

Deepening Discipleship courses are run within the diocese in different locations throughout the year. We welcome deaneries or local churches sponsoring a course.

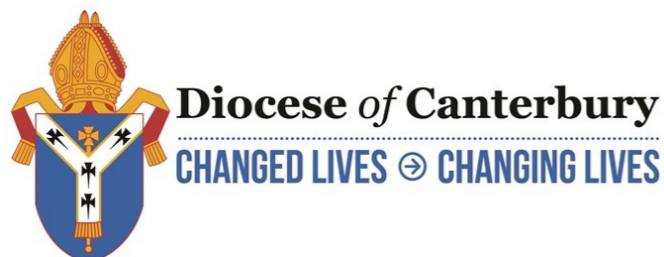
Find out more:

www.canterburydiocese.org/deepeningdiscipleship

or by contacting Marianne Hambrook, Development, Training and Events Coordinator on 01227 459401 or at mhambrook@diocant.org

If you think that *Deepening Discipleship* is for you, then you will need the support of your parish priest and to find a Course Accompanier before the course starts. The Course Accompanier is someone you will meet with at least twice during the course to reflect on its application to your discipleship journey. The criteria for a Course Accompanier can be found on the *Deepening Discipleship* web page above.

Deepening Discipleship is a stand-alone course for anyone who wants to grow as a disciple of Jesus. For those discerning ministry it is a valuable way to consider how your gifts and skills can develop in God's service within your family, communities or church based ministries.



DEEPENING Discipleship

Everyday faith in the making!



An 8 week course to grow
our capacity to follow Jesus in the everyday

Deepening Discipleship invites us to explore the calling to follow Jesus. The course is modelled on the account of Jesus' own call in Mark's gospel. It focuses on the journey of discipleship and how an individual's unique calling fits within a Christian community's calling to live the Kingdom of God day by day. It develops some key, whole life discipleship practices as a basis for a life that continually seeks, and honours, God.

The course is itself a kind of journey. You will be asked to reflect on the person God has created you to be, and on the experiences that have shaped you. You will need to be honest about the present condition of your spiritual life; be open to new insights from Scripture and willing to make changes. You will need to give time to work on some of this between sessions. It's not about giving you more information, but formation — discovering resources for ongoing spiritual growth.

PART 1: GOING DEEPER

Christian identity is shaped by God's love for us, and it is because of this belovedness that we are able to connect with God and are able to discern God's voice. As we learn to hear God's voice we begin to recognise God's call on our lives, and the way this call is interwoven with our unique gifts. This journey with God is naturally uneven: as we face ourselves and encounter others we are tested. By learning to listen to God and trust in our belovedness we can become mature and grow through testing times.

Session 1: Identity and Origins

Who am I? What makes me who I am? How do my origins influence my identity?

Session 2: Belovedness and Listening

Am I as beloved as Jesus was? How can I know that I am a child of God? How can I hear God's voice?

Session 3: Calling and Gifting

What is God calling me to do? ...to be? What gifts and skills do I have and how is God calling me to develop those gifts?

Session 4: Testing and Trusting

What testing or wilderness moments have I experienced? Where did they feature in the pattern of my journey? How have they helped me grow?

PART 2: RESPONDING FROM THE DEEP

Having explored our identity, our belovedness and even our dark times, we ask how Jesus' call to discipleship is expressed through the way we live our lives. We reflect on how we follow Jesus day by day, and how the Good News is expressed, both in our day to day lives and in our churches. We explore what Jesus means by the Kingdom of God, and we ask how and where the Kingdom of God is currently evident, or could be more evident in our communities. We ask how we can identify with God's mission in our world. The course helps us to reflect on what we discover and to be open to transformative love in every part of our lives.

Session 5: Discipleship and Life

What skills and patterns of life can I develop to follow Jesus Christ more closely? How can I grow in likeness to Jesus? What is a Rhythm of Life and how might it shape more fully the way I live as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Session 6: Good News and Us

Who or what is the Good News? What part do I play? How does my church, my community, demonstrate the Good News?

Session 7: Kingdom through Church

What does the Kingdom of God look like? Is it evident anywhere: around me, my church, my community? How do our churches actively seek the Kingdom?

Session 8: God's Mission and our Discipleship

What is God doing amongst those whose lives and concerns I share? How can I join in? How will I express the journey of Deepening Discipleship?