



**PRESS INFORMATION**  
**For immediate release**

20 May 2013

## **Wanted: New Art for New Rooms**

### **Sarum Calls to Artists For Finishing Touch in Refurbished Wing**

Sarum College is celebrating the launch of its newly refurbished and created bedrooms by offering local artists and photographers a special way to showcase their talent. The appeal for artwork proposals kicks off on May 22nd.

"Sarum College already offers visitors to Salisbury an unforgettable experience: comfortable and modern accommodation in historic buildings from which you can walk straight out of the front door into the most magnificent Cathedral Close in England," says Christine Nielsen-Craig, director of development and marketing. "This scheme adds the finishing touch: we're looking for original art to make visitor stays that much more inspiring and special."

Sarum College now has 40 contemporary, en-suite bedrooms thanks to the refurbishment of a wing designed by the Victorian architect William Butterfield. All the new rooms are simply decorated; none have a television.

With more than 10,000 guests a year coming from all over the world for residential courses, conferences and meetings – or simply to use the College’s B&B facilities - artists will be able to reach a wide audience.

"Art forms part of the education programme at Sarum College and is an integral feature of the environment through our regular exhibitions and the artworks we already have on long-term loan. Sarum has been part of the arts community for a number of years now and this initiative extends that engagement further," says Canon Keith Lamdin, principal of Sarum College.

"Many of our visitors come on a spiritual journey of some kind – others come simply for a lovely place to stay. Through art, we see and look a bit differently at the world, and for some this a path to reflection and contemplation. So we hope all our guests, whatever their reason for visiting, will feel inspired by an original work of art, one which they can even buy to take home."

The first artwork is a photograph of the High Street gate entrance to the Close by freelance photographer Ash Mills. All contributions accepted to the scheme will be fully credited, publicised through our website ([www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)) and for sale. All proceeds go directly to the artist.

The launch includes a special promotion for first-time guests to Sarum College: from May 23rd, the first five people to book a stay of two nights or more will receive a free print of a photograph of the Cathedral Close entrance by Ash Mills. A framed print will be the first artwork in the scheme to be hung in one of the new rooms of refurbished Butterfield Wing.

Artists wishing to submit a proposal for to Sarum's art scheme should contact Christine Nielsen-Craig by email: [cnc@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:cnc@sarum.ac.uk)

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## Photographs (2)

**1) Ash Mills Photograph at Sarum College:** Freelance photographer Ash Mills hangs his framed photograph in one of the 22 new single bedrooms in the refurbished Butterfield Wing. The photograph is the first submission in Sarum's art scheme to appeal to local artists for art works to display in the new bedrooms.

**2) Sarum College in Spring:** Sarum is just opposite North Walk in Salisbury's Cathedral Close. Credit: Peter Langdown

### Notes for editors

#### Contact

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**Sarum College** is an independent ecumenical centre for Christian study and research based at 19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EE. Sarum College receives no regular funding from churches or other public bodies, and is a registered charity (no. 309501). The college website address is: [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

An estimated 10,000 people of all faiths and none visit Sarum College each year. The College offers a non-denominational space for spiritual refreshment - no matter what form this takes, whether it's through tourism, learning or guided reflection. Space for this sort of experience is especially valuable given our media-saturated world and the difficult economic climate. By the end of this year, at least two retreat houses will have closed: Offa House in Coventry (March 2013) and Glenfall House in Cheltenham (July 2013). Urchfont Manor, the local Wiltshire Council-owned education and conference venue, was sold in March and it looks likely that it will be restored as a private home.

**(Potted) history of 19 The Close:** Walter Kerr Hamilton, then-Bishop of Salisbury, established the Theological College at this site in 1860. In 1971, following a merger, it became Salisbury and Wells Theological College. This closed in 1994 and the following year Sarum College was established to provide non-denominational theological education.

Details at [www.sarum.ac.uk/college-community/a-brief-history](http://www.sarum.ac.uk/college-community/a-brief-history)

**Butterfield Refurbishment Celebration:** Sarum marks the completion of the works with a official opening of the refurbished wing by the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, on May 22, 2013. More than 100 guests will mark the achievement and have the opportunity to tour the building and see the new rooms.

**Ash Mills Photography:** Ash Mills is a freelance photographer and official photographer at Salisbury Cathedral. Visit [www.ashmills.com](http://www.ashmills.com) for details.

**In his book Notes from a Small Island, Bill Bryson writes:** "There is no doubt in my mind that Salisbury Cathedral is the single most beautiful structure in England and the Close around it the most beautiful space".