



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely

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# Growing as a Disciple

A course for personal discipleship and growth

ely2025

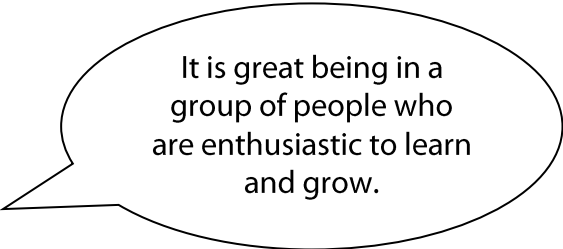


We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

## The life of a disciple

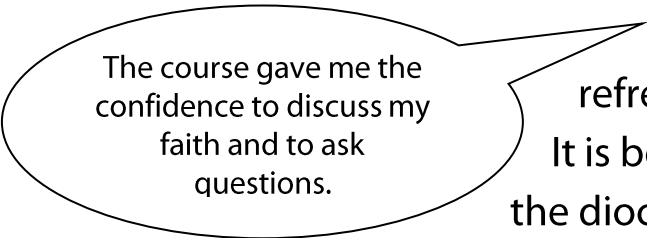
When Jesus was asked by a young lawyer what he must do to gain eternal life he replied, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself' (Luke 10), and he went on to illustrate just who the lawyer's neighbour might be with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Many of us hear these two commandments regularly in the service of Holy Communion. To be a disciple of Jesus has a 'Godward' dimension that demands our total focus, and a reaching outwards in love and service to our fellow human beings. It was true then and it is still true today. There can be no half measures in discipleship. It is a lifelong process of learning and serving in which prayer and reading the Bible, both individually and corporately, as well as receiving the sacraments, are essential if we are to grow in Christ.

Many of you will have taken part in different courses: Pilgrim, Emmaus, Alpha or maybe one written for your own church. All these provide us with ways of learning in fellowship with others, and opportunities to share experiences of faith and life. We all need to find the right course for where we are on our journey of faith.



It is great being in a group of people who are enthusiastic to learn and grow.

## Growing as a Disciple course

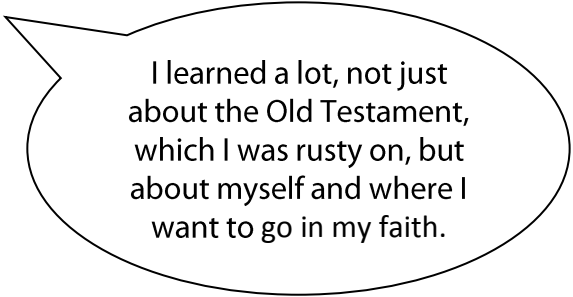


The course gave me the confidence to discuss my faith and to ask questions.

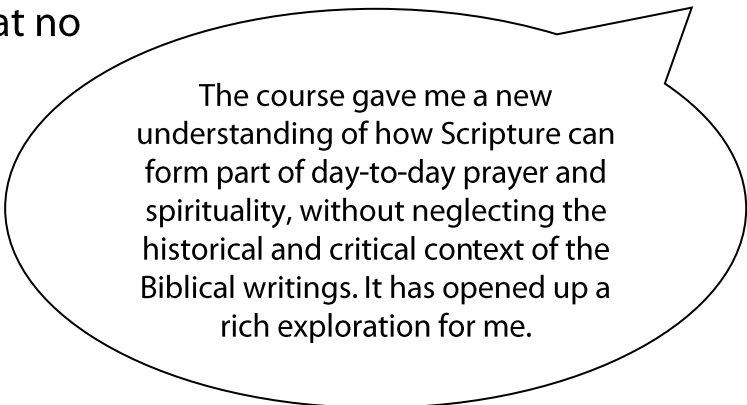
This course is another way of refreshing faith and learning together. It is being run in various venues across the diocese, either for a particular parish or in a deanery or in the diocesan office in Ely.

- It consists of ten sessions, each two hours long, with a mixture of input and discussion.

- The course looks at prayer, reading the Bible, the church and mission, as well as five sessions getting an overview of the whole Bible in order to appreciate God's big story of salvation and to find our own story of faith within this.
- Participants are encouraged to go over the session at home and also read ahead in the notes. However, we also understand the pressures on your time in daily life.
- This course is about deepening personal faith and raising your awareness of how God might be calling you to contribute your abilities and time to your church and community.
- We hope that this course will also generate enthusiasm and confidence to express your faith as you seek to live as Christ's disciples in your community, workplace and in the wider world.
- The diocese is underwriting the cost of this course and will provide course material and help for facilitators. There are two facilitators per group so as to ensure that no session needs to be cancelled.
- This course is essential for anyone wanting to train as an Authorised Lay Minister.



I learned a lot, not just about the Old Testament, which I was rusty on, but about myself and where I want to go in my faith.

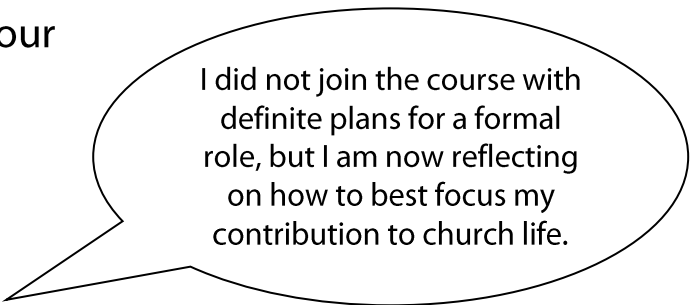


The course gave me a new understanding of how Scripture can form part of day-to-day prayer and spirituality, without neglecting the historical and critical context of the Biblical writings. It has opened up a rich exploration for me.

### **What do we ask of you?**

The experience of faith and life that you bring to the course is an important contribution to the learning of the group. For this reason we strongly encourage commitment to the whole course and limit the group to ten people so as to enable good discussion. We ask everyone, including facilitators, to participate respectfully and sensitively.

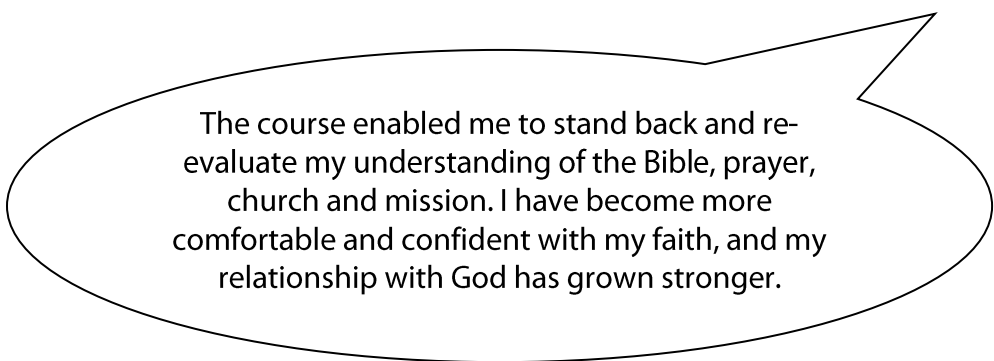
After all, if we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to serve him in all the places we find ourselves 24/7, then discipline and commitment are part of what it means to follow Christ and to be his fruitful disciples.



I did not join the course with definite plans for a formal role, but I am now reflecting on how to best focus my contribution to church life.

### To end with ...

Luke continues his account with the story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha, where Mary is praised for getting her priorities right, and Martha is encouraged not to be so easily distracted. Mary is bold enough to assume that she too has a place at the feet of Jesus to learn from him. He invites us to do the same amid the demands and distractions of our own lives, that we may be confident people of God.



The course enabled me to stand back and re-evaluate my understanding of the Bible, prayer, church and mission. I have become more comfortable and confident with my faith, and my relationship with God has grown stronger.

### For more details contact

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