



Church Pastoral Care

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Course Information

Lecturers	Steve Midgley & Helen Thorne-Allenson
Grader	<p>You will be assigned a Grader from Biblical Counselling UK who will grade your assignments and field questions about the assignments.</p> <p>You can contact your Grader through your Canvas inbox.</p> <p>Your Grader will contact you at the start of term to let you know the days during the week where he or she will be available to respond to your email inquiries.</p>
Tutor	<p>Your course tutor will lead the fortnightly seminars and help guide you through the material presented by Steve and Helen and address questions and concerns.</p> <p>You can contact your Tutor through your Canvas inbox.</p>
Administration	For queries about course access, withdrawals, requests to take final exams early, and extensions over 7 days, please contact Biblical Counselling UK Course Administration – courses@bcuk.org
Canvas	Canvas hosts your course materials (videos, audio files, course documents) and enables you to communicate with your RI and the other students in your class. Assignments should always be submitted through Canvas.
Technical Queries	For help with common problems, please see ‘Technical information and troubleshooting’ within the Student Orientation material on your Canvas dashboard. If you cannot resolve your difficulty, please contact Biblical Counselling UK Course Administration – courses@bcuk.org .
Course Programme	You are expected to watch the assigned video(s) and listen to the podcast each week (approximately 2 – 3 hours), complete the reading and submit assignments as listed in this course syllabus.
Sharing & Copyright	<p>All materials provided to you for this course through Canvas are copyrighted by BCUK, CCEF or other publishers, to whom we pay a fee for their use. These materials include the course syllabus, assignments, articles, and video/audio lectures and recordings. You may not reproduce or share any of these materials without prior permission from Biblical Counselling UK.</p> <p>As an exception to this policy, CCEF allow students to share up to 20 copies of <i>Journal of Biblical Counseling (JBC)</i> articles from the course for use in their personal ministry. Examples of this would include sharing an article following a ministry conversation, or with a spouse, friend or small group. This is strictly limited to <i>JBC</i> articles. If you wish to share a <i>JBC</i> resource with more than 20 people, you will need to make an application via the permissions page on the CCEF website.</p>

Course Objectives

What will it look like when conversational ministry is established in the ministry of a local church?

The purpose of this course is:

- to enable students to better understand the nature and purpose of church
- to help students understand the nature of conversational ministry and its development over the centuries
- to equip students to understand their ministry context and see opportunities for conversational ministry to flourish
- to envision students with a range of ways in which conversational ministry could be embedded in their local church
- to see the importance of both public and private ministry of the Word and how they inter-relate
- to help students to play a part in growing a culture of care in their local congregation
- to encourage students to engage in conversational ministry in ways that are safe, collaborative and wise

The course is designed in such a way that it gives a big picture view of pastoral care in the local church. It begins with the **call** of the church – digging into what the church is, what it is meant to do and how pastoral care fits into that overall purpose. It moves from there to church history (distant and recent) and shows the **legacy** of the centuries gone past, encouraging us to learn about caring for others from those who have gone before. Next, the course enables us to understand our own particular **local context** and begin to celebrate and analyse the pastoral care in our own congregation before looking at **growth** and the ways churches can develop individual gifting, a culture of care and effective structures. Finally, it looks at **good practice** and encourages us all to serve wisely and well. Throughout the course there are both assignments that look at specific aspects of this big picture and one big ministry project that seeks to draw all the strands together in a practical and personal way.

Required Reading

Books

- *Visible Grace* by Caleb Batchelor (10Publishing, 2024)
- *God's New Community* by Graham Beynon (IVP, 2010)

Articles/excerpts

The content listed below can be found in Canvas in the week in which the readings are due. JBC refers to the *Journal of Biblical Counseling*. All content is used by permission and copyright fees paid where applicable.

- *A Familial Approach to Confidentiality in the Church* by Steve Midgley (JBC 31:3 (2017))
- *How to build a gospel culture in your church* by Ray Ortlund
- *Introducing Church* by Helen Thorne- Allenson
- *Liturgy and Pastoral Care* by Helen Thorne-Allenson
- *Puritan resources for biblical counselling* by Tim Keller

- *Something worth meeting for – a biblical vision for small groups* by Steve Midgley (JBC 28:3 (2014))
- *The Pastor as Counselor* by David Powlison (JBC 26:1 (2012)) (optional reading for pastors taking this course)
- *Walking alongside hurting friends* by Helen Thorne-Allenson
- *What is your calling* by David Powlison
- *What's the care structure in your church?* by Helen Thorne-Allenson

Course Schedule

Week One	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 1: Introduction (part 1) • Lecture 2: Introduction (part 2) • Conversation: Talking about your church
	<i>Listen</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Conversations in and out, with Ste Casey
	<i>Read</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walking alongside hurting friends</i> by Helen Thorne-Allenson
	<i>Submit</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project – choosing an area of ministry
Week Two	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 3: What is the church for? A community for mission and evangelism • Lecture 4: What is the church for? A community for blessing. A community for all • Conversation: Praying for your church
	<i>Listen</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Ministry across cultures, with Abigail Richardson (née Baah)
	<i>Read</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introducing Church</i> by Helen Thorne-Allenson • <i>How to build a gospel culture in your church</i> by Ray Ortland
	<i>Submit</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures of pastoral care

Week Three	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 5: History of pastoral care (part 1) • Lecture 6: History of pastoral care (part 2) • Lecture 7: The recent history of biblical counselling (part 1) • Lecture 8: The recent history of biblical counselling (part 2) • <i>Optional: Conversation: A vision for Biblical Counselling UK</i> <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Puritan resources for biblical counselling</i> by Tim Keller <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project – planning involvement • Ministry Project – confirmation of discussion with church leader
Week Four	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 9: Biblical counselling (problem-focused discipleship) in the life of the local church • Conversation: Identifying your gifts • Conversation: The difference between biblical counselling and psychology <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Pastoring as a shepherd, with Mike Warren <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Visible Grace</i> by Caleb Batchelor • <i>The Pastor as Counselor</i> by David Powlison (<i>optional Reading for Pastors taking this course</i>)
Week Five	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 10: Biblical counselling in the life of the local church – practical implications (part 1) • Lecture 11: Biblical counselling in the life of the local church – practical implications (part 2) • Conversation: Biblical counselling for men and women <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Growing a pastoral ministry team, with Allan Beckett <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God's New Community</i> by Beynon (ch.1-3) <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring gifts

Week Six	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 12: Counselling structures in the local church – understanding your church (part 1) • Lecture 13: Counselling structures in the local church – understanding your church (part 2) • Conversation: Loving your pastor well
	<i>Read</i>
Week Seven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God's New Community</i> by Beynon (ch.4-6)
	<i>Submit</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project – self reflection
Week Seven	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 14: Counselling structures in the local church – announced structures (part 1) • Lecture 15: Counselling structures in the local church – announced structures (part 2)
	<i>Listen</i>
Week Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Small groups and pastoral care, with Santhosh Thomas
	<i>Read</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God's New Community</i> by Beynon (ch.7-9) • <i>Something worth meeting for – a biblical vision for small groups</i> by Steve Midgley
Week Eight	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 16: Church culture and pastoral care – the problems • Lecture 17: Church culture and pastoral care – effecting change • Conversation: Preaching to the heart
	<i>Listen</i>
Week Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Transforming coffee time, with Susannah Padiachy
	<i>Read</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Liturgy and Pastoral Care</i> by Helen Thorne-Allenson • <i>What's the care structure in your church?</i> by Helen Thorne-Allenson

Week Nine	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 18: Walking alongside people wisely (part 1) • Lecture 19: Walking alongside people wisely (part 2) • Conversation: Guarding your heart
	<i>Read</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Familial Approach to Confidentiality in the Church</i> by Steve Midgley
Week Ten	<i>Submit</i>
	Managing boundaries in pastoral care
	<i>Watch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 20: Concluding topics • Lecture 21: Concluding topics continued • Lecture 22: Conclusion: The future development of biblical counselling • Conversation: Perseverance
	<i>Listen</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Peer review, with Alison Woods
	<i>Submit</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project - analysis

Assignments

Students will be required to submit assignments for assessment to receive a grade. Instructions for assignments are provided in Canvas.

Weighting

Ministry Project – choosing an area of ministry	0%
Structures of pastoral care	15%
Ministry Project – planning involvement	0%
Exploring gifts	15%
Ministry Project – self-reflection	15%
Managing boundaries in pastoral care	15%
Ministry Project – analysis	35%
Seminar Attendance	5%

Grading

There are two main reasons for providing grades for your work in the Certificate Programme. The first is to provide some feedback about how you have done. We trust it helps to have a sense of the standard of your work and changes that may happen over time. The second purpose is to provide some measure of accountability. Taking a course for credit challenges you to put in the time and effort needed to produce good quality thinking and work. All of our lives and all our ministry depends

upon growing wisdom. We trust getting grades is one way of helping encourage us toward the effort that is needed for that growth.

Yet grading brings dangers too – it can foster a sense of competitiveness or a fear of failure. So do be praying for godly attitudes. It may help to remember that humility and a willingness to admit ignorance and a desire to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and love (James 1:5; Matt. 5:3) are hallmarks of authentic faith.

In many ways grading is simply a means of helping you maintain the ambitions that led you to register in the first place.

Grade Scheme

Grade Letter	Percentage Score	Grade Definition	
A	85% – 100%	Excellent to Outstanding	PASS
A-	70%-84%		
B+	66% – 69%	Good to Very Good	
B	63% - 65%		
B-	60%- 62%		
C+	55% – 59%	Satisfactory	
C	50% - 54%		
C-	40% – 49%	Sufficient	
D	35% – 39%	Unsatisfactory	FAIL
E	30% - 34%		
F	0 – 29%		

Late Assignments

Assignments that are late will have 10 points deducted for every day that they are late, and will be graded “0” after one week.

Requests for Extensions

Policies: Please refer to the BC UK Student Handbook (available in the Course Information section on Canvas) regarding policies for granting late assignments and extensions.

1. Extensions will not be granted for holidays or previously planned events.

2. **To request an extension for up to 7 days**, contact your Grader through the Canvas platform before the deadline, stating the reason for your extension request and how long an extension you are asking for.
3. **To request an extension longer than 7 days**, email courses@bcuk.org before the deadline stating:
 1. The course you are taking and your Grader
 2. The assignment for which you are requesting an extension
 3. The due date for this paper or project
 4. The reason for your extension request

The course administrator will respond within two working days of your request and inform your Grader.

Course Administration

The Student Handbook details policies, procedures, and administration of the Certificate Programme, and information that is relevant to all courses, including grading standards and academic policies.

The Student Handbook is located in the Course Resources section of your course material on Canvas.