



## what is a crucible?

**A melting pot,**  
where  
antiquated  
structures are  
made pliable  
and reshaped.

**A place where**  
different cultures or  
styles can mix  
together and produce  
something new.

**A time when powerful**  
political, social,  
intellectual or economic  
forces converge.

## who is the Course for?

Christians across western culture are facing profound challenges and fresh opportunities. The long era of 'Christendom' is coming to an end. We now live in a plural society, with multiple religious options alongside the prevailing secular assumptions, in which Christianity has lost its position of dominance and privilege and churches are on the margins of society. Although we seem to be declining in numbers and influence, this context offers many new possibilities – if we have the courage and imagination to grasp them.

## Crucible is for Christians with courage and imagination, who suspect that:

We need to operate as cross-cultural missionaries because we live in a cross-cultural mission context.

We need to think creatively about incarnating the gospel and planting new kinds of churches in emerging and diverse cultures.

We need to recover the biblical vision of shalom and reflect on how we live as followers of Jesus in light of this all-embracing vision.

We need to pay particular attention to the margins, because we serve the God who frequently does new things there:

- On the margins of society among the poor and disenfranchised.
- At the margins of culture, where creative thinking explores new possibilities.
- On the margins of the familiar, the spaces all around us, neglected or ignored, but full of potential.

## what is taught?

### STREAM 1

**After Christendom** investigates the many opportunities, as well as the challenges, that the end of imperial Christianity presents.

**On the Edge** examines the dynamics of mission and ministry in marginal urban and rural communities and offers biblical and practical insights.

**Church Unplugged** presents the challenge of pioneering creative and contextual forms of Christian community and explores the processes involved.

### STREAM 2

**Restoring Hope** explores how, in light of God's mission to bring shalom (peace) to all creation, we can live towards that hope and create communities of peace.

**Becoming Human** probes the dynamics of discipleship and asks how we can become more fully human as followers of the Son of Man.

**Jesus Unplugged** imagines how we might re-tell the story of Jesus today in ways that connect with contemporary cultures.

## Trainers

The course will be taught by a team of experienced trainers, mainly drawn from the sponsoring agencies, all of whom will have practical experience and the ability to reflect theologically on the implications of mission in a changing culture. The core team and planning group consists of Alexandra Ellish, Simon Jay, Sara & Barney Barron, Stuart Murray Williams, Simon Mattholie and Carmel Murphy-Elliott.

## Crucible Online

The course has run in various locations since 2005. However, after taking the course online during the period of pandemic restrictions, we have decided to continue online for the coming year, although we will augment the course with other learning opportunities (details on the website). Each module will involve six evenings once a week with a mid-module break.

## Partners

Crucible is run by  
**Urban Expression** ([urbanexpression.org.uk](http://urbanexpression.org.uk))  
and  
**Incarnate Network** ([incarnate-network.eu](http://incarnate-network.eu))  
and  
**Rural Ministries** ([ruralministries.org.uk](http://ruralministries.org.uk)).

