

Foundations in Christian Ministry course at SWMTC for the Exeter Diocese

- Course description -
2018-19



The **aims** of the Foundations in Christian Ministry course are:

- to deepen your Christian discipleship
- to explore and help form your gifts for ministry
- to help you discern God's call for the next step in your ministry
- and to provide you with a foundation for further training in lay ministry

The course's **objectives** -

by the end of the course you should:

- have been introduced to the major elements of Biblical studies and Christian doctrine (at a level just short of the first stage of a degree)
- have encountered a range of forms of prayer and expressions of Christian spirituality
- understand the main principles of pastoral care
- be equipped with skills to aid your involvement in God's ministry and mission
- have developed basic skills of personal journaling and reflection
- have explored your vocation, with guidance, and talked with a range of others

The course **consists** of:

Study days

- These provide the core element of the course.
- They run from 10am to 4.30pm.
- Each involves a mix of informal lectures and group discussions on the Bible, Theology, Spirituality and Pastoral Care, set within a context of worship, plus time to socialise.
- The dates are: Sep 8th, Sep 29th, Nov 17th, Jan 12th, Mar 9th, May 18th, and Jun 15th
- The Sept 8th and January days will be at Marjon College in Plymouth. The others will be in Exeter. (Detailed venue information will be provided.)
- The Study Days share venues with the Readers in Training for their study days (two year-groups), and when at Marjon with the Ordinands. Worship will be jointly with these groups (except at Marjon), as will some break-times.
- Detailed timetables will be provided.

Tutor groups

- On most Study Days you will spend a short time in small tutor groups. This will provide an opportunity to reflect on your experiences on the course with others, and on vocational questions.
- The tutors will be the course teaching staff. You will be allocated a tutor at the start of the course.

Journalling

- You will be encouraged to keep a personal journal of what you have learned and experienced through the course, and your reflections on this.
- This will be your own private record. However, you may wish to use this as a basis for reflections in your tutor group or with your local support person (see below).
- Guidance will be given at the start of the course.

Local discussion groups

- In both the Autumn and Spring terms you will be encouraged to take part in a small discussion group in your local parishes or nearby.
- These groups may be using a particular course (e.g. Pilgrim, Alpha), be a Bible study group, or be exploring a locally chosen topic, with typically around half-a-dozen sessions each term.
- In the Autumn term you would be a participating member of the group. In the Lent term you would be leading the group.
- The purpose of this is to help you link the content of the FiCM with your local context and to develop your ministry skills.
- Further guidance will be provided, but you will need to make the local arrangements.

Local support

- You are encouraged to discuss your experiences on the course at frequent intervals with either your incumbent or another experienced person in ministry in your parish.
- This will help your incumbent (or other) to support your learning, and to understand how best to encourage the growth of your local ministry as a result.
- You are also encouraged to keep your congregation(s) informed of what you doing, so that they too can feel involved and support you on the course.

Reading

- Suggested reading will be provided for the different subject areas of the course.
- Doing further reading will help deepen your learning beyond that covered on the Study Days, but it will be up to you how much you do. There are no written assignments.
- You will need to purchase your own books, but you may wish to approach your PCC for financial support. Some books are available in the SWMTC Library in Exeter.

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Teaching staff

The teaching team consists of:

Penny Doe

Laura Ford

Rev Chris Martin

Rev Paul Seaton-Burn

Other people will also contribute at different times, including the Diocese's Vocations Development Officer, Hannah Alderson. The course is overseen by the SWMTC Director of Lay Education, Rev David Carrington.