



# Foundations in Ministry Course

Course Overview  
2023-24



Diocese of  
**Guildford** 

TRANSFORMING **CHURCH**  
TRANSFORMING **LIVES**

The Foundations in Ministry course is an exciting new opportunity for lay ministry training in the Diocese of Guildford. The 2-year course serves as the training route for those wishing to serve as Lay Associate Ministers in their parish in a variety of leadership roles

The **aims** of the course are:

- to deepen Christian discipleship
- to grow leaders for mission and ministry in parishes
- to give a grounded understanding of the Bible, Christian theology, and spirituality
- to explore and help form gifts for ministry and discern God's call for the next step
- to provide skills-based training for identified callings to parish and community-based leadership roles.

The course's **objectives** -

By the end of the first year, participants will:

- Have been introduced to the major elements of Biblical studies and Christian doctrine
- Have encountered a range of forms of prayer and expressions of Christian spirituality
- Have a clear sense of the nature, resources, and practices of Christian leadership
- Be equipped with skills to aid their involvement in God's ministry and mission
- Have developed basic skills of personal journaling and reflection
- Have explored vocation, with guidance, and talked with a range of others and confirmed their route for the second year of training.

By the end of the second year, Foundations in Ministry students will have been equipped with specific skills to serve as a Lay Associate Minister in a specialist leadership role, chosen by them in discernment with their incumbent and Foundations in Ministry tutor.

### **What is a Lay Associate Minister (LAM)?**

This newly created lay role is for those who feel called to serve as leaders of ministries and mission by leading teams and equipping others in a range of areas vital to the mission and ministry of the local church. These include, but are not limited to:

Children and Families ministry  
Youth ministry  
Community Outreach  
Digital Church and Online Media  
Discipleship, Preaching and teaching  
Ecology and Creation  
Pioneer and Evangelism  
Church Management  
Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy  
Sports Ministry  
Contemporary Sung Worship

The work of each LAM role will vary from parish to parish according to the local needs and capacity but each LAM will have a personal role description, created with the incumbent or another supervising

minister, and will be reviewed annually.

## The Foundations in Ministry (FiM) Course

The course **consists** of:

### Study days

- These are the heart of the course. They run from 9.00 am to 4.30pm.
- Each involves a mix of informal teaching and group discussions, on the Bible, Theology, Spirituality, Leadership, Mission and Ministry skills, set within a context of worship.
- There are six study days between September 2023 and July 2024. They are held in Guildford. The dates are Saturdays **23 Sep, 18 Nov, 20 Jan, 16 March, 27 April, and 15 June.**

### Tutor groups

- At each Study Day students spend some time in small tutor groups. This gives opportunity to reflect on their experiences on the course with others, and on vocational exploration.
- Between each Study Day, each tutor group meets for a 'Stepping Stone' meeting via Zoom.

### A learning community

- The course group is a 'learning community' of people journeying and growing together.
- Students make a commitment to pray for others on the course.



## Local support and course tasks

- Students are encouraged to do a number of short exercises (linkwork) through the year to help them link the course with their local context and develop their ministry skills.
- Suggested reading will be provided for the different subject areas of the course. Doing further reading will help deepen the learning beyond that covered on the Study Days, but this is optional. There will be access to a wide range of theological books online.
- Incumbents (or another supporting minister) are required to meet with FIM students regularly to support and reflect on the learning, and to understand how best to encourage the growth of local ministry as a result.
- Incumbents and students are also encouraged to keep their congregation(s) informed of what they are doing, so that they too can feel involved and support the course.

## Teaching staff

The course team comprises people engaged in lay or ordained ministry across the Diocese. The course is overseen by the Foundations in Ministry Programme Manager.

## Course Fees

The course fees for the 2023/2024 academic year are £360.

## Application Process

Anyone interested in applying for the Foundations in Ministry course should register their interest via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/W9iLCwNPVz>

The deadline to register interest is Monday 10 July. After that time, incumbents will be contacted to provide a supporting reference for the interested candidates. Places are limited to 30 this year and those successful in their application will be notified by Friday 4 August. Applicants must be over the age of 18; there is no upper age limit.

For more information, contact John Valentine, Dean of the Local Ministry Programme, via [john.valentine@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:john.valentine@cofeguildford.org.uk) or Sarah Slater, Diocesan Training Lead, via [sarah.slater@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:sarah.slater@cofeguildford.org.uk)