

Ethos and Charisms

Cliff College

Cliff College has a long and rich heritage of providing education and training for Christian ministry in evangelism and mission, and we have always sought to be at the cutting edge of contemporary missional thinking. Founded in 1904 as a Methodist lay training college, Cliff College is biblical and evangelical in emphasis. Today our student body is both lay and ordained, and from diverse denominational and other Christian backgrounds.

Our motto '**Christ for all – all for Christ**' sums up who we are and what we are about: continuing to train people from all walks of life and backgrounds to be better equipped for evangelism and mission, and the ministry to which God has called them.

Ethos and Charisms

The College's defining charisms, or key gifts and commitments, reflect and express the distinctive way in which we seek to fulfil our purpose:

We are **a community that prepares people for confident, appropriate, contextual evangelism** in the UK and beyond. As a resource for the whole people of God we seek to serve local churches and enable them to reach their own local communities more effectively, particularly through individuals who are better prepared and equipped for Christian ministry.

We are **a community which seeks a life of prayer**, with a particular emphasis on **holiness and the Spirit filled life**. This reflects our roots in the Wesleyan tradition, and shapes our understanding of our defining characteristic: evangelism and mission. We want our theological training to fuel our prayer and worship – and our prayer and worship to inspire our theological training. We encourage students to be involved in leading the various community times of worship during their time at the College in order to share the gifts that God has given them, and to be an active part of a local church.

We are **a learning community that seeks excellence in all that we do**. We have a high standard of excellence in all our programmes, courses, conferences, summer schools and other events in order to provide the best training we can for everyone, in compliance with what is required of us by our validating body, the University of Manchester, and other bodies as appropriate. We have always had an open access policy – offering something for everyone regardless of academic background. We seek to balance the learning of the lecture room with learning through practical action and engagement in mission opportunities.

We are **a community of grace that builds one another up in Christ**. We believe that our distinctive community is created when we care for one another, share together in worship, discipleship and fellowship, prepare for and engage in mission, and learn together.

A shared responsibility

Our aim is to share the Gospel with grace as well as truth, respectful of all others, and with a particular concern for the vulnerable in our society. This approach is characteristic of our ethos and the nature of the community we seek to create. All staff employed by the College, and any visiting speakers, whether academic or non-academic, full time or part time, Christian or not, are required to support this ethos.

As a college we are aware that there are those who, holding passionate beliefs of different kinds, seek to impose their beliefs on others and of the harm that this can cause. Groups and individuals who wish to use our facilities for their own events and conferences are required to respect our ethos and to act and speak in accordance with its underlying commitment of respect for all others.