

Ministry Training and Spiritual Development Programme

The Cherry Tree Pathway

2025 – 2027



Class of 2024

A training that goes deeper...

“It’s clear that many of us see the cracks in the system and society and are determined not just to paper them over, but to dig deeper and understand the roots of these issues within ourselves and society. There are no easy answers and we may have different perspectives on what the causes and solutions are.

Displays of togetherness and connection are what many of us need now more than ever. Loneliness and orchestrated separation are prevalent worldwide.

But let’s be clear: togetherness isn’t about agreement, sameness or the saccharine sweetness of an easily said ‘love and light’. It’s not about avoiding tough conversations or pretending everything is perfect. True togetherness allows for differences, embraces the messy, and acknowledges the real challenges we face. It’s about standing side by side, even when we don’t see eye to eye.”

— Monica Douglas, OneSpirit Faculty

Ordination and Ministry

Ordination is not the end of the path, it's the beginning. After two years of deep personal development, spiritual exploration, and guided practice, you'll be invited to step into ministry in a way that reflects your heart, your values, and your unique gifts. You'll be ordained as an interfaith minister: someone who serves from love, listens deeply, and honours the sacred in all people, paths, and places.

Ministry is a unique expression of who you are in the world, it is a way of being and a way of doing. Our training is designed to help you shape your own vision of ministry, however this may look for you.

We have trained over 1000 individuals, all of whom are of service in diverse and meaningful ways. As we approach our 30th year as an organisation, this work is more urgent than ever. Our earth is in deep need of open-hearted individuals committed to a life of compassion. Of individuals who can meet others in a space grounded in love, regardless of difference; as our tutor Monica put it, to stand 'side by side, even when we don't see eye to eye.' We're living through times of deep division and uncertainty with so many of us feeling disconnected. We're witnessing conflict and crisis on a global scale, while also facing quiet struggles in our own communities and relationships.

In the face of so much uncertainty and disconnect, we are left wondering if one person can really make a difference. This is exactly when we are called to remember who we are. To become the kind of presence the world longs for; to lead with empathy, to move through the world with compassion as our compass, and to keep showing up, even when it's hard, with open hearts. This is the heart of ministry.

You are here now because you want to be of service to the world, and we are here to journey with you as you explore what this looks like for you.



The Cherry Tree Pathway

Building on the success of our Aspen and Birch Pathways, the Cherry Tree Pathway reflects our commitment to evolving ministry training. As the world continues to change, we thoughtfully adapt our approach each year to ensure our training remains relevant, impactful, and aligned with the needs of each new group of students.

Our training is guided by a carefully designed curriculum that is both structured and spacious. It offers a clear, intentional path while allowing room for deep self-reflection and personal growth. Every element is shaped to cultivate authentic relationship — with yourself, with your tutors and peers, and with the sacred, however you understand it. Learning here is relational, experiential, and alive. You'll be invited to meet the world more deeply, not by turning away from it but by stepping into it with greater compassion, presence, and openness.

This two-year journey will be delivered through a blended approach; weaving together live weekly classes – both as a whole class and in small groups – alongside resources in our bespoke online classroom, and a dedicated student communications platform, all with the intention of nurturing your development. We adopt a flipped learning approach, meaning your independent study directly impacts and shapes the work that happens in the classroom.

“Interfaith is not a religion. It walks among the religions. Interfaith begins when we create a bridge between one set of beliefs and traditions and another... An Interfaith Minister ideally is one who turns towards all, regardless of their beliefs or practices, with an open heart and mind, offering them a mirror to their own wholeness and their own divinity.”

— Susanna Stefanachi Macomb, OneSpirit Minister

Curriculum Themes

Our curriculum is deeply experiential, drawing on your own rich and diverse life experiences, and using this to shape explorations in class. This leads to opportunities for deep self-reflection, opens us up to hearing diverse perspectives and allows us to continually meet others with love and respect. The world is our classroom, and in order for each of us to be in sacred service, however, this may look for you, our work must remain connected to the world in which we live. The Cherry Tree Pathway is grounded in five key themes that shape each year of the training.



Deep Empathic Listening

Together we explore what it really means to be present with another being, and deeply listen to them. We draw on the BACP framework to delve into spiritual accompaniment.



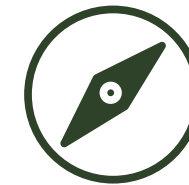
Loving Relationship

The training explores our capacity for coming into loving relationship with everyone we meet. We use principles of nonviolent communication to support us in our relationships.



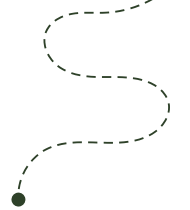
Birth and Death Ceremonies

Through the key thresholds of life, we weave in ceremonial work. From exploring other traditions, elements of ceremony, to creating and holding our own ceremonies.



Structures and Guides

We draw on a range of different models for self reflection, such as Kilmann's conflict resolution model, and Stendahl's three rules for interfaith engagement.



Honouring Sacred Journeys

Our training is a journey to Ordination; to your ministry. We honour your individual path, and the individual expression of ministry. We see ministry as a way of being and doing.

Year One Overview

October – November

The first gateway focuses on community building and themes of deep listening.

January

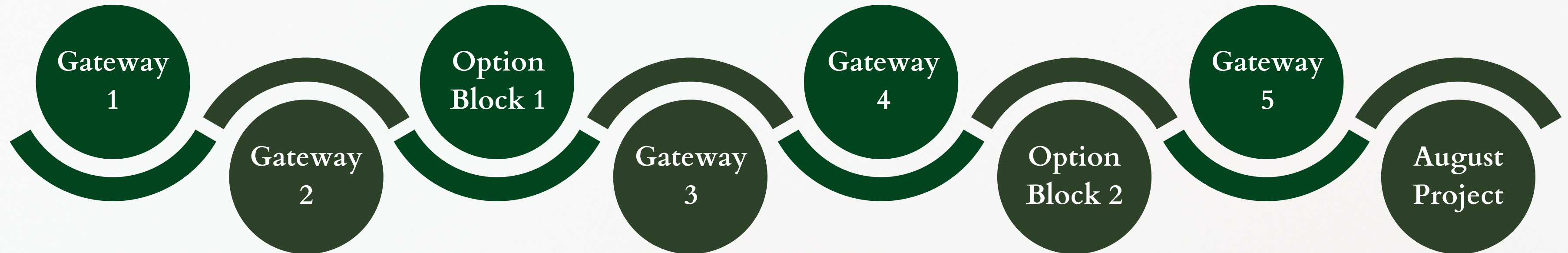
Our first optional module block, here you can deepen into an area of interest.

March – April

Gateway 4 deepens into further models of self reflection.

June – July

The final whole class gateway of the year acts as a consolidation of your first year.



November –
December

Gateway 2 explores the question ‘*what is loving relationship?*’ and introduces our first model of self reflection.

February – March

The third gateway deepens into ceremony work, exploring ceremonies of birth.

May

Our second optional module block, allowing for a continued exploration into an area of interest.

August

Over August, you will carry out a self-directed project focusing on deep listening.

Webinar Schedule

The induction period will include a series of independent tasks to help you prepare for starting the training. Everyone will attend an induction webinar on **Wednesday 1 October 2025, 6:00–7:30pm UK time**. You will then move into a weekly webinar rhythm, weaving together whole class and small group sessions. All class webinars run **6:00–9:00pm UK time**.

Gateway 1

Wednesday 8 October 2025
Wednesday 15 October 2025
Wednesday 22 October 2025
Wednesday 29 October 2025
Wednesday 5 November 2025

Gateway 2

Wednesday 19 November 2025
Wednesday 26 November 2025
Wednesday 3 December 2025
Wednesday 10 December 2025
Wednesday 17 December 2025

Option Block 1

Over the month of January, you will choose an optional module to deepen into a particular area of interest.

Gateway 3

Wednesday 18 February 2026
Wednesday 25 February 2026
Wednesday 4 March 2026
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Wednesday 18 March 2026

Gateway 4

Wednesday 8 April 2026
Wednesday 15 April 2026
Wednesday 22 April 2026
Wednesday 29 April 2026
Wednesday 6 May 2026

Option Block 2

Over the month of May, you will choose an optional module to deepen into a particular area of interest.

Gateway 5

Wednesday 10 June 2026
Wednesday 17 June 2026
Wednesday 24 June 2026
Wednesday 1 July 2026
Wednesday 8 July 2026

August Project

At the end of year 1, there will be a break in weekly webinars, and you will be carrying out a self directed learning project.

We ask that you have one supervision over the break, between year 1 and year 2.

Optional Modules

This year we are launching an optional module programme as part of our Ministry Training programme. This new initiative will allow you to deepen into certain areas of the training that you are interested in, as well as enable you to connect with OneSpirit participants across our classes, and our Minister community too.

These modules will offer both online and in-person options for you to choose from depending on your own preferences. They will be delivered by our faculty team, as well through a range of associate tutors that work along side us.

The months of January and May each year will be a dedicated option block month allowing you to fully immerse yourself in your module of choice. You can expect to see modules on creativity and spirituality, ceremony work, spiritual accompaniment, and chaplaincy work to name a few.



Online Options

Keeping our training as accessible as possible, we will be offering online only modules, delivered through live webinars.



Day Workshop Options

Our in-person day workshops will take place around the UK. This option will not include any accommodation.



Residential Retreat Options

Our in-person retreats will run across a Friday to Sunday and will include accommodation and catering.

**Our online modules are included in the course fee. In-person options will come at an additional cost.*

Your Development



Class Webinars

Throughout the two years, you will attend online live webinars. These will be a mix of whole class and small group sessions. These are deeply experiential in nature and you will be expected to be actively engaged in these sessions.



Learning Goals

At the start of the year, you will have a 1-1 meeting with a tutor to identify a learning goal that will support your journey to Ordination. This will then form the basis of further touch points throughout the year to support your self reflective practice.



Supervision Sessions

For each gateway, you will receive a supervision session from one of our accredited supervisors. This will give you a structured space to reflect on your experience of the training. Supervision is an invaluable tool in deepening your ministry.



Assignments and Self Study

Each gateway will be underpinned by an assignment designed to deepen your self reflective practice. Our bespoke online classroom will support your independent study, offering a range of curated resources to guide your study.



Compassionate Communication

Explore how you relate to others and show up in the world. It's not just about tools, but about becoming someone who meets others with empathy, even in moments of tension. We draw on models like compassionate and nonviolent communication to deepen self-reflection.

Community and Support

Online Classroom

Access to a range of curated resources to support your study.



Your Learning Journal

A personal online learning journal acting as a home to your self reflection.



Communications Platform

All students have access to an online communications space to keep in contact with all Cherry Tree students and staff.



The Student Forest

A cross-class online forum to stay connected with our whole student community.



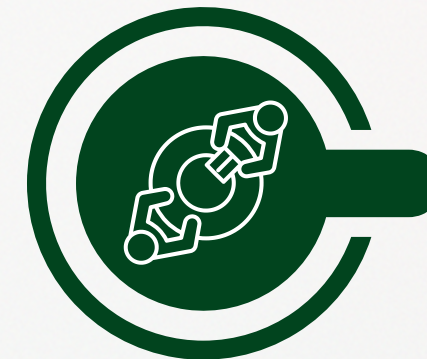
Supervision

Regular 1-1 supervision to deepen your self reflective practice.



Minister Connections

Opportunity to connect with OneSpirit Ministers through our optional modules.



Tutor Support

Continued tutor support and guidance throughout the two year training.



Peer Support

Small group spaces allow for peer to peer support.

Investment

As an educational charity, we do all we can to keep our fees as low as possible whilst offering an exceptional curriculum held by an experienced and highly skilled Faculty. To make our training more accessible, we offer a range of payment options, including an extended payment plan to allow you to spread payments over 60 months.

Early Bird Offer: Save £500 if you complete enrolment by 1st August 2025.

Completing enrolment means signing and returning your Training Agreement to us and having a payment plan set up by 1st August. If you want to take advantage of the early bird offer, please make sure that you have submitted your application by the start of July at the latest to avoid disappointment. This allows time for us to process your application and gather your references/contact your referees.

If you would like to discuss our fees in more detail, email Danielle at: danielle.wilson@osif.org.uk.

Early Bird Offer - complete enrolment before 1 August and save £500		
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
2 instalments of	20 instalments of	60 instalments of
£3,357	£335.70	£121.90
Total cost of £6,714	Total cost of £6,714	Total cost of £7,314

Fees from 1st August 2025		
Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
2 instalments of	20 instalments of	60 instalments of
£3,607	£360.70	£130.24
Total cost of £7,214	Total cost of £7,214	Total cost of £7,814

Supervision

A key part of your training and ministry is regular supervision with an accredited supervisor. We are proud to have our own body of trained accredited supervisors working with our student and minister communities. Supervision fosters a culture of ongoing learning and development in your ministry and plays an essential role in your reflective practice. We ask all our students to have regular supervision throughout their training. This is not included in our fee structure as we feel this gives you the freedom to work with a supervisor from our accredited body that you feel most drawn to and allows you to work within your own budget.

What are the benefits for being in regular supervision?

Supervision supports self-reflective practice by creating a safe and structured environment where you can explore the experiences, challenges, and thoughts that arise for you in the training. It supports a deeper self-awareness by offering feedback, alternative perspectives, and helping you to identify patterns in your work. By regularly reflecting on your practice with a supervisor, you have the opportunity to gain greater clarity about your strengths, areas for development, and recurring patterns in your work; supporting you in building a more intentional practice. Supervision presents an opportunity for a continuous process of introspection, learning, and growth.

Supervision creates a non-judgmental, supportive environment allowing you to openly explore your strengths, challenges, and responses to your experience with the training. This safe space encourages you to reflect deeply not only on your work, but also on your personal feelings, and reactions, which you may not have the time to explore on your own.

Supervision Requirements

We ask that our students receive a minimum of 5 x 1-1 supervision sessions each year with a member of our accredited supervisors. We anticipate that this would be an additional £200 – £400 per year.

Additional Support

Our supervisors often offer a sliding scale of fees for individuals needing any financial support. Alongside this, OneSpirit are able to offer varying support for any student that might need it.

“My experience of supervision as a client has been transformational, educational, at times thrilling and mind and heart-opening, challenging, and simply game-changing, for my own work practice and self and professional development”

– Nicola Coombe, Minister & Supervisor

Your Faculty Team

The Cherry Tree Pathway will be supported by a core faculty team experienced in delivering our Ministry training. Alongside this core team, we bring in associate tutors experienced in particular areas to support our curriculum delivery. You can read more about your faculty team on our website at the link here: [Meet the Cherry Tree Tutor Team](#).



Annie Heppenstall
Core Tutor

“She is a great role model. I’ve never felt so safe before... What a gift!” – Hara



Sarah MacDonald
Group Tutor

“She connects us to nature and our bodies... gentle and loving in her approach.” – Jane



Monica Douglas
Group Tutor

“An extraordinary tutor with powerful creativity and deep connection.” – Jennifer

Are You Ready?

Join Our Introductory Sessions

The world is calling for more open-hearted individuals, more compassionate individuals, more people who can serve with love. If you feel the stirrings of something deeper and have been searching for a way to serve, we invite you to take the next step. We're here to journey with you every step of the way, and support you as you explore this calling.

Our introductory sessions are the perfect place to learn more about the programme, and get a feel for our approach. Explore the dates we have available and book onto as many sessions as you're drawn to here [OneSpirit Intro Days & Taster Sessions](#). They're totally free and come with no expectations!

Book a 1-1 Call

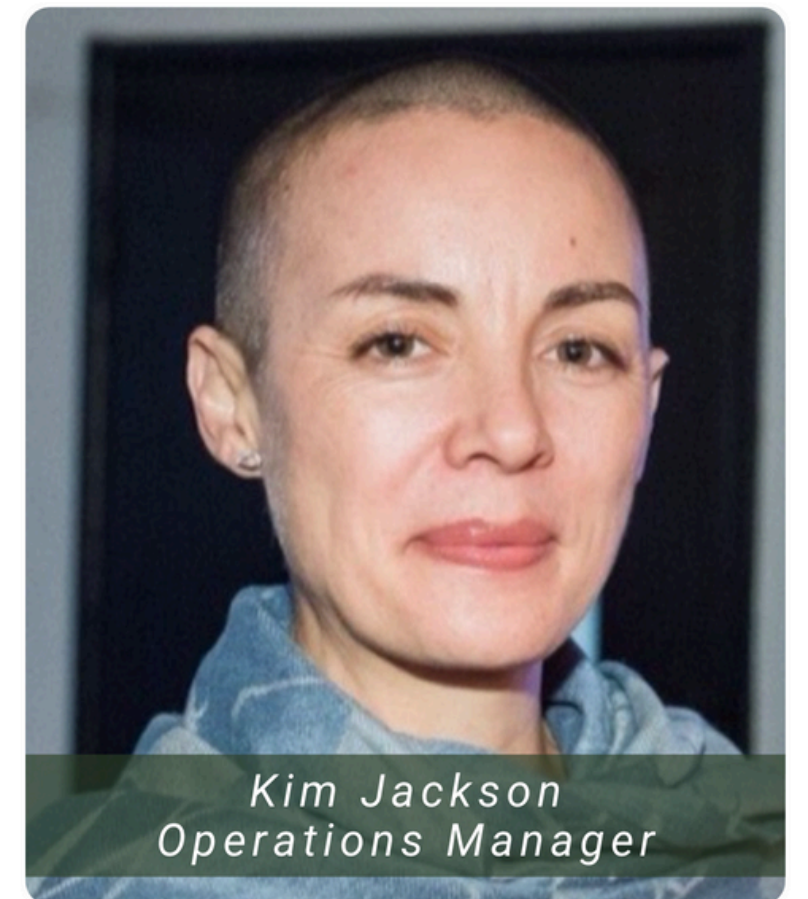
We know that taking that next step can feel like a huge leap. If you would simply like some space to explore this, or ask any questions, please book a 1-1 Zoom call with us, we'd love to meet you!

You can explore Maddy's availability and book a time here:

- [Link: Maddy's 1-1 Booking Page](#).

You can explore Kim's availability and book a time here:

- [Link: Kim's 1-1 Booking Page](#).



Apply Now

As soon as you're ready, submit your application! You can find the application form here: [Apply Here!](#) You'll need two character references, so have their details ready and let them know about your application.

We'll be busy processing your application and reaching out to your references. As soon as these have been received, you'll get an email from us confirming your progress, and inviting you to sign your Training Agreement.

Read through all the information on the Cherry Tree Pathway in this information pack and on [our website here](#).

Attend an Intro Day! This is a great opportunity to meet others interested in the Cherry Tree Pathway, as well as our tutors, current students and ministers. It's also the perfect time to ask any questions you have.

As soon as you sign and return your training agreement and set up your chosen payment plan, your place on the Cherry Tree Pathway will be confirmed!

Now, more than ever, the world needs voices of understanding, bridge-building, and deep listening.

In times of uncertainty and division, the work of interfaith ministry isn't just meaningful, it's essential. It's about showing up with love, courage, and presence in a world longing for connection and healing.

Interfaith ministry invites us into deeper relationship, with ourselves, with others, and with something greater. It asks us to lead with compassion, to listen with care, and to be present in the moments that matter.

This path isn't about having all the answers — it's about choosing to begin.

When you're ready, we're here.

 [Click here to begin your application.](#)

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

— Mary Oliver