

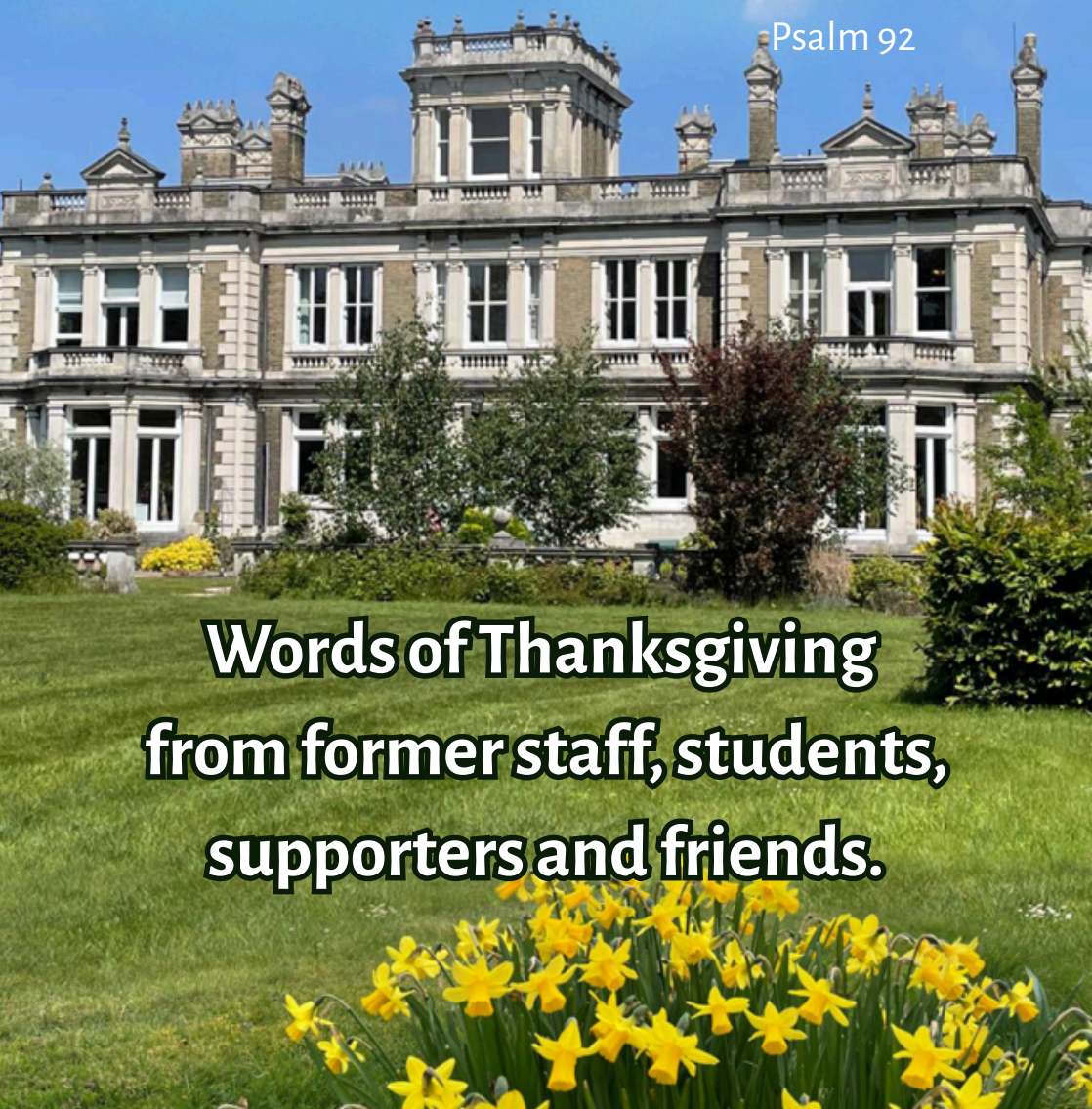
SPURGEON'S

1856-2025

'It is good to give thanks to the Lord'

Psalm 92

**Words of Thanksgiving
from former staff, students,
supporters and friends.**



Words of Thanksgiving

Seidel Abel Boanerges

Staff 2011-2025

For fourteen years, as a student and later a member of staff, Spurgeon's College has been a place of deep growth and calling for me. Here I deepened my understanding of scripture, prayer, teaching, and friendship. I thank God for lecturers who invested in me and colleagues who walked alongside me in ministry. I give thanks to God for what this College has meant to me and to so many called to serve in God's mission.

Alex Afriye

Student 1992-1996

Dorcas and I are extremely grateful to Spurgeon's College and all of its lecturers and staff for the depth of education and equipping we received while at college and the fellowship and support and generosity of spirit. We have wonderful memories of being equipped for ministry and the warm friendships we developed there. We praise God for Spurgeon's College.

Luis Guillermo G. Aguilera

Student 2020

I thank God for the ministry of Spurgeons College and for the privilege of being one of its students. Through my theological studies, I discovered that ministry is not only proclaimed from a pulpit but also lived beside people in moments of vulnerability. Today, as a volunteer hospital chaplain in London, I continue to see the lasting fruit of what I learned. Every conversation, every prayer and every act of compassionate presence reminds me that the ministry of Spurgeons College lives on through those it prepared to serve Christ and others.

Bill Allen

Student 1974-78 Staff 1992-1999

As a student I benefitted greatly from the foundation the College course gave me for ministry. Even today, 52 years on, I

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recognise the value of the practical and personal support which my tutors gave me and my wife and family in those days of responding to the call of God to ministry. I give thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to serve as pastoral studies tutor during the 1990's. This was the chance to give something back to the College and to students I had the privilege to teach. It is an humbling experience to recognise people, with whom we shared the learning, now leading and pastoring churches in this very different world. "We share in His love that we might share in the loving" Thanks be to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Tim Allen

Student 2016-2019

Studying at Spurgeon's College has strengthened and confirmed my calling to ministry. The excellent lectures stretched me intellectually while keeping Christ and the gospel firmly at the centre. Learning alongside students from diverse cultures, churches and backgrounds has broadened my perspective and enriched my faith. Above all, Spurgeon's has given me greater clarity and confidence to serve Christ and His Church faithfully.

Raphael Amoako-Atta

Student 2008-2011

I came to Spurgeon's College with some initial reservations, particularly as I balanced family, work, and academic commitments. There were times, when the demands felt overwhelming. However, I quickly discovered a supportive and encouraging community, where both staff and fellow students were always willing to help. The academic standards were high and uncompromising, yet they were matched by a strong sense of fellowship and care. Support was consistently available, creating an environment where I could grow both academically and personally. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have been educated and trained at Spurgeon's College. I extend my sincere thanks to my cohort, the entire student body and to the dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff who made this journey both enriching and memorable.

Words of Thanksgiving

Chris Andre-Watson

Student 1990-1994

Studying at Spurgeon's College has strengthened and Those four years at Spurgeon's were some of the most memorable and formative years of my life. I learnt so much, grew so much, met the most amazing people and made some amazing friends. Sad as it may be to be without the physical building, the Spurgeon's community will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Tracey Ansell

Student 2010-2013

As I look back I know I did not fully take full advantage of my years at Spurgeon's, whether it was the wonderfully stocked library, or the Baptist 'giants' who were there to teach and impart knowledge. I would do it all so different if I could go back and do it all again with what I have learnt since! Many times I have found Nigel Wright's words repeating in my mind 'Nobody said it would be easy' and 'people in church show the absolute best of humanity and the worst'. I've always felt privileged to have studied at Spurgeon's and will hold onto those memories with even more fondness now it has closed. Thank you to everyone who poured out so much to me and my future ministry.

Adrian Argile

Student 1983-1987

I am so appreciative for 4 years of wonderful teaching, community spirit and spiritual growth. Friendships were established, practices were put in place, and foundations were rooted that have been the backbone of my ministry over the past 40 years. The love of the scriptures together with the importance of good exegesis, the place of prayer and the grounding of spiritual disciplines were firmly built into me. Spurgeon's was a fabulous place, and I will remain forever grateful for my time there and for the tutors and my fellow students.

Words of Thanksgiving

Rachel Atkinson (née Dutton)

Staff 2002-2007

What a great privilege to be part of the Spurgeon's College community from 2002-2007. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to join the staff team and loved teaching, learning and growing in this environment with some amazing role models. I am thankful for the many kind, gracious and inspirational staff and students who were part of my journey in that season. What a gift to have started my teaching career among such a godly, diverse, courageous bunch of people. Thank you Spurgeon's. Thank you Jesus.

John Auger

Student 1986, 2009-2010 and 2023-2025

It was at Spurgeon's that I deepened my faith, increased my knowledge of God's word and realised that I have still so much to learn about following Jesus.

Anne O. Ayoola

Student 2018-2024

Spurgeon's College was a great place to learn, seasoned with godly lecturers/tutors/ staff and the good company of students. Praise God for the divine impact on all who had the opportunity to be connected in one way or the other. The divine legacy of the College lives on!

Patrick Baker

Student 1965-1968

When, in 1963, I became convinced of God's call to me to be a Baptist Minister, I read Dr George Beasley-Murray's big book "Baptism in the New Testament". That settled it; I applied and was accepted as a Spurgeon's College student in 1964. His book, and his subsequent lectures - delivered with passionate intensity - impressed on me the necessity of thorough fidelity to the biblical text. Although I could not always concur with his practical conclusions, his approach to biblical interpretation proved the foundation of my 39 years of ministry. I have always been grateful.

Andy Banks

Student 2007-2010

Spurgeon's provided a solid foundation for ministry. The theology modules were particularly useful for both preaching and pastoral care. For we were not taught WHAT to think, but HOW to think – a biblical framework within which to reflect upon the myriad complexities of pastoral ministry that are impossible to cover fully in even our (still excellent) practical modules. Community-wise, I found friends, prayer-partners and colleagues for life with whom to journey through the ups and downs of ministry. "Nobody said it would be easy." It isn't. But I am forever grateful to the Spurgeon's staff who shaped me for ministry.

Horley Baptist Church

Friend of the College

Perhaps because of our proximity, Horley Baptist Church has enjoyed a long association with Spurgeon's College. One of our former ministers, the Revd Percy William Evans, served as Principal for twenty-five years. More recently, several of our ministers—including our current minister—trained at the College, while a number of its lecturers have made Horley Baptist their church home. Spurgeon's has therefore shaped the ministry and history of our church in profound and immeasurable ways. We give thanks to God for the College and for the rich, reciprocal relationship we have shared over many years.

Sue Barker (née Wilson)

Student 1992-1995, 1998-2003 and beyond!

Spurgeon's holds a very special place in my life as a place of safety while my first marriage was coming to an end. Those who knew were delighted that I had met up with my childhood sweetheart while looking after a church organised by the College. We are about to celebrate 30 very happy years together. Thank you Bill Allen!

Words of Thanksgiving

Amy Barker

Student 2015-2019

I'm so thankful for my time at Spurgeon's College. The staff and students I met there played a huge part in shaping who I am today. I'm grateful for the wide diversity of teaching and the exposure to different theological viewpoints. Most of all, I appreciate how the College equipped me for future work and ministry. Even though the College is closed, its lasting influence continues to shape so many people.

Phil Barnard

Council Member 2016-2025

For generations, Spurgeon's College has been one of the great gifts to the Baptist family. It has formed thousands of ministers, missionaries and Christian leaders whose faithful service has shaped churches, communities and lives across Britain and far beyond. Its influence can never be measured simply in buildings or institutions, but in the countless people who have been equipped to proclaim Christ with wisdom, humility and conviction. Although its recent closure has been deeply painful, we give thanks to God for the extraordinary legacy of Spurgeon's College, and pray that its commitment to gospel ministry will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

David Beazley

Student 1989-1992

Lectures were fascinating; studies and assignments were usefully demanding. Much tends to fade with time, but friendships made have been deep, lasting and vital. Thankyou.

Words of Thanksgiving

Neil Bennett

Student 2000-2003

I want to say thank you to the staff of Spurgeon's College. You helped me see God is a new way, opened my heart to a closer relationship with Him, made Jesus real, and encouraged me to connect with the Holy Spirit. Nigel: I will always be thankful to you for what you taught me about preaching and teaching God's Word and for all that you did for me!

Martin Berry

Student 2022-2025

I look back with genuine gratitude for my time at Spurgeon's College. Coming from a background with very little formal education, I never imagined I'd have the opportunity to study there. It wasn't just an academic journey, but a life-changing one. The encouragement, teaching, and friendships helped shape me both personally and in ministry. I am deeply thankful to everyone who invested in me and those who believed in me. Truly grateful indeed.

Sarah Bingham

Student 2010-2013

I thank God for Spurgeon's College, where I finally did my academic best, but where the most fruitful thing was not the academic study, but the relationships. My group kept me grounded, and saw me through the transition of changing job, location and living alone all at once. Studying across different year groups gave me a wide circle of friends and colleagues, some of whom I have even encountered in later work settings! Staff deepened my knowledge and understanding, but also modelled how to serve with grace. May the seed sown ever be fruitful, and may we all remember.

Words of Thanksgiving

Claire Blatchford

Student 2008-2012, College Conference Committee chair until 2025

I am thankful to God that Spurgeon's' College was a place of study, refuge, support, friendship and laughter. I am forever grateful for students, lecturers and staff alike for their support and encouragement, especially during the tough times.

Dan Boakye

Student 2008-2012

My heart overflows with gratitude to the Lord for Spurgeon's College and all it has represented in my life. The love, care, and training I received there were nothing short of God's grace in action. I am especially thankful for Rev. Dr Nigel Wright and his late wife Judy, who embraced Diana, our little children, and me as their own. Their kindness shaped our lives in ways words can barely express. Thank you, dad and mum, for loving us so well. I also want to honour Rev. Dr Peter Stevenson, my personal tutor and counsellor, whose wisdom and support guided me through some of my most formative years. I simply would not be a Baptist minister today without the help, training, and personal support I received from the College. Though circumstances made qualification impossible after my first year, the Lord, in His mercy, used the Principal and the staff to carry us through until I finished. I give thanks to God for Spurgeon's College — truly a family to us.

Michael I. Bochinski

Staff 2003-2023

My connections were mostly from 2003 – 2023, initially as a doctoral student and then as an Online Tutor, mainly in Baptist History and Principles. It was a thrill to stay in contact, in this way, with so many able women and men delivering or undertaking theological education, ministry and mission training. The College

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library holds a special place in my heart as do morning prayers in a packed chapel. The walk up South Norwood Hill less so! Looking back, it was the awareness of God's Spirit powerfully at work that always stood out for me in my experiences of the College over those two decades.

Alison Boddington

Student 2010-2013

I will always be truly grateful for the opportunity I had to study at Spurgeon's College. 3 years that will impact me for the rest of my life. I am grateful for the staff who taught me so much, but also all the staff who went above and beyond to support the students. My fellow students encouraged me and supported each other in times of joy as well as difficulty. And I had the opportunity to grow deeper in my faith personally whilst also building solid foundations for my future ministry. So much to give thanks to God for.

Richard Booth

Student 1991-1995

I will always be eternally grateful for my training at Spurgeon's College. I think I was very fortunate to be a full-time student at college at that particular time, with so many remarkable tutors. I will always be thankful for the teaching, which gave me an excellent foundation for my future ministry. I will also always remember the love and support shown to myself and Susan following the devastating death of our daughter Charlotte in our first year at college.

Michael John Bradshaw

Student 1977-1981

I am very deeply grateful for my time at Spurgeon's and to all the faculty who were such a tremendous influence and I feel that I owe so much to them for their tuition and encouragement. I give special thanks to the late Dr. Raymond Brown and feel very privileged to have been at College during his principalship.

Words of Thanksgiving

Simon Bramwell

Student 2017-2021

I am hugely grateful for my time at Spurgeon's and for the wonderful staff and students I shared that time with - inspirational, formational, transformational, and also great fun! Thank you Lord! Thank you all!

Hilary Brown

Student 2024-2025

I thank God for my time at Spurgeon's for the first year of what would have been a 6-year part-time BA in Theology with Chaplaincy. Even now my tutors' words continue to advise me! We were grounded in the Bible and encouraged to express our own thoughts and give reasons. After College closed my cohort held a small thanksgiving service on the College drive to give thanks and praise to God for the students, tutors and other staff and all the lives he has touched through Spurgeon's College.

Jez Brown

Student 1989-1993

Training for the ministry at Spurgeon's literally changed my life! Looking back, those four years were such a formative time for Sue and myself, and such a happy time for our young family. I am so grateful to the Lord for his leading: for the staff who so faithfully taught and nurtured us, and lived out their faith as exemplar models for us to follow. Grateful too for each member of the Brown Batch who cared and shared together. We made some lifelong friendships and always end up reminiscing with gratitude whenever we meet up. Et Teneo et Teneor...always.

Brenda Brundritt

Student 2012-2018

I am thankful for some amazing memories, for the chance to study and learn at such a prestigious and iconic home of Spirituality, and thanks for the chance to meet with so many people from all nations and denominations. My time at Spurgeon's was both challenging and wonderful.

Words of Thanksgiving

Ian Butcher

Student 2011-2016

I was and am very grateful for the welcome, knowledge, and friendship of the Spurgeon's faculty, staff, and other students during and since my time at the College. I value the commitment to both the gospel and academic excellence I found at Spurgeon's. Thank you!

Jonathan Calvert

Student 1984-1988

I find it very difficult to express my thanks. Spurgeon's College changed my life for eternity. There I learned to understand and teach the Bible. There I found Christian friendship and acceptance. A day does not go past when I do not thank God for Spurgeon's College!

Malcolm & Nick Cameron

Staff 1991-2024

Spurgeon's College has a special place in our hearts. We both worked there during the days of dating, engagement and marriage. We bought our first home from some students. We have met so many amazing people during our years at Spurgeon's. It was a privilege to eat, laugh, cry and pray with many over the years. We have many memories and the 'funny book' Nick kept in the office sits on our bookshelf at home and recounts many hilarious moments from the years. Precious place, precious people. We thank God for the immense privilege of working there for many years.

Christina Carter

Staff 1991-1995

I loved working in the College Office, it was a special time for which I'm incredibly grateful. Being part of the community and getting to know some incredible minds, I formed deep and lasting friendships. It was indeed a very rich time. The office staff were

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invited to attend Chapel once a week and that was special. I was married to a college based student and we lived above the library with three other couples. I became involved in the Wives' Group and I get to reunite with some of these people every couple of years. I really loved College life.

Matt Carter

Student 1991-1995

We lived above the library for the 4 years we were at College. For us, Spurgeon's was also our home for those years. So many happy memories. So many friendships that have lasted through the decades. I thank God for you all and the brilliant tutors that I still hear in my head with their pithy, profound and poignant comments. "Hmmm, alliteration. A very good servant. A very bad master." Thanks for that Alastair. And a lasting memory of watching the foxes from the cloisters early in the morning when I should have been writing essays.

Colin Cartwright

Student 1991-1996

I give thanks to God for all those Spurgeon's staff who devoted themselves to supporting students in so many ways, to help form Christian leaders. Their invaluable work has been used by God to grow the church throughout the world. Personally I am particularly grateful to Stuart Christine, Stuart Murray, John Colwell, Martin Selman, Alastair Campbell, Ian Randall, Arthur Rowe and Nigel Wright, to name just a few. Well done, good & faithful servants. Many special memories, including a death and glory rugby match between LBC and Spurgeons students.

Adam Chan

Student 2015-2025

I thank the Lord for Spurgeon's College, Charles Spurgeon himself for setting up this college and all the staff members that kept this college going for so long. Without this college, I would not be able to obtain a university degree in Theology because no other

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university offered me a distance learning course to suit my full time job. I pray that one day this Theology school will one day stand for God again in the UK in training more workers for God.

Valerie Ching-Doling

Student and Volunteer Library Assistant / Researcher 2014-2025

A year now since I walked from the Spurgeon's College library for the last time, though its shelves and aisles appear often in unbidden night-time dreams. The library stores are absorbed within me through the BA studies where God shaped, disciplined and formed me through the words of the books and journals and the tutors, staff and students' lives and wisdom. As a volunteer engaged in cataloguing and historical research I was deeply privileged and enriched by the historical treasures and roots stretching back to Charles and Susie Spurgeon's book ministry. Many including the author W Y Fullerton wrote notes in their donated library books. In the library were stories of ministers, missionaries, pioneers, chaplains, alongside Wesley, Luther and many more. I praise God for putting me in this setting for a while so I could live among men and women who struggled, conquered and died in war and peace, faithful or failing they knew who held and who to hold onto, long before the College motto was set down.

Sonia Clarke

Student 2023-2025

Attending Spurgeon's College for my Level 4 Diploma in Integrative Counselling was a profound blessing. I am deeply grateful for the exceptional training that shaped my therapeutic practice. My heartfelt thanks go to Cath, Martin and Trisha. These dedicated tutors did far more than teach theory; they nurtured our hearts for healing and guided us with immense wisdom, compassion and encouragement. Though the College has now closed its doors, its incredible legacy lives on. The flame kindled within those walls continues through every client helped and every life transformed. Thank you, Spurgeon's, for shaping my professional journey. Your impact remains forever etched in my life and vocation.

John Claydon

Student 1980-1984

My time at college was an informative and transformative time. Of my four years, the first was as single man living in the college. Then I married, and Janet and I lived over the library for three years. I was greatly blessed by the spiritual life and the pastoral care of the staff as well as the friendship of students. During my studies I gained a stronger understanding of the foundations of my faith and great opportunities to serve in a Student Assistantship and Student Pastorate, as well as shorter opportunities such as college missions, hospital chaplaincy course and radio courses.

Anne Clements

Student 2001-2017

Spurgeon's College played a significant part of my life in my 40s and 50s. Doing a Master's degree opened many new mind windows for me, for which I am so grateful. In particular, John Colwell challenged my thinking as well as challenged me to do a PhD. This eventually led to gaining a PhD at Spurgeon's while I also trained for the ministry and was ordained. Finally, I became an associate tutor and loved teaching others. One particular class, I remember, included a former drug runner and a Pentecostal bishop! Staff were unfailingly helpful, and I always valued the daily chapel times.

David Coffey

Student 1963-1967

I remember walking up the College drive in September 1963, sensing that the next four years could be a major turning point in my life. I am grateful that my ministerial formation took place in a residential setting. My fellow students had a significant influence on my life and future ministry, and many became lifelong friends.

Words of Thanksgiving

It was a privilege to have George Beasley Murray as my Principal. He was one of the foremost New Testament scholars of his generation. In his lectures on John, the precise scholar often became a passionate preacher.

Kate Coleman

Student 1990s

I found Spurgeon's a challenging and, at times, very difficult place to be as one of its earliest Black female students. Yet I remain deeply grateful for those key members of staff who encouraged and empowered me to press through and find my voice.

Geoffrey Colmer

Student 1986-1990

I was part of the Colmer Batch, 1986-1990, when training for Baptist ministry looked considerably different from today. I'm very grateful for those intense years which began to shape and form me for all that was to come. Looking back, it was a time of change and unrest for the College, but this notwithstanding, a highly significant period and some friendships have endured for life for which I give particular thanks.

John Colwell

Staff 1970-1974, 1979-1982, 1994-2009

Inexpressible gratitude for the inspiration to study, the encouragement to study, the support (financial and otherwise) needed to study, and the consequent opportunity to teach. Gratitude for inspiring and dedicated teachers and for wonderful and able colleagues. For all I have gained through teachers, students, and colleagues. For some precious friendships.

Words of Thanksgiving

Robson Costa Pereira

Student 1991-1994

Spurgeon's College was the place where I saw theory and practice walking together. From Administrators to Tutors, they all lived an authentic Christianity that inspired me and helped to form in me a deeper and bolder relationship with God. It was more than a degree that I got there. It was a practical, true and relevant platform by which I went into the world and felt ready to do the same for others. I am still in the ministry and Spurgeon's will always be an important part of my formation. Thank you all.

Alison Davies

Student 2012-2017

My 5 years at Spurgeon's were some of the happiest of my life, knowing I was in exactly the right place at the right time. Walking in obedience, not knowing exactly what I was called to except to full-time ministry in Jesus' name, it was a time of learning through struggles, enduring friendships and of healing and restoration. Thank you Lord for the wonderful tutors, great teaching and precious fellow pilgrims in ministry. Thank you Lord that you have had your hand on the people who have passed through the College and you continue to be invested in their lives.

Joe Davis

Student 1994-1997

Spurgeon's was a wonderful experience for me. I had the privilege of completing the Church Planting and Evangelism course. Many of the relationships I formed, with both faculty and fellow students, have endured and been a great source of support over the years. In particular, I remain deeply grateful for the teaching of Dr Stuart Murray-Williams, whose radical insights profoundly shaped my understanding of mission and the Kingdom of God. I also owe much to Dr Alistair Campbell for his inspiring lectures and our helpful, occasionally heated, debates. It was a memorable season, complete with improved snooker skills too!

Words of Thanksgiving

Brian Davison

Student 1985-1989

I thank God for Spurgeon's as the foundation for a lifetime's ministry. For the tools to study deeply every week, to see new things in His word, as situations, people, time and culture change.

For learning to hone, and keep honing, the gift and skills of preaching, and of pastoring his flock. Thank-you for those who taught us, and walked with us as we learned and grew as ministers of the gospel. And not just myself, but generations of ministers before and after me. Thank God for all that Spurgeon's was to so many; may the work and culture continue.

Stuart Davison

Council Member 1977-1981

The College has been of great importance to three generations of my family, forming us and equipping us for ministry. I thank God for all we have learnt and been made by Spurgeon's.

David Doonan

Student 1959-1963

Spurgeon's gave me a firm foundation for my ministry overseas and in the UK. I thank God for the faculty - Dr. G M Beasley-Murray, Rev. Geoffrey Rusling, Rev. Stanley Dewhurst and Rev. Frank Fitsimmonds, who were the core teaching staff at that time; all godly and wise men who knew how to excite us in study and gave us a desire to follow their example of total commitment to our calling. After leaving college the Spurgeon's family continued to offer support through the pastoral care of succeeding Principals for whom I continue to thank God. In my first year I shared room 20 with three fellow students. During that year Dr. G. M. BM was writing his tome on baptism. He would be in his study next to our room until 11pm and would be there again when we woke up before 7am. What an example to us of commitment. Now in my 88th year I continue to thank God for friendships made and maintained down the decades.

Words of Thanksgiving

Jo Dowds

Staff 2023-2025

The College's pioneering spirit made it possible for so many to be formed and developed in ministry for Christ. I am so grateful to have had the honour to serve there a short time lecturing as part of the Foundation Year teaching team. This course widened access to ministry. I am thankful that I was part of the Spurgeon's College space where all, regardless of educational background, could access theological education.

Kim Downes

Student 2022-2025

I give glory to God for the mother-ship that Spurgeon's College was, for so many staff, students & ministers who have passed through her doors, worshipped in her chapels, and been formed by the Holy Spirit's grace, through the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. A season in God's perfect timing.

Michael Drake

Student 1989-1997

I entered College with few qualifications and having never written an essay and the faculty took me from where I was academically to being theologically and pastorally prepared for ministry. I will be forever grateful for the College and the lecturers' wisdom and patience. During my time at College I participated in 3 missions, Brighton, Felixstowe and Romania and had two church placements at Bromley Common and Crown Lane Morden. Settling in London I was able to serve on College Conference and Council on two occasions. Spurgeon's was more than a training College to me. It was and is a fellowship of Christians equipping one another for service and I will be forever grateful for the friendships I made during my time there and continue to share today.

Valerie Drake

Spouse, Student and Staff 1989-1992

I absolutely loved my time living in the famous White House in the College grounds for 4 years. As a spouse I enjoyed the Wednesday lunches organised by the likes of Georgie Christine, Judy Wright and Mary Archer; the Thursday nights at the Principal's house and free dinner at College; the Tuesday night Theology classes with Nigel Wright and Debra Reid as I studied for my Certificate in Theology. I was the first receptionist when the bar shaped reception area opened in the College foyer (not to be forgotten but since removed). As a couple we hosted many couples applying for training and also weekly meals for single students, who were living in the halls. I cannot completely put into words how precious our time was at College and alongside that the friendships we have made that will last our lifetime. Thank you Spurgeon's for this legacy, thank you to all of the tutors and staff for your dedication to God and the pursuit of good theology and support for the Baptist Family.

Tobias Duckworth

Student 2022-2025

Spurgeon's College was a strategic moment of my life and ministry, even though the academic part was gruelling. I remember looking at photos of students who had trained there over the years. Seeing this made me realise I was stepping into a long line of God-centred people following God's call. Attending College and having peers to discuss subjects, views and feelings with changed the trajectory of my attention. Yes, there are things in life I would do differently if there was a redo option, but attending Spurgeon's is not one of them.

Nicola Earl-Pickup

Student 2024

Thank you, Spurgeon's College, for the journey I've been blessed to walk. I began in distance learning, then part-time, then full-time, and you welcomed me at every stage. My time at Spurgeon's helped me hear God's calling – first to a council-run group for adults with learning disabilities, where I began sharing Jesus, and now to leading services for adults with learning disabilities at my church. I'm grateful for the friends I've made, the faith that's grown, and the way this place helped me step into who God is shaping me to be.

Malcolm Egner

Student 1998-2006

So grateful to Spurgeon's for the church-based model of training - putting theory into practice and reflecting on real-life situations. Grateful too for the 'how to read' and 'how to write' sessions. Grateful for deepening and widening my understanding of the mission of God. Forever grateful!

Richard Ellingham

Student 1990-1994

I give thanks to God for those tutors, fellow students and the college fellowship that helped shape me during my ministerial training between 1990-1994. I look back with a deep gratitude for all whom God brought into my life during these formative years. I'm especially grateful for the sound tuition and instruction that I received at Spurgeon's. It has been the bedrock of my ministry which has enabled me to stand strong during the highs and lows of ministerial life, whether serving the local church or as a Chaplain to HM Armed Forces (RN).

Words of Thanksgiving

Bill Eugster

Student 1972-1976

The College helped a nervous and naive would-be pastor to learn how to study and understand theology, biblical languages, preach, relate to people, begin leadership training, experience a deeper longing for God and His Kingdom, and develop honest and life-long friendships. It kick-started my real spiritual development.

David Evans

Student 1984-1988

My time at Spurgeon's very much formed me and gave me a passion for, and commitment to, Biblical expository preaching. But the thing I remain most grateful for was the support I was given after I left college when my first pastorate went pear shaped and my marriage fell apart. Many thanks to Peter Manson in particular. I want to add gratitude for the balanced curriculum (OT/NT/Theology/Church history core subjects). About 2000-2005 The Da Vinci Code broke and we all needed a background in historical theology and church history to combat its ridiculous claims.

Andy Eyre

Student 2017-2024

Thank you for welcoming me and for your encouragement and generosity to affirm, listen, equip and to walk alongside my various struggles with the academic requirements associated with a degree. I am grateful for the times of worship and for the tutors generous availability to students - I felt valued for who I am (rather than being forced to be someone I am not). Thank you.

Words of Thanksgiving

Harin Fernando

Staff 2011-2018

It was such a blessing to work at the College, and meet and work with some amazing colleagues and students. The time there was more than a job, and certainly enriched my faith journey! I am thankful to our Lord for the faithful supporters He used over the years to provide for the College during the various seasons of need. I got a chance to run the London half marathon with a very competitive Peter Morden, who was Vice Principal at the time, to raise funds together for the student bursaries. Happy memories indeed for which I am grateful!

Jonathan Findlater

Student 2013-2019

My time at Spurgeon's College was deeply rewarding. Leaving the security of full-time employment to pursue full-time theological study was both daring and exciting — but that single step of following the Spirit's leading opened doors and blessings I could not have foreseen. Spurgeon's was a place of rigorous learning and critical thinking, yet equally a place of worship and drawing closer to God. Over those years I completed two degrees, took part in an unforgettable mission trip to Brazil, and formed friendships that have lasted.

Tom Fisk

Student 2017-2020

I'm so grateful for the wonderful students I trained with at Spurgeon's, too many to name. And I'm also eternally grateful for such wonderful staff: Linda C, Simon J, Dotha, Stephen W, Malcolm and so many more. All those people in that place helped me grow and are role models and friends for life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything! God is good and I'm so grateful He's placed you on my path.

Words of Thanksgiving

Dan Foster

Staff 2007-2010

I loved my time at Spurgeon's. It really set me up so well for Baptist Ministry. What a privilege to study there. Still in touch with several of my peers. Grateful!

Robert Foster

Student 2014

As I cannot attend the Thanksgiving Day, I want to share happy memories from a spiritual journal entry I made while staying in G10 on Gordon Corridor in 2014, being equipped to minister. Spurgeon's has always been a special place where I have felt at home—a "thin place" where God's presence seems especially close. It has been a place of spiritual refreshment, excellent teaching, encouragement, and fellowship with others called to serve God. Above all, I remember the little things that made such a difference, especially Mary the housekeeper's kindness—even ensuring I had toast and jam for breakfast! Thank you, Mary, and everyone at Spurgeon's.

Nina French

Exactly 50 years ago in 1976, Martin Selman and I attended our first Open day with our tiny new daughter. Martin had been at SOAS for four years completing his PhD and teaching Hebrew, Akkadian and Ugaritic, but cut backs left him with no job, Prof. Donald Wiseman was praying for him one morning, when he got a call from Dr Ray Brown asking if he knew anyone who could teach Hebrew and OT at College. Amazing! So followed 26 years of wonderful service for Martin under the Principeships of Ray Brown, Paul Beasley Murray and Nigel Wright who all supported Martin in his Bible translation work. Martin loved his work and just breathed scripture. Our children have such happy memories of Open Days with cream teas and climbing up the tower. We will always be grateful for the College's place in our family's life. During Martin's long battle with myeloma, we received

Words of Thanksgiving

mountains of prayer support. Students even queued to donate precious platelets and Rev Chris Lee gave us amazing support as Pastoral Head at The Marsden Hospital. I am so grateful that after Martin died I was able to volunteer in the library, working with Judy Powles - it helped me cope with my grief. Martin's ashes are still buried in the college grounds, We couldn't retrieve them, so have taken a sample of soil to bury with his new memorial plaque which we will place near our family home. College may be closed, but its influence is eternal. Every faithful minister of the gospel, every person won to Jesus, every Christian taught scripture, and anyone in the world who uses an NIV Bible, is fruit of its work. Only in eternity will we really know the full extent of its influence.

Joy Gadsden

Staff 1996-2005

I started in the Open Learning Department with Debra Reid. It started with 25 students & developed to over 800, based all over the world, even in a Vietnam prison. The College had a great, super atmosphere. Photos on our wall bear witness to two wedding receptions & one wedding held there! I particularly loved the Carol Services which were always a wonderful start to the Christmas season. Two of our girls worked there - Beckie and then Naomi in the Bookshop who became a student. Her mission trip to Brazil became the meeting place for her future husband. I am thankful for all the memories.

Margaret Gibbs

Student 2004-2007

It was a great blessing to be able to study at Spurgeon's with such wonderful peers, staff and faculty. A formative time. The College will be missed.

Words of Thanksgiving

Fiona Gill

Student 2002-2011

I give huge thanks to God and to all the staff and students at Spurgeon's. It was such a special time in my life, so formative, empowering, equipping, life changing. So many special memories, so much learned, so many wonderful encounters with God, and such support and encouragement from wonderful people. Thankyou Lord for calling me there and allowing me the privilege of studying there.

Kelly Gillard

Student 2019-2020

I send my thanks to Spurgeon's College - for the beautiful buildings and gardens, for all the staff who ran things so well and to my wonderful tutors. Thank you Tricia McIlroy, Jill Parnham and Peter Searle who taught me with kindness, challenge and honesty. My rewarding career in counselling is very much thanks to you and all of the energy and enthusiasm you freely gave each week. I'll forever be thankful of my time spent studying at Spurgeon's.

Simon Goddard

Student 2005-2008

I give thanks to God for the deep relationships forged with fellow students during my time at Spurgeon's. We used to cook a meal together in the evening, and sit together and chew over the lectures of the day, and walk with one another in the challenges of being ministers in training. Those friendships remain strong twenty years later, and we still meet as a reflection group every year to encourage and pray for one another on the diverse paths God has called us to walk. I'm sure our story is replicated in each generation of students that went through Spurgeon's, so I give thanks for the College community - staff and students - that enabled so many to be formed as ministers of the gospel, equipping the saints for the work of ministry over many years.

Words of Thanksgiving

Tim Grass

Associate and Online Tutor, 1990s onwards

I respected the ministry of Spurgeon's College because its student body came from a wide range of backgrounds, many of them very different from my own. That broadened my horizons and kept me on my toes relating church history to their situations. It was also an encouraging and supportive environment in which to try my newly acquired academic wings, and I am pleased to remain in contact with several of those I got to know as teaching staff.

Lynn Green

General Secretary

I am grateful for all the lives and communities that have been touched through the training and scholarship of the College. Ministers trained, churches planted and other resources shared will be part of an ongoing legacy of blessing. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Richard Green

Student 1988-1992

Ginny and I are very grateful for the vision and legacy of Charles Spurgeon, and for the foundations of ministry that the Lord laid while we were at the College. The love, devotion and investment of the tutors, staff and fellow students was powerful and transformative. We're thankful for the fruit that this has borne in our lives and ministry over these last 34 years. Thank you Lord Jesus!

Jacqueline (Jacqui) Green

Student 1997-2002

After 17 years in Baptist Ministry I wanted to do more study. I began an MTh at Spurgeon's and enjoyed staying in college for study weeks with focused time to reflect and be stretched. I particularly valued Ian Randall's lectures on Spirituality; he always left me wanting to listen to more! Peter Stevenson was extremely patient with my essay writing attempts after a long break from study. He enabled me to get my head around things which at first seemed impossible. I am grateful for the opportunity to have studied at Spurgeon's and for the renewed passion it gave me for the years of ministry that followed.

Words of Thanksgiving

Paul Greenin

Student and husband of staff 1991-1995

We loved our time at Spurgeon's and both made friendships that have lasted some 35 years. The staff were excellent and helped shape my ministry in so many ways. It is with deep gratitude that we give thanks to God for Spurgeon's.

David Harding

Student 2011-2017

I spent six happy years as a student (part-time) writing essays which made me think about my faith. I learned much about Father God, for which I'm very grateful. God be praised.

Ashley Hardingham

Student 1990-1994, 2008-2011

So much to be thankful for...Theology lectures that became more like worship services. Comfortable and convenient beliefs, challenged and re-formed. Beautiful friendships made. The termly reading of 'the register' in the JCR. Beating LBC at rugby.

Edward Hardy (called Bruce)

Student 1959-1962, Governor, Board Member

I am sincerely grateful for the NT teaching by GRB-M second to none, easily the equal of most that I had received at Oxford (Modern Languages) beforehand, better than some. Then the lasting friendships with fellow students across the years were a precious, priceless blessing.

Grace Hartland (née Morgan)

Student 2022-2024

I miss Spurgeon's every week. I am now training with Bristol Baptist who have welcomed us into the London Hub. When I try to explain to people how the community, campus, Chapel and friendships were so unique they look encouragingly but don't fully understand. I have grieved what we all shared there as it truly was a gift from God on high.

Nicholas A. Hasnip

Student 1995-1998

Glory to God for Spurgeon's College. Our 3rd daughter was born while Sue and I were there. The 3 residential years were divine treasure and I can testify to God's sufficient, ample and sometimes extravagant provision for us whilst there, particularly financially. We happily came to Spurgeon's with nothing but left rich beyond measure. The staff were exceptional, wise, godly, encouraging. It was a privilege to be there with Dr Quicke as Principal. Others e.g. Dr John Colwell had an immense influence on all, reinforcing the powerful sense of being part of a devout Christian community.

Julia Henley

Student 2007-2010

My time as a student at Spurgeon's College was and continues to be very precious to me. I give thanks for the faithful women and men who taught me and allowed me to ask questions which I had previously not dared to ask. I give thanks for the preparation I received for Christian ministry and for the friends (and husband!) who I have taken with me as I carry out that ministry. God used Spurgeon's College to profoundly shape my life and I will always be grateful.

Gareth Hides

Student 2012-2022

I am thankful to God for the community of faith and learning that Spurgeon's College was to me personally over a decade of my life (I was part-time!) For those I met at college who cheered me on in my calling and ministry, special times of worship in chapel lifting high the name of Jesus together, and the legacy of ministry that will long outlive the institution. In the College's wake, may there be salvation for the lost, deeper roots for disciples, and a releasing of the next generation of ministers and servants who are encouraged by Spurgeon's alumni!

Philip Hill

Student 2008-2020

I pioneered a link between Spurgeon's and Nazareth Theological Seminary and also studied part time for an MTh and a PhD. I delighted in a connection with my Baptist hero Spurgeon and was greatly blessed by the warm fellowship I experienced with the staff. The loss of the College is a severe blow to Baptist life that can hardly be described or borne. I have shed tears over it.

Doug Hollidge

Student 1959-1964

A straightforward family thanksgiving. Having been a member of the Venturers from day one I finally met Rosemary on the occasion of the final gig at Westminster Central Hall at the Spurgeon's Homes Annual Meeting. She recalled our first meeting in 1964 sadly I could not remember her. But praise God that meeting in 1965 established our committed relationship. And now it's our Diamond Celebration Year.

Nick Hudson

Student 1997-1999

I loved my time at Spurgeon's, where I met colleagues whose friendship still helps sustain me in Ministry 26 years later. On leaving College I recorded that my time there had been one of 'unmingled blessing'; the opportunity to study was so precious; my mind and my faith were stretched, my perspective broadened, and I found my feet as part of the Baptist family. My table tennis also improved immeasurably....and the football team was huge fun if largely unsuccessful! I am grateful to God for wise lecturers many of whose words and example I vividly recall years later. Precious times.

Phil Hughes

Student 1992-1996

A wise minister once told me that ministry was really only about two priorities; people and God. If you invest in those two relationships you will be doing it right. I am most grateful to Spurgeon's for staff and fellow students who invested in me, resulting in a growing belief that God could work through me, and for a deepening wonder and love for God.

Roger Hulbert

Web designer/ fundraiser working at Red and Green

I will always be thankful to God for Spurgeon's College. Although I first came to know the College through my work at Red and Green, it became much more than simply a client. I have happy memories of arranging meetings so that I could attend chapel, where the wonderful singing and remarkable acoustics often gave me a glimpse of heaven. I loved hearing the biblical insights of the teaching staff, the warmth and humour of staff and students, and the delicious home-cooked meals. Spurgeon's College was a spiritual oasis in South London, and it will always hold a special place in my heart.

Michael & Margaret Jobling

Friends of the College 1969-1972

We look back with deep gratitude for our time at Spurgeon's. I (Mike) started at Spurgeon's one week after marrying Margaret, which resulted in rules being changed! Times have changed. I valued discussions in the married students' study room which were almost as valuable as the syllabus. I remember the international focus provided by students from Russia, Brazil & Sri Lanka.

Susan Johnston

Student 2009-2012

Spurgeon's College was an oasis of calm in the busyness of London. A God bubble which I was happy to experience. However on my first morning in chapel I asked God why I was there because I felt out of my depth, unprepared and very uncomfortable. Through the patience and encouragement of the staff God led me to understand his plan for my life as a pastor. Therefore I thank them all and especially God for seeing the potential in me to serve in this capacity. God bless you all.

Belinda Johnstone

Student 2017-2022

Heavenly Father, I thank you for your mercies shown to me and my family at Spurgeon's College. The tempest raged, but you kept me grounded and safe. Lord I am grateful. While I was dealing with my own health condition and my husband's stroke, which left him disabled, the College made adjustments to support me during this difficult time. They showed compassion and unwavering support, which allowed me to continue with my studies and complete my assignments. I am eternally grateful to God for bringing me through my college journey and for placing wonderful lecturers and staff in my life.

Simon Jones

Student 1989-1992, Vice Principal 2017

I arrived from RSC to learn to be a Baptist. Nigel Wright was my probationary studies tutor and he allowed me to write a book in fulfilment of those studies (Dare to Break the Mould, IVP) What a star. The rest of my time was mixed; Spurgeon's was so different from London Bible College, where I took my first degree in theology! But Debra was a generous marker of my Baptist history and principles essays. Nigel also suggested I look at the Lambeth programme as a place to do further study and eventually I received an MA by dissertation from them (conferred by Rowan Williams). So, thanks Nigel for showing flexibility in how I got accredited. Of course, I came back to teach in 2010, help oversee ministerial formation in 2012, and become VP in 2017. Happy days for which I am thankful.

Philippa Joy (formerly Philip Joy)

Student 1996-1999

I have God to thank for Spurgeon's and the friends I made there. In spite of my inability to pursue public ministry for health reasons, I have drawn so much on all I was taught and was inculcated with a love of scholarly learning. Without the theological capacity to wrestle with increasing illness and many personal issues including gender transition I would have gone completely to pieces. Thank you Lord.

Words of Thanksgiving

Anne Kemp

Staff 2002-2015

My position at Spurgeon's College was an answer to many prayers over more than a year. Every day I walked through the front door I gave thanks to God for his provision. It was inspiring to work with so many talented colleagues and to enjoy the diversity and fun of the students. It was an honour and privilege to share in their learning journeys and to learn so much myself. May God bless and keep Spurgeon's College Community.

Jeannie Kendall

Student and Staff 1990s-2025

I had contact with Spurgeon's through teaching pastoral care and counselling, world religions, and teaching and co-leading pastoral supervision. I was College President one year and also a student at one point training for ministry and doing a Master's degree! I'm grateful for all those I met in that time - students, lecturers, admin, catering and grounds staff. All of them enabled me to grow and develop in ministry, teaching, and more importantly as a follower of Jesus. For these opportunities and privileges I am grateful.

Andrew Kenrick Jones

Student 1980s, Academic board member until 2024

As a member of the Academic Board, first as a student rep and then for over 30 years more, I give thanks to God for the privilege of seeing our extraordinarily gifted and dedicated academic staff behind the scenes. Both the quality and quantity of their work was never less than exemplary. The sheer quality and enthusiasm of the staff experienced by students was but the tip of the iceberg. The amazing humility of our staff ensured they never blew their own trumpet. I happily do it for them. God bless you all.

Words of Thanksgiving

David Kerrigan

Student 1983, 1988-1991, Council & Governor 2016-2021

Like so many students, my life was changed by my experience of life at Spurgeon's. To study theology in a confessional setting meant we were aware from the outset that there was a lot at stake in what we were studying. It was academic, of course, but it was deeply pastoral too as the formation of character was rightly seen as equally important as the formation of our thinking. Time and again we were stretched and challenged and by the end, we were changed. For this and so much more, I praise God!

Lisa Kerry

Student 2007-2015

I arrived at Spurgeon's to start the Equipped to Minister course very unsure if I would cope or belong. I soon realised this was a place I could learn and grow. I will always be grateful for the fantastic learning community I discovered there and for the way I was able to grow into ministry and find the confidence to study.

Inesa Kharchenko

Staff 2021-2022

Though my time as Learning Enhancement Coordinator at Spurgeon's lasted just a year and a half, its impact on me has been profound. I feel truly blessed to have been part the College's family. To my dear former students and colleagues: your love, support and prayers will stay with me forever. As I say goodbye to Spurgeon's College, I praise the Lord and give thanks for its devoted and inspiring students and staff, whose lives and work will carry its mission, ministry and legacy forward for generations to come.

David Killingray

Governor / Board Member / Council Member

It was an honour and a pleasure to be involved with Spurgeon's for 30 years. As an academic visitor one first task was to join a

Words of Thanksgiving

committee that appointed Ian Randall - one of my best ever choices . As a child I thought the College to be the peak of higher education. From the early 1990s I was not disappointed, associating with teachers devoted to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, evident in their teaching and pastoral care of students, the quality of their research and publications, functioning as a 'super' theology department regularly punching above its weight. Churches and congregations across the country have much to thank Spurgeon's for.

Ivan King

Student 2008-2012

I remain deeply grateful for my time at Spurgeon's, where I completed an MTh in Applied Theology in 2012. A Baptist preacher and pastor in a suburban church, the course challenged me to think more rigorously and theologically. During my studies, I moved to co-pastor a pioneering Baptist church. Both course and faculty helped me to develop a coherent theological framework for innovative mission. After graduating, I had the privilege of collaborating in the design of entry-level, graduate and postgraduate learning modules in mission. Spurgeon's enriched my ministry.

Pieter Lalleman

Staff

The years of teaching at the College and my work as Academic Dean have enriched my life. They were years of great joy and privilege for me. I have fond memories of working with Nigel Wright and other great colleagues. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many motivated students from around the world and I am thankful for what God has done through the College. Do remain faithful!

Hetty Lalleman

Staff

Spurgeon's College has been a very special place to me and many others. It was an inspiring place to teach. The Lord sent so many wonderful students to the College from many different backgrounds and many have served Him throughout the world. I loved being part of the staff and the whole community. Thanks be to God for all the work he has done through so many people! May the blessing for the mission into the world be continued.

'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.' (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Shaun Lambert

Student 1994-1997

Spurgeon's College gave me a theological and practical foundation for ministry, as well as lifelong principles for continuing ministerial development. I particularly remember Nigel Copsey saying that there was sometimes conflict in church because the person running it didn't know how to relate to people! That led me to pursue 12 years of part time counselling training which was a relational godsend. I also loved the lecturers, batch and sense of community - Bill Allen was another great inspiration on leadership and relevance.

Edmund Laryea

Student 2020-2023

Spurgeon's College was a great institution which helped shape my Christian philosophy and ministry. Spurgeon's College equipped me to function successfully in my capacity as a church planter and a pastor; faithfully serving the church and the community with integrity and the love of God. I was sad to see the College closed down; it will be forever missed.

Words of Thanksgiving

Nick Lear

Student 1990-1994

Spurgeon's College was always the people more than the place. God used the staff and students to create a wonderful atmosphere in which to learn and grow, and help shape me from the very raw material called to train into something resembling a Baptist Minister. 32 years after my graduation and ordination I am so grateful to everyone who helped form me for ministry - for their wisdom, patience, guidance, love and support.

Paul Lewis

Student 1999-2002

I am thankful to Spurgeon's College for recognising my call to ministry. It was Martin Selman in particular who listened quietly and gently spoke words of affirmations and encouragement over me. I didn't always find my studies easy, especially in the first year, but thanks to the dedicated team of passionate lecturers who motivated me and believed in me, I made it through.

So many of the ministry practices I hold to today were formed at Spurgeon's. The legacy of the College will continue to live on through all who passed through the doors of such a special place.

David Lock

Christian Bookshop Manager 2010-2025

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the College for the opportunity to supply Christian Resources to students and staff from Manna Christian Centre Bookshop in Streatham and more recently from The Oasis Christian Bookshop in Wallington. It was also a pleasure to get to know so many of the students and staff who continued to support us after their college years. It was a real pleasure to be given the opportunity to serve you all in this way.

Words of Thanksgiving

Laura & Adrian Lock

Staff 2010-2025

We are immensely grateful for the privilege of being made Teaching Fellows and invited to lecture on Effective Christian Leadership between 2022-2025, and before that since 2010. Our passion is to support and enable Christian leaders in leadership and discipleship and the College was a simply brilliant place to fulfill that calling. It was a joy to support Ministers in Training then journeying with some in year-long Leadership Learning Hubs after graduating. The College has left a significant legacy in developing hundreds of church leaders. We miss the College, the students and staff. But we will always remain incredibly grateful that we were given the opportunity to contribute to it.

Ian Lovell

Student 1990-1994

I am so grateful to God and to Spurgeon's College for giving me the opportunity to become the Minister and person I am today. It was wonderful to make lifelong friends while I was a student there and to have world class teaching in theological studies. I will be grateful for this for the rest of my life.

Dave Mahon

Student 2009-2012

After a career in Business, I arrived at Spurgeon's in 2009 in my late thirties, to explore a call to Baptist Ministry. Their church-based course gave me an opportunity to reflect on my practice as a Minister in Training whilst studying an undergraduate in theology. Journeying alongside my cohort was a formative experience, and some are now lifelong friends. I am thankful to the lecturers and staff who shaped and supported me during my time as a student. Today with BMS World Mission, I have the privilege to teach and prepare students in a Peruvian Baptist Seminary. Muchas gracias por todos ustedes!

Trinity Mancka Delaney

Student 2007-2018

Some places educate the mind; others quietly shape the soul. Spurgeon's College was that place for me. Within its walls, I discovered not only theology, but friendship, purpose, prayer, and the gentle unfolding of God's call upon my life. It was there I earned my BD (Hons) and MTh., and learned that true ministry is built on faithfulness, humility, and grace. Today, as a doctoral student at St Mary's University, Twickenham, I carry Spurgeon's with me. Though its doors have closed, its voice still lives in my preaching, scholarship, and heart.

Martin Manser

Friend of the College

My first encounter with Spurgeon's was meeting and praying with Raymond Brown when he graciously gave me some time on a speech day in the mid-1970s. Later I had the privilege of helping publish his 'Bible Book By Book' with Harper Collins. I remain immensely grateful to the College as I've worked with their tutors, including Pieter Lalleman, Debra Reid and the late great Martin Selman on many Bible reference books, notably the 'NIV Thematic Bible', the 'NIV Bible Speaks Today' and my New Testament paraphrase 'Word Come Alive'. Their clear and thoughtful collaboration has been enormously valuable.

Ben Marlowe

Student 1997-2004

Spurgeon's College has long been a mighty theological beacon. For South Norwood Baptist Church—Homesdale, as it is affectionately known—our connection remains a deeply cherished part of our story. We were both graced and enriched by Spurgeon's students, faculty, and graduates who led and nurtured us. For over two years, whilst our church was being rebuilt, the College opened its arms, welcoming us to worship in their Chapel. The College's closure brings deep and genuine sadness, but as we look upon the rich legacy it leaves behind, our sadness gives way to deep and heartfelt thankfulness to God.

Words of Thanksgiving

James D. May

Student 1970s

Spurgeon's was an experience I'll never forget. It prepared me for the ministry, and I had a wonderful time of fellowship with the Beer Batch. From the president, and lecturers down to fellow students, it fed me spiritually, socially and academically. God blessed me abundantly at Spurgeon's. The presence of His Holy Spirit greatly encouraged me during tough times. (Jim is now in a Memory Care facility, but the first sentence was one he answered immediately. For the rest, I prompted him. Beth May, Jim's wife and POA)

Rob May

Student, Associate Tutor 2000-2025

I thank God for Spurgeon's College and for the rich theological education and foundation for ministry; for lifelong friendships that have taught me how to love better and serve more faithfully; for opportunities to teach and to serve the many students who blessed and inspired me; and for the chance to expand my own academic horizons, which stretched my thinking and deepened my faith. I thank God for the family it gave me, for an identity that has shaped me, and for the memories I will always treasure.

David Mayne

Student 2005-2011

College gave me a place to think and explore, to question and reflect. It also gave me the opportunity to make lifelong friends, for which I'll always be grateful. Spurgeon's has had a significant impact on so many, and the legacy of all that was good will live on for many years to come. I'm glad to have been part of the Spurgeon's community.

Words of Thanksgiving

Kathleen McAnear Smith

Student 2015

The first day at Spurgeon's College changed my life. The professor (as an American I call all college teachers 'Professor'), checking that everyone was in the right class, asked us to raise our right hand if we were intending to be in the "Preacher's Course." A large roomful of mostly men raised their hands. "Now," he said almost jokingly "raise your hand if you might not be in the right class." I raised my hand. "My worst nightmare" I said and was thankful for the laughter that followed. The Professor took me to meet Dr Voke. "I want to be a Chaplain," I said. "Now you're in the right place, with the right Professor." I shared that my second dream was to learn Hebrew. I have become a Chaplain, serving on a hospital team and now as founder of a new ministry supporting missionary families like mine with starting a business (tent making) that supports their overseas missions in these challenging financial times and I teach them a little Hebrew. Thank you Dr Voke, and Dr Debra Reid for all your encouragement and guidance. For some reason the Church of England has asked this Baptist to be an Occasional Preacher. Sigh, as Dr Voke said from time to time.

Mairi McBain

Student 2018-2022

I am thankful for my years as a student. I found some tutors inspirational and I really valued the time, space and support to think through my theological understanding. I am grateful for the precious time spent in pastoral groups as well as amazing conversations commuting to college with Spurgeon's friends. My formation was hard work, especially navigating academic learning during covid lockdown, but I am thankful to God for what I achieved as a stepping stone to ordained Baptist ministry.

Tony McGibbon

Student 2007-2010

Thank You, LORD, and thank you Spurgeon's. The Church-based Course was a place of acceptance, encouragement, support and love. The staff were understanding and encouraging; I'm certainly

Words of Thanksgiving

not an academic and I benefitted from their support. I remember the College with fondness - friendships were made and I felt the learning was empowering. The College provided comprehensive training, equipping us for ministry. This has been crucial to me through my years of ministry and now that I am retired it continues to be so. It's sad that the Spurgeon's experience is no longer available, I am privileged that it was for me.

David McIlroy

Student 2003-2008

I was so grateful that at Spurgeon's College I was able to study part-time for a doctorate alongside other students who were doing the same. It was fantastic to be learning in a confessional setting with Nigel Wright (my formal supervisor), John Colwell and other staff members who were interested in what I was exploring.

Tricia McIlroy

Staff 1998-2025

One of my abiding memories from early on was entering the cloisters and hearing John Colwell and Ian Randall belly laughing. It provided a joyful start to my day! I loved teaching Counselling at Spurgeon's even though I was told several times that it wasn't what we 'really' do. It was a real blessing to be part of a small institution with such a rich history and a staff who genuinely cared for each other. I was blessed with some fine co-tutors and very proud of the training we provided. I count it a huge privilege to have been involved with Spurgeon's.

Nick Mercer

Ray Brown's warm good humour permeated Spurgeon's. His spiritual breadth and encouragement to read the church fathers set me on a course that would lead eventually, with his blessing, into the Anglican Church. Spurgeon's offered such an all-round education from both teaching staff and talented students and a place of spiritual growth where you could learn humility through recognising your own fallibilities in a supportive environment, debating and arguing with an underlying ripple of laughter. I am grateful to God for ways in which the whole community shaped me over those precious years of mostly fun mixed with occasional tears.

Charmaine Mhlanga

Student, Governor to 2025

As I reflect on the closing of Spurgeon's College, I do so with a heart full of gratitude. For generations, this College on the hill has been far more than a place of learning. It has been a place where faith was nurtured, minds were equipped, callings were discerned, and disciples were prepared to be "a light of world".

I am thankful for the vision that began with Charles H. Spurgeon and for the countless lives that have been shaped through theological education, ministry training, and Christian service. The impact of the College cannot be measured simply by the years it stood, but by the thousands of men and women who were sent out to serve churches, communities, and nations with wisdom, compassion, and faithfulness. Though the College has closed, its legacy continues to shine through every graduate, every ministry, every act of service, and every life touched by those who studied and taught there. The light that was kindled at Spurgeon's College has not been extinguished; it continues to illuminate the world through those who carry its values forward. I truly honour the dedication of lecturers, tutors, administrators, supporters, and students who gave their gifts and their time to sustain this remarkable College. I give thanks for the friendships formed, the knowledge shared, the prayers offered, and the spiritual growth experienced within its walls. May we cherish the heritage of Spurgeon's College, honour its memory, and continue to live out its mission by being people of light, faith, courage, and service wherever GOD calls us.

Peter Morden

Staff 2007-2017

It was a privilege to be associated with the College for most of the period from 1991 - 2017. This was firstly as a Ministerial student, then a research student, then as a member of staff. I am very grateful for all those who mentored and encouraged me, for example, Ian Randall, Nigel Wright, and David Coffey. I am grateful for wonderful colleagues during my time on the staff team. I am thankful for every student. What a privilege to be involved in

Words of Thanksgiving

Ministerial formation. Most of all I'm grateful to God for giving me so many wonderful opportunities through the ministry of the College. Spurgeon's will always have a special place in my heart.

David Morris

Student 1970-1974

I was in College when George Beasley-Murray and then Raymond Brown were the Principals. Both of them had a significant and lasting influence on my life. Through George's passion and scholarship, I gained a deeper love for Jesus and respect for the Bible as the Word of God. Through Ray's life and example, I recognised the importance of pastoral care and the importance of church history. I am profoundly grateful to the College for giving me the inspiration and tools that kept me through nearly 40 years of local church ministry.

Carolyn Mumford

Student 2023-2025

Thank you to everyone from Spurgeon's who has been part of my journey. I am especially grateful for the teaching, wisdom, and encouragement I have received throughout my time there. Your guidance has shaped me in ways that will remain with me for years to come, and I will always be thankful for this season of learning, spiritual growth, and transformation. It is wonderful to be part of the Spurgeon's family. I will forever remember our Monday evenings spent enjoying food, fellowship and friendship.

Morris Munns

Staff 1965-1969

I was in the 'Binney batch' 1965-69. I always appreciated the camaraderie, even when it involved the 'superfluity of naughtiness' that Spurgeon feared and the turbulence of the charismatic movement. We were being equipped to handle scripture and apply it to life and although I gave very little weight to it at the time, I am grateful for the discipline of the B.D. which proved to be life-changing. The experience gained from the curriculum, college life, itinerant preaching and vacation activities were an invaluable foundation for school teaching, local church and wider ministry. So much to give thanks for.

Words of Thanksgiving

Gareth Murray

Student 2008-2012

Because of Spurgeon's College my horizons were expanded in a way that could not have been duplicated on domestic soil. As an American I cherished the opportunity to build relationships with co-laborers from all parts of the world - the UK, Germany, Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, and Korea to name a few - and to see my faith (as well as challenge it) through a lens outside my context during such important years of ministerial formation. These were years that simply cannot be replaced in their role in shaping who I am today, and for that I am forever grateful.

Sally Nelson

Student 1994-1996

I thank God for my tutors and fellow students at Spurgeon's. From them I learned so much, not just about theology and ministry, but about a life of service. Many have been sent out from this college, and that is its enduring legacy. Praise the Lord for all that has been.

Samuel Noel

Student 2024

I would like to express my heartfelt thanksgiving and sincere appreciation to every member of staff and all the tutors at Spurgeon's College for your wonderful support, guidance, encouragement, and dedication throughout my journey of study and preparation for ministry. Your teaching, wisdom, patience, and prayers have greatly strengthened and inspired me to grow spiritually, academically, and personally. I am truly grateful for the knowledge and experience you have shared with me, helping to equip and prepare me to serve the Lord Jesus Christ faithfully and to work for His Kingdom. Thank you for investing your time, care, and commitment into the lives of students like me. Your ministry and service continue to have a lasting impact on many people around the world. May the Lord richly bless each one of you, your families, and your ministry as you continue to serve him.

Words of Thanksgiving

Clement Okusi

Student 2008-2025

Grateful for the ministry of Spurgeon's College in training ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the life long friendships made.

Rick Oldland

Student 1988-1992

I feel incredibly indebted to Spurgeon's College and the training that I received, initially on the full-time pastoral course and then, from year two, on, the church planting course when it launched. Julie and I only have happy memories of our time at Spurgeon's College and life at Whitworth Road student accommodation. I was stretched academically and also through becoming student pastor at a local church for three years. Having not received an LEA grant, we were amazed and thankful for the anonymous and repeated support we received from the Baptist family that paid our fees and rent. It is the main reason why we have faithfully served the Baptist family for our whole ministry - even though we have connections with other global networks. We are also indebted to Dr Nigel Wright as our church pastor and College tutor. So many other tutors have had a deep impact upon our lives and ministry also.

Kathryn Orr

Student 2008-2011

My first memory is of open day when I arrived fairly certain that I would never be a minister and that a young female was not who God called to this kind of role. Sitting in the chapel chatting to John Colwell, I was assured that God could, would and does call people like me - he simply batted away every protest I had to such a call. My memories of Spurgeon's are filled with thanksgiving and joy, from growing in calling and formation to gaining life long friends and exploring the old Spurgeon's jackets and caps, and a gold fish appearing in the staff room. Finally, I'm forever grateful that I met my husband by the fire at my first Christmas at college.

Words of Thanksgiving

Tolleiv Oseland

Student 2016-2017

I am deeply grateful for the year I spent at Spurgeon's College and for the opportunity to study the Word of God alongside dedicated teachers and fellow students. The College challenged me to pursue academic excellence with purpose. I pray that the legacy of Charles Spurgeon—his zeal to preach God's Word faithfully and without compromise—will be rediscovered in these changing times, when the world stands in great need of the Gospel. With gratitude we thank God for what has been, and with expectation we pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done.

Alan Pain

Student 1964-1968

Inspired by the Venturers and Spurgeon's student (athlete) Ted Sampson, where else could I train for Baptist Ministry? I entered college in 1964, a member of the 64-68 Allen batch, blissfully unaware of the privileged life sentence just beginning. Theological study and lots of sport as a student; service on college council for 10 years; one year part-time lecturing (John, Romans, I.Peter); conference president 1989; a wisely brief stint on the Academic Board; online tutor, 2008-25; EtM tutor from 2019. My debt to Spurgeon's is enormous, and so is my continuing gratitude.

Malcolm Patten

Student 1989-1993

I remember vividly my interview day in 1989 and the joy of beginning a new vocation serving Christ. When the new term began, the principal told us, 'We can't teach you the whole Bible, but we will teach you how to study it for yourself'. Nigel Wright inspired me theologically, Alastair Campbell gave me a love for the apostle Paul, Martin Selman made Hebrew exciting and Peter Manson prepared me for the ups and downs of pastoral ministry in the local church! A special place, a family home, an inspiration for ministry. Thank you!

Words of Thanksgiving

Tom Pender

Student 2022-2025

I am thankful for the friendships, the encouragement and the joy of being in the library and in a place filled with history of God-filled and inspired people who followed God's call. The memories of dinners, prayers, worship and laughs will never be forgotten.

Andrew Phillips

Student 1978-1985

I wrote this in my journal a few days after the college closed: Spurgeon's College has closed. The place where I felt safe and loved and honoured. Where I could be me. Where Ray Brown supported me, pastored me, cared for me. He was the best Principal anyone could have wished for. The place where I learnt so much. I learnt not just about theology but about me. I learnt to use my gifts, where my gifts flourished. I learnt more about who I am.

Beth Powney

Student 2008-2011, PGD 2017, RM for EBA 2017-2023

I look back on Spurgeon's College with fond memories of my time training as a minister. I am grateful that it was not just a place of learning, but of safety and a port in a sometimes stormy sea.

Kate Pozzo

Student 2018-2022

I am deeply grateful for my time at Spurgeon's College, where I trained in both Counselling and Pastoral Supervision (2018-2022). The College offered something very special: excellent professional training within the context of a Christian community. I was blessed to learn from experienced and compassionate tutors who trained and encouraged us to a high standard, providing foundations that journey with me through my work in a counselling agency and now in private practice. My particular thanks go to Tricia McIlroy and Jill Parnham, alongside the wider teaching teams. We even navigated the Covid years together! Spurgeon's College will always remain an important part of my personal and professional formation.

Words of Thanksgiving

Hales Prestidge-Briston

Student 2020-2023

I am thankful to Spurgeon's for my excellent cohort. We bonded even though we were online during the Covid years. I consider my cohort my friends, my confidants and my life long partners through ministry. Meeting in person during 2022-2023 only made our bond stronger - I bless the day I met you all! Although academia is not my strong point and I encountered many lows both in studies and health I was caught and held wonderfully by the staff and my cohort. I thank God for the staff, the students and the Lord who taught me so much about myself and serving him

Lisa Rainier

Student 2008-2011

My arrival at Spurgeon's as a full-time ministerial student and 40-year-old mother of young children entrained a whole caravan of complications, and Nigel Wright's oft repeated refrain: 'No-one ever said it would be easy' was both wise and true. But to be a part of this unique learning, worshipping, serving community of tutors, administrators, hospitality providers and fellow students was so worth it all. Here, I found resources, support, challenge, and affirmation of a kind that not only prepared me for 'Baptist Ministry' but opened a wider vista on God and a deeper indwelling of the Christian faith, for which my gratitude will be lifelong.

Ian Randall

Staff 1992-2011

My two decades on the teaching staff of the College were years of great privilege, in which I received much as well as seeking to give. It was wonderful to see the College developing, with greatly increasing ethnic diversity one of the many blessings. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching church history and spirituality in such a stimulating student environment and supervising important research projects. The fellowship with colleagues was rich. I was also able to benefit from sabbaticals – to write a few books! College Principals supported me to serve the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague. I give thanksgiving to God.

Adrian Redfearn

Student 1990-1994

I will always be grateful to Spurgeon's College for the way it helped equip me for a ministry in which I am still engaged. Whilst at Spurgeon's, I couldn't wait to get out. Once out, I couldn't wait to get back in - so went back to do a Masters in Applied Theology and remain very grateful to Peter Stevenson for his enormous patience with me. I learned many things at College (bizarrely including how to respond to a drunk Scotsman) but mainly how to unpack Scripture exegetically and preach energetically. The College tutors and other students taught me good biblical exegesis, important disciplines in sermon preparation and - most importantly - how to write and deliver a half-decent sketch for the Christmas Concert. I'm still in Ministry on the Isle of Wight. Life is pretty bonkers there but my College days provide an anchor that stills the soul. Thanks to all tutors and students who tolerated my off-beat humour. I'm pleased to say that with time's passing, it hasn't changed a bit.

Rebecca Rego

Student 2021-2024

I really do thank God for my time at Spurgeon's. I made so many wonderful memories and friends along the way. God truly used the season of studying and training for ministry to bless me and give me an experience of education that I never thought possible. I am so thankful for all the staff and students who made Spurgeon's such a welcoming and encouraging place. I will not forget the kindness of many. Praise God for all the immense good which has come from Spurgeon's College!

Words of Thanksgiving

Debra Reid

Staff 1987-2025

My long career at Spurgeon's College has been a generous gift from God, and I am deeply grateful. I cherish the lasting friendships formed with colleagues and students, and the privilege of belonging to a vibrant learning community that has shaped both my theology and Christian discipleship. I am grateful that the church communities to which I have belonged have been served by gifted Spurgeon's-trained ministers. I am thankful for the immense privilege I have had to work alongside theological educators, thinkers and writers within the Baptist family and beyond, in the UK and many parts of the world.

Cherie Rogers

Student 2000-2023

I had three distinct times of connection - each so valuable in different ways. First as a spouse of a ministerial student, more of an onlooker but part of the community. Next on the Equipped to Minister course, which awakened my interest in theology, study and ministry, and eventually as a ministerial student myself. This was a time of great learning, questioning, exploring and discovery - not to mention challenge - in the very best sense of the word! I made wonderful, deep friendships that continue, and valued the support and sharing of so many in the Spurgeon's community during my formation.

Andrew Rollinson

Student 1976-1980

My years at Spurgeon's were hugely formative for me. Every member of the teaching staff modelled both Christian scholarship and ministry excellence. Bruce Milne, in particular, had an enormous impact on my life, both in the way he nurtured my love of theology and in his commitment to prayer. College chapel, praying for former students, sermon class and preaching at weekends were transformative.

Words of Thanksgiving

Leisa Rouse

Student wife and bookroom manager 1994-1998

If I close my eyes I can hear the echo of my footsteps in the College corridors. Footsteps that would lead us on a path we could never imagine. 4 years of meeting new friends before they took their own journeys. I am so grateful for all the memories made and the foundations that were built, not just in our generation, but my parents' generation too (David Beer 1962-66ish). Running the book room for the last 2 years was an absolute joy, and hearing all the theological discussions held over the table tennis and pool table. Ok maybe not so much theological. Great days!

Steve Rouse

Student 1994-1997

I remember the games room - playing and beating Bill Allen in a tournament we'd organised. He leant on the table at the end and said "Steve, people will relate to you more out there because you can play this than because you get a great grade in your degree!" 'Thank goodness for that' I thought to myself!

Anthony Ruddle

Student 1969-1973, 1997-2000

My gratitude is for the Staff & Tutors who encouraged and raised understanding enabling a long and productive ministry in pastorate and Chaplaincy. My thanksgiving is directed to Jesus for His call to grow and serve alongside so many in College and churches during these last 57 years. Praise Him only.

William Ruddle

Student 1999-2002

Louise & I were the first couple to ever marry at Spurgeon's. The college community rallied round and made our home-from-home such a special and love-filled day. Hospitality is a precious gift of ministry and the college exemplified this on August 21st 1999. Malcolm & Nicky Cameron, Michael & Carol Quicke, and Paul Scott-Evans (the College Business Manager) all had such wonderful open hearts which we remain grateful for as we enter our 27th year together.

Words of Thanksgiving

Zoltan Schwab

Staff 2016-2025

I'm thankful for the undeserved love that so many of my colleagues and students gave me. God was shining through these relationships.

Varduyi Searle

Staff 2013-2017

There are so many things for which to say thank you to Spurgeon's College. But in summary, my time at Spurgeon's was, is and will always be treasured as a very special and precious time of my life. Thank you!

Roy Searle

Visiting Lecturer over 30 years, mainly 2004-2018

Leading retreats, quiet days and teaching on spiritual formation, leadership and pioneering in a post-Christendom culture was a privilege. Serving generations of students and future ministers evidenced deep discussions, much joy and lasting friendships. I especially remember receiving the call, while standing by Spurgeon's statue, that I had been elected President of the Baptist Union. News that shocked me and might have amused him! Though saddened by the College's closure, an indicator of a changing church and world, I give thanks for its rich legacy and the lasting fruit of its life and ministry.

Sue Seeley

Student 1980s

I'm so grateful for Spurgeon's. I did 4 years as a distance learner - 3 for the Cambridge Diploma plus a pastoral studies year. I learned so much, especially from the in-college days, really benefiting from tutors and other students - and ended up becoming an EBA-ordained Pastor. Thank you, Spurgeon's, you were the lynch pin of my spiritual and personal progress. Rest in peace CHS!

Words of Thanksgiving

Cory Seibel

Student 1998-2003

As someone whose relationship entailed being a young American student studying in the MTh in Applied Theology program, I am grateful for how this institution expanded and deepened my world theologically, spiritually, and culturally. It played a crucial role in my personal and intellectual development and the trajectory of my career. I am grateful for the wise, steady support of my dissertation supervisor, Peter Stevenson, specifically. And I am so glad that I had a chance to spend a day on campus one last time while visiting London in 2019.

Jennifer Shields

Student and Staff, 2006-2025

I owe the shaping of my Christian life to the staff and students of this great institution, Spurgeon's College! I started as a student in 2006 I never left until the day it was sadly closed. The dedication of almost 20 years of my life was an absolute joy! A testament of the impact of this amazing community of believers. The building might be closed but college will always be open in my heart. Teachers, staff and students had already planted seeds in my life which has produced much fruit and for that I thank the Lord.

Ian Sinclair

Student 1984-1988

My time at Spurgeon's was one of the most challenging periods of my life, but it was also one of the most enriching. I think that stems from some very special relationships developed with members of faculty, the staff team and the student body. Some of those relationships were for a season, others remained for the rest of my life. Through them, my experience of God has been deepened, my view of life has been expanded, and the understanding and acceptance of myself has been enriched. I am so, so grateful for the four years spent at a place called Spurgeon's.

Hans Sinner (& Judy)

Student 1989-1993

There are periods in life that do not merely fit into one's life story chronologically but stand out as a distinct, radiant chapter of their own.

Words of Thanksgiving

For me, those were the four years I spent as a student at Spurgeon's College in London, and I am forever grateful to God for this privilege. It was a time that shaped me not only academically but also stands out as a major highlight of our lives as a family—for my wife, Judy, and my two sons, David and Philip, who were 12 and 10 years old at the time. Coming from Austria I was classified as an Eastern European student. The atmosphere at the college—deeply spiritual, caring and intimate—continues to resonate within us to this day. Spurgeon's was not merely a place to complete a degree; it was a place that moulded us, shaping us not only in terms of theological expertise but also on a personal level. The collegial, friendly relationships I shared with the tutors were a particularly unique experience—something I had not encountered during my earlier studies in Austria. For my two sons, too, living in the great city of London was a time of discovery: adapting to English as an everyday language, and experiencing a city that opened up new horizons for them as they built friendships at school and within the church community. These years were more than just a passing phase; they were a gift that shaped us as a family. We look back on that time with deep gratitude to God.

Judy Smith-Blow (formerly Powles)

Staff 1985-2014

I give thanks that the Lord brought me to Spurgeon's College in 1985. It was such a privilege to serve so many inspirational people on their ministerial journeys and work alongside wonderful staff members. Over those years I made precious friendships which have continued to this day. The support of the College on my personal journey through the good times and the tears, has been truly amazing. I pray that the legacy of C.H. Spurgeon will continue through the lives of all those who have been connected with his College over so many years.

Anne-Marie Spence

Student 2016-2022

I am sincerely grateful for Spurgeon's College, a place that became far more than an institution of learning. It was a community that nurtured my faith, challenged my thinking, and prepared me for God's calling. I remain deeply grateful for the lecturers especially Debra and Dotha (to name a few) who invested their wisdom and support in me. I thank all the staff who served with dedication, and the friendships I made. The years I spent there shaped not only my understanding of God's Word but also my character and commitment to Jesus Christ. I thank God for giving Charles Haddon Spurgeon the vision for the college. His passion for faithful biblical teaching will continue to inspire generations of Christian leaders even now the College has closed. May Charles Spurgeon's work continue to equip men and women with the knowledge, humility, and courage they need to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with grace and truth.

Words of Thanksgiving

Ian Stackhouse

Visiting Lecturer 2010-2019

I had the joy and privilege of being in and around the college as a visiting lecturer; and also the opportunity to preach in chapel which was always a blessing, at least for me! I thank God for the friendships that formed during that time with members of faculty and also with students, many of whom I am still in touch with. As with everyone, I was truly saddened to hear of the closure of the College, but I truly believe that the College will continue to bear fruit for many decades to come and for that I give thanks to God.

Trevor Stammers

Council Member 2020-2025

Though aware of Spurgeon's College, having been a member of various Baptist churches for decades, I first visited for a retreat day some 7 years back following an academic link from Dr Debra Reid. I loved the day and the grounds and so when invited to join the Academic Board, was pleased to be more actively involved in the College's work and to give a guest lecture on genetic editing at one of the College Days. The library was a particularly useful resource and indeed refuge when in the area. The staff always made me feel very welcome. Its sudden demise is a sad loss to staff and students but also to Christian presence and witness in South London.

Mike Stanbrook

Student 1987-1990

Following a call from God to Baptist ministry I was privileged to be accepted as a student at Spurgeon's. It was a great place for learning and spiritual formation. There were hard life lessons too. Thankfully I graduated with honours, being one of two final students to do so with Hebrew rather than Greek. Having been involved in the ministry of Open Doors with Brother Andrew it was appropriate that my dissertation was on the life of William Tyndale, the first Bible smuggler! I'm sad the College has closed and sad to miss the day of thanksgiving.

Words of Thanksgiving

Brian Stanley

Staff 1979-1991

I look back with gratitude on my 12 years at Spurgeon's. It was a great place to start my academic career, with wonderful colleagues, many no longer with us. Spurgeon's was a happy place, a lively Christian community, with hilarious practical jokes, such as Rosey and I finding on returning from our honeymoon in 1984 that the two front seats of my car, left at the College after our wedding reception, had disappeared, with two chairs from the College dining room taking their place! Spurgeon's gave me a model of what a Christian theological institution should be like. Though obviously not perfect, we were brethren and sisters in a common vocation, and that includes the students. Sermon class, though brutal on occasion, taught me how to preach in a way that combined rigorous biblical exegesis with imaginative illustrations, good humour, and clarity of pastoral application. For all this, and much more, I shall be forever grateful.

Gerry Stanton

Student 2004-2012

You shaped, challenged, encouraged and formed me into the person and minister I am. I am thankful for your patience. Special thanks to John C, Joy O and of course Nigel "the OG" Wright!

Richard Starling

Student 1984-1988

Spurgeon's was both a privilege and pleasure. My father, E.C.K. Starling, also trained at Spurgeon's, beginning his first ministry in 1940. He always spoke highly of the College, and I was delighted to follow the same path. Being part of a smaller Batch, very close friendships were made: and relating to other students and staff contributed to a formative experience serving churches with multiple congregations in Derbyshire, Devon, and Bedfordshire. Academic and practical studies led by excellent tutors gave a

Words of Thanksgiving

good foundation; and I count David Harrison (Secretary) and Joyce Steadman (Bursar) as blessings. Many life-long friends. Thank God for you all. One achievement of mine was introducing some "alternative" historical items to the display in the museum over the Library - necessary humour in the pressures of College life. My favourite was a bone allegedly from the last dinner of Spurgeon's dog. Not a lot of people know that.

C. John Steer

Student 1972-1976

Both I and my father, Christopher Steer, attended Spurgeon's. It made a tremendous impact on my life which I cherish to this day I have photos of the Beer batch, a bust of Spurgeon and all 63 volumes of his sermons scattered around my home in Minnesota . I am particularly grateful for the excellent practical training we received in preaching. It was amazing to be sent to Baptist churches to take services from the first week we arrived. Sermon class twice a week was both terrifying and edifying. I made friendships in college that have lasted over the years. Our batch have remained close and are having a 50 year reunion over two days in June 2026. House Chair was superb - it was great fun but taught valuable lessons for leading church meetings. I'm desperately sad that the College has closed as future students will be deprived of the wonderful experience that I and my father had.

Carl & Juliette Stokes

Student 1990-1994

Juliette and I have fantastic memories of Spurgeon's, attending having been recently married aged 19 & 24. Living upstairs above the Library and then down at Whitworth Rd with other married students, we made some life long friendships and those years at Spurgeon's were incredibly formative and fun. One year Juliette opened the kitchen cupboard to find staring back at her the big white marble bust of Spurgeon, placed there in the night by fellow pranksters. I was almost the youngest in the Andre-Watson batch,

Words of Thanksgiving

with Nick Lear just pipping me to the post. Our first child Tim was born while there. I will never forget sermon class and the witty but deverstating comments that would be expressed by staff and students but particularly by Alistair Campbell, that made us all laugh bar the poor soul on the receiving end. Times have changed, but 36 years on we are still so very grateful to staff and fellow students for making those 4 years so very special and formative.

Nick Swanson

Student 1990-1994

I have so many reasons to give thanks to God for 4 years spent at Spurgeon's College; I cannot overstate the quality of teaching and training for ministry I received from the very dedicated staff. Alongside that, Spurgeon's fostered a community experience where friends were made for life. I treasure the relationships made with fellow students and staff that have enriched the last 30 plus years. Above all, Spurgeon's has been instrumental in my own formation as a follower of Jesus; those 4 years deepened my spiritual life in ways I cannot measure. Thank You, Lord, for the gift which has been Spurgeon's College.

Winston Sylvah

Student 2018-2023

Thank you, Lord, for the wonderful years, the great lessons, and the lifelong friends at Spurgeon's College. The friends and teachers we met have helped shape who we are today. No matter what happens to the building, we will always remember our time there. Even though its doors are now closed, the spirit of this great institution and the good it did will always live on in us. The lessons we learned and the skills gained will stay with us forever. Let us all be proud of being a part of the College's story. May we use what we learned to help others every day. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Thanksgiving

Gadalla Tiab

Student 2012-2024

Looking back on my time at Spurgeon's College, I feel deep gratitude for the dedicated staff, rich theological grounding, and lifelong kingdom vision cultivated here. Spurgeon's was far more than an academic institution; it was a crucible for faith, leadership, and community. Thank you to all who work tirelessly to keep this college a vibrant lighthouse of faith and learning.

Derek Tidball

Visiting Lecturer 2008-2017

Although never a student at Spurgeon's I'm so thankful to the many pastors who have been influential in my life who were trained there, including Raymond Brown and David Coffey. I rejoice in the many colleagues in theological education I've been privileged to know and count as friends. The College's denominational influence has been vital. It admirably drew from its rich tradition, combining scholarship and Christian discipleship - producing a remarkable impact in both areas. Besides classroom teaching, the staff's scholarly output has been remarkable in several fields benefitting many who'd never be able to study there in person.

Jon Turner

Student 2002-2005

I'm thankful for the theological training course I did to support my context based Baptist Ministry training. I met new friends, some of whom I still connect with today. I enjoyed the weekly overnight stays sharing the cooking each week with other students. I completed a Diploma in Theology and Master's degree in Theology - courses that later helped me with Doctoral studies under the supervision of Dr Nigel Wright. After my time at Spurgeon's I became an Associate Executive Minister for the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches in Canada. The Spurgeon's training enabled me to take up such a role. I

Words of Thanksgiving

remember the stimulating theological lectures conducted by John Colwell, the 'book of Revelation' module taught by Pieter Lalleman, and Church history with Dr Ian Randall. I now serve as an ordained minister with the Church of England in Worcestershire, but have fond memories of my time at Spurgeon's - although I don't miss the long drives from Birmingham on Sunday winter evenings each week, and then having to start lectures at 8am!

Maicol Umana

Student 2010-2015

I remain deeply grateful for my years studying ministry and theology at Spurgeon's College. Those years shaped both my faith and calling, providing not only academic grounding but also lifelong friendships, spiritual growth, and invaluable guidance from lecturers and fellow students. Thank you to everyone who invested their time, wisdom, and encouragement into my journey. I carry those lessons and experiences with me into every area of ministry and life.

Clare van den Berg (Atkin)

Student 2013-2016

I am thankful for the staff and students who made my 3 years of Ministerial formation and study at Spurgeon's so blessed.

Jan Vidler

Student 2003-2014

When I commenced my studies in 2003, I had no idea of the incredible journey of spiritual and ministerial formation that would follow. The privilege of studying where great feet had trod and being taught by such incredible theological tutors still amazes me. The faculty and staff went so far and beyond to support me. My fellow students throughout all the years, were inspirational and strongly supportive. Your efforts produced fruit. I graduated, completed NAM studies, ministered in 3 churches, planted a church and became a hospital chaplain. Spurgeon's College lives on in all the lives it transformed for God's glory.

Helen & John Vinter

Student 1993-1997

We are so grateful to God for the time spent at Spurgeon's - for the friends made, the ministries formed, the wisdom and grace of the tutors and, not least, that we met and married during our time there!

Chris Voke

Staff 1972-2025

The College represents: life-long opportunity, expansion of mind, by many honoured staff and students, deep and life-long friendships, memories exhilarating and moving. A community of learning and personal preparation for ministry, the most rewarding four years of my life. An attraction that drew me back, many times, to receive and serve; on committees, Council, Executive. Then, by extraordinary providence, appointed to the staff to share in shaping 25 generations of students and to see, in the lecture room each week, 'shepherds after God's own heart.' A rare and bountiful privilege. Endless thanks to God and to you all.

Anthony C. Walker

Student 1969-1973, 1976-1980

I had the novel experience of doing the Degree Course twice! First as part of the Elcome batch but when it came to sitting the Finals in 1973 I contracted chickenpox and was too ill to sit them. Then in my first pastorate in Walthamstow, my wife Doreen encouraged me to do the CNAAB Degree Course part-time which I did, graduating in 1980. Stanley Dewhurst said I would be a 'mature fruit' by the end! Second time around, what a privilege to have Bruce Milne and Ray Brown as tutors. I am forever grateful to the Lord for Spurgeon's.

Mark Warner ('Weight of the House')

Student 1976-1979

Many students would find their STRONGLY-HELD beliefs shaken during theological studies; I found the inverse – my SHAKY faith was STRENGTHENED by the personal time Bruce Milne gave to me as he helped me to find a deeper level of realistic trust in Jesus. Ray Brown always shone through as a caring and humble man, even when our baby daughter, Clare, vomited her bottled milk across his desk during an interview with Ruth and myself to assess whether we could afford to do the extra pastoral year which he was introducing. We were blessed by a godly faculty.

Rich Webb

Student 2001-2004

I am immensely grateful for the formation I received at Spurgeon's College and for those who helped me grow in my love for the Bible and the local church.

Mark Welch

Student 1993-1997

Spurgeon's gave me a toolkit for life-long learning and continued theological reflection. The opportunity to hear Michael Quicke preach on a regular basis was a masterclass in communication that has helped me in equipping many people to preach and enter Ministry, or serve in lay capacities. The life-long friendships have been an aid to resilience in the journey of Ministry. I still remember comments made by members of the teaching staff, many of which have become more meaningful and resonate with the passing of the years. I'm grateful to everyone at Spurgeon's in ways that words cannot adequately express.

Words of Thanksgiving

John West

Staff 2011-2025

I joined the College as part time staff in the maintenance department. I learnt much more than practical skills. I got to work with some lovely people over 14 years. I really looked forward to going to work each day. The students often commented on our work and were especially complimentary on the gardens. I will miss the College which holds for me many fond memories and I really enjoy it when I get to meet up with former staff or students.

Mel Wilson

Student 1997-2000, 2006-2008

I loved my time at Spurgeon's College. Just recently married in 1997 we moved in to flat 4 for my first year. Loved my batch, built friendships for a lifetime and enjoyed community life living onsite. Huge gratitude to staff and College Principal Michael Quicke. Wednesday afternoon was football social and I captained the team to a win over All Nations College! Second year we lived in Balham BC student flat and had placement there and at Haddon Hall. After Spurgeon's we went to First BC, Richardson, Texas and then with BMS to Albania. So grateful for the formation for ministry.

Andrew Wilson

Student 2012-2025

My memories of Spurgeon's College are some of the happiest of my life. I have been so blessed and I owe so much to so many people.

Jonathan Woodhouse

Student 1978-1980

I learned so much from staff and fellow students through the excellent modelling of Pastoral Care and Preaching from my two year sojourn in 1978-80. I reflect positively and with fondness on the impact this had on my life and ministry in civilian churches

Words of Thanksgiving

and British Army chaplaincy. Sport, humour and fine camaraderie also played their parts. Nigel Wright understood military chaplaincy and was a fine speaker at our United Board Chaplaincy Conference. Thank you all who gave so much of themselves at the College. I am sorry to miss the Thanksgiving Day but will be walking in Tuscany!

John Woods

Student 2001-2008, Staff 2019-2025

My first week as an MTh student in preaching coincided with the events surrounding 9/11. As our excellent cohort watched the news at coffee time, I was reminded of the urgency of preaching in a contemporary world. I am grateful to Stephen Wright, Peter Stephenson, and Mike Graves for their stimulating teaching. I was privileged to have John Colwell as my MTh dissertation tutor and Stephen Wright as my DMin tutor. I was honoured to work with Seidel Abel Boanerges and Dotha Blackwood, teaching and marking the preaching modules at Spurgeon's College. Great memories of a learning community for which I am very thankful.

Helen Wordsworth

Student and Council Member 1987-2025

Leadership weekends, Cambridge Diploma, Evangelism and Church-planting course route to ministry, MTh, DMin! 16 years as a student might be a record, but the College has been a vital support for serving in ministry as a trainer, mission consultant, Regional Minister, and pioneer of Parish nursing in the UK, bringing spiritual care and health together in outreach from local churches. What a privilege that journey has been, and none of it would have been possible without God's provision of the amazing staff and fellow students at Spurgeon's to inspire, challenge, advise, and encourage. Thank-you so much!

Words of Thanksgiving

Danni Worley

Student 2018-2022

I remain ever grateful for the indelible mark Spurgeon's has left on me. I will always be grateful for the wonderful fellow pilgrims, for the way that my mind was opened, and for the opportunity to find my voice and develop my writing style. My life is richer and I am a little more whole as a result of my time at Spurgeon's. Thanks be to God.

Richard Wort

Student 1977-1981

I remember with appreciation the education and training that I received at The College. Stimulating lectures, tutors providing helpful practical examples and first class theological insights - all these things make me look back with thanksgiving to God for my time at College.

Nigel Wright

Student and Staff 1970-2025

Spurgeon's runs through me like the proverbial stick of Blackpool rock. Chiefly I am thankful for the way it gave me confidence to be a minister of Christ's church in the face of my sense of inadequacy. It provided a pathway along which I could enter into my vocation first as a pastor and preacher and then as a theological teacher. Of primary importance in all of this were the people, staff and students, who were prepared to believe in me before I really believed in myself. Spurgeon's was the source of opportunity as well as of multiple friendships with some of the finest people I know. I am grateful beyond measure that it has defined so much of my life. Thanks be to God.

Stephen Wright

Staff 1998-2023

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to work in a positive Christian environment of mutual respect, for friendships developed with colleagues and students, for the freedom to stretch the mind and the discipline of shared worship.

