

## **What is the Exploring Faith foundation year?**

The foundation year is a programme of three modules, designed for local churches to reflect on its ministry and mission and to discern the ministries and resources it needs for the future.

The course also introduces participants to theological study, (in other words to learning more about God and the Christian tradition, and how to apply faith to today's world).

However, unlike Exploring Faith, these modules do not carry University credits.

The foundation year can be used on its own, or as preparation for running a local Exploring Faith course.

Three modules are offered:

- Faith, the Church and the Future,
- Introduction to Theology
- This is our Calling.

## **What do the foundation modules involve?**

Each module has a workbook, (and often a book) for the group to study together for 6-8 weeks. A facilitator will need to be appointed to guide the discussions.

The timing is flexible—groups can take as long as they like over the modules. It doesn't have to take a year!

## **What makes Exploring Faith different from other courses?**

The emphasis within Exploring Faith is not just on learning together, but also on growing together as fellow disciples and ministers.

By the end of the foundation process, course participants will have been challenged to think through their own vocation and calling.

Exploring Faith years 1-3 can then be used by the local church(es) or deanery to equip members for different ministries according to local needs.

These can be official ministries, carrying a Bishop's licence (e.g. Reader or priest—as long as the candidate has undergone the relevant selection process), or non licensed, parish based ministries (e.g. pastor).

However, we don't see ministry as something that just happens in church. For many, the course will help them in their daily life and work and reinforce the ministry they already carry out in the community, workplace and home.

## **Do we have to do the foundation year before Exploring Faith years 1-3?**

No, it is possible to start at year one, if parishes / the deanery have already reflected on their context and on the ministries they need for the future and feel ready for the next step.

## **Is there any flexibility in the programme?**

The beauty of Exploring Faith is the flexibility and how the course can be adapted to local needs.

If the church(es) in the area have a particular topic in mind that isn't in the foundation year, please



contact Manon. It may be possible to create modules according to local needs, or use other study materials as part of the foundation year process.

### **How does this programme fit in with other diocesan programmes?**

Very well—it may be possible to combine the foundation year with training for current parish based ministries such as worship leaders and pastoral assistants.

### **Do we have to do all three modules?**

No, you are very welcome to use any of the modules that would be useful on a stand alone basis.

### **Can the foundation year be run across parishes? Or deaneries?**

Yes - again this is dependent on the local context. Some individual churches may want to run the foundation year alone, or deaneries might want to join together. The unit you work with is up to you.

### **How do we set up the foundation year?**

Contact Manon, the course director, for the materials.

All that is needed then is a venue, some dates and a facilitator.....

### **Can the modules be studied in Welsh, or bilingually?**

Yes. Module handbooks can be made available in Welsh. Contact Manon for more information.

For more information, or to register please contact:

Manon Ceridwen Parry  
on  
manon.parry @ sky.com  
or  
parish phone 01492 516728.

### **The Exploring Faith core values:**

We are all called to learn, serve and grow.

God calls all members of the church to a variety of ministries, in every area of life.

Ministry is something we do together.



# The Exploring Faith Foundation Year