

“Discovering Faith Matters”

Ecumenical study material for church groups

Are you looking for material to use for church home groups, study groups, Lent courses, ecumenical discussion groups etc? If so, read on!

1. Who has written “Discovering Faith Matters”?

- “Discovering Faith Matters” is an ecumenical initiative, based in Cumbria. The study material has been written by an ecumenical team (Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed), who have come together specially to do this.

2. What does “Discovering Faith Matters” consist of?

- “Discovering Faith Matters” is an umbrella title for the whole programme or “menu” for learning, within which there are several different short modules. Each module consists of five sessions. The modules will each look at a different topic related to the Bible or a key aspect of Christian belief and practice.
- People and groups can do as many modules as they like, in any order. Three Modules are now publicly available on CD. Other modules will follow.

Module One: “What is the Bible and how do we use it?”

The 5-sessions of this Module examine what the Bible consists of, and how it came to be what it is; who the different authors were; what we mean when we call it “God’s Word”, and how that affects how we live it out in practice.

Module Two: “The Bible – a love story”

This 5-session Module explores what the Bible tells us about our relationship with God. It looks at the stages and growth in love between God and his people, throughout the Bible from Genesis to new creation.

Module Three: “Engaging in Worship”

This Module is about how we engage and take part in worship, (*it is not about how to lead worship*). It helps us to explore what worship really is and how we can understand and participate in worship more richly and fully.

3. What is the aim and level?

- “Discovering Faith Matters” aims to provide learning opportunities for Christians who want to go a bit deeper than some of the material which is normally available for church home groups. The course material is challenging but not narrowly academic. It does not require any essays or written work. It would be valuable to take part in “Discovering Faith Matters” before or after doing the “Called to Serve” course.
- “Discovering Faith Matters” is deliberately ecumenical. It aims to create opportunities for members of different churches and denominations to get together and discover a richer variety of Christian viewpoints and experience. It is hoped that group leaders will publicise their course dates across different churches within their area, so as to create an ecumenical group (although if necessary the course can be run for a group within one church).

4. Who runs the “Discovering Faith Matters” modules?

The group, church or ecumenical group who wants to use the course. The course is not being ‘laid on’ at county level. It is for you to use locally in whatever way is appropriate for your context, and whenever it suits you. All the materials that you need are provided on the CD for each module.

If you cannot find a leader to run the course, or if you would like us to train some leaders to run the course for you, then please contact:

Canon Amiel Osmaston, Ministry Development Officer, Ministry and Training Department,
Church House, West Walls, Carlisle. CA3 8UE
Office Tel: 01228 815406 Email: ministry.dev@carlislediocese.org.uk

5. How are the course materials produced?

- “Discovering Faith Matters” has been produced on an ordinary Computer Disc using Microsoft Word. Therefore it should be possible to read and print it on any ordinary home or church computer. If you have problems with it, please contact the distributing office (address below)
- There is no video, DVD or PowerPoint involved. This is because the nature of the course requires as much “real” face-to-face time as possible, not staring at a screen. It also helps to keep the course flexible and cheap.
- The course materials are written by an Ecumenical team. The members of the team are all responsible for various aspects of Christian training within their own denomination:
Rev Ruth Crossley, Continuing Ministerial Education officer for the Anglican Church in Cumbria
Rev David Edmondson, Regional Training Officer with responsibility for the Methodist Church in Cumbria
Linda Rayner, Learning & Development Officer (Elders & members) for the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church
Rev Bob Dew, involved in Tutoring on the LCTP course within the Anglican Church in Cumbria
Rev Canon Amiel Osmaston, Ministry Development Officer for the Anglican Church in Cumbria

6. What does it cost?

- **It’s free within Cumbria!*** We’re not making any charge for the CD which contains Modules 1,2 & 3.
 - We are not making any charge for time spent in writing, researching or typing the course materials. Since there is no formal copyright, nobody will receive any royalties. However, we do need to recoup some of the costs of administration, buying the CDs etc, so we ask you to invite the group members to make a free will offering at the end of a Module. Please collect this and send it to us as a cheque made out to Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance.
 - The costs of publicity, printing or photocopying the handouts and course materials, and any charges for the venue, are the responsibility of the group or church(es) which is running the course.
 - Do not sell or profit from the CD or any part of the materials of “Discovering Faith Matters”. If you copy the CD to pass on to someone else, then it must include all the documents and pages which are on this CD.
- *For orders from outside Cumbria, we charge £5 per CD.

7. Who should we contact?

To obtain a copy of the “Discovering Faith Matters” CD for Modules 1, 2 & 3, with all the materials, contact: **Revd Ruth Crossley, The Vicarage, Levens, Kendal LA8 8PY**
Tel: 015395 60223 Email: cme@carlislediocese.org.uk

Discovering Faith Matters: Information for Organisers and Leaders