



Foundations for Ministry

“ FFM is such a wonderful course of which I can’t speak highly enough of. I have learnt so much and can’t thank all the course tutors enough for inspiring and equipping me to go forwards and pursue my goals.”

Jean Blair, St Mary Ellenbrook

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, October to May, 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.
- To enable you to feel closer to God and more aware of His purpose for your life.

Venues and Session Dates for 2024/25

All sessions will take place (unless otherwise stated) on a Tuesday evening, 6.45-9.15pm at St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury BL9 0ND

Induction Evening:	Tuesday 01 October, 7-9pm at St John's House
Autumn Term:	October 8, 15, 22; November 05, 12, 19, 26; December 03
Retreat Day:	Saturday 07 December, 10am-2pm at All Saints, Bury
Spring Term:	January 07, 14, 21, 28; February 04, 11
Vocations Day:	Saturday 08 February, 10am-3pm at St Brides, Old Trafford
Summer Term:	February 25; March 04, 11, 18, 25; April 01, 22, 29; May 06
Celebration Service:	Saturday 17 May, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Elton (Bury)

“Before the course I was overwhelmed about what my next steps should be but now I feel like I have my feet on the ground and can focus on my next steps.”

Vicky Taylor, Christ Church Denton

“I have learnt so much through attending the FFM Course, particularly about exploring my gifts. I have gained so much confidence in sharing my faith and speaking up in groups rather than thinking I had nothing to share. The experience has been transformational and I am really excited now to see how God is going to use me.”

Hazel Waters, St Andrew Ramsbottom



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

jamiemackenzie@manchester.anglican.org

07553 374 130

**Application
closing date:
Monday 23
September.**