

Lent Modules 2023

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS – FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2023

Details about Centre locations will be sent to you nearer the time.

If you require any other information please contact:

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www.chelmsford.anglican.org

Lent Modules

Welcome to the Lent Module Guide for 2023.

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 that many of us are facing, 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.

Caroline Harding LLM

**Lay Ministry Adviser.
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Module Lent I

“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 2023.

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

Open to anyone willing to read the Book of Job, at least during the 5 weeks of Lent!

Tutors: Ian Scott-Thompson
Elim Church
Greenstead
Colchester

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

Module Lent 2

Christianity and Judaism

PURPOSE

- 1) Knowing God better and loving him better, through contemporary Jewish interpretations of the Hebrew Bible, and interpretations of the New Testament inspired by these. (Week 1 and 2)
- 2) Knowing and loving better our 'elder brother' the Jewish community. Understanding the Holocaust and its roots in Christian anti-Judaism. (Week 3-5)

COURSE CONTENT

Jewish insights into the Hebrew Bible and their application to the NT

Week 1. Genesis. The patriarchs; 'God prepares a family'. The theme of the two brothers in Genesis and in the New Testament

Week 2. Jewish insights into the Hebrew Bible and their application to the NT

The book of Exodus. Its structure according to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Echoes of Exodus in the New Testament

Week 3. Stan Keller, Chairman of the Chelmsford Jewish Community

<http://www.jewishcommunitychelmsford.co.uk/>

A short talk about the Shoah / Holocaust

Week 4. The Holocaust and Christian anti-Judaism

Week 5. Bible study. Romans 9-11. Is God faithful to his promises?

TARGET GROUP

No prior experience needed.

The books on which the course will be based are below, but there is no expectation that these will be read before the course;

The Jewish Annotated New Testament. Amy-Jill Levine (Editor), Marc Z. Brettler (Editor). OUP USA, 2011.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Commentaries on Exodus and Genesis. (Jonathan Sacks. Genesis, the Book of Beginnings (volume 1) (Covenant and Conversation). Toby Press, 2010.)

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence. London. Hodder and Stoughton, 2016.

Edward Kessler. An Introduction to Jewish-Christian Relations. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Please note this module will take place on ZOOM.

Tutors: Mr Gervase Vernon
Mr Stan Keller
Mrs Hazel Kempton

Wednesday evenings 7.00pm – 8.00pm
March 1, 8, 15 22 & 29
Course fee £25

Module Lent 3

“W@W” - Witnessing in the World of Work equipping effective everyday evangelism

PURPOSE

W@W aims to investigate the theory and practice of active Christian witness in today's workplace. Its purpose is to better equip Christian witness in an agnostic and atheist atmosphere, and in one where witness involves interaction with other active faith systems.

COURSE CONTENT

Week One will investigate being a Christian in the workplace – why witness in the workplace, what is witness, the barriers to witness, ethical challenges in the workplace, and witness without words.

Week Two will develop worldly-wise witnessing, investigating approaches to those of different beliefs and how those beliefs affect thinking and behaviour, examining differences and similarities between Christian belief and those of Agnostics and Atheists, Jews and Muslims, and Sikhs and Hindus in order to facilitate greater understanding and more effective witness.

TARGET GROUP

W@W is ideal for any Christian, employed, seeking employment or volunteering, who is seeking to evangelise more effectively in the workplace.

Please note this module will take place on ZOOM.

Tutor: Mr Mac Leonard

2 Saturdays 10.00am - 3.30pm

February 25 & March 25

Course fee £15

Module Lent 4

Goodness in an often Cruel and Evil world?

PURPOSE

The Problem of Evil, unmerited suffering – how can God be good when such awful things happen to innocent human beings, has dogged our faith, any faith, since time immemorial. As a Hospital Chaplain Tim Coleman faced these questions almost every day from the bemused and desperate ‘why me’, to the angry ‘how can I believe in God if he’s let this happen’ or the common ‘there must be a reason’ even if there really does not appear to be any. He is not promising any ‘cut and dried’ answers but a serious look at what must be a top challenger to the integrity of our Christian faith.

COURSE CONTENT

Four Sessions, two each day:

One: Introducing the problem and Old Testament scriptural views.

Two: Jesus, Paul and the New Testament.

Three: Early Church Fathers.

Four: Modern takes on the problem of unmerited suffering and a Hospital Chaplain’s view.

TARGET GROUP

Anyone, no prior experience needed

Tutors: Revd Tim Coleman
Revd Alexandra Guest
St Mark’s Church Centre
Mark’s Gate
Collier Row

Saturday’s 9.30am - 1.00pm
February 25 & March 11
Course fee £15

Module Lent 5

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

Anyone, no previous experience necessary.

Tutor: Revd John Fry
John Philip (LLM in training)
St Mary's
Theydon Bois

Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 28, March 7, 21, 28
Course fee £20

Module Lent 6

Christian Prayer Practices

PURPOSE

We look at different Christian Prayer Practices that have helped generations of Christians connect with God and sustain their faith.

We introduce the history of the practice and explore some of the theology as well as running through the practice.

COURSE CONTENT

We will be looking at the rich history of Christian Prayer that the Christian community has used over thousands of years to connect with God. We learn about the history, the traditions that they are linked too, as well as considering the theology of the different practices. We will then outline the technique and invite the group to engage with the practices and reflect with others online how they have found it.

This Moodle Lent Module is working alongside the London Diocesan Prayer Practices for Lent, which is running on Zoom on Tuesday evenings through Lent. Although the Zoom sessions are an optional extra.

15th Feb	Introduction to Christian Prayer
22nd Feb	The Examen
1st March	Lectio Divina
8th March	Centring Prayer
15th March	Imaginative Contemplation
22nd March	Praying with Pictures

We will then connect people with the 'practical' sessions that the London Diocese are running and encourage them to attend if they want to and to reflect their experiences on Moodle. Handouts will also be available on Moodle.

Please note this module will be a combination of online, using the online MOODLE platform and optional additional Zoom sessions. 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.

TARGET GROUP

No prior experience necessary.

Tutors: Revd Beki Rogers &
Mr Martin Carr

5 weeks beginning 28 February
Course fee £25
ONLINE

Module Lent 7

I Believe in the Resurrection

PURPOSE

To put the physical resurrection of the dead back onto the Christian agenda, rather than the vague “going to heaven” in popular thought.

To dispel some of the myths of an afterlife at the end of a tunnel or sitting on a park bench, which often surface during bereavement visiting and funeral preparation; &
To see Jesus’ resurrection as the model for our resurrection.

COURSE CONTENT

The Biblical evidence for resurrection in both Old and New Testaments.
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – the model for our resurrection?
The importance of the body.
Funeral liturgies and practice.
Bringing Christian Hope to the bereaved.

TARGET GROUP

This module is suitable for anyone currently on the CCS (or having completed it previously), plus any Christians interested in what happens after we die. Also, those engaged in pastoral and bereavement visiting; and Readers and Clergy who conduct funerals. But, in all cases, no prior experience necessary.

Please note this module will take place on ZOOM.

Tutor: Revd Simon Law

Monday/Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm
Tues - February 21, 28 & March 7, 14 & Mon - March 20
Course fee £25

Module Lent 8

The Development of Holy Communion From the Latin Mass to Common Worship

PURPOSE

To trace the development of Holy Communion from the pre-Reformation Latin Mass through the English Prayer Books of 1549, 1552 and 1662 to Common Worship.

COURSE CONTENT

Each week there will be a Celebration of each Communion Service, as it would have been at the time, followed by (or preceded by) a detailed discussion.

TARGET GROUP

Anyone currently on the CCS (or having completed it previously); any Christians interested in how Holy Communion has come down to us today; and very useful for Ordinands and those in training for Licensed Lay Ministry.

Tutors: Revd Simon Law
Revd Michèle Marshall
St Gabriel's Church
Pitsea

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

Module Lent 9

Church History - The Reformation

PURPOSE

As the different traditions of the Church draw closer together, many people wonder how they grew apart. This course will consider the origins of the division of Christendom in 16th century Europe.

COURSE CONTENT

4th March	a.m.	The Pre - Reformation Church Martin Luther and the Reformation in Germany
	p.m.	The Reformation in England:- The religious policies of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I
11th March	a.m.	The religious policy of Elizabeth I
	p.m.	The Counter Reformation

N.B. Please bring your own lunch

TARGET GROUP

Open to anyone. No prior experience needed. “ **Christianity, the first two thousand years**” by Diarmaid MacCulloch is good background reading should any one wish to engage in it.

Tutor: Miss Rowena Rudkin
Gwinnell Room
St Mary's Church
South Woodford

2 Saturday's 10.00am – 3.00pm
March 4 & 11
Course fee £15

Module Lent 10

Kindling the Imagination for Christ

PURPOSE

To encourage us to use our imaginative faculty to deepen our knowledge and understanding of what God is doing through Christ in the world. Each week we will reflect on a poem and a painting or sculpture, and how it supports Christ's message to us, in our life today. There will be some input from the course tutors but plenty of time for sharing our personal reflections so that we can be learning from each other too.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1: Marked by AshesWalter Brueggemann / Ash Wednesday by Carl Spitzweg
Week 2: 'Peter and John Running to the Tomb' by Eugene Burnand / 'The Ballad of the Bread Man' by Charles Causley
Week 3: 'St Francis feeding the Birds' by Stanley Spencer / 'The Moor' by R S Thomas
Week 4: 'Pieta' by Michelangelo / 'Love's as Warm as Tears.' by C S Lewis
Week 5: 'Golgotha' by John Heath-Stubbs / 'Christ on the Cross' by El Greco.
Week 6: 'Love III' by George Herbert / 'The Trinity' by Rublev

TARGET GROUP

Open to all – no experience necessary

Please note this module will take place on ZOOM.

Tutor: Mrs Sandra Evans (LLM)

Wednesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm
February 22 & March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Course fee £25

Module Lent 11

Triple Listening

PURPOSE

The term “triple listening”, coined by John Stott, refers to listening to God, to the congregation, and to the wider community. For several years this approach has been integral to the training of curates and other new ministers, and in this interactive, fun series of workshops, Andy Griffiths makes it available to all of us.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1 (March 3): Triple Listening when you don't know where you're going (contemplation, discernment, and relational living)

Week 2 (March 10): Triple Listening and preaching (curiosity, meditation, and the God of surprises)

Week 3 (March 17): Triple Listening and social change (conversations, power, and a place at the table)

TARGET GROUP

Open to anyone. No prior experience needed.

Tutor: Revd Andy Griffiths
Head of Training for the Diocese of Chelmsford.
Diocesan Office
Chelmsford

Friday's 10.30am - 1.00pm
March 3, 10 & 17
Course fee £15

Module Lent 12

‘Kingdom Come’

PURPOSE

The aim of this course is to explore different approaches to what the Bible says about ‘the end times’.

By the end of the course you will have an understanding of scriptural ideas and themes concerning the return of Jesus and the Kingdom to come.

COURSE CONTENT

- Eschatological Approaches
- The Story so Far
- Back To The [Biblical] Future
- Reading Symbolic Prophecy
- Can We Trust Prophecy?
- “What Will Be The Signs of the End?”
- The revelation of Revelation

TARGET GROUP

Delegates must have completed the Course in Christian Studies or equivalent. Delegates who have been commissioned as Local Evangelists are also welcomed.

Please note this module will take place on ZOOM.

Tutor: Steve Norris LLM
Martin Roscoe LLM

Saturday's 9.30am - 10.30am
March 11, 18, 25 & April 1st
Course fee £15