

# GROWING IN FAITH | LIFE

The Bishop's Certificate  
in Discipleship

## 2022 - 2023

Make this a year of life-enhancing discoveries



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

Walking | Welcoming | Growing

# **Growing in Faith and Life**

## **The Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship**

### **2022 - 2023**

**Growing in Faith and Life** is a course taking place between September 2022 and June 2023. After introductory sessions, it has six modules. It ends with a residential 24 hours. Those who complete the course are awarded the Bishop's Certificate in Discipleship.

- **Following**  
About the New Testament
- **Remembering**  
About the Old Testament
- **Exploring**  
About the history of the church and what it means to be Anglican
- **Believing**  
About what Christians believe
- **Deepening**  
About living, serving and praying as a follower of Jesus
- **Expecting**  
About putting your future into God's hands



### **Is it for me?**

It's for anybody who wants to be more informed and confident about what they believe, read the Bible with more understanding, and reflect on their journey as a Christian.

People exploring whether God might be calling them to ordination, or to be a Reader or a Church Army Evangelist often take the course. Those training as a Pioneer, a SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary) or a Commissioned Children and Youth Leader have the Bishop's Certificate as the first year of their preparation.

However, anybody who wants to love and serve the Lord faithfully will benefit from this course. Most people do it for the joy of growing in faith.

## About the course



Each module has five sessions, and you can choose to do them on a weekday evening or a Saturday morning. You can also choose whether you want to do the course live in a venue or online from your home using Zoom.

During each session a tutor will give you some input to think about, and guide you through discussions, creative activities and time to think by yourself.

There is a course handbook which gives you everything you need, and plenty to read between sessions. Those who take the course really seriously supplement this by reading other recommended books and websites. There is a library at Trinity House (the diocesan office near London Bridge) and all Bishop's Certificate participants have a ticket.

Both the in-person and online courses climax in June/July 2023 with a 24-hour residential event at Wychcroft, the Southwark Diocese retreat centre set in beautiful Surrey countryside.

Later in the year a service in Southwark Cathedral celebrates the achievements of everyone who has taken part.



## Is it hard work?

There are two routes through the course. The first is to attend the sessions, join in the discussions, and enjoy what you are learning. There is no pressure. At the end of the year you will receive a scroll from the Bishop in recognition that you completed the course.

The second route is to undertake a short assignment at the end of each module. You can submit a formal piece of writing, or a more creative and personal reflection. They will be marked in an encouraging way. At the end of the year you will be presented with the



Bishop's Certificate. If this is the first step to becoming a lay or ordained leader (or if you just like a challenge) this is the route for you.

## The in-person course

The course will be at Trinity House in a group of about a dozen. We will be following Government and Church of England advice on health and social distancing. If circumstances change, the course will revert to Zoom for everyone's safety. However, we are keen that participants should benefit from the joy of meeting Christians who have had different experiences and hearing their stories.

## The online course

There will be video conferences using Zoom, supplemented by podcasts, guided reading and online discussions. We will make it as simple as possible in the hope that no one gets excluded. However, you will need to have access to wi-fi and a computer with a microphone and camera - a PC, tablet or smartphone is fine. We can explain how to use Zoom technology if you have never done it before.

## When, where and how much?

The course will be taught in four groups, and you choose one.

- **Tuesday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm**

This will be taught at Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1HW, beginning on 13 September. It is a 7 minute walk from London Bridge Station, and busses 21, 35, 133 and 343 stop outside. There is no car parking at Trinity House.

- **Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm**

This will be taught online, using Zoom, beginning on 14 September.

- **Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm**

This will be taught online, using Zoom, beginning on 15 September.

- **Saturday mornings from 10.00am-12.00noon**

This will be taught at Trinity House, beginning on 17 September.



The cost of the course is £220 (including the residential weekend). You will need to pay £40 of that as a non-returnable deposit to secure your place. Some parishes are able to support participants financially to undertake the course. We are determined that no one should be

excluded on grounds of cost, and we would welcome a conversation about grants or flexible ways of paying if that would help you. If you are doing the course because it is part of your training for a Commissioned ministry, separate arrangements will be made and we will contact you.

## How to apply

Send an email to [bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org), and we will happily send you an application form and a full list of dates. Use the same email address if you have any questions about the course.

## Previous participants said this:

‘I cannot tell you just how hugely I am enjoying the whole course and especially the current [module]. But also after a lifetime spent trying to develop all I understand about the faith which I hold so dearly, I value the wisdom and scholarship of those who have put together the course and those who are such amazing teachers.’

*A, who took the Bishop’s Certificate in 2021-22*

‘I think the Bishop’s Certificate is really well run and the tutors have been excellent. I find some of the assignments challenging, but I’m really enjoying it.’

*J, who took the Bishop’s Certificate in 2020-21*

