



# Paul's Life and Letters

The Apostle Paul is a controversial figure today, as he was in the early church. Whether you love him or loathe him, the first part of this module will introduce you to his life and some of the situations he found himself in, using the book of Acts as a guide. The second part will give you the opportunity to get to grips with some of Paul's letters and to ask what he might have said about some of the issues that face the church today.

The style of the module is highly participative, including discussion, role-plays, group work and video-clips, alongside more traditional presentation. The module is spread over two Saturdays. There is a break of a few weeks between the Saturdays to allow you to do guided reading of some of Paul's letters.

You don't need a lot of Bible knowledge to take part in this module, though even if you have a lifetime's experience of reading Paul's letters we hope you will find some fresh approaches here as well as much to share with others. Before the first Saturday it will be helpful (though not essential) if you can read Acts, chapters 9-28 and Galatians 1.11-2.14.

The session themes are as follows:

## Day 1 – Paul's Life

1. From Tarsus to Jerusalem and Back – Meeting Jesus on the Way
2. Taking the Gospel to the Nations – Paul's Missionary Campaigns
3. Ambassador in Chains – Paul's last years

## Day 2 – Paul's Letters

4. Writing a letter – structures, conventions and reasons for writing
5. Looking at a letter (Romans/1 Corinthians/Philippians/Galatians)
6. Issues for today

A short assignment of 1000 words will be required for those who wish to complete the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship, but you are welcome to take part in the module whether you wish to complete the Certificate or not. All are welcome!

By the End of the Module you will have gained the following things:

- Greater confidence in interpreting Paul's letters;
- Wider knowledge of some key resources to help you and others study Paul's writings;
- Ability to evaluate how well you can communicate the meaning of Paul's writings.



Continuing Ministerial Education  
Cathedral and Diocesan Offices  
1 Hill Top, Coventry CV1 5AB  
Email: [cme@covcofe.org](mailto:cme@covcofe.org)  
Tel: 02476 521316