

What is the format of the modules?

Each module consists of 12-hours teaching contact-time, normally spread either over six 2-hour weekday evening sessions (7.30-9.30pm) or two 6-hour weekend day sessions (10.00am-4.00pm). For evening courses there is at least a two-week break between sessions 3 and 4, while weekend courses typically have a four-week break between the two sessions.

What is the teaching style like?

The style of teaching and learning is highly participative, including discussion, role-plays and group-work, alongside more traditional presentations. This enables all those participating in a module to offer their experience to the group as a whole, and makes the modules suitable both for those who have a great deal of experience and those who have none. Participants learn from each other, by sharing experiences, as much as from the designated tutors. Background materials will be available through the 'Training' pages of the diocesan website (<http://www.coventry.anglican.org/ministry/training/>).

How does 'Action and Reflection' work?

The break between the first and second parts of each module enables participants to put into practice what they have been learning in the first part of the module. So, for example, in the *Leading Worship* module, participants are asked to reflect on an act of worship they have led themselves, or which they have watched someone else lead, and to report back on it in session 4. In *Jesus and the Gospels*, participants are asked to read one of the gospels in its entirety with a group of others in their home parish and to report back on their own and others' reactions to the portrait of Jesus within it. In *Everyday Theology*, participants are asked to look at a specific ethical issue which has a practical implication for them or their locality and report back on it to the group. After reporting back, participants will jointly take part in a question session based on 'action learning' principles.

Why are there three blocks of modules?

There are three strands to the Certificate, and anyone wishing to complete it will need to participate in at least one module from each of the three strands. The strands are as follows: Getting to Grips with the Bible; Bringing Life and Faith Together; Developing Practical Skills. Each of these has a slightly different approach, and the modules can be taken and

combined in any order. The reason for combining the three strands is to emphasise that there are different ways of being a disciple of Jesus: practical skills matter just as much as knowing the story of the Bible, while being able to connect faith and everyday life is essential for the future.

What are the Assignments like?

An assignment is required for each module completed from those registered for the Bishop's Certificate. These will typically take the form of a 1000-word reflection on an agreed topic, but other imaginative forms of reflection are also welcome. Those registered for the Certificate will also be required to keep a 'learning log', the contents of which are private but from which material may be used as the basis for reflection. An introduction to reflective learning is available on the Training pages of the diocesan website.

How do we host a Module?

Modules are provided on an 'on demand' basis. If a deanery decides it would like to sponsor one or more modules, it's necessary to identify a venue with disabled access, toilets and facilities for refreshments. It's also necessary to have a core group of at least six people from across the deanery who wish to attend the module. Once these preliminaries are in place, please contact Sarah Palmer at the Diocesan Offices email and phone at the end of this leaflet), who will make arrangements for tutors and dates. Not all the advertised modules will necessarily be available in any one year; it will depend on whether there is demand for them. Equally, if there is a module on a theme which you would particularly like to see added to the list and which you have a group of participants for, please let Sarah know so that we can see whether it might be added to the list.

Can I bring other people with me?

We want to make the Bishop's Certificate modules available to as wide a group as possible. Experience shows that individuals learn much more when they do so in a supportive group, and the fees structure has been designed with this in mind. Participating parishes will be invoiced for £20 for every group – of unlimited size – that attends. So one person attending a module will cost £20, and so will eight. In this way we hope to develop groups within parishes which are committed to developing as disciples.

How can someone register for the Certificate?

Individuals wishing to register for the award of the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship can do so by emailing Sarah Palmer. There is a £10 registration fee as well as the £20 fee for each module. Registration is valid for three years. Six modules must be attended and assignments for each of them submitted for the certificate to be awarded. It is possible to submit assignments retrospectively if you have attended a module before being registered for the Certificate and wish to sign up subsequently. Only assignments from those registered for the Certificate will be marked by tutors.

What are the links with Reader Training?

From June 2009 completion of the Certificate has been required before anyone begins training as a Reader. Exemptions will be available for those who have completed parallel courses, such as St John's Nottingham Extension studies, but this is a decision to be made by the Diocesan Reader Training Committee. It is anticipated that Reader training will be reduced from its present two years to approximately fourteen months in future. Chris Haines, Warden of Readers (email: chris@haines.uk.com) has more details.

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Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship



Some Frequently Asked Questions

The Bishop's Certificate offers a flexible and open access opportunity for lay people to develop as disciples of Jesus Christ. The model used is an 'action-reflection' one, which encourages individuals to reflect on what they already do, and (we hope!) enables them to find ways of doing it even better the next time.

The Certificate is about discipleship, and this is defined as a Christian's whole-life response to God. It is not intended to focus exclusively on the Church, but to provide resources and support for Christian life in the wider world. It is of course true that some of the modules, such as *Leading Worship* and *Learning to Preach*, have a church focus to them, but even there the aim is to encourage people to make connections between their day to day life and their worship and to bring the two together.

What level is the Certificate aimed at?

The level at which the Certificate modules are aimed is beyond Alpha or Emmaus Courses. It goes further than most parishes are able to do, which is why we encourage deaneries to sponsor individual modules. The Certificate does not train anyone for a specifically authorised ministry such as Reader, Pastoral Assistant or Evangelist. It is designed to provide a flexible foundation programme as a basis for these ministries, though it will also be helpful to those who do not feel called to these specific roles.