

Lent Modules 2021

Welcome to the Lent Module Guide for 2021.

This guide contains a number of courses offered by the Diocese of Chelmsford during the season of Lent. We aim to provide a wide range of courses to enable the whole people of God to connect with their faith in this season of reflection. Please look through the courses on offer to see which appeal to you.

CCS students in their second year choose one module free of charge but the courses are open to everyone, and you can pick more than one course if you would like to. After the challenges of the past months I encourage all of you to take time out to study and grow closer to God, to reflect on and challenge your calling, so you may be better equipped to serve in God's kingdom.

This year, other than the pilgrimage and online modules, all courses will be delivered by Zoom and most will include some interactive discussion, breakouts and practical exercises.

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Lay Ministry Adviser.

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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS – FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2020

If you require any other information please contact:
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Lent Modules

Module Lent 1 The Upside-down Kingdom of God

PURPOSE

To explore Jesus' radical, challenging and upside-down teaching about the Kingdom of God and relate it to contemporary issues in society and how, as Christians, we respond to them.

COURSE CONTENT

During the sessions we will consider issues such as climate change and equality and develop our understanding of Jesus' teaching about how we are to live distinctively, applying that to the cultural challenges of our own times.

The 5 sessions are:

- Who is my neighbour?
- The generosity of God
- Poverty & justice
- Salt & light
- Here on earth as it is in heaven

TARGET GROUP

Open to anyone.

The book 'Different eyes – the art of living beautifully' by Steve Chalke & Alan Mann is recommended reading but not necessary before the course.

Tutor: Revd Pauline Scott

Thursdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 25 & March 4,11,18,25
Course fee £25

Module Lent 2 Lost Christianities

PURPOSE

We will consider the diversity of beliefs in the early Church, and how the Church we know today emerged from competing interpretations of the life and death of Jesus. The course will end by considering what this teaches us about the nature of our faith and how we live with diversity in today's Church.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1 – Introduction and Jewish Christianity
Week 2 – In search of knowledge: Gnostic Christianity
Week 3 – A Church for the pure: Novatian and Donatus
Week 4 – Creator or Creature: defining Christ
Week 5 – Diversity today: what can we learn from the past

TARGET GROUP

This module is suitable for anyone interested in the variety of beliefs in the early Church and what they can teach us today

Please note this module will be entirely online, using the online MOODLE platform. It allows the flexibility to participate at any time during the week. Once you have registered, your confirmation letter will provide details of how you can access the site. This is NOT the same as using ZOOM.

(You should think in terms of 3-4 hours per week for participating.)

Tutor: Mr Martin Carr
ONLINE

5 weeks beginning 22 February
Course fee £30

Module Lent 3
Science and Faith - is there a place for scientists in the Church

PURPOSE

This module considers the issues where scientific thought might be seen to 'clash' with the Christian faith.

COURSE CONTENT

Why should a scientist, or indeed any rational person, come to church? After all, Christians have a strange set of beliefs. Can anyone believe in a virgin birth and a God who is three and yet one, not to mention a world created in 6 days and populated. Is there still a place for thinking about God in a world where the scientific enterprise and scientists are held in high esteem? This short course is an opportunity to consider the critical interaction between the life of the Christian faith and the work of those who explore the world through the scientific disciplines, and suitable both for those who have thought about and/or studied this area before and those coming to these questions for the first time.

TARGET GROUP

Open to everyone, no experience necessary.

Tutor: Revd John Fry
Revd Canon Dr Joyce Smith

Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 23 & March 2,9,16
Course fee £25

Module Lent 4
"The Book of Job – Why does God let innocent people suffer?"

PURPOSE

To become familiar with the Book of Job and understand the debate about why innocent people suffer. To relate this to various kinds of suffering in our world today and discover how we can respond well to those who suffer in 2021.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Job has a Problem (Chapters 1-3)
2. Job has a Complaint (Chapters 4-14)
3. The Friends have an Answer (Chapters 15-31)
4. Elihu has Youthful Wisdom (Chapters 32-37)
5. God has the Last Word (Chapters 38-42)

TARGET GROUP

Need to be willing to read the Book of Job, at least during the 5 weeks of Lent!

Tutors: Revd Ian Scott-Thompson

Thursday/Friday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 25/26 & March 4/5,11/12,18/19,25/26
Course fee £25

Please confirm if you prefer Thursday or Friday or either. The most popular day will be confirmed as the day the course will run OR if there are sufficient numbers the module will be run on both days.

Module Lent 5 Pilgrimage and Saints

PURPOSE

To experience and learn about the spiritual discipline of pilgrimage. To look at the different nature of churches, including their associated patron saints.

VENUES

Pilgrimage around the 7 churches in the Hedingham and Upper Colnes (Stambourne, Toppesfield, Tilbury-Juxta-Clare, Great and Little Yeldham, Castle and Sible Hedingham.)

COURSE CONTENT

An overview of Pilgrimage, tradition and contemporary. Our own faith journey(s).

A short lecture on each church's Saint (St Peter, St Thomas Becket, St Nicholas, St Margaret, St Andrews, St John the Baptist, St Margaret of Antioch).

The 'spirit' of the churches and how they vary using the 7 churches of the book of Revelation as a basis, how to generate a holy and loving spirit in our own churches.

Day 1 will include a 8-9 mile walk, and day 2 about 6 miles. Sturdy boots and suitable clothing needed as the terrain is a mixture of track (probably muddy) and quiet roads.

Please bring own lunch and drinks as we can't provide hospitality due to covid19. Masks will need to be worn inside the churches.

TARGET GROUP

No previous experience necessary, but reasonable fitness required.

Numbers limited to 18

Tutor: Revd Liz Paxton
Revd Chris Elliott

Saturday 20th March 10.00am - 2.00pm
Sunday 21st March noon - 3.30pm
Course fee £15

Module Lent 6
Living as a Christian in the scientific and technological world of today and tomorrow

PURPOSE

This course will draw upon experiences of the participants, course leader and others to explore what it means to live as a Christian in the scientific and technological world of today and tomorrow.

COURSE CONTENT

Within three weekly evening sessions participants will engage with the relationship between science and faith, with what it might mean to become 'better' from both a scientific and a theological perspective, and how the voice of Christians working in the fields of science, medicine and technology can illuminate our thinking as we face the future.

The three session titles will be:

1. Experiences of Science and Faith in Partnership
2. What does it mean to be a better person?
3. Listening to different Voices on Technology

TARGET GROUP

Anyone interested in exploring what it might mean to live as a Christian in the scientific and technological world of today and tomorrow. No previous scientific or theological experience required. All are welcome.

Tutor: Revd Dr Justin Tomkins

Thursday evenings 7.30pm - 9.15pm
February 25 & March 4,11
Course fee £25

Module Lent 7
Jesus and the Entrepreneurial Kingdom
Enabling Innovative strategies for Kingdom mission

PURPOSE/AIM

This module explores the disruptive mission of Jesus to establish the Kingdom of God and its parallels with the dynamic innovative leadership of the entrepreneur. We link the eight parables of Matthew 13 with the leadership strategies of Ephesians 4 to challenge the way we think, try some new tools and stimulate a 'New Normal' of creative vision for mission and ministry.

COURSE CONTENT

Studies draw on Kingdom parables, especially Matthew 13, the Prophets and Ephesians 4

- Session 1: Inspiration. God, the entrepreneurial Spirit, the treasure and the pearl
- Session 2: Vision with imprecision. Unfolding Kingdom, risk, freedom and fear
- Session 3: Mind the Gap! Entanglement and Pivoting – vision, values & message
- Session 4: Entrepreneurial Evangelist. Multiplication and disruptive mission
- Session 5: Dust to disciples. Replicate! Equipping for unbounded empowerment

TARGET GROUP

Anyone with a heart to see the Kingdom of God grow in their work, community, church and mission. A willingness to explore and challenge norms would be helpful. It is anticipated that this will be especially helpful for those in any leadership role in church or the wider world. Even if you do not think you are entrepreneurial, the course aims to help you enable and mentor others with such gifts.

Tutor: Mr Paul Green LLM
Paul has founded and built three technology start-ups.
He is currently leading a high growth multi-national
technology business, inspired while studying theology.

Thursday evenings 7.30pm - 9.15pm
February 25 & March 4,11,18,25
Course fee £25

Module Lent 8
The history, beliefs and practices of Jehovah's Witnesses

PURPOSE

The Watchtower Society has recently moved their headquarters from Mill Hill in North London to the Chelmsford area. The higher visibility that this gives the organisation of Jehovah's Witnesses in this area presents many questions which the course will seek to explore.

COURSE CONTENT

Jehovah's Witnesses are well known for their door to door visits, their apocalyptic message and their refusal of blood transfusions.

What is less well-known is their connection, in the early years of the 20th century, to what is now the Diocese of Chelmsford. This connection is now being renewed with the construction of their new British headquarters just south of Chelmsford on an 85 acre site able to accommodate up to 1,200 residents.

The four sessions of this course will look at these recent developments and explore the history, beliefs and practices of this group. It will also consider portrayals of Jehovah's Witnesses in popular culture. It will enable you to understand your Jehovah's Witness neighbours and consider how best to respond to their visits.

1. Jehovah's Witnesses in Essex and in popular culture.
2. The history of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Jehovah's Witnesses' distinctive beliefs.
4. Life as a Jehovah's Witness.

TARGET GROUP

Anyone who has ever wondered about why Jehovah's Witnesses call on their door and would like to understand how best to respond to their visits.

Tutor: Revd Ray Descombes
Mrs Helen Descombes

Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 24 & March 3,10,17
Course fee £25

Module Lent 9
Seeing Jesus: Art and Meditation to prepare us for Easter week

PURPOSE

To share our enthusiasm for these works of art and to enable God to speak to us as we contemplate Jesus' journey to the Cross. Each of the three tutors has a different style for delivering this.

COURSE CONTENT

Session 1: The artistic and theological significance of the painting 'The Trinity' by Masaccio

Session 2: Meditation based on the art of Sieger Koder : Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

Session 3: Meditation based on the sculpture 'The Garden of Gethsemane' by Veit Wagner displayed in Strasbourg cathedral

Session 4: The story behind the painting of 'The Scapegoat' by William Holman Hunt

Session 5: Meditation on 'Jesus fell on the way to the Cross' inspired by the painting of Sieger Koder and the poetry of Malcolm Guite.

TARGET GROUP

Anyone welcome

Tutors: Jenny Heinink
Anne Jarrett & Kerry Shipley

Wednesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 24 & March 3,10,17,24
Course fee £25

Module Lent 10
The Big Screen and the Bible

PURPOSE

This course is based on issues raised in the film, The Man Who Knew Infinity, about a phenomenal, largely self-educated, Indian mathematician, who was brought to England in 1914 to work with the ablest brains in Cambridge. By looking at selected, short clips from the film, and relevant bible passages we will discuss such diverse topics as: faith, certainty, our own understanding of God, exile, and the heart's true home.

COURSE CONTENT

Session 1: Setting out

Session 2: Life in a foreign land

Session 3: What is truth?

Session 4: Bridging the gap

Session 5: Homeward bound

TARGET GROUP

Anyone who enjoys films and wants to reflect about their own faith and discipleship. No knowledge of mathematics is required! Students might like to buy or rent the film for viewing in its entirety, although that is not a requirement.

Tutors: Revd Andy Colebrooke &
Revd Angela Want

Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 23 & March 2,9,16,23
Course fee £25

Module Lent 11
Surprised by Prayer

PURPOSE

How do we recognise we are praying? And what barriers to prayer might we self impose?

COURSE CONTENT

I pinched the overall and first title from CS Lewis and, nothing loathe, I pinched three more from Jane Austen: 'Prayer Prejudice and Pride', 'Prayer and Persuasion' and 'Prayer Sensibility and Sense'.

Taken together these four are not about how to pray, still less about what to pray. All of us must pray as we can, not as we can't, as someone once said. Really this course is about our state of mind when we pray – our attitude to God and our expectations of prayer. It is often difficult to accept the truth about prayer, which is God gives us what we need, not necessarily what we think we want.

TARGET GROUP

No prior experience needed. Anyone!

Tutor: Canon Dr Linda Barnard

Saturdays 10.00pm - 12.00 noon
February 27 & March 6
Course fee £15