



Foundations for Ministry



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

What is Foundations for Ministry?

Foundations for Ministry (FFM) is an exciting and vibrant course open to anyone active in church life who feels some sense of vocation or calling to Christian ministry but needs some time and space to understand what this might mean for them. The course runs over three terms, September to June, and includes an induction evening, 23 core sessions and three additional Saturdays.

The sessions are led by a range of speakers who are there to help you:

- ♦ **Make connections** between who you are, what you believe and how you can apply your faith to the everyday stuff of life.
- ♦ **Understand** more about Christian ministry, your spiritual gifts and how you can identify your ministry SHAPE.
- ♦ **Discover** your call to mission, where God wants to use you and how you can remain healthy and fruitful in your ministry.

What is the course aim?

To provide you with a solid foundation so that you can continue to develop and explore your calling both to Christian ministry and to the life-long adventure of being a disciple of Jesus.

What are the course goals?

- ♦ To provide a safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment for you to explore, identify and develop your gifts, vocation and calling.
- ♦ To offer a you unique opportunity for co-learning alongside others from a variety of different church traditions and backgrounds.
- ♦ To enable you to grow in confidence and courage when it comes to talking about and expressing your faith with others.
- ♦ To help you identify a bank of skills and resources that will enable you to grow and be fruitful in your Christian life and ministry.
- ♦ Enable you to feel closer to God and more aware of His purpose for your life.

Where is the course going to be run?

This year's course is going to run on a Tuesday evening, 7-9pm at St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND.

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Venues and Session Dates for 2023/24

All sessions will take place on a Tuesday evening, 7-9pm at St John's House in Bury unless otherwise stated.

Induction Evening: Tuesday 19 September, 7-9pm

Autumn Term: September 26; October 3, 10, 17, 31; November 7, 14, 21

Retreat Day: Saturday 25 November, 10am-2pm at All Saints, Bury

Spring Term: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6

Vocations Day: Saturday 03 February, 10am-2pm at St Bride's, Old Trafford

Summer Term: February 27; March 5, 12, 19, 27; April 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14

Celebration Service: Saturday 18 May, 1-3pm at Bury Parish Church

"The FFM course has been life changing, it really enabled me to explore my calling and to develop. The course gave us the opportunity to meet other people from different settings and this was so important in exploring my faith further."

"I would recommend the course to anyone not sure about their direction or if they want to be more involved in ministry."

"This course has really changed my life. It's allowed me to be me and I finally feel like I belong. Anybody who is unsure about the course should be allowed to contact previous participants so we can put their worries at bay."



"The FFM course was more than I expected. It has impacted me so much, not just in leading me on to my next steps, but also personally in my home life and the workplace. I gained so much confidence and the support really has encouraged me to carry on the journey."

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

The FFM course is open to all lay people in the Diocese of Manchester but it should be noted that it is not a Christian basics/discipleship course or a beginner's introduction to theology. FFM is a course specifically designed for those active in church life who have already been rooted and established in their Christian faith. It aims to help them further explore their gifts, vocation and calling to Christian ministry. We encourage anyone considering application to discuss this firstly with their vicar or supporting minister. This is to ensure that the course is suitable and so that any applicants will be fully supported during the course.

Are there any assignments, tests or written work?

There are no assignments, tests or essay type written work on the course. The main focus for learning is based around interactive presentations, group work, open discussions and lots of opportunities for personal reflection. We do encourage those that want to go deeper to keep a simple learning journal and to engage with some short linkwork exercises between sessions. However, this is optional and for personal use only. We don't ask for any work to be submitted or require anything to be marked or graded. Along the way, we will suggest some good books and further resources but everyone is supported to engage with the course at the level that works best for them.

How much does the course cost?

The course costs £60 per person which can be paid for upfront or in three termly instalments. We encourage parishes to cover this cost but if this is an issue please contact us as we don't want finances to be a barrier to anyone coming on the course.

Where can I get more information?

For further information and to find out how to apply please see our website:

www.manchester.anglican.org/ffm

Or contact:

Jamie Mackenzie

Local Ministry Officer

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