


# School *for* Disciples



*Growing Christian disciples for  
the 21st century in the heart of  
Nottingham.*



St Nic's, Nottingham (with St Christopher's, Sneinton)



## WHAT IS IT?

The School for Disciples is an on-going programme of formation, training and equipping of followers of Jesus in Nottingham. Running from September to July, the programme can be accessed at three levels:

**CORE GROUP** a one year, full-time, programme.

**PART-TIME** one day per week for a year, joining with the Core Group on Tuesdays.

**OPEN ACCESS** for anyone who would like to benefit from the teaching programme on Tuesday evenings.





## THERE ARE THREE MAIN REASONS FOR THE SCHOOL:

### JESUS' MANDATE

JESUS' MANDATE Jesus instructed his followers to 'make disciples', teaching them to live the life that he had taught his own disciples. Although the church has deviated from this model over the years, it has never been able to improve it.

### OUR CULTURE

OUR CULTURE We live in a time of rapid cultural change. Our society is becoming increasingly 'post-Christian'. It is not the first time that Western society has gone through such shifts. Now, as in the past, there is an urgent need to equip Christians to understand both their faith and their culture so that they can follow an alternative way of life.

### OUR CALLING

OUR CALLING As a large city centre church, we believe that we have a calling to be a resource to the city and beyond. Our passion is for transforming encounters with Jesus, and we want to be an authentic Christian community whose main goal is to grow disciples.

# HOW DOES THE FULL-TIME PROGRAMME WORK?

The full-time programme is designed for people who can commit a full year, living in community on a low budget. Although ideally suited to young adults, it is open to anyone who can make this commitment.

The programme has seven elements, with an optional eighth of a short-term overseas mission placement. It has been designed to provide holistic training that will lay good foundations for the rest of participants' lives.

## SERVICE

**Service** One of the central values of Christian discipleship is service. You will serve in the local community and in church (St. Nic's and St. Christopher's, Sneinton). In this context you will be enabled to discover particular gifts and receive coaching in developing and using them.

## COMMUNITY

**Community** Jesus trained a group of twelve disciples, and when he sent them out he sent them in twos. In an individualistic culture, you will learn that the Christian life is corporate. Community living



exposes parts of ourselves that we prefer to avoid. This is material for personal growth. Community houses will be in St. Christopher's parish where you will learn hospitality and community outreach.

**Theology** The whole of each Tuesday will be given to theological education. The more we understand our faith, the more we can apply it to the context in which we live.

**Spirituality** Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The church has great spiritual resources developed over the years – *spiritual disciplines* – which help to provide a framework for growth. You will explore and learn these.

*continued on page 7*

## What about part-time involvement?

Part-time participants will follow careers or home-based responsibilities. They will join the core group on Tuesdays for taught learning, as well as special weekend events with visiting speakers. They will share in the rhythm of prayer, worked out in the circumstances of their life, participate in one residential, have one area of overseen mission or ministry and join the Growing Leaders course with the support of a mentor.

## Wider church participation

Evening teaching and weekend special events will be open to all. Some people will be involved as mentors, as support families, or with short-term mission overseers.



Put all these elements together, and you have a rounded, formative training.

THEOLOGY

OVERSEAS MISSION

SPIRITUALITY

SERVICE

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

SUPPORT

COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

WORK



## SUPPORT

**Support** Each Core Group member will be allocated a mentor and a church family for support, as well as the support of the team delivering the training.

## OUTREACH

**Outreach** You will be involved in outreach ranging from kids' clubs in schools to hospitality to clubbers in the early hours of Saturday morning.

## WORK

**Work** You will find a job for two days a week. For most participants this will be necessary in order to pay their way through the year. But work is vital for another reason. Although some will go on to full-time Christian ministry, most participants will end up in 'normal' jobs, so it is vital to learn about work in the context of discipleship.

## OVERSEAS MISSION

**Overseas Mission** St. Nic's has very strong missionary links around the world. You can have an overseas placement towards the end of the year for 2 weeks – 3 months.

As a member of the core group you will participate in weekly 'community learning' discussions where the events of the week are processed and reflected upon. You will also join in a rhythm of prayer, be on the Growing Leaders course and enjoy times away together.



## WHAT A TYPICAL WEEK MIGHT LOOK LIKE

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sunday	church	off	church
Monday	prayer at church planning and group session	personal study	meal and chat with my mentor
Tuesday	teaching	teaching	Shared meal & church training events.
Wednesday	prayer breakfast at St Nic's, then personal study	school club, then visiting families	out with friends
Thursday	work	work	student discussion group
Friday	work	work	youth work, then 'tea and toast' for clubbers
Saturday	off unless special event at church		

Units in **orange text** are the fixed part of the programme. The rest of the week is for you to work out with the Leader of Discipleship Development or your mentor. Each full-time participant will commit to three mission units per week. Some possibilities are: youth and children's work (church, schools or detached); Street Pastors; prison ministry; work with homeless, drug-dependent or sex workers; student outreach; community improvement projects; drop-in cafe. You should aim to have one complete day off each week.

## TUESDAY'S TEACHING PROGRAMME

	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
	Biblical Studies & Doctrine	Spirituality & personal growth	Join fortnightly with Christians from around Nottingham for a series of short courses in the NOTTINGHAM SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES.
Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luke's Gospel</li> <li>• Christology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The way I'm wired.</li> <li>• Theological Reflection</li> </ul>	
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis</li> <li>• The Trinity</li> <li>• Ecclesiology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explorations into community.</li> <li>• Living in the power of the Holy Spirit.</li> </ul>	GROWING LEADERS Monthly meetings throughout the year, plus two whole Saturdays. Meet with your mentor between meetings.
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galatians</li> <li>• Soteriology</li> <li>• Missiology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethical dilemmas.</li> <li>• Considering the future.</li> </ul>	
Throughout the year	Joining in the church's rhythm of prayer	Visits from and to Christian leaders / communities	At other times, join with St. Nic's for its Central Prayer events.

## SATURDAYS

Once a term there will be a special event with a visiting speaker. These events will be open to all, but course participants will have special access to the speaker and will be involved in hosting the event.

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Course fees are £650 per year for full-time participants and £450 for part-time.

We have calculated that living costs for the year can be covered by full-time students (living in a household of four) if they work 14 hours per week at the minimum wage and receive help with housing costs. Some additional fund-raising would be required for an overseas placement.

## WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL?



**STEVE SILVESTER, RECTOR OF ST. NIC'S** Steve had the vision for the Discipleship School before he was appointed as Rector of St. Nic's in January 2008. He is completing a DMin (Doctor of Ministry) with King's College, London, focusing on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and New Monasticism. He is married to Jane and has three daughters.



**LEADER OF DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT (LDD)** This post is funded by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. We are looking for someone with outstanding skills in discipleship development, training and organisation. The LDD will oversee the core group from day to day.



**VIV & CHRIS NEWMAN** Viv and Chris have a great gift of hospitality. They will be all-round 'Mum & Dad' to the Core Group. Viv was Head of Sixth Form at a school in Nottinghamshire for many years and his involvement in an exam board still takes him around the world training physics teachers. He is also Chair of the Missionary Committee. Chris and Viv will be responsible for arranging overseas placements.



**MAX KAY** Recently retired as Head teacher of a comprehensive school, Max has great training and organisational gifts. His passion is to see young people develop, and he has been inspired by his own daughter's involvement in a similar scheme to this at King's Church, Durham.





**JORDAN BROOKS** Jordan spent six years with YWAM based in Montana where he met his wife Karla. They led short-term mission teams in numerous countries. Jordan is currently working as office manager at St. Nic's while he explores ordination.



**JOSHUA JONES** Joshua recently joined the staff of St. Nic's as Youth & Student Leader. With his wife Irdi, he has experience in church planting as well as youth and student ministry in France and Ireland. He is completing research looking at how Acts 17 can be a model for Christian engagement with contemporary culture.



**CLAIRE ELWOOD** Claire trained as a nurse and now works as a 'Doula' helping families with young children. Claire and her husband Tim are developing their home as a 'house of prayer'. Claire will teach on prayer and spirituality.

## GUEST TEACHERS

We will be drawing on the skills of a number of local theologians and trainers, as well as having one-off weekend events with Christian leaders from further afield.

We are very fortunate to have three members of staff of St. John's Theological College in St. Nic's.

## HOW CAN I APPLY?

For full and part-time participants the following need to be true:

- I am a committed Christian
- I am over 18
- I would be capable of undertaking an A-level course.

If you are interested, ask for an application form from:

*discipleship@stnics.org*  
or visit *www.stnics.org/discipleship*

Applications should be received by 1 July.

---

For news of the Nottingham School of Christian Studies join the mailing list:

*nscs@stnics.org* or visit  
*www.stnics.org/nscs*



St Nic's Church, 79 Maid Marian Way, Nottingham NG1 6AE  
0115 952 4600 | [office@stnics.org](mailto:office@stnics.org) | [www.stnics.org](http://www.stnics.org)