



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
BIRMINGHAM



# LEARNING for DISCIPLESHIP

Programme for  
2018 – 2019



Welcome to

**LEARNING** for  
**DISCIPLESHIP**

2018 – 2019

We are delighted to be able to offer an accessible programme of serious study in an attractive and flexible format. In '**LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP**' we aim to offer a wide range of courses to stretch people and enable development over a period of time as different topics are followed.

The venue for the '**LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP**' modules is 1 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ, where the offices and training rooms for the Church of England, Birmingham are based. This venue is easily accessible by public transport and there are car parking facilities close by. (See the map at the back of this booklet.)

## ATTENDANCE

You can take just a single module if you wish, or you can choose something each term to build up your own programme of study, and you choose if you wish to do the assessed work.

## SAMPLING ACADEMIC STUDY

It is possible to do assessed work for most modules. Those who wish to complete the assessed work (usually one essay totalling 2000 words) can pay an extra charge and have their work assessed by their tutor.

## THE '*LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP*' AWARD

Successful completion of assessed work to a suitable standard for three modules makes up the '*LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP*' award. Successful students will be presented with a Certificate signed by the Bishop of Birmingham.

## WHEN AND WHERE DO MODULES TAKE PLACE?

For most modules there are 9 or 10 weekly classes of 2 hours starting in September, January or May. Some classes are in the evenings and some in the daytime.

All modules take place at 1 Colmore Row which is next to Snow Hill train station and easy to get to by public transport.

## WHO IS 'LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP' FOR?

The '*LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP*' programme is for anyone who wishes to try a more formal study course or looking for development or refreshment. (You might already have done the Anglican 3D Course or be a participant in the Methodist programme 'A Methodist course in Discipleship,' although neither are a requirement). It is also helpful for Methodist Local Preachers and Anglican Readers and others in ministry who are looking opportunities to expand their knowledge. For anyone, this is an opportunity to discover new gifts and interests, to explore new directions, to increase your education and perhaps prepare for further studies.

This is a challenging programme, at a level similar to a first year university course, but you do not need any special previous knowledge to join. The tutors are specialists in their own subjects, who are also experienced in helping adult students to learn. The only requirement when you start a module is that you should be serious about following it through to the end of the term.

A new student on this programme said recently: 'It has been inspiring and wonderfully enabling. I have really enjoyed all my modules. The approach of the tutors was so affirming and there has been so much encouragement to do my best. I've seen myself grow in my knowledge of scripture, and the ability to express myself in discussion and the essays'.

## WHAT DOES IT COST?

The cost to participants for this year is £80 per module, payable at least 4 weeks before the module starts. If you wish to take the assessed work, this will be an extra £15 per module. You may need to buy one or two books each term, and for most of the modules, there will also be a small library of books for borrowing.

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## AUTUMN 2018

### 1. **HEBREW STAGE THREE** - assessed work is not possible for this module

Thursdays 10.30am – 12.30pm with a coffee break

Course dates: 4th October – 13th December 2018 (excluding 1 Nov)

Tutor: Alison Thorne

All who have done some Hebrew and are familiar with the basics are welcome to join this course. We shall be reading the Joseph Stories in Genesis. You will be given the text and a lexicon and asked to prepare a few verses which we shall then read together at the following lesson. There will be discussion of the narrative as well as the language.

### 2. **HEAVENLY ASCENT IN EARLY CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM**

Thursdays 2pm – 4pm with a coffee break

Course dates: 27 September – 6 December 2018 (excluding 8th Nov)

Tutor: Ann Conway-Jones

Come and discover the origins of Christian mystical theology. Explore 'the seeing that consists in not seeing' (Gregory of Nyssa), the state of mind 'resembling sapphire' (Evagrius of Pontus), and 'the brilliant darkness of a hidden silence' (Pseudo-Dionysius). The early Christian mystics we will be studying drew on deep roots in both Jewish and Greek traditions as they struggled for words with which to describe the indescribable. We will examine their dependence on Jewish apocalyptic and Platonic philosophy, and chart the ways in which imagery of ascent to the heavenly realms became used as a metaphor for the inner journey of the soul. We will consider the influence of scripture, and of the desert fathers' and mothers' experiments in ascetic Christian living. The emphasis throughout will be on reading primary sources together - translations will be provided. The course is open to all, but is particularly suitable for those who have already taken a module on the Bible.

## SPRING 2019

### 3. STUDIES IN A GOSPEL : LUKE

Mondays: 7.15 – 9.15pm with a coffee break

Course dates: 21 January – 8 April 2019 (excluding 11 & 18 February)

Tutor: Liz Howlett

This course is an introduction to the Gospel of Luke, the gospel followed in the Revised Common Lectionary for this year. Luke's gospel is a product of the first century Mediterranean world and we will begin to examine it in this context. This gospel contains many treasures, including its infancy narratives, and a number of unique parables. The relationship between Luke's gospel, the other gospels, and the Acts of the Apostles will be examined, as will some of its significant themes, such as the importance of the Holy Spirit, the place of women in the gospel, food, and Luke's intriguing portrayal of the Jewish Temple. Luke's attitude towards the poor will be explored, as will his distinctive portrayal of Jesus and the Passion narrative.

### 4. SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY

Tuesdays: 7.15pm – 9.15pm with a coffee break

Course dates: 29 January – 9 April 2019 (excluding 19 February)

Tutor: Julian Phillips

Scientific discoveries and technological development happen with ever increasing frequency, whether it is the discovery of the Higgs Boson or the vaguely frightening prospect of nanomachines. How do Christians relate to these discoveries and developments? Are they regarded as purely secular, having no impact on Christian life and no relevance to Christian theology? Is the scientific world totally separate from the worshipping community? Or do the two worlds interact? And, where is God in the scientific world?

This course will explore these and other questions by looking at some of the latest developments in science and technology and exploring what the Bible has to say that might be appropriate, that might inform Christian attitudes and that might shape a Christian response.

The course does not require any specialist or technical knowledge.

## SUMMER 2019

### 5. INTRODUCING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Wednesday evenings 7.15pm – 9.15pm with coffee break

Course dates: 1 May – 17 July 2019 (excluding 29 May and 12 June)

Tutor: Sam Gibson

This course will introduce the New Testament, both its writings and different ways of studying it. It will explore topics such as manuscripts, how the New Testament books were chosen, and the ancient world which formed it. There will be focused sessions on Jesus, Paul, the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation. Participants will be introduced to historical approaches to the NT, as well as newer ways of exploring texts with the church fathers, and from environmental and political perspectives. The aim is to provide a “toolkit” for fruitful reading of the New Testament, and a taste for possible further study.

There will be an optional visit to the Mingana collection at Birmingham University, which will be an opportunity to see some biblical manuscripts up close.

The course will broadly follow Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament: Abridged Edition*. (Yale, 2016). Copies of this book will be available for participants to borrow.

### 6. LITURGICAL LATIN – assessed work is not possible for this module

Thursday mornings 10am – 12noon with a coffee break

Course dates: 2 May – 11 July 2019 (excluding 30 May)

Tutor: Alison Thorne

This is a course for anyone who knows no Latin at all or who has forgotten all they once knew! We shall study the parts of the Mass often set to music - eg by Bach, Haydn, Mozart etc - as well as some other traditional Latin texts like Ave Maria. Alongside this, we shall look at some aspects of the development of the Eucharistic liturgy in relation to church history from earliest times to the present day.

## HOW TO ENROL FOR THESE COURSES

When you have decided which courses you wish to take, simply click on this link <http://www.cofe.io/LfD18-19>

or go to: Bookings and payments are now done online so ensure you have your debit or credit card ready. Should you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to contact the Training and Development team. Bookings will close two weeks before the course start date. You can book the courses you wish to attend in each term now, or you can come back and enrol for another course at a later time, provided there are still places.

## FEES

For each course the fee is £80.

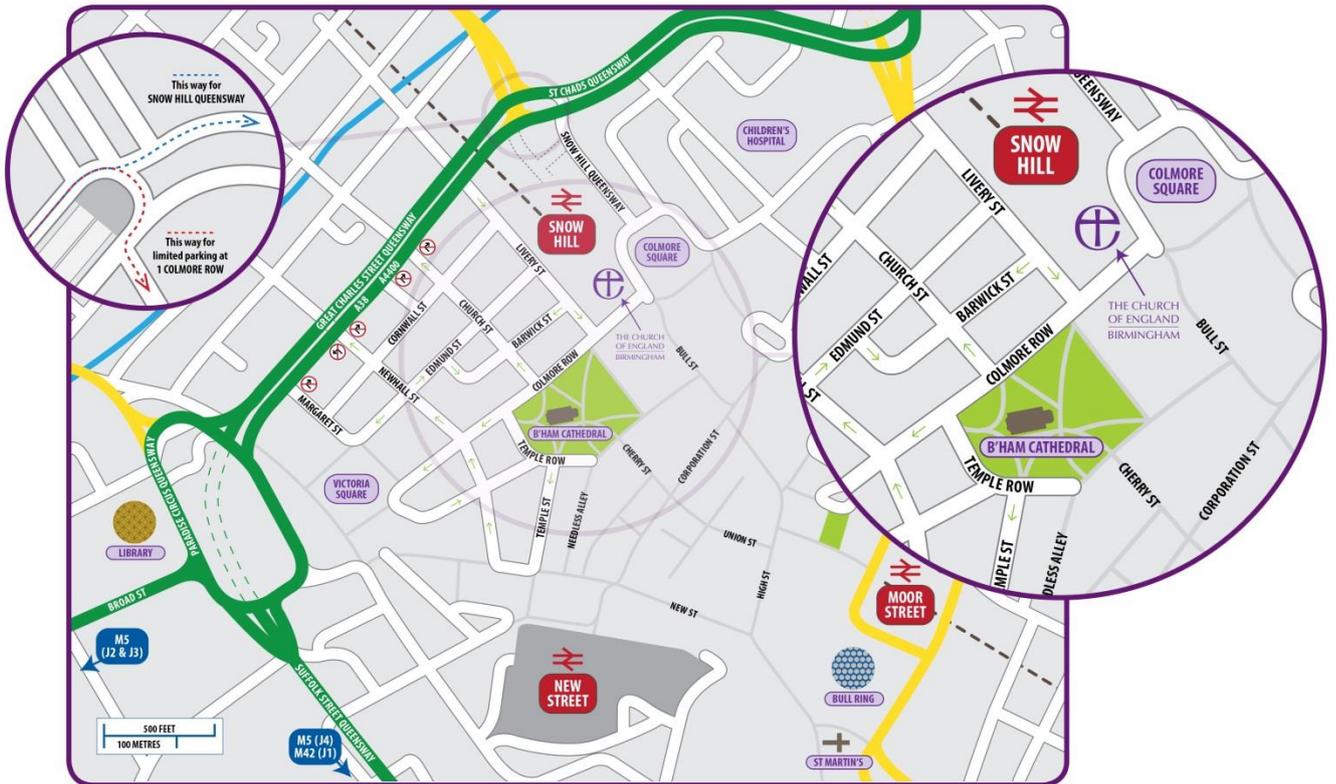
Should you have any questions please contact Marlyce Bryan:

 0121 426 0448 or e-mail [training@cofebirmingham.com](mailto:training@cofebirmingham.com)

## ASSESSMENT

To complete a course by having written work assessed by your tutor costs an extra £15 per course and you are able to pay this when booking for the course. It will also be possible to pay to have work assessed whilst on the module. **Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries about assessment.**

## LOCATION OF 1 Colmore Row, B3 2B





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