

Lifelong Learning: Journey in Faith (JiF)

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Taking the next step in your discipleship!

The East Midlands Regional Training Partnership (RTP) is made up of the Church of England dioceses of Derby, Leicester, Lincoln and Southwell and Nottingham, along with the regional Methodist and United Reform Churches. We work closely together to provide training for all ministries (ordination, Reader, Lay and Local preacher and other recognised and authorised lay ministry in our churches) as well as learning for discipleship such as ***Journey in Faith (JiF)***. JiF is the first part of the wide range of training the RTP offers, and you will be invited to explore further options as you go along.

The course is delivered locally in thirty week-night sessions of two hours.

Term 1: Exploring Faith - Sessions include an opportunity to consider our own faith journeys and an introduction to Theological Reflection.

Term 2: God's Call and Our Response - Sessions include an introduction to the Old Testament.

Term 3: Following Jesus - The Development of the Christian Faith from the New Testament to the Early Church Fathers.

Running through all 3 terms will be evenings entitled Ministry, Mission and Vocation, when we will consider how we discern our gifts, hear God's call and respond to it.

Being a Christian is to be a disciple - a follower of Jesus. Three important things to follow from this for the disciple:

1 - It's good to know Jesus better, to develop our own spirituality, and *Journey in Faith* offers you an opportunity to begin to explore your own spirituality, and also that of other Christians of other traditions, which we believe will enrich your own relationship with the Lord.

2 - It's good to be clear about one's sense of calling, to be able to distinguish the voice of Jesus amidst all the noise of the world around us and within us and *Journey in Faith* offers you the opportunity to explore God's calling and what it means for your life.

3 - It's good to be better informed and more confident about our own faith in a culture where the Christian story is being forgotten, and *Journey in Faith* offers you the opportunity to discover things you might never have dreamed of about the Christian faith in the company of other Christians and under the guidance of your tutors.

In the adventure which is our Christian discipleship it helps to have a clear idea of the way to go: *Journey in Faith* - join us now!

What is Journey in Faith?

Journey in Faith is a three term Christian discipleship course in 10 week terms from September to July. It's taught using a set of course materials, in small, local groups.

Who can join?

Anyone! You don't need any previous qualifications, just an eagerness to learn.

What does it cost?

In 2010 we are charging £120 for the whole course, and it may be that your local church or denomination will be able to help with this expense.

Where does it happen?

Depending on student numbers and availability of tutors, we will organise local tutorial groups throughout the region. There will be some teaching days (one or two per term) organised in each county.

What happens next?

If God is calling you to some form of recognised, licensed or ordained ministry then Journey of Faith will be a starting point for the appropriate training course. This will be explained as we go along.

How do I join?

Complete the booking form (attachment at the bottom of the page) and return it to the relevant address.

Folders of study material will be provided.

Written work (or equivalent) is not obligatory but there will be the option of completing one small project or essay each term. For those wanting to progress to further study we will ask for at least one written assignment in the course of the year.

Please see the JiF leaflet attachment at the bottom of this page for more details about the course and booking form.

If you have any queries please contact Amy Rees on 01332 388670 or amy.rees@derby.anglican.org

Journey in Faith (JiF)

Synopsis of the new regional discipleship course

Please refer to the JiF leaflet for more information and a booking form.

The course is delivered locally in thirty week-night sessions of two hours. Students will be given a copy of the teaching material. This consists of material to prepare for the group session, along with a bibliography for each term's module.

Running through all 3 terms will be evenings entitled Ministry, Mission and Vocation, when we will consider how we discern our gifts, hearing God's call and making our response to God.

Written work (or equivalent) is not obligatory but there will be the option of completing one small project or essay each term. For those wanting to progress to further study we will ask for at least one essay in the course of the year.

Term 1: Exploring Faith

Sessions include an opportunity to consider our own faith journeys and an introduction to Theological Reflection.

The Module begins with a session each on Discipleship, Faith and Spirituality. Then we look at Theological Reflection with a specific view to how it can resource both our personal discipleship and the church's ministry, followed by how God works in us and the world. The term ends with a Saturday workshop on collaborative ministry.

Term 2: God's Call and Our Response

The second term begins by introducing the study of the Bible, its context and development and an overview of God's dealings with his people in its pages, before going on to explore Christian ministry in today's world. The religious life and worship of the Old Testament is a springboard to consider God's calling in today's church to mission in today's world and how we may test God's call on our lives.

Term 3: The Development of Christian Doctrine

In the final term we explore the New Testament, and also how the world of the Jesus and the first disciples, the world of the New Testament became the church we can see in historical records – how the urgent mission of the Kingdom in Galilee became the doctrine of the Church in the sub-apostolic age.

We begin with a look at the world of the New Testament and consider how we bridge the gulf from their world to ours. We look briefly at Paul and how he began the first steps out into the wider world of the Græco-Roman Empire, and how the church leaders and missionaries known as the Apologists took this further, and changed the church (and the world!) forever. Then the final sessions take a look at the central statements of the Apostle's Creed: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ; For our sake he was crucified; On the third day he rose again; We believe in the Holy Spirit. And, finally: We worship one God in Trinity

Throughout the course there are opportunities to test God's leading and God's calling. In the second term there will be a Selection Day for those considering a call to public ministry as Authorised Lay Ministers, Readers or priests. There is a leaflet called "What happens after JiF?" which outlines some of the options. You may request one by calling 01332 388670 or emailing Amy.Rees@derby.anglican.org