

# Living Faith

- growing faith
- deepening discipleship
- building ministry



The Church in Wales  
Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

## Is this for me?

This programme of learning is designed to enable you to grow in your faith, deepen your discipleship, and perhaps prepare for a particular role in the life of your church. It is based on experience and reflection. It is not academic, like a college course. It will help you to gain a greater understanding of God's relationship with you, his church and the world, and help you to grow and mature in Christian discipleship.

There are no age limitations, and no previous experience of formal learning is required.

You may be reading this leaflet because you know of the possibility of a learning group in your local church or area (church/parish/benefice/deanery etc.). However, if there is no group in prospect, don't despair! Please contact the Director of Ministry, because there may well be a learning group near to you which you can join.

## What are the module topics?

There are six modules:

- ❖ Spirituality and Prayer
- ❖ Exploring the Bible - New Testament
- ❖ Questions of Faith
- ❖ Reshaping Church
- ❖ Exploring the Bible - Old Testament
- ❖ Challenging Choices (Ethics)

## What will I be doing?

You will meet with your group week by week in a relaxed setting.

You will share insights from the course material and your group leader will enable you to learn together, and from each other.

There are ten group sessions in each module.

Up to three modules could be completed in a year. After each module there is the opportunity (NB only if you are interested in doing so!) to hand in a piece of written work, which may be helpful for those preparing for lay ministry – but there is absolutely no requirement to do this. Most learners will probably want to participate without completing assignments.

## What happens each week?

You will receive a Study Guide at the beginning of the module. There is a little preparatory work in the Study Guide for you to complete each week – reading and thinking, writing a sentence or two in a box, looking at pictures, maps etc.

The group meetings are an opportunity for you to discuss the thinking you have done at home. The course material is designed to be used flexibly, depending on the interests of each group. It is envisaged that sessions will last for 1.5 – 2 hours (with breaks, worship etc. as you like).

## What is the role of the group leader?

S/he is there to enable you to learn by preparing activities for the group meeting and facilitating a discussion of what you have thought about and prepared for the session. S/he is there to guide you, where possible help answer questions and encourage you in deepening your faith as you learn together.

## How much preparation time will I need?

It is helpful to set aside an hour or two between group meetings to prepare work in the Study Guide. Occasionally you will be asked to read a slightly longer section of a book or of the Bible, and there is often opportunity to make notes.

## What this thing about assignments?

It is entirely your decision whether or not you want to have a go at these (unless you are doing the course as part of training for a specific ministry).

If you do:

- ❖ Your group leader will assist you in choosing what to do.
- ❖ There are different kinds of assignments. If you choose a short essay, your group leader will help you plan it.
- ❖ For other assignments, your leader will discuss how you might express and present your thoughts.
- ❖ What you have written will be marked by your group leader who will give you feedback and then return your assignment to you.

## How much does the course cost?

You are asked to contribute £10 per module towards the costs of running the programme. The Diocese is subsidizing the cost of the programme, and your parish may consider contributing to your costs as well. If the cost is a serious problem for you, please speak in confidence to the Director of Ministry.

## So how do I join in?

You will need to complete the form at the end of this leaflet.

All the forms will be sent from your group to the Director of Ministry, together with a cheque for the total cost, payable to 'Swansea & Brecon DBF'.

If you don't yet have a group, you will need to contact the Director of Ministry direct (contact details overleaf).

## What happens next?

Arrangements will be made for your first group meeting where you will meet with the other participants and receive your Study Guide and Reader for the first module.

## And afterwards?

Those who have completed the *Living Faith* programme will be awarded a Letter of Commendation, and those who have completed the programme with assignments will be eligible for a Bishop's Diocesan Certificate. The possibility of some formal accreditation for this programme is being explored.

After you have completed the course, you may wish to discuss options for further learning or ministry with your parish priest.

## Thank you!

We are very grateful to the Diocese of Bath and Wells School of Formation and the Diocese of Monmouth for their generosity in allowing us to use and adapt their material. This was originally created with Trinity College Bristol, under the title 'Exploring Christianity'.

**Living Faith** is part of a *Growing Partnership in Christian Learning* for the dioceses of Bath and Wells, Exeter, Monmouth, Llandaff, Swansea & Brecon, Bristol and the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District.

## How do I find out more?

If you are interested in being part of a Living Faith group, the first thing to do is to speak to your parish priest.

For more details about Living Faith, please contact:

Revd Dr Ian Davies  
Director of Ministry  
The New Vicarage  
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Waunarlwydd  
Swansea  
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01792 874286

[iandavies12@hotmail.com](mailto:iandavies12@hotmail.com)

## Living Faith – learner's details

Title:

Christian name:

Surname:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Parish/Deanery: