Durham University

ATHROFA PADARN SANT
ST PADARN'S INSTITUTE

MA Church Law

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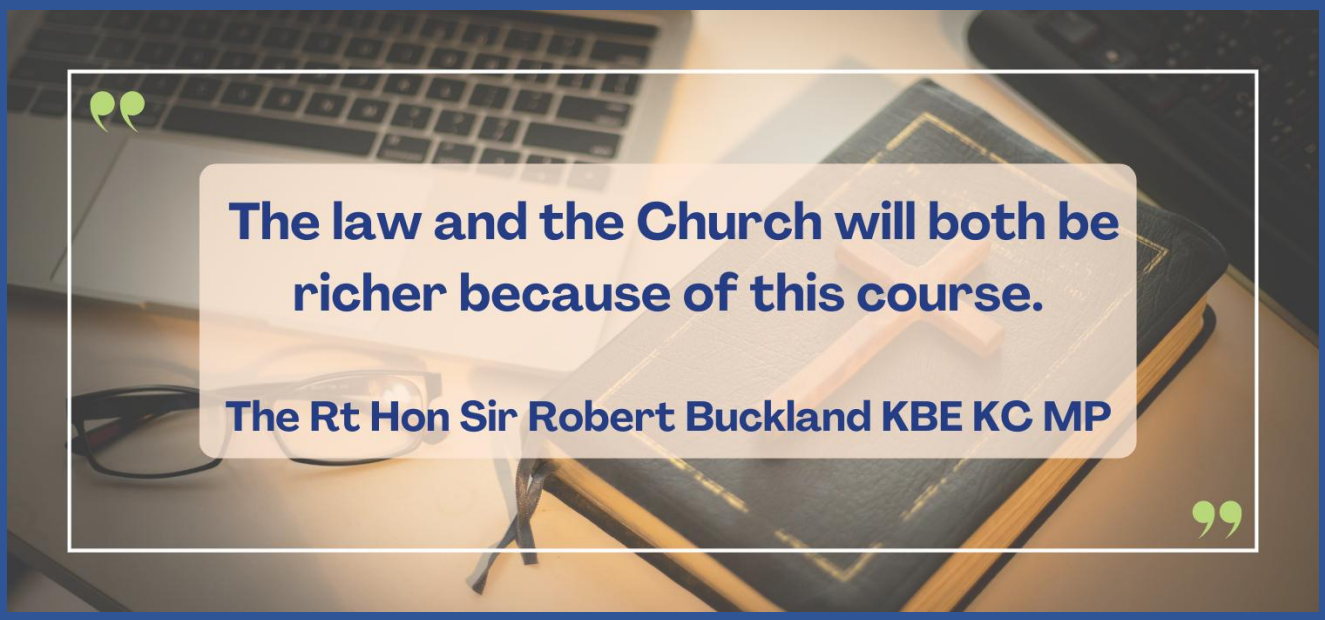
Validated Durham University Common Awards



A UNIQUE PROVIDER

Church law has been described as 'applied ecclesiology' and the remarkable resurgence of the academic study of church law within Anglicanism in recent decades has borne fruit not only through a better understanding of how law can enable mission and ministry, but also in its contributions to the disciplines of ecumenism, ecclesiology, church history, and Anglican studies.

St Padarn's MA Church law is the only postgraduate church law programme with an Anglican focus currently on offer anywhere in the world. The programme is suitable for clergy, lawyers, church administrators and others wishing to develop their ministry or professional practice in the field of canon law, or to deepen their understanding of the way in which church communities are regulated. Although the main focus of the teaching is Anglican canon law, this is delivered alongside a comparative element, and students wishing to write on the law of other churches in their assessed essays and dissertation are encouraged to do so.

We are part of St Padarn's Institute, the training arm of the Church in Wales. Under its statement 'formation in community for mission,' St Padarn's equips and empowers God's people across the world to communicate God's transformative love. St Padarn's as a site has hosted the teaching of church law for over three decades, and is now able to offer church law as an in-house speciality. We welcome students of any faith or belief or none.

EQUIPPING EFFECTIVE PRACTITIONERS

You can enrol part-time for a Certificate (one year), Diploma (two years), or Master's (three years). The course is validated by Durham University, one of the Russell Group's 24 world-class research-intensive universities.

The principal focus of the teaching is the law of the Church of England and the Church in Wales. This is supplemented by exploration of the principles of law in the wider Anglican Communion, and by ecumenical and comparative study, including the canon law of the Roman Catholic Church. The course includes opportunity for reflecting theologically on the purposes of church law, and, in particular, how it supports the church's mission and ministry. In addition, attention is given at each residential to historical study, examining how the church's law has developed over the centuries.

Topics covered include the sources, purpose and historical development of church law; the law of rites and sacraments; the law relating to lay and ordained ministry; ecclesiastical government at all levels; doctrine and liturgy; and church property. The relationship between church and state is also studied, both in the context of the UK and that of other European countries.

The course welcomes people from very varied backgrounds: some have formal legal training, others come to church law through ministry and theological study. At the first residential weekend there is an introduction to the study of church law, explaining the methods and sources of the discipline. Although the course has an Anglican focus, students wishing to specialise in the law of non-Anglican churches are most welcome, and it is possible for all assessed essays to focus on the law of another church. In choosing their essay and dissertation titles, it is possible for students to focus on theological, historical, ecumenical, or jurisprudential aspects of church law, as well as the practical implications for mission and ministry.

AN EXPERT TEACHING TEAM

Our teaching team has a wealth of experience of teaching and research in canon law and in the wider field of law and religion.

The Venerable Russell Dewhurst is Archdeacon of Hastings in the Church of England. He chaired the latest revision of the Principles of Canon Law common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion, and has a particular interest in canon law and ecumenism. He is currently finishing his PhD in 'Subsidiarity in Anglican Canon Law' at Cardiff University.

Professor Norman Doe KC DCL LLD is a professor of law at the School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University, Chancellor of the Diocese of Bangor (Church in Wales), and a Master of the Bench at the Inner Temple, London. He has written ten books and over 200 articles in the field of canon and ecclesiastical law and serves on the Anglican Communion Legal Advisors Network.

The Revd Dr Helen Hall is an Associate Professor at Nottingham Trent University and a priest in the Church of England. Her research spans law and religion/belief; human rights; tort; family/child law; law and anthropology and legal history. She has a particular interest in legal issues relating to exorcism, and law and the supernatural more widely.

The Very Rev. Dr. Aetios Nikiforos He serves as Grand Ecclesiarch and Director of the Private Office of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and is a Lecturer in Canon Law at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in Sydney. He holds a PhD in Ecclesiastical and Canon Law from Cardiff University, and is a secretary and member of the Synodal Canonical Commission, as well as a member of the Synodal Commission on Inter-Orthodox Affairs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Very Revd Dr Sebastian Jones holds a Doctorate in Canon Law from Facoltà Di Diritto Canonico San Pio X, Venice. Appointed a Vatican Apostolic Visitator for the Congregation for Religious (2007-2012) and later as Judicial Vicar, Matrimonial Tribunal, Ukrainian Catholic Church (2012-2019) and the Belarussian Greek Catholic Church (2015-2019). He lectured on the *Codex Iuris Canonici* at the Cardiff Law School's LLM Programme (2012-24). Appointed Fellow: Centre For Law and Religion, Cardiff University, 2018. Appointed in 2023 by the Vatican to sit on the newly established National Tribunal Service (England and Wales) as an Advocate. He is published in the Canon Law Journal, is Parish Priest and Superior of the Cardiff Oratory.

Professor Javier Oliva is is a Professor at the University of Manchester, where is currently Head of Law. His areas of expertise are within the field of Constitutional Law (particularly the position of sub-state entities, autonomy and independence) and Law and Religion. Javier is also a Lecturer in Spanish Law at the University of Oxford and U.C.L. His recent research outputs include the book Constitutional Culture, Independence and Rights; Insights from Quebec, Scotland and Catalonia", published by Toronto University Press in 2023.

Dr Sarah White is an Assistant Professor in the School of Law and Co-Director of the History of Law and Governance Centre at the University of Nottingham. Sarah has a PhD (St Andrews) in medieval history and researches the development of court procedure, the legal profession, and legal writing. Sarah's main teaching and research interests combine law, history, and religion, particularly as pertains to the historical development of English ecclesiastical law, Common Law, and the courts of

equity in the medieval period.

Charlotte Wright is a senior associate solicitor at Hugh James in Cardiff, specialising in professional negligence claims, having practised law for 13 years. She has submitted her PhD on 'The legal framework governing music within the Church of England parish churches, cathedrals and college chapels' at Cardiff University.

A COURSE FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

To meet the needs of working professionals, teaching is delivered in three intensive blocks each year. Residentials take place from Sunday evening to midday Wednesday at our site in Cardiff where we enjoy an extensive library and well-equipped teaching rooms. Our en-suite accommodation is modern and purpose-built. Meals are freshly cooked onsite, and we cater for special dietary requirements.

For those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity, public worship is offered daily at Llandaff Cathedral, less than five minutes' walk from St Padarn's. In addition to our comfortable common room, you may wish to explore the nearby shops, cafes, pubs, and riverside walks.

In the master's programme, students study three modules a year for two years, followed by a years' dissertation writing. In year three, students are encouraged to attend the residentials as members of our learning community and work on their dissertations with access to the library, teaching staff.

To obtain the MA, students must complete six taught modules, six 6,000-word essays, and a 15,000-word dissertation.

	Year one Postgraduate Certificate	**Year two** Postgraduate Diploma	**Year three** MA
Autumn Residential (October)	Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods	The Law of Doctrine and Liturgy	Dissertation: Title agreed with supervisor
Winter Residential (February)	The Law of Church Governance	The Law of Rites and Sacraments	
Spring Residential (May)	The Law of Church-State Relations	The Law of Ministry	

CLOSING DATE, ENTRY CRITERIA, AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The closing date for applications is end July. The usual entry criteria are a 2:1 degree in theology or a related subject, or a 2:2 degree with substantial professional experience. If you do not meet these criteria, please get in touch to discuss your available options.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact our Academic Studies team on : academic.enquiries@stpadarns.ac.uk
or visit www.stpadarns.ac.uk/machurchlaw