



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD



# Foundations for Ministry

“I’ve enjoyed every part of this course.

It has massively helped me in my discernment process  
and I have also made some friends for life.”

**Liam Keatley, St Mark, Chadderton**

## 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 and alongside group leaders 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 2025/26

This year's course is going to run on a Wednesday evening, 6.45-9.15pm at St Werburgh's Church Hall, 386 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 0UH.

<b>Induction Evening:</b>	<i>Weds 01 October, 6.45-9.15pm at St Werburgh's Church Hall</i>
<b>Autumn Term:</b>	October 08, 15, 22; November 05, 12, 19, 26; December 03
<b>Retreat Day:</b>	<i>Saturday 06 December, 10am-2.30pm at St Edmund's, Whalley Range</i>
<b>Spring Term:</b>	January 07, 14, 21, 28; February 04, 11
<b>Vocations Day:</b>	<i>Saturday 07 February, 10am-3pm at St Brides, Old Trafford</i>
<b>Summer Term:</b>	February 25; March 04, 11, 18, 25; April 22, 29; May 06, 13
<b>Celebration Service:</b>	<i>Saturday 23 May, 10am-12pm at St Werburghs, Chorlton</i>

“Thank you for such a wonderful and safe space to discover myself and ministry. I couldn't have asked for more or been in better hands.”

**Laura Durrington, St Clement with St Matthias, Lower Broughton**

“The FFM course is absolutely amazing. Very well structured. Very informative. Everyone was made to feel included and valued. I have gone away very happy that I have completed the course and more certain of the path ahead”

**Angela Pratt, St Mary the Virgin, Leigh**



## 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?

All the costs of FFM training are met by the diocese but parishes are encouraged (where possible) to support their candidates if help is required with basic costs such as travel expenses. Where finances are a barrier to participation, parishes are encouraged to get in touch.

## 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](http://www.manchester.anglican.org/ffm)**

Or contact:

**Kim Morgan-Jones**

**Head of Lay Development**

**[KimMorgan-Jones@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:KimMorgan-Jones@manchester.anglican.org)**

**07469 485092**

**Application  
closing date:  
Monday 22  
September.**