around death: 'Death, dying and the afterlife, in the UK', with a report and practical booklets to be published next year.

Our work: research, resources, dialogue and events

- Well-being: 2021-22 has seen the publication and launch of a resource 'Flourishing Ministers; Flourishing Communities' arising out of a SWF project looking at the application of a particular theory of human behaviour in the context of local churches. The resource, which is available both online and in hard copy, aims to help ministers handle the relational aspects of their roles and the associated anxiety and emotional exhaustion. Seminars offering an introduction to the basic concepts were well-attended and the resource well-received, with activity continuing in the future through coaching workshops.
- Learning: arguably, the Foundation's whole *raison d'être* is 'learning', but the nature of learning and its purpose, who is involved and how, have been at the heart of several SWF projects, particularly that around collaborative learning in Methodist contexts. Learning from this project has led to conversations across the Methodist Connexion over the past year, with input into a gathering of the Methodist Learning Network and into a consultation about resourcing learning across the Methodist Church. A smaller project looking at the learning needs of lay people who do not receive training for their ministry, together with an action research project in Sheffield looking at lay mission and ministry in a Methodist setting, have both contributed to further insights into faith learning and learning for ministry.
- Change: another foundational area for the work of SWF. During the year a member of the Foundation published a paper in the *Journal of Practical Theology* entitled 'Exploring open and relational theology and Theory U for transformational change' in line with the Foundation's exploration of systemic approaches and its ambition to contribute to transformational change. This impetus also fuelled a symposium at Methodist Church House, which brought together academics, practitioners, and officers from the Connexional Team to discuss some of the findings from two research projects which had looked at change and strategy in the Methodist Church. Bringing together the projects, researchers and theological and management/organisational perspectives provided some fascinating insights. We aim to build on these to draw out the implications for the work of the Church and to capitalise on the research for wider benefit.
- Justice, Dignity and Solidarity: this is the term given to the strategy for equality, diversity and inclusion in the Methodist Church in Britain, outlined in a Conference Report in 2021. Inclusion will always be high on SWF's agenda, and we have continued to fund an Associate to accompany one of the strands of work in this strategy. SWF has also contributed to an article published in the *Journal of Awareness Based System Change* in autumn 2021. The article takes the form of a transcribed and edited conversation between some significant players in the Church's journey towards inclusion. Tracking that journey is also being facilitated by the Foundation using a tool for conversation which teases out participants' stories and experiences around inclusion and diversity in the Church. Meanwhile, the Foundation's resource 'Diversity, Otherness and Privilege' continues to be requested for use as a guide to conversation in a range of contexts, both Methodist and other.
- Chaplaincy in higher education: the Foundation has continued work with the multi-faith chaplaincy team at Roehampton which began during the pandemic. The project has looked at the impact of higher education chaplaincy within the context of the University of Roehampton. The 'Evaluation and

Reflective Practice Tool', which was an outcome of the project, has been trialled over the 2021–22 academic year. The insights and findings from the project have been captured and are being analysed with a view to future publication.

- 'Charity or Justice': an event during Homelessness Awareness week looked at the faith community's response to the issue, with inputs from experts, advocates and activists. Speakers from JustUs charity, Arts and Homelessness International, from the Methodist Church's Joint Public Issues Team and Trussell Trust, and an Anglican curate who is also a DTh student at Roehampton, challenged us, offering rich insights into the complexities of the issues, with a panel discussion about the implications for the role of the churches. The contribution from the inspiring poet who was in residence at the University of Roehampton for the week was particularly memorable, and was funded by Southlands Venture (see page xx). His work and personal experience of homelessness resonated with students and staff at various events throughout the week.

Publication: Landscape Liturgies

The Foundation was delighted to sponsor the research and writing of *Landscape Liturgies* in 2021. The book arose out of the New Creation Project set up in May 2020 to look at creative ways in which church and church communities can engage productively with the natural world. It offers a compilation of outdoor blessings, rituals and liturgies from Christian tradition, testament to the far-reaching power of Christian worship to reach deep into urban and rural landscapes alike and provides foundational material for new rituals suitable for current times. In promoting the practice of incorporating important landscapes and landmarks into the life of the worshipping community, it opens an entire world of outdoor spirituality that offers something new and exciting, while encouraging us to reflect on the place of the natural world in God's creation. Thus, the book resonates

with current ecological concerns, and provides a bridge between formal church life and a more diffuse sense of spirituality in nature. We drew on it in our annual conference, on sustainability (see below), using a liturgy from the book as we planted a tree in Southlands' soil at the end of the day.

Celebration and conversation: our 2022 Conference

The 150th anniversary of the establishment of Southlands College was marked in the Susanna Wesley Foundation by a conference, 'Sustainability: Sharing Values, Creating Communities', in which we explored ways of thinking about the environment, economy and society and how we can organise ourselves in order to care for our common home and enable flourishing for all.

The conference offered an interdisciplinary blend of speakers and opportunities throughout a day filled with provocative

thought, practical advice and space to sit with the most pressing issues and see things anew. Questions around the role of a university in an ecological emergency, the place of spiritual values in pro-environmental behaviour, and the ethic of consumption appropriate at a time of climate crisis formed the backdrop to the inputs and conversation.

Contributors included members of Roehampton's Faculty of Business and Law, with input too from Humanities and the School of Life and Health Sciences at the University, as well as speakers from further afield, theologians and environmentalists alike. We reflected on our human calling and the kind of people we are nurturing our students (and ourselves) to be; we were made aware of the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on black and brown lives, while also considering the creative power of the arts and the need for a revised, holistic understanding of climate justice; we explored place, community, and human needs; and we engaged with learning from an interdisciplinary project on hope to

explore a theological ethics of sustainability. We heard about projects putting ideas into practice including community gardening initiatives at Roehampton and in the local community, and breakout sessions built on the practical outworking of sustainability, looking at activism, contemplation, the writing of Francis of Assisi, and sustainable business. We went outside to close, marking the 150th anniversary, celebrating Southlands and its home, and looking to the future by planting a tree in the grounds, with a blessing taken from *Landscape Liturgies*, led by the College chaplain.

The conference provided a forum for listening to a variety of approaches. Our participants and contributors offered each other both realism and ways forward. It honoured differences of experience, philosophy and priorities, and held these in balance with the common ground of positive intention and shared humanity that serve a sustaining and sustainable hope – an overarching purpose and underpinning principles for all the Foundation's work.



Enhancing Methodist Education

Southlands College places the University of Roehampton at the heart of the Methodist Church's national and international educational networks. Important to the work of the College is to nurture new, generative projects and workstreams that bring benefit to the college, the university and to the wider Church.

Southlands is a member of both the Methodist-related Theological Schools in Europe (MTSE) and the International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges and Universities (IAMSCU). These involvements provide the college and university with access into a family of institutions from which mutual support and collaborative ventures emerge. In the UK, Southlands College works closely with a range of educational partners and especially the British Methodist schools groups, which include Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST), Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST), and the Methodist Schools Committee (MSC).

The 2021–22 academic year saw engagements across these education networks begin to emerge from Covid-related restrictions. Gathered, in-person meetings became possible again, and a blended approach emerged, enabling both the most effective and also the most inclusive forms of working.

Methodist Schools in Britain

Southlands continued to work with Methodist primary and secondary schools across Britain, supporting in particular to support the implementation of the Methodist Church's education strategy, *Transforming Lives*.

Southlands College and the University of Roehampton continued to support strands of that strategy which relate to higher education – especially focusing on teacher education, the development of ideas around teaching as a Christian vocation, and the shaping of research to support the needs of our Methodist schools and teachers. The Head of Southlands College aims to nurture important links between Higher Education and Methodist Schools, acting as Trustee of Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST) and a member of the Methodist Schools Committee.

During 2021–22, the Southlands Methodist Trust continued to offer a major grant to MAST to support its staffing and work, and in particular the structures surrounding its leadership. As well as enhancing the work of MAST, this ensures the continued close collaboration between Southlands College and the work of Methodist Education more broadly, nurturing a sense of common purpose and encouraging important practical collaborations.

Mrs Barbara Easton, the Head of Service for Methodist Schools and a valued colleague of the college, was appointed as a Fellow of Southlands College in February 2022, at the event marking exactly 150 years since the college's foundation. A former student of Southlands and the sitting Vice President of the Methodist Conference, this

Fellowship recognised Barbara's personal and professional contributions to the college, alongside signalling the strong desire amongst trustees to ensure our ongoing participation in the work of Methodist Schools across the country. Recordings made of interviews and discussions during this event form part of a package of resources which Southlands College offered to the wider Methodist Connexion to mark Education Sunday, encouraging the Church to think intentionally and prayerfully about its mission in education.

Higher and Further Education

As well as continuing to work with partners across Europe through its active involvement in the association of Methodist-related Theological Schools in Europe (MTSE), Southlands College has continued to take a leading role in drawing together all those adult educational institutions and heritage bodies that relate to Methodism in Britain and Ireland.

After the work done through the college and the Southlands Methodist Trust and its staff in 2020–21 to bring together senior leaders and representatives of nearly all these institutions, 2021–22 saw the initial gathering of that group in person. SMT

offered a grant to facilitate a residential meeting at Roehampton, which was Chaired by Tim Macquiban, Chair of the Trust, and co-convened by senior members of the Church's Connexional Team.

Institutions were invited to share information about the challenges they face and the ambitions they have, as well as ideas for greater collaboration. There is an intention to continue gathering this group, helping to focus those ideas and bring them into fruition.

Europe and Worldwide

The Board of IAMSCU, of which the Head of College is a Director, continued to meet online during 2021–22. During the year, plans were developed to bring together the major IAMSCU conference with the Methodist Schools Conference in April 2023. The conference will be divided into

three parts, of which the first will focus on Higher Education, taking place at Southlands College. The Head of College was therefore appointed onto the global steering group for the programme and participated in detailed planning around content and logistics. The SMT has committed staffing time and financial resources both to facilitate this aspect of the event and also to offer access grants for students and representatives of institutions from less privileged parts of the world, aiming to ensure financial disadvantage is not a block to participation.

Alongside these activities, work continued to develop the Methodist International Student Exchange Network (MISEN) and to explore the involvement of Roehampton as a host for students from Methodist institutions overseas. The Director of the Susanna Wesley Foundation also continued to participate in the IAMSCU human rights network, which will meet in person for the first time since the pandemic in September 2022.

A feature of the college's 150th anniversary celebrations was an invitation to leaders of Methodist-related HE institutions in the US to participate in a week-long programme of activities in London, culminating in our gala dinner and annual conference. 13 representatives from a number of institutions visited Southlands in what we hope will signal the start of more regular visits from within the IAMSCU family, with the goal of fostering closer relationships and exploring future collaborative ventures.

As part of the college's 150th anniversary celebrations, the Southlands Methodist Trust re-committed to supporting the Susanna Wesley Visiting Fellowship, which we hope will enable the appointment of a visiting Methodist scholar in the coming academic year.



Anniversary Celebrations

Southlands College celebrated its 150th anniversary during 2022 with a series of events throughout the landmark year, involving its key partners and associates.

The programme was designed to raise the profile of the college and its Methodist heritage, to reaffirm its values as a place dedicated to inclusive and forward-thinking education, to launch an ambitious Transformation Fund, and to cement its many national and international relationships in academia, in Methodism, and in political and civic life.

The college took particular care to shape its celebrations in ways that resonate with its long traditions as an educational institution, cementing its place in a modern university while also looking ahead to the challenges facing future generations of students. The programme was planned by members of the College Team, Trustees of the Southlands Methodist Trust, and University of Roehampton professional services staff. Events were chosen to underline the message that the college works hard to keep alive its faith heritage among its student population, nurturing and embodying a sense of social responsibility, inclusion and other ethical values.

A celebratory lunch was held on the exact date of Southlands College's establishment, 26th February. A keynote speech by the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Barbara Easton, spoke of the college's proud history as a pioneering place of learning for women that fulfils the Methodist desire to transform lives for the better, in practical as well as spiritual terms. The university's Vice-Chancellor Professor Jean-Noël Ezingearde echoed the sentiments in his welcome speech, stressing the college's enduring legacy as a place of inclusion and diversity.

The Transformation Fund was launched at this lunch and prominently promoted throughout the year. The fund is designed to raise money for a redevelopment of Southlands College in ways which create collaborative and inclusive spaces for students, and which also open the college up to the local community. The Fund also seeks to offer bursaries to students to reduce the financial barriers which prevent the less advantaged in society from entering Higher Education. The overall aim is to ensure Southlands is transformed into a place equipped for future generations of students, with spaces to gather and learn informally, better IT-equipped rooms and an enhanced landscape setting.

Anniversary events continued on 30th June with a major conference entitled 'Sustainability: Sharing Values, Creating Communities', hosted jointly by the Susanna Wesley Foundation and the Faculty of Business and Law, bringing together the communities of Southlands College. It drew around 100 delegates to hear talks by three of Britain's leading environmental activists and academics, Professor Alastair McIntosh, Professor Robert Beckford, and Professor Molly Scott Cato who is based at Roehampton.

Professor McIntosh talked of encouraging students with sense of 'calling' in their studies to identify and encourage future leaders and innovators with a passion for sustainability. Professor Beckford highlighted the enduring damage done by the injustices of colonialism and their lingering effects on environmental inequality. Professor Scott Cato inspired delegates with stories of her

recent visit to the Glastonbury Festival, a place where a thriving and positive community spirit flourishes. All three speakers underlined the need for students to reflect on what it is to be human and to connect with their ethical values, a point thoughtfully picked up and amplified by Professor Sunitha Narendran, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law.

Delegates were not only engaged in a day of stimulating and engaging conversation, but also sampled some food grown on the university campus, introduced by the Growhampton project co-ordinator Ollie Cem. The conference ended with the planting of a wild cherry tree, a short service led by the college's Methodist chaplain Revd Nicola Morrison.

Following the conference, a gathering of dignitaries met at Grove House, with guests including senior Methodist leaders, the university's Chancellor Baroness Sandip Verma and Vice-Chancellor Professor Jean-Noël Ezingearde, Methodist minister and politician Lord Leslie Griffiths, and the local MP Fleur Anderson. Phil Walker, Chair of the University of Roehampton's Council, spoke further about the launch of the Transformation Fund.

During this gathering and at the celebration lunch in February a total of four people were named as new Southlands Fellows to thank them for their long contribution to the college community. In February Barbara Easton, then Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, and John Logan, former head teacher at two London primary schools, were welcomed



as Fellows. Both of them also serve as Methodist Local Preachers. They were joined as Fellows in June by Jackie Brown, former lecturer at Roehampton University and now Secretary of the Southlands Methodist Trust, and Margaret Jones, Methodist minister and Chair of the Southlands Methodist Trust from 2016 to 2020.

There was also a chance for alumni to gather and celebrate their personal association with Southlands, with a major reunion of former students, staff and Fellows, held on July 2nd. This event saw more than 200 past college members come together, with a service in Digby Stuart Chapel and a celebratory lunch at Southlands. One of the alumni attending was 104-year-old Freda Smith (née Walton), who trained at Southlands College in the 1930s.

Other highlights of the celebrations included a photo exhibition on the first floor of the Queen's Building, with pictures from as early as 1877 set alongside an array of images from the college's long history. It remained on display as the college continued celebrating its anniversary year throughout 2022.

During the conference and reunion week, the college also played host to a party of distinguished Presidents and guests from US Methodist universities and the

American Higher Education sector. As well as participating in the college's 150th events, visitors were shown a range of landmarks linked to Methodist heritage around London and Cambridge.

In a final embellishment to the anniversary milestone, Southlands College also celebrated 25 years at its Roehampton Lane site. A video interview with former principal Dr Mike Leigh, architect Richard Young, and chaplain Revd Robert Jones reminisced about the ways in which the college buildings and college community alike had been shaped by a careful interpretation of Methodist values. The video can be seen in the news section of the Southlands Methodist Trust's website.

The anniversary events were designed as a chance to celebrate but also to look forwards, taking an opportunity to reflect on the historic value of the Methodist Church's mission in higher education and to consider how that mission can be relevant and important for Southlands College today. Given the ever-increasing challenges for the next generations, the intention has been to build on the underlying Methodist values of the college to shape students as leaders committed to inclusivity, to social justice, and to building a better world for all.

Southlands student scholarships launched

The Southlands Methodist Trust launched several scholarships for students in 2022, ensuring that its 150th celebrations generated lasting benefits for the university community. The scholarships will enable a range of students to engage in higher education at the University of Roehampton. The scholarships support students with the costs of living during their studies, and consist of four separate categories of award. In all four categories students are encouraged to play an active role in the life of the college during their time at the university. The scholarships are in four categories as follows:

■ Southlands Teaching Scholars

A grant of £2,500 for two students annually, covering four years of study. This fund is available for incoming Southlands students who are training to be teachers.

■ Southlands Anniversary Scholars (Education)

A grant of £2,000 for two students annually, covering three years of study. This is aimed at incoming Southlands students undertaking a three-year undergraduate programme in Education.



■ **Southlands Anniversary Scholars (General)**

This grant of £1,000 for two students annually, covering three years of study. Applicants can be studying any course at an undergraduate level, and will need to be registered as Southlands students.

■ **The London Methodist Bursary Fund**

This fund of £20,000 will be distributed in bursaries designed to help with living costs associated with a period of study, and can be applied for at any point during a student's time of study at Roehampton. Applicants will need to have some degree of association with London Methodism, or a demonstrable intention to get involved once their studies begin, and must be intending to use their education for the goal of social good. Recipients will be expected to engage with the community life of Wesley's Chapel in central London, which might include attending events, speaking to the chapel's community members, and offering to write for related publications.

Two other bursaries continue to be available for Southlands students. The Wesley Chapel Emergency Fund is available to students at Roehampton from backgrounds under-represented in Higher Education, whose circumstances have led to extreme financial difficulties and who have exhausted

standard student funding routes. World Parish Bursaries offer up to £750 per student to enable overseas travel connected to their programme of study, or to enable them to engage in educational activity overseas which they would not otherwise be able to access.

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Transformation Fund

Southlands College's 150th anniversary year served as a platform for launching its Transformation Fund, which will raise money for a wide-ranging redevelopment programme.

The plans are focused on two main areas of work: a programme of works to improve the college's current site, and a bursary programme to support students with their financial needs. Designed around the founding Methodist vision of excellent education for all within a supportive and formative community, the transformation proposals have been drawn up by a range of college communities with a view to securing its long-term future.

Raising money to invest in facilities and people alike, these two areas for investment have been named Transforming Spaces and Transforming Lives. The overall programme will help to dovetail the services and facilities offered by the college with the academic programmes it supports, particularly the work of the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) which is based at Southlands. The FBL's mission is to be a faculty with a social conscience, built on values of excellence, inclusivity, social responsibility and community: ambitions which resonate strongly with Southlands' founding principles.

The most capital-intensive of the two programmes, Transforming Spaces, focuses on space and place, an ambitious development project to re-shape Southlands College to be the best learning environment for future generations of students. The Queen's Building serves as the college's

academic, co-curricular and student support hub, and the plans seek to introduce a greater variety of learning environments to the existing facilities, supporting modern teaching techniques and specialist training.

Transforming Spaces is based on an ambitious £6.3m capital investment programme, which will be phased over a minimum of five years as a number of separate, smaller projects. The college aims to match the funding provided through university capital expenditure with support from corporate partnerships, trusts and foundations. As modern and high-profile facilities for a new generation of students, the redevelopment opportunities are being promoted as an excellent fit for corporate sponsorship from organisations who share the college's aims and values. Funded or in-kind partnerships are a particularly appealing route to building long-lasting relationships with the college, the FBL and the wider university.

Transforming Lives is based on a bursary programme designed to remove financial barriers to education with the specific goal of enabling access for the least economically advantaged in society. The programme is mindful of the fact that Roehampton graduates contribute much to society – through their work as teachers and health workers, in the arts and sciences, and through

their businesses as managers and employers. Yet students face intense financial pressures during their studies, many of them working more than one job to support their basic needs as they study.

The Transforming Lives programme will create life-changing opportunities for Southlands students in a number of planned formats, including prizes for entrepreneurship, scholarships, or hardship support. Supporters will join a community of donors who are all making a difference to students' lives. The fund is open to individual donations, planned giving or match-funded grants from organisations, no matter the size, will all have an impact.

The programme of projects has been designed to allow individual initiatives to be introduced as funding is secured, enabling work to begin on different aspects of the college's transformation that all reflect the same overall vision.



Educational values

The broad scope of the reimagining of Southlands College encompasses a thoughtful transformation of the site and its community to greatly enhance its function as home to a learning community, designed with a view to long-term sustainability in every sense of the word. Plans were drawn up with input from all the college's communities and are underpinned by four key educational commitments. These four, set out below, are founded on the Methodist Church's mission and values, the historical work of Southlands College, and the modern-day work and vision of the University of Roehampton.

Education as community

Creating permeable spaces where the boundaries between student and student, student and staff, staff and staff are removed and ways of working are radically reshaped to ensure all are brought together in one, fully inclusive environment. Breaking down (literally) the barrier between college and community, opening up Southlands College

to the community, providing creative and collaborative spaces that engage students with the outside world, and with one another.

Education as service

Being committed to reshaping the world around us, helping to shape leaders of the future, encouraging students to hold values of commitment to improve the world around them, and engaging in key social justice issues.

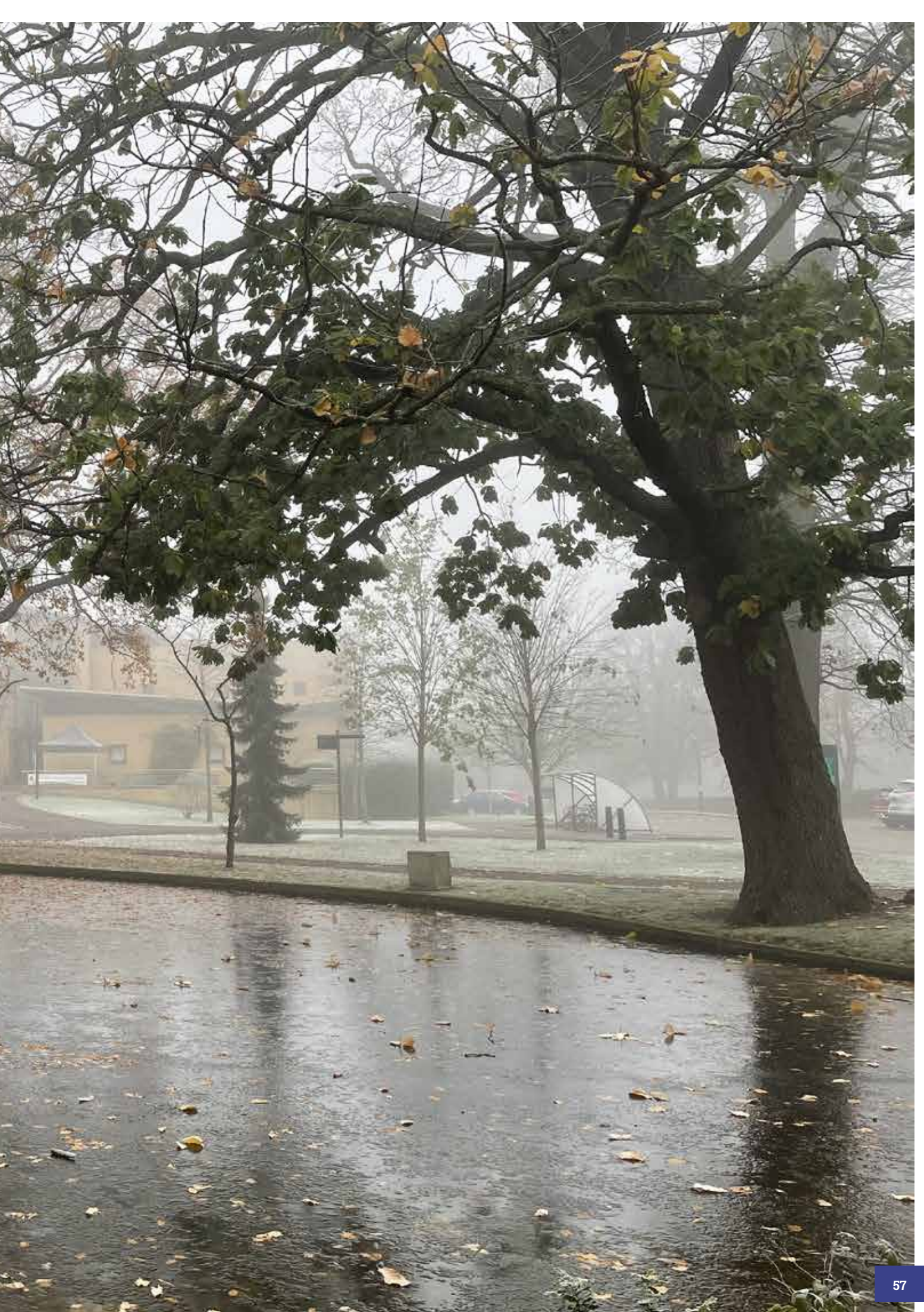
Education as formation

Becoming a well-rounded person, a person with a strong set of values who has a rich engagement with the creative, physical, mindful and spiritual aspects of life. Holding together spaces for learning, for exploring, for music and creativity, for Esports, for prayer, worship and spiritual engagement, for well-being activities.

Education for sustainability

Creating a sustainable learning environment that will accommodate the evolving needs of those who use, manage and fund buildings in efficient, effective and environmentally friendly ways. Facilitating positive social interaction, building friendships, encouraging social inclusion, developing trust, reinforcing civic identity and pride. Instilling environmentally sustainable behaviours through user training and mindfulness.





For more information about the life
and work of Southlands College, visit:

www.roehampton.ac.uk/colleges/southlands-college

www.southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk

www.susannawesleyfoundation.org

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