



## What is a Disciple?

*'... an apprentice and a practitioner - not just a student of the word but a doer of it.'*

Mark Greene, London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

[www.licc.org.uk](http://www.licc.org.uk)

For further information contact

Rev. Andrew Micklefield 01420 88794 or

Rev. David Hinks 01420 83458

# School of Discipleship Programme 2016



**Proclaiming the Risen Jesus**  
**Steadfast in faith**  
**Active in service**

*Come and worship with us or find out about the  
Christian faith - we are a vibrant community of  
four churches in Alton, Holybourne and Beech*

**We are part of the Church of England, Diocese of Winchester and in covenant  
partnership with Alton Methodist Church.**

Welcome to our parish School of Discipleship. As we step into a New Year and our continuing walk with Christ, we are bidden to draw closer to Him through prayer and study. We hope that this programme will inspire you to take part in our desire to deepen our faith and to serve God in proclamation and service. We hope you can find time to engage with this programme as we live out our mission statement. This, our first programme is suitable for adults.

Andrew, David, and the ministry team, and our ecumenical colleagues look forward to greeting you.

### **Topical Discussion Evenings**

These sessions are taking place throughout the year to help us gain a better understanding of topical and ethical issues. We are not presenting a clear cut opinion in the sessions but allowing some informed input followed by time to think and reflect and ask questions in open forum. Each person leading the session has an interest in and is able to lead with knowledge and understanding of the Biblical and Christian perspectives involved. Please do come along to all of them or to the ones which interest you - no need to book! All sessions in this series will be held in St Lawrence Church.

Parish time with God - monthly prayer meetings	Page 3
Regular Discipleship & Study Groups	Page 4
Spring Term	Page 4
Lent Courses	Page 5
Summer Term	Page 7
Autumn/Winter Term	Page 9
Recommended Reading	Page 10
My Personal Programme Planner	Page 11

## **My Personal Programme Planner**

Use this page to remind you of the sessions you want to commit to... or perhaps there is a subject you would like to see covered in our next programme.

## Further Reading

The following books are some introductions into the topics covered in this programme. Grove Publishing produces regular booklets on a wide range of issues of the Christian faith including Biblical, Ethical and Spiritual.

Visit [www.grovebooks.co.uk](http://www.grovebooks.co.uk)

Nicky Gumbel (2010) Questions of Life. Alpha International - the Alpha Course in book form with study guide

Graham Cray (2007) Disciples & Citizens: A Vision for DISTINCTIVE Living. Inter-Varsity Press

Joel B. Green (1995) New Testament Theology: The Theology of the Gospel of Luke. Cambridge University Press

Keith Ward (1998) God, Faith & the New Millennium: Christian Belief in an Age of Science. Oneworld Publications

Archbishops' Council (2005) Sharing God's Planet: A Christian Vision for a Sustainable Future. Church House Publishing

Peter Vardy (2009) The Puzzle of Sex. SCM Press

Andrew Goddard (2003) When is War Justified? Ethics Series Grove Publishing

Margaret Whipp (2000) Euthanasia - a Good Death? Ethics Series Grove Publishing

Marjorie J. Thompson (1995) Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life. Westminster John Knox Press

## Parish Time with God

As a united Parish we join together each month for approximately forty-five minutes in prayer. Each month has a specific focus and this is outlined on the monthly prayer sheet, copies of which can be found in all of our churches. We will meet in our four churches and take part in varied approaches to prayer. For further information please contact the leader of the sessions you are interested in.

Month	Date & Time	Venue	Leader
January	Wednesday 20th, 8pm	St Lawrence	Andrew Micklefield
February	Wednesday 24th, 2pm	Holy Rood	David Hinks
March	Thursday 10th, 11am	All Saints	Ian Toombs
April	Saturday 23rd, 9.45am	St Lawrence	Andrew Micklefield
May	Tuesday 24th, 12pm	St Peter	Andrew Micklefield
June	Thursday 23rd, 2pm	St Lawrence	Debbie Thrower
July	Monday 18th, 5pm	St Lawrence	Andrew Micklefield
August	Tuesday 16th, 10am	All Saints	David Hinks
September	Saturday 17th, 9.45am	St Lawrence	Margaret Bell
October	Wednesday 5th, 11am	St Peter	David Hinks
November	Tuesday 22nd, 8pm	St Lawrence	Andrew Micklefield
December	Thursday 15th, 2pm	Holy Rood	David Hinks

*'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'* John 13: 34-35

## Regular Bible and Study Groups

The following groups meet regularly throughout the year and all are welcome

3rd Wednesday of Every Month 10.15 following midweek Communion at All Saints'. Study group meets to explore Scripture and issues of Christianity. This lively group has looked at books by leading Christians over freshly-brewed coffee and cake! Further details from Revd David Hinks 01420 83458. See also The Holybourne Pilgrim Group and Margaret Bell's group featured on page 5. Please also look out for Parish Matters and other groups meeting.

## Spring Term

### The Alpha Course

7th Jan - 22nd March An opportunity to explore the Christian faith. Whether you are new to faith, or looking to learn more or to brush up on the basics, the Alpha Course might be for you. Each session begins on Thursdays at 7.30pm at Alton Methodist Church with a hot meal. Guests then gather in the main church to hear a talk given by GAP clergy about aspects of Christianity before gathering in a side room to discuss what has been presented. Each session finishes promptly at 9.30pm. The course includes a day away at Alton Abbey. The course is free although donations towards the meal are welcomed and there is a small charge for the day away. For more details contact Revd David Hinks on 01420 83458 or pick up a registration form from any of our churches.

### Impossible God

Wednesday 23 March 7.30 Alton Methodist Church

Actor, Mark Topping is staging the one-person play re-enacting the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The event is part of a nationwide tour of the play. Tickets £5

Local contact details: Jill Whittingham Church Administrator.  
Email [altonmethodist@hotmail.com](mailto:altonmethodist@hotmail.com) or telephone 01420 82695

## Winter Term

Advent Book Study (Book to be confirmed nearer the time)

Mon 28th Nov, 5th Dec, 12th Dec, & 19th Dec 12-2pm including a soup lunch or similar. All sessions in All Saints' Hall.

Advent is a time of 'Watching and waiting', preparing ourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Alpha Course

Thursday 1st December  
7.30-9.30pm Alton  
Methodist Church

The Greater Alton  
Project Alpha Course.

See page 4 for details of the Alpha Course which is suitable for those wanting to explore faith or brush up on the basics. The introductory session is an opportunity to experience an Alpha evening and there is no commitment to register for the course beginning in the New Year. To book in for the introductory session which includes a delicious hot two course meal contact Revd. David Hinks on 01420 83458 or Revd. John Scrivens (Alton Methodist Church) on 01420 83167.



### **Wednesday 6th July 7.30-9.00pm**

#### **Assisted Dying and Euthanasia**

Led by Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, formerly the Bishop of St Albans.

Bishop Christopher entered the House of Lords in 1999 and established himself as a speaker in the areas of health and medical ethics. He was a member of the House of Lords Select Committee which was asked to scrutinise and explore proposals relating to changing the law on euthanasia and assisted suicide. He now is a member of the Advisory Committee of the International Care Ethics Observatory at the University of Surrey and also a visiting Professor in Christian Ethics there. We hope you will find Christopher an interesting, knowledgeable and compelling speaker and leader of this discussion.

### **Autumn Term**

#### **Praying Creatively**

Prayer is an essential part of our walk (and talk) with God. This series of meetings is an opportunity to hear about and engage with different approaches to prayer, which can enrich our corporate and individual prayer life. The final session will be an opportunity to pray using the styles we are introduced to as well as our own preferred method.

Each session will be held in the Galilee Chapel of St Lawrence, from 7.30 finishing at approximately 8.45 and includes refreshment.

Tues 13th September Lectio Divina Andrew Micklefield

Tues 20th September Alton Abbey The Benedictine Way

Tues 27th September Revd. Sally Daykin

Sally is the Diocese of Winchester advisor on Spirituality and has a wealth of knowledge and experience on prayer.

Tuesday 4th October Ministry team and all. A chance to pray using some of the techniques learned.

### **Lent Courses**

#### **Focus on Luke during Lent**

In our Bible lectionary readings we are in Year C ( and are following the Gospel of Luke. The following sessions explore some of the unique and key characteristics of Luke Year A is Matthew, Year B is Mark and John is interspersed throughout Years A, B & C). Each session will be held at All Saints' Hall, Queens Road 7.30-8.45 except 24th Feb which will be in the church.

17th February	Women of Luke's Gospel	Margaret Bell
24th February	Healing	Andrew Micklefield
2nd March	Parables	Clive Anderson
9th March	Compassion/poor	Ian Toombs
16th March	Jesus speaks from the cross	David Hinks

#### **Diocesan Lent Course: 'I Witness'**

The Holybourne Pilgrim Group led by Peter Raine  
Tuesday 16th & 23rd Feb at 7.30pm, Tuesday 1st March **2pm**,  
Tuesday 8th & 15th March at 7.30pm

At 9 Inhams Road, Holybourne (Home of Keith & Rosemary Arrowsmith-Oliver). Contact Peter & Sylvia Raine Tel 01256 381221; email [peter.c.w.raine@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.c.w.raine@btinternet.com)

#### **The York Lent Course: The Psalms - prayers for today's Church**

Thursdays 18th, 25th Feb & 3rd, 10th and 17th March.  
10.30-12noon  
At 1 New Barn Lane.  
Contact: Margaret Bell 86063

## Topical Discussion Evenings

**Thursday 21st April, 7.30-9.00pm**  
**War & Peace**

Led by Revd Tyrone Hillary  
Tyrone served as a soldier and army chaplain in many places throughout the world and in particular in Bosnia. His wide forces experience combined with his Christian ministry inside and outside the forces make him an interesting speaker and discussion leader in this ethical area. We all know Tyrone well and you will be compelled by his stories and input.

**Thursday 5th May, 7.30-9.00pm**  
**Human Sexuality**

Led by Revd Andrew Micklefield & Revd Keith Underhill  
Andrew and Keith both have attended recent conversations held respectively by the Church of England and the Methodist Church in the area of same-sex marriage and the nature of human sexuality. There are many stands portrayed in this area and we will allow discussion around these, engaging with the Bible, the church's mission and our social context.

**Tuesday 24th May, 7.30-9.00pm**  
**What about the world and its environment?**

Led by Revd Gordon Randall  
Gordon is employed by the Diocese of Winchester in the burgeoning area of Christian Stewardship, part of which is the whole topic of the 'Church and the Environment'. He advises on green projects, works with the Diocesan Environmental Group promoting the care of God's creation and is actively involved on promoting and supporting Fair Trade across the Diocese. Gordon has a wealth of experience to share with us, and will engage us in wide-ranging discussion.

## Summer Term

### Topical Discussion Evenings

**Mondays 6th & 13th June 7.30-9.00pm**  
**Faith and Science - are they separate or do they work together?**

Led by Mr Ian Power, Professor Rich Curry, and Dr Tim Woolman.

Ian, Rich and Tim will guide us in two sessions through the areas how science and faith can be seen to explain the world, creation, God and a living faith and much more.

Ian is the former headmaster of Lord Wandsworth College in South Warnborough, taught physics for a number of years in different schools, and is now Secretary to the Headmasters Conference. He has presented this topic before in his previous parish. He, and his wife, Lynn now live here in Alton and are getting to know us.

Rich is an active worshipping member of St Lawrence Church helping us in many ways especially on his guitar. He is Professor of Photonics at the University of Surrey and the Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellow - his interests are based around the study and development of organic and hybrid organic-inorganic nanocrystal and chalcogenide materials.

Tim is another member of our Parish community whose work is based at the University of Southampton as the Design Service Experimental Officer within the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment. In his exploration of faith and discipleship he has always had an interest in the relationship between faith and science.